

F.No.18-2/2012-PP-II (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture and cooperation

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated: 18th January, 2013

To

As per list enclosed

Subject: Compliance of ISPM-15 for wood packaging material in respect of export consignments.

Sir,

I am directed to say that India is a signatory to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). IPPC has prescribed International Standards on Phytosanitary Measure-15 for Wood Packaging Material used in export for all commodities whether raw or finished. Adherence to ISPM-15 is essential for trade between countries since non-compliance may cause detention of consignments at the port of importing country and hinderance to trade.

2. ISPM-15 guidelines cover all forms of wood packaging material that may serve as a pathway for pests and includes crates, boxes, packing cases, dunnage, pallets, cable drums and spools/reels, which is used in export consignments, including consignments that would not normally be subject to phytosanitary inspection. ISPM 15 guidelines require that all Wood Packaging Material be debarked and then heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and stamped or branded, with a mark of compliance. This mark of compliance is sometimes referred to as the "wheat stamp".

3. Of late India has been receiving several non-compliance notifications of ISPM-15 from countries such as Federal Republic of Germany, USA, Turkey, European Union Countries, Chile etc. Repeated non-compliance of ISPM has the potential for causing disruption of trade through punitive measures by importing countries. This may have serious financial implications for our exporters.

4. It is therefore requested that exporters should be sensitized on the issue and advised to use only ISPM-15 compliant Wood Packaging Material where it is used in export consignments.

Yours faithfully,


(Anita Puri)

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