

Brussels, 15 October 2001

## Temporary EU Emergency Measures on Wood Packing: Questions and Answers

The European Commission has, after consultation of the Standing Committee on Plant Health, decided in March 2001 to take emergency measures to protect plants and forests in the EU against infestation with a harmful organism, Pine Wood Nematode (PWN). These measures, laid down in Commission Decision 2001/219/EC, concern imports of coniferous non-manufactured wood packing (NMWP) originating in Canada, China, Japan and the USA. The Decision generally requires that such NMWP materials are treated to eliminate PWN. In addition treated NMWP materials need to bear a marking enabling identification of where and by whom the treatment has been carried out. The measures have become applicable as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001.

### **What is the purpose of EU emergency measures on wood packing as laid down in Commission Decision 2001/219/EC?**

The European Union has for many years required that coniferous non-manufactured wood packing (NMWP) from countries where infestation of wood with the Pine Wood Nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, occurs are free of bark, free of grub holes larger than 3 mm, and have a moisture content below 20%. Inspections of such materials on arrival in the EU however revealed that four countries (Canada, China, Japan and the United States) were shipping NMWP infested with PWN. The EU has therefore put in place emergency measures to assure that the NMWP does not pose a risk of spreading PWN.

### **What materials are subject to the EU emergency measures?**

The EU emergency measures apply to coniferous NMWP originating in Canada, China, Japan and the USA. Non-Manufactured Wood Packing is meant to be wood packing other than that comprised wholly of wood-based products such as ply-wood, particle board, oriented strand board, veneer, wood wool, etc., which have been created using glue, heat and pressure or a combination thereof.

### **Will the EU emergency measures apply to all NMWP originating in Canada, China, Japan and the USA?**

No. They will only apply to NMWP comprised in whole or in part of non-manufactured wood of conifers (*Coniferales*), except that of *Thuja* L.

### **Are the requirements for non-coniferous wood packing material affected by the EU emergency measures?**

No. The current EU requirements concerning all non-coniferous NMWP originating in China remain unchanged.

The current requirements in respect of other hardwoods, principally from countries in North America, also remain in force. The hardwoods concerned are Oak (*Quercus*), Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Poplar (*Populus*), Plane (*Platanus*) and Hard Maple (*Acer saccharum*).

**What about wood packing material made from both coniferous and controlled non-coniferous wood?**

The emergency measures apply to NMWP that is comprised wholly or in part of coniferous wood. Wood packing material consisting of both coniferous and controlled non-coniferous wood must also meet the requirements of the emergency measures.

**Is dunnage subject to the EU emergency measures?**

No. The EU emergency measures apply only to NMWP in the form of packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, pallets, box pallets and other load boards, pallet collars, whether or not actually in use in the transport of objects of all kinds.

Dunnage must only meet the existing requirement that it be free of bark, free of grub holes larger than 3 mm across, and have a moisture content of below 20% at the time of manufacture.

**Do the EU emergency measures apply to NMWP exported from Canada, China Japan and the USA but originating in other third countries?**

No. But NMWP exported from Canada, China, Japan and the US will be deemed to have originated in those countries unless there is official evidence that this is not the case. It is the task of the competent authority of the exporting country to verify the origin of the wood used for such NMWP materials.

**Do the EU measures apply to NMWP in transit through the EU Member States?**

Provided there is no risk that the harmful organisms may spread, NMWP in transit through the EU Member States is not subject to the EU measures.

**Does wood packing material originating in Puerto Rico have to comply with the EU measures?**

Yes. As Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States, the EU measures apply to the wood packing material originating in Puerto Rico.

**When have the EU emergency measures entered into force?**

The EU emergency measures are applicable for the NMWP leaving Canada, China, Japan or the USA from 1 October 2001 onwards.

**Do the EU emergency measures apply to NMWP originating in Canada, China, Japan or USA which have entered the EU before 1 October 2001, and are then moved within the EU or out of the EU?**

The emergency measures do not apply to NMWP materials imported into the EU before 1 October 2001. There is no particular restriction to movement within the EU of NMWP having entered the EU before 1 October 2001, nor to movement of the such NMWP out of the EU, unless the importing country has its own special requirements.

