

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, received on 14 November 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

Wood packaging material circulating under CN Heading 4415 and wood used to wedge and support non-wood cargo (dunnage)

The European Communities notifies hereby the proposal "Draft Commission Directive amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the European Communities" (document SANCO/3247/2008 Rev. 8, available in English).

The new directive concerns the special requirements of wood packaging material (WPM) and wood used to wedge or support non-wood cargo that should be respected for the introduction and movement of these commodities into the EC member States.

Following the technical justification of the IPPC Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine, the new directive replaces the existing import requirement that WPM would need to fulfil.

In addition to the implementation of treatment and marking requirements described in ISPM 15, the new EC import requirements provide that the WPM instead of being produced from debarked round wood from 1 January 2009 onwards, will need to be free from bark with exception for the presence of any number of individual pieces of bark. These should be either less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or, if greater than 3 cm in width, of not more than 50 cm² in area. This latter free-from-bark requirement will be applicable from 1 July 2009 onwards.

This regulatory amendment is consistent with the standards, guidelines and recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC): <https://www.ippc.int/IPPC/En/default.jsp>

Proposed date of adoption: December 2008

Proposed date of entry into force: 1 January 2009 with a transitional period for the bark requirement which shall apply to from 1 July 2009.

The full text can be downloaded from the internet address indicated below:
http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2008/sps/EEC/08_3683_00_e.pdf

For more information on this proposal and up-dates in new regulation please go to the link:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/resources/import_conditions/woodpackaging.pdf

The notified document can be obtained from the EC Enquiry Point: sps@ec.europa.eu
