



TN-ISPM15
22-10-20

UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU.

INFORMATION NOTE – ISPM15 – WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL

On the 31st January 2020 the United Kingdom formally left the European Union and entered a transition period within which a new free trade agreement between the EU and the UK is to be negotiated. The transition period is due to expire on the 31st December 2020. At the end of the end of the transition period, the EU rules in the field of plant health will change – the following is a summary of the positions of the EU and the UK in relation to ISPM15.

What is ISPM15?

ISPM15 is an international phytosanitary (plant health) measure developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) which sets down standards for the phytosanitary treatment and marking of Wood Packaging Material (WPM). WPM is a term used to describe pallets, crates, dunnage etc. used in international trade for the transport of goods of all kinds. The aim of ISPM15 is to prevent the international movement and spread of disease and insects harmful to the health of plants, trees forests or ecosystems. Currently, ISPM15 is a requirement for WPM entering the EU from third countries. It does not currently apply EU-UK trade. However, at the end of the transition period, the EU rules in the field of plant health will change as the UK will then be a Third Country and ISPM 15 will become a requirement.

EU Position

The following is the stated EU position regarding the import of WPM into the EU. *“Wood packaging material, whether or not actually in use in the transport of objects of all kinds, may only be introduced into the Union if it is compliant with a treatment and mark as specified in the FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 ('ISPM15')”.*

UK Position

The following is the stated UK position *From 1 January 2021 all WPM moving between the UK and the EU must meet [ISPM15 international standards](#) by undergoing heat treatment and marking. All WPM may be subject to official checks either upon or after entry to the EU. Checks on WPM will continue to be carried out in the UK on a risk-targeted basis only. The plant health risk from WPM imported from the EU is not expected to change from 1 January 2021.*

Keeping up to date

In the context of preparedness and in order to monitor developments on the UK Government's position and the EU Commission's position, it is recommended that you refer to the above links in order to remain fully informed of the official positions. You are strongly urged to keep this evolving situation under review.

DAFM & EU Brexit information is available at

www.gov.ie and https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity_en

UK information is available at;

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/925140/BordersOpMoDel.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-january-2021#movement-of-wood-packaging-materialmaterial>

ISPM15 Standard

https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/02/ISPM_15_2018_En_WoodPackaging_Post-CPM13_Rev_Annex1and2_Fixed_2019-02-01.pdf

Further information on ISPM15 is available from

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