**What are the treatment options of treatment of NMWP prescribed in the EU emergency measures?**

The EU emergency measures require one of the following treatments:

- Heat treatment or kiln drying to a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes
- Chemical pressure impregnation
- Fumigation

The NMWP shall bear a marking enabling the identification of where and by whom the treatment has been carried out.

There is no restriction on the choice of treatment, provided the technical specifications and the treatment facilities are officially recognised and using, where appropriate, chemicals approved by the competent authority of the exporting country. The treatment must, of course, be recognised as being effective against the PWN.

**Is there a list of the approved technical specifications for treatment of the wood packing material?**

No. There is no list of approved technical specifications for the treatment of wood packing material. This has to be prescribed by the competent authority of the exporting country.

However, EU Member States and the European Commission may raise concerns on the officially approved specifications for the treatment if these specifications appear not to be adequate in the case of wood packing

**Is there a list of chemicals for treatment of NMWP approved at EU level?**

No. There is no such list because it is the responsibility of the competent authority of the exporting country to officially approve the technical specifications of the treatment applied to NMWP.

**Are there specifications for use of sulfuryl fluoride as a fumigant in order to comply with the EU emergency measures?**

According to scientific literature, sulfuryl fluoride is not recognised as an effective fumigant against egg stages of insects. Methyl bromide is the only fumigant currently in

use for which there is scientific evidence of efficacy against all stages of all quarantine pests of concern.

**What authority is responsible for the official approval of the technical specifications for treatment of NMWP?**

The authority of the exporting country has to officially supervise and approve the technical specifications of the treatment of wood packing material.

**Will the European Commission approve or recognise private companies carrying out treatment of NMWP in the country of origin?**

No. This is the responsibility of the competent authority of the exporting country.

**What are the markings enabling the identification of where and by whom the treatment of NMWP has been carried out?**

Canada, China, Japan and the United States of America have provided samples of the marking that NMWP is to bear. These samples are available:

- in [Annex 1](#). Canadian marks
- in [Annex 2](#). Chinese marks.
- in [Annex 3](#). Japanese marks.
- at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp/eunmwp.html> and in [Annex 4](#). US marks.

**As NMWP may comprise several elements, must all these elements bear a marking?**

A single marking may be used on the NMWP provided all elements made of susceptible wood comply with the EU emergency measures. Additionally, and for practical reasons, this marking should be placed in a way so that enables effective and rapid checking at EU border control posts at the time of import.

**Does NMWP originating in the EU have to bear a marking enabling its identification and origin?**

Such a marking is not foreseen in the current EU legislation. However, because NMWP, such as pallets, may be moved from the EU to third countries and then re-enter the EU, the EU Member States may propose to their respective industry a marking system enabling the identification of the origin of NMWP. This marking should at least include the ISO code of the country and a unique registration reference for the producer. In addition, the province or region may also be indicated. Proposed samples of the markings are available in [Annex 5](#).

**Should the wood packing material originating in Canada, Japan and the USA be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate guaranteeing treatment instead of being marked?**

No. All wood packing material originating in Canada, Japan and the USA must bear a marking enabling the identification of where and by whom the treatment has been carried out.

**Does wood packing material originating in China have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate?**

Yes. China has advised the European Commission that it can supply a list of areas where PWN does not occur and Decision 2001/219/EC allows for NMWP from those areas to be exempted from the emergency measures. NWPM from those areas will still need to meet the existing requirements in respect of other pests - principally bark beetles and the woodborer *Monochamus*. The phytosanitary certificate attests that these requirements have been met and confirms that the wood comes from an area free of PWN. For NMWP from parts of China where PWN does occur, the phytosanitary certificate will confirm that the emergency measures have been complied with.

**What are the areas in China from which NMWP shall be subject to one of the treatment options?**

The list of these areas has not yet been established. Therefore, until further notice, the whole China is considered as being infested by PWN.

**What are the obligations of the EU Member States under the emergency measures?**

The plant health inspection services of the Member States must carry out inspections of NMWP entering the EU. If NMWP is found not to comply with the requirements of the EU emergency measures, the material must either be treated in an officially approved manner to eliminate the PWN, or be destroyed by either incineration, deep burial or processing in an officially approved manner that eliminates the PWN, or be refused entry into the Community.

The competent authorities in the Member States must at the latest by 30 September 2001 adapt the measures in place to protect themselves against the introduction and the spread of the pinewood nematode to the EU emergency measures, and inform the Commission thereof.



