



Subject: Start of Netherlands Wood Packaging Marking Programme

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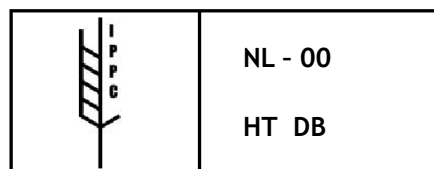
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1. Purpose

This information note serves to inform other countries of the Netherlands Wood Packaging Marking Programme. This marking programme is aimed at ensuring compliance with import regulations for wood packaging material of other countries in line with requirements of ISPM 15. The marking programme was set up in the course of 2002 and 2003 in consultation with organised industry and experts in certification.

On the first of October the first companies (treatment facilities, manufacturers, repair companies, traders) in the Netherlands are to be certified by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service for using the IPPC mark (see figure 1). Initially certified companies will manufacture wood packaging material, which has undergone heat treatment in accordance with ISPM 15.

Figure 1: The IPPC mark (see ISPM 15 <http://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.htm>) as authorised by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service for use by certified companies. The only variable concerns 00 = unique number assigned to the producer of the wood packaging material.



2. Summary

The Netherlands Plant Protection Service is responsible for setting preconditions to the programme, formal approval of certified companies and audit of the marking programme. Administration of the programme has been assigned by contract agreement to an independent organisation (SMHV). The organisation is responsible for national communication, set-up and maintenance of a registration information system, development of inspection protocols, admission and suspension of companies to the programme. Inspections for determining compliance of companies with inspection protocols is performed by an independent inspection agency (SGS Agrocontrol), which is accredited for this purpose. Prosecution of companies who make misuse of the IPPC mark is the responsibility of the Netherlands Plant Protection Service.

3. Tasks of the Netherlands Plant Protection Service

Compliance with ISPM 15 treatment requirements can not be determined by inspection or testing of the final product concerned. Therefore the most important precondition set by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service concerns inspection of the entire production process (including treatment), storage and admin of the company concerned by inspection agencies which have been accredited for this specific application in line with ISO requirements. Next to setting preconditions to the programme, the Netherlands Plant Protection Service is responsible for international communication concerning pest risk and requirements for import in relation to the programme. The Netherlands Plant Protection Service will audit the programme by verifying accreditation reports of SGS Agrocontrol and by audit visits to SMHV and



SGS Agrocontrol. In addition ad-hoc visits for inspection of the production process and administrative arrangements of registered companies will be undertaken during the first year as an additional check.

3.1 Pest risk communication

The highest level of phytosanitary safeguards for compliance with ISPM 15 requirements is provided by wood packaging material which has been manufactured or repaired by companies which have been admitted to the programme. In line with ISPM 15, the Netherlands Plant Protection Service allows use of recirculating wood packaging material with proof or mark indicating proper treatment. However phytosanitary safeguards are lower as compared to wood packaging material delivered by registered companies, as follows:

Wood packaging material treated with Methylbromide fumigation:

Companies applying methylbromide fumigation in the Netherlands are obliged to provide a treatment report on the basis of environmental legislation in the Netherlands. Phytosanitary export certification allows use of this treatment report. In addition companies may use a mark without the IPPC logo (see figure 1), for those export destinations requiring a mark for the time being. The Netherlands Plant Protection Service is in the process of setting up a similar marking programme for methylbromide treatment and marking.

Wood packaging material with the IPPC mark of other countries

Recirculation of properly marked wood packaging material presupposes correct treatment. However, because of circulation in international trade, there is a minimal risk that pest infestation may have occurred or the use of not properly treated wood for repairing of the wood packaging material.

Recirculation of wood packaging material with the IPPC mark of the Netherlands

Chances of pest infestation will be more limited as compared to the previous category, because of limited or no movement in international traffic. However the wood packaging material may have been repaired overseas.

4. Tasks of the SMHV (Stichting Markering Houten Verpakkingen - See <http://www.smhv.nl/>)

The SMHV is the most important organisation within the marking programme and responsible for set-up and maintenance of inspection protocols, registration, admission and suspension of companies from the programme, resolution of disputes and national communication. For ensuring technical and administrative competency, the organisation has set up an advisory committee with representatives of manufacturers, traders, treatment experts, and the logistics industry. Next to auditing the SMHV, the Netherlands Plant Protection Service also partakes in committee meetings to provide advice on international developments.

5. Tasks of the inspection agency SGS Agrocontrol (see <http://www.sgs.nl/contact.asp>)

A specialised inspection agency with experience in certification and inspection of companies producing wood related products has been hired by SMHV. The inspection agency is responsible for inspections for allowing admission of interested companies to the programme. In addition the inspection agency will undertake two ad-hoc visits for each company, each year, in order to verify compliance.

6. Further information

For further information please contact:

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