



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service (APHIS)

April 6, 2016

Plant Protection and
Quarantine (PPQ)

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

Voice: 301-851-2311
Fax: 301-734-7639

Mr. Brent J. McClendon
President and CEO
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
1421 Prince Street, Suite 340
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805

Dear Mr. McClendon:

We are writing in regard to the recent changes to Brazil's Normative Instruction 32/2015 (NOM 32) for wood packaging material (WPM). USDA-APHIS has confirmed with Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply (MAPA) that:

“The phytosanitary/treatment certificate is optional. MAPA will accept either the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No.15 mark or the phytosanitary/treatment certificate. USDA-APHIS may issue a certificate if needed, when the WPM is treated but not marked.”

Please note that APHIS would only issue a phytosanitary/treatment certificate if the WPM is the product being shipped.

APHIS' review of NOM 32 identified the Sections of the text in which MAPA approves the ISPM No.15 mark in both the import requirements and the identification of what constitutes a non-compliance.

Section II

Importation of merchandises packed on wood packaging and supports.

- **Art. 22.** The imported merchandise, of any nature, which is packed in raw wooden packing and supports, can only be internalized in areas under the control of customs and which are attended by the federal agricultural oversight of MAPA.
- **Art. 23.** The importer must declare the presence of raw wooden packing or supports to the federal agricultural inspection, in the format defined by MAPA, independent of the nature of the imported merchandise.
- **Art. 25.** The raw wooden packaging and supports that pack merchandises of any kind, from countries that have internalized the ISPM 15, must be treated and identified with the IPPC mark. The IPPC mark referred to in the caput may be replaced by the Phytosanitary Certificate or the Certificate of Treatment endorsed by the National Plant Protection Organization - NPPO of the country of origin, stating one of the phytosanitary treatments recognized by ISPM 15.

- **Art. 31.** For the purposes of this Normative Instruction, it is understood as non-compliance:
 - I - Presence of live quarantine pests;
 - II - Signs of active infestation of pests;
 - III - The absence of the IPPC mark or phytosanitary certification that meets the requirements required by this Normative Instruction;
 - IV - Irregularity in the applied IPPC mark; or
 - V - Irregularity in the Phytosanitary Certificate or Treatment Certificate endorsed by the NPPO, when applicable.

All of the information in Section II, as provided above, is required for compliance with ISPM No. 15.

We have also included the IPPC's ISPM No. 15 below, which provides information on the marking of wood packaging and that certificates are not required.

Section 3.1—Approved Phytosanitary Measures

The approved phytosanitary measures described in this standard consist of phytosanitary procedures including treatments and marking of the wood packaging material. The application of the mark renders the use of a phytosanitary certificate unnecessary as it indicates that the internationally accepted phytosanitary measures have been applied. These phytosanitary measures should be accepted by all NPPOs as the basis for authorizing the entry of wood packaging material without further specific requirements. Required phytosanitary measures beyond an approved measure as described in this standard require technical justification.

We would appreciate if you would share this information with your exporters to assist with their discussions with Brazilian importers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Guidici Pietro" followed by the word "FOR" in a smaller, blocky font.

Michael A. Guidici Pietro
Acting Assistant Deputy Administrator
Phytosanitary Issues Management
Office of the Deputy Administrator