**Why are the EU emergency measures to be reviewed by 15 June 2002?**

The technical details of the EU emergency measures, the scope of products covered and other aspects will be assessed by 15 June 2002 on the basis of the experience gained since 1 October 2001 in implementing this decision and taking possible new developments, both technical and legislative, into account.

**What official bodies should be contacted for further information on the implementation of the EU measures?**

The list of official competent bodies in the Member States and in the relevant third countries is available in [Annex 6](#).

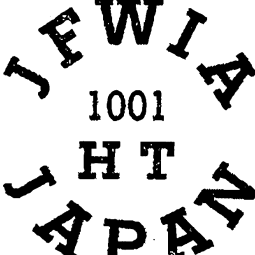
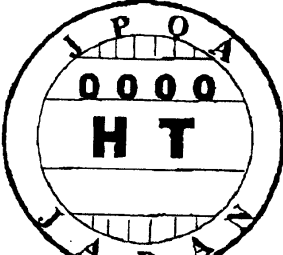
**ANNEX 1 - Samples of marking to be used for NMWP originating in Canada**



<p>Heat treatment          CA – Canada ISO code          "#####" – Code of operator          HT - Heat Treatment.</p>	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>CA - ##### HT</p> </div>
<p>Kiln drying          KD HT - Kiln drying 56°C/30 min</p>	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>CA - ##### KD HT</p> </div>
<p>Fumigation</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FUMIGATION</b></p> <p>Methyl Bromide</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Registered Pesticide Applicator</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Date of fumigation, 2001</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Canada</p> </div>

**ANNEX 2 - Samples of marking to be used for NMWP originating in China**



<p>Fumigation          FT – Fumigation Treatment          PP – Province          DD – District          ØØ – Code of operator</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHINA – FT</b> PP – DD – ØØ</p> </div>
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**ANNEX 3 - Samples of marking to be used for NMWP originating in Japan**

<p>Heat Treatment          (JFWIA – Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations;          JPQA - Japan Plant Quarantine Association)</p>	 
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Kiln Drying (JFWIA)	
Chemical Pressure Impregnation (JFWIA)	



**ANNEX 4 - Samples of marking to be used for NMWP originating in the USA**

100% HT	 (e) (d) (b) US - 000 HT TRADEMARK. (c) (a)	<p>a. Trademark – the identifying symbol, logo, or name of the accredited agency  b. Mill Identification – product manufacturer name, brand or assigned mill number  c. Heat Treated mark  d. Country Code – the two letter ISO country abbreviation  e. Approved International symbol for compliant non-manufactured wood packing</p>
Mixed HT coniferous and non-treated non-coniferous wood.	 US - 001 Trademarked Agency Logo HTC/NHTNC	
Chemical Impregnation Pressure	<p>CPI mark designating chemical pressure impregnation</p> <p>Name of NMWP Assembler</p> <p><b>CPI AUSTIN PALLETS</b></p> <p>TX 75061 US</p> <p>State of Origin Zip Code of Assembler Country of Origin</p>	



<p>Mixed CPI coniferous and non-treated non-coniferous wood.</p>	<p>CPI mark designating chemical pressure impregnation</p> <p>Name of NMWP Assembler</p> <p><b>CPI/C AUSTIN PALLETS</b></p> <p><b>TX 75061 US</b></p> <p>State of Origin      Zip Code of Assembler      Country of Origin</p>
<p>Fumigation</p>	<p>“F” designating “fumigation”</p> <p>Name of fumigation Center</p> <p><b>F ABC Fumigation</b></p> <p><b>MD 12345 US</b></p> <p>State of Registration of fumigation Company      State Registration # of Company      Country of Origin</p>
<p>Non-Coniferous NMWP</p>	<p><b>NC-US</b></p>

**ANNEX 5 - Samples of marking to be used for NMWP originating in the EU**

<p>Generic marking          ØØØØ – Operator code          PP – Province, region...          CC – Country ISO code          AT – Austria          BE – Belgium          DE – Germany          DK – Denmark          ES – Spain          FI – Finland          FR – France</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>CC-PP-ØØØØ</b></div>		
<p>Sweden</p>			
<p>United Kingdom</p>		<p><b>GB – FC0000</b></p> <p>HT </p> <p>Forestry Commission</p>	

