



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Pipeline 06-04
January 31, 2006

TO: Customs Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned

SUBJECT: Solid Wood Packing Material Phase II Begins February 1, 2006.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has revised its import regulation for wood packaging materials (WPM), 7 CFR § 319. The final rule was posted in the Federal Register September 16, 2004, with an effective date of September 16, 2005.

The regulation requires non-exempt WPM used in international trade to be treated to kill harmful insects that may be present. WPM must be marked with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) logo, the two-letter International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code for the country that treated the WPM, the treatment facility number assigned by the national plant protection organization, and either HT for heat treatment or MB for methyl bromide. Any abbreviations other than HT for heat treatment and MB for methyl bromide are unacceptable and are to be considered non-compliant. The rule states that regulated wood packaging materials must be marked in a visible location on each article, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the article, with a legible and permanent mark that indicates that the article meets the new requirements. Paper treatment certificates will no longer be required or accepted.

Effective September 16, 2005, this regulation allowed for non-compliant regulated WPM to be exported and treatment was not an option for non-compliant regulated WPM being imported into the United States. However, on September 16, 2005, Phase I of the implementation began and served as an informed compliance period, with no stoppage or exportation of shipments for non-compliant WPM.

Phase II, will be implemented February 1, 2006. With Phase II CBP will begin full enforcement of the ban on violative crates and pallets. CBP will continue informed compliance measures on all regulated WPM except crates and pallets. During Phase II, immediate exportation of all shipments containing violative crates and pallets will be ordered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Ambroson".

Carl Ambroson
Area Port Director