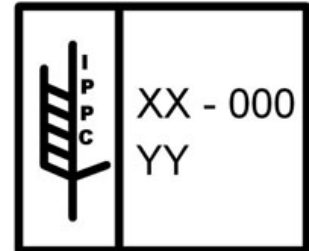


## Exports to China - Issues over 're-use' of wood packaging material

The Forestry Commission Plant Health Service has recently been made aware via a major international freight forwarding company that AQSIQ inspectors in China are intercepting export consignments from Europe because articles of wood packaging material (pallets, crates, dunnage) are being found to have country codes within the ISPM 15 mark that do not relate to the country of re-export. The example given involved a German (DE) marked pallet which had been air-freighted to China from Austria (AT) and was deemed to be non-compliant.



Through its contacts with the British Embassy in Beijing the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service advised AQSIQ representatives in China that para 4.3.1 of ISPM 15 makes it clear that if an article of wood packaging material is simply being re-used and shipped from one country to another then no further treatment is required. It is only in instances where the WPM is repaired or remanufactured that official intervention in the form of retreatment or remarking is necessary.

In their response Chinese AQSIQ officials commented that wood packaging material must be re-treated and re-marked in the country of re-export, regardless of the fact that it was originally treated and marked in the country of origin.

Given the difference of opinion on the 're-use' definition for wood packaging material within ISPM 15, which is affecting exporters in a number of EU member States, the UK National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) is liaising with the European Commission with a view to raising the matter as a challenge through Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) or bilateral processes.

Whilst the process of an EC or bilateral challenge is being considered, UK WPMMP members are advised to note the situation and to inform their exporting clients of the fact that articles of wood packaging material bearing a country code (defined by ISO) within the ISPM 15 mark, which does not relate to the country of re-export, then AQSIQ Inspectors may intercept it and order remedial fumigation action.

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