

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/AUS/164

21 June 2004

(04-2684)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Solid wood packaging material used in supporting, protecting or carrying cargo imported into Australia.
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries
5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Industry Notice: Proposed changes to AQIS import requirements for wood packaging under <i>ISPM 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packing Material in International Trade</i> . (available in English, 2 pages).
6. Description of content: Australia proposes to adopt the <i>International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packing Material in International Trade</i> (ISPM 15). Australia has regulated standards for wood packaging material and dunnage for many years, and, intends to incorporate the provisions of ISPM 15 into Australia's existing measures for wood packaging material and dunnage. In addition to the ISPM 15 measures, Australia will maintain the following existing requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• freedom from bark; and• methyl bromide fumigation at 48 grams per cubic metre for 24 hours (not 16 hours) and the timber at time of treatment being no greater than 200mm in diameter in the smallest plane. Australia will re-evaluate its required treatment period of 24 hours after the findings of an international review of the methyl bromide treatment specified under the ISPM 15 standard have been released.
7. Objective and rationale: [] food safety, [] animal health, [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests

<p>8. International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: <i>International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No.15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade.</i> Deviations as described in 6 above.</p> <p>Australia's existing import conditions for solid wood packaging material and dunnage will continue to be offered in parallel to the proposed import conditions incorporating ISPM 15. This will ensure continued market access to Australia for countries not in a position to implement ISPM 15.</p>
<p>9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: <i>International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15 - Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15).</i> The full text of ISPM 15 is available in English at: http://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/ISPM_15_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885_ISPM15_e.pdf</p> <p>Notice to Industry No. 19: Proposed changes to AQIS import requirements for wood packaging material under <i>ISPM 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade.</i> This document may be accessed at: http://www.aqis.gov.au/ian</p> <p>Australia's existing import requirements for solid wood packaging material are outlined in the Cargo Containers: Quarantine Aspects and Procedures document. AQIS approved non permanent treatments for wood packaging material are described in Appendix II of this document. This document may be accessed at: http://www.aqis.gov.au/cargoqap</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption: 1 September 2004</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: 1 September 2004</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: 16 August 2004</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Point GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601 Fax: + (612) 6272 3678 Email/Internet: sps.contact@daff.gov.au Website: http://www.daff.gov.au</p>
<p>13. Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Point GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601 Fax: + (612) 6272 3678 Email/Internet: sps.contact@daff.gov.au Website: http://www.daff.gov.au</p>