

1.3 Packing materials

1.3.1 Timber and timber treatments

Many damaging timber pests and diseases not present in Australia are capable of living in solid timber and timber products such as plywood, veneers and peeler cores. They may enter Australia in timber used in the construction of containers (refer to section 1.1) or in timber used to pack and/or support cargo in containers. Where inspection reveals insect infestation or evidence of infestation, treatment is required at the importer's expense.

Packaging material made solely of reconstituted wood products presents no quarantine concern. Reconstituted wood products are those that no longer contain solid wood as a result of the manufacturing process and include particleboard, chipboard, masonite, oriented strand board, medium and high density fibreboard.

To reduce quarantine risks associated with timber packaging, timber may be permanently treated (refer to chemical treatments in Appendix I) or temporarily disinfested (refer to treatments in Appendices II and III). Permanent treatments are those that are capable of excluding insect infestation from the timber for its operational life. Temporary or non-permanent treatments eliminate insect infestation present in the timber at the time of treatment, but do not give residual or on-going protection.

1.3.2 ISPM 15 Requirements

In addition to the AQIS approved treatments in Appendices I, II and III, timber packaging and dunnage that are marked with ISPM 15, NIMP15 or NIMF 15 compliant stamps also meet AQIS's treatment requirements.

'ISPM 15' is the acronym used for 'International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15: *Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade*'. The French NIMP 15 version and Spanish NIMF version of the acronym are also approved for use in international trade. The full text of this standard is available from the International Phytosanitary Portal at www.ippc.int. The presence of an ISPM 15, NIMP 15 or NIMF15 compliant stamp or mark on timber packaging or dunnage certifies that the timber bearing the mark has been subjected to an ISPM 15 approved measure (or treatment) as specified in Annex I of ISPM 15. As ISPM 15 is subject to periodic review by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), approved treatments may be reviewed and/or additional measures may be approved and included in Annex I of ISPM 15.

AQIS accepts the following documents for ISPM 15 treated wood packaging/ dunnage:

- Phytosanitary Certificates or Government Treatment Certificates, which contain the declaration:
"All the wood packaging/ dunnage used in the consignment has been treated and marked with ISPM 15 compliant stamps."
- Packing Declarations which contain the declaration:
"All the wood packaging/ dunnage used in the consignment is marked with ISPM 15 compliant stamps."
- Commercial Treatment Certificates, which contain the declaration:

“All the wood packaging/ dunnage has been treated and marked with ISPM 15 compliant stamps identifying the ISMP 15 accredited treatment provider.”

Please note that ISPM 15 compliant marks include the acronyms ISPM 15, NIMP 15 or NIMF 15, accompanied by the abbreviated country name and a unique identifying number for the treatment provider.

1.3.3. Quarantine procedures if bark is detected on wood packaging during inspection or surveillance

AQIS requires imported timber packaging and dunnage to be free of bark. Bark has the potential to contain numerous pests and pathogens of quarantine concern that are not addressed by AQIS approved fumigation treatments. It compromises the reliability of inspection as a quarantine risk mitigation measure and acts as a shelter for quarantine pests. It also raises contamination risks through its physical characteristics.

What is bark?

Bark is the external natural growth layer covering trees and branches. It is prone to attack from pests and pathogens that are of quarantine concern. All timber packaging and dunnage is to be bark free.

1.3.4. Packing material made of newly manufactured plywood/ veneer

Packaging material made of plywood/ veneer is acceptable for facilitated quarantine clearance (that is release without inspection or further treatment) provided the plywood/ veneer is newly manufactured (i.e. not pre-used) and is manufactured in:

- All countries excluding Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Western Samoa within three months of shipment; or
- Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Western Samoa, within 21 days of shipment,

and in every case, accompanied by an acceptable certificate that includes the country of manufacture, the date of manufacture and a statement that the plywood/ veneer has not been pre-used (see Appendix VII for an example of an acceptable newly manufactured plywood/ veneer certificate).

Alternatively, packaging material made of either new or pre-used plywood/ veneer may qualify for facilitated clearance if treated offshore by an AQIS approved method (refer to Appendices I, II and III). Acceptable treatment certificates must accompany such consignments.

Upon arrival, packaging material made of plywood/ veneer that does not meet the newly manufactured requirements above or has not been appropriately treated offshore will be subject to treatment (refer to Appendices II and III), re-export or destruction with all options at the importer's expense.

Import conditions for bulk imports of plywood/ veneer are provided in the AQIS Import Conditions database ICON, available at www.aqis.gov.au/icon.