**ANNEX 6 - List of official competent bodies in the Member States and in the relevant third countries**

**CANADA:**

Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
 Plant Health & Production Division  
 59 Camelot Drive  
 Nepean, ON K1A 0Y9  
 Tel: (613) 225-2342  
 Fax: (613) 228-6653  
 E-mail: [cfiamaster@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:cfiamaster@inspection.gc.ca)  
<http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/>

**CHINA:**

State General Administration of the  
 People's Republic of China for Quality  
 Supervision and Inspection and  
 Quarantine (AQSIQ)  
 No. 10A Chaowai Dajie  
 Beijing 100020  
 Fax: +86 10 65 99 43 06

JAPAN:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Tokyo  
(contacts through the embassies)

USA:

USDA - US Department of Agriculture  
APHIS - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/>  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp/e/unmwp.html>

In the EU Member States :

BELGIUM

Ministère des Classes Moyennes et de l'Agriculture  
Service de la Protection des Végétaux  
W.T.C. 3, 6ème étage  
Boulevard Simon Bolivar, n° 3  
B - 1000 BRUXELLES  
Fax: +32-2-2083716

DENMARK

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries  
The Danish Plant Directorate  
Skovbrynet 20  
DK - 2800 Kgs. LYNGBY  
Fax: +45 45 26 36 13  
[pdir@pdir.dk](mailto:pdir@pdir.dk)

GERMANY

Bundesministerium für Verbraucherschutz, Ernährung und Landwirtschaft  
Rochusstraße 1  
D - 53123 BONN 1  
Fax: +49-228-5294289  
[AG.BS@BBA.de](mailto:AG.BS@BBA.de)

GREECE

Ministry of Agriculture  
Chief of Plant Protection  
General Directorate of Plant Produce  
Directorate of Plant Produce  
Protection  
Division of Phytosanitary Control  
Ippokratous str. 3-5  
GR - ATHENS  
Fax: +30-1-2124501

SPAIN

Subdirección General de Sanidad Vegetal  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación  
Avenida Ciudad de Barcelona, 6 - 2a Planta  
E - 28007 MADRID  
Fax: +34-91-347 82 48  
[inspfito@mapya.es](mailto:inspfito@mapya.es)

FRANCE

Ministère de l'Agriculture et la Pêche  
Sous Direction de la Protection des Végétaux  
251, rue de Vaugirard  
F - 75732 PARIS CEDEX 15  
Fax: +33-1-49 55 59 49  
[sdqpv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:sdqpv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr)  
[bsv.sdqpv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:bsv.sdqpv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr)

IRELAND

Department of Agriculture and Food  
Agriculture House  
Kildare Street  
IRL - DUBLIN 2  
Fax: +353-1-6616263

ITALY

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e  
Forestali (MiPAF)  
Servizio Fitosanitario  
Via XX Settembre 20  
I - 00187 ROMA  
Fax: +39-06-4814628  
[fito@politicheagricole.it](mailto:fito@politicheagricole.it)

LUXEMBOURG

Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Adm. des Services Techniques de  
l'Agriculture  
Service de la Protection des Végétaux  
16, route d'Esch - BP 1904  
L - 1019 LUXEMBOURG  
Fax: +352-45 7172 340

THE NETHERLANDS

Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuurbeheer en Visserij  
Directie Landbouw, Afdeling  
Gewasbescherming  
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73/Postbus  
20401  
NL - 2500 EK 's-GRAVENHAGE  
Fax: +31-70-3786156  
or  
Plantenziektenkundige Dienst  
Fytosanitaire Ontwikkeling  
Geertjesweg 15/Postbus 9102  
NL - 6700 HC WAGENINGEN  
Fax: +31-317-426094

FINLAND

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Department of Agriculture  
Unit for Quality Policy  
Hallituskatu 3A  
P.O. Box 30  
FIN-00023 Government FINLAND  
Fax: +358 9 1602443  
[plant.health@mmm.fi](mailto:plant.health@mmm.fi)

SWEDEN

Jordbruks Verket  
Swedish Board of Agriculture  
Plant Protection Service  
S-55182 Jönköping  
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[jordbruksverket@sjv.se](mailto:jordbruksverket@sjv.se)

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