



## Ensuring Compliance with Wood Packaging Material (WPM) Standards

Wood Packaging Materials (WPM) play a vital role in international trade, but they also pose significant risks if not properly treated. This month, we focus on the importance of WPM compliance with CTPAT and international standards to protect global ecosystems and maintain smooth supply chain operations.

**What is WPM Compliance?** WPM includes pallets, crates, boxes, and other wooden materials used to support or protect cargo. To prevent the spread of pests and diseases, WPM must comply with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM-15). This involves approved treatments like heat treatment or fumigation with methyl bromide, followed by proper marking to certify compliance.

### Why is WPM Compliance Important?

- **Environmental Protection:** Untreated WPM can introduce harmful pests and pathogens, threatening agriculture and natural resources.
- **Regulatory Requirements:** Non-compliance can result in fines, shipment delays, or re-exportation of goods.
- **Global Trade Efficiency:** Properly treated and marked WPM ensures smoother customs clearance and reduces inspection times.

### Best Practices for WPM Compliance

1. **Source Responsibly:** Purchase WPM from reputable suppliers who adhere to ISPM-15 standards.
2. **Inspect Thoroughly:** Check for proper treatment stamps, signs of damage, or pest infestations before shipping.
3. **Train Staff:** Educate employees on WPM requirements and inspection procedures.
4. **Maintain Records:** Keep detailed documentation of WPM compliance for each shipment.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has emphasized stricter enforcement of WPM regulations. Importers are encouraged to conduct preliminary inspections and ensure all WPM is properly treated and marked to avoid penalties.

Compliance with WPM standards is not just a legal obligation but a critical step in safeguarding the global supply chain and environment. By adhering to ISPM-15 guidelines and CTPAT requirements, you contribute to a safer and more efficient trade network.