



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants  
**Plant health**

Brussels,  
SANTE.G1/RS/ag Ares (2019) 4315348

Dear Mr Ceelaert,

**Subject: Treatment of wood packaging material already in use- ISPM 15 and its implementation in EU Member States**

I refer to your inquiry of 19 March 2019 as regards the implementation in Spain of ISPM15 on wood packaging material (WPM) already in circulation.

The issue was discussed during the meeting of the Plant Animal Food and Feed Committee of 23-24 May 2019.

Spain informed us and the other Member States (MS) about the Spanish national decree and its interpretation of ISPM15 rules. The current situation in Spain is that the treatment of already-in-use WPM is not allowed, for reasons mainly related to traceability issues.

Many MS shared information on their national systems in place for ISPM15 treatment and in particular, on the treatment of already used WPM.

The agreed conclusion was that an ISPM15 treatment of WPM already in circulation is not against any EU provision. In some cases, where WPM is leaving a demarcated area for Pine Wood Nematode, there is even an obligation that it has been treated. When such treatment and marking is done, the NPPO guarantees the traceability of the WPM until the facility where this treatment has been done, not to the origin of the wood that can be unknown.

Therefore, PAFF conclusions are in line with the rules under the Plant Health Regulation, allowing for the ISPM15 treatment to be done on non-treated WPM already in use.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothee André  
Head of unit

Fons Ceelaert  
Secretary general  
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