

NEW STANDARD TO GOVERN SHIPPING MATERIAL TO SEYCHELLES

As from 1st March 2006, exporters to the Seychelles will be required to treat all wood packaging material, used in the shipping of both agricultural and non-agricultural commodities.

Wood packaging material including pallets, crates and spacers will have to be fumigated, or heat-treated and certified as such by the Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Unit in the Country of Origin.

The treated wood packaging material must bear a stamp with a mark approved by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), which will be accepted, Worldwide.

The IPPC is recognized by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as the body that is responsible for setting the standards related to plant health; referred to as International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM). The standard for wood packaging material (ISPM 15) was developed in 2002, and was approved by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its 5th meeting in Rome, Italy in 2003.

ISPM 15-Compliant wood packaging is acceptable for shipment to Seychelles under the following conditions.

- Heat treated at 56°C for 30 minutes
Or
- Fumigated with Methyl Bromide for 24 hours and marked with ISPM 15stamp.

All importers from Seychelles are requested to notify their suppliers on this new standard and make them liaise with Plant Quarantine Unit of the exporting country for further information and advice.

The Plant Protection Services Section is recognized as the National Plant Protection organization of Seychelles.

The Section is authorized by the Plant Protection Act (1996) to issue plant import permits and certifications for all fresh agricultural produce, to ensure that only the highest quality, Pest-free produce is imported into and/or exported from the island.

FURTHER INFORMATION:-

Plant Quarantine Unit

Plant Protection Services Section

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