

What is Wood packaging material (WPM)?

- WPM refers to wooden materials or components used in the packaging of goods for transportation.
- WPM can include wooden pallets, crates, boxes, and dunnage used to support or protect products during shipping.
- WPM is widely used in various industries for its strength, durability, and versatility in handling different types of cargo.



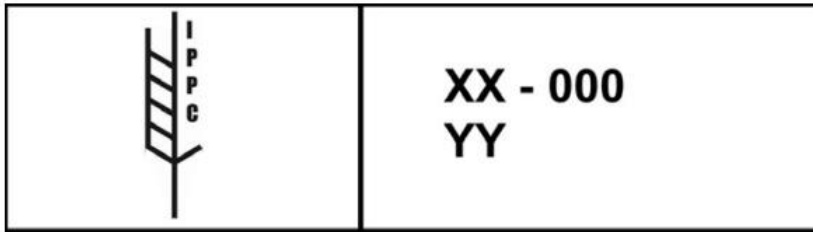
The regulation (7 CFR §319.40-3) requires that WPM display a visible, legible, and permanent mark certifying treatment.

The mark must be approved under ISPM 15 to indicate that the article has been subjected to an approved measure and the mark must include the following elements:

1. The IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) logo;
2. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 2-letter country code for the country that produced the wood packaging material;
3. The unique number code for the producer of the wood packaging material as assigned by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO); and
4. The treatment code using correct abbreviation according to Annex 12 (**HT** for heat treatment, **MB** for methyl bromide fumigation, or **DH** for dielectric heating).

Example 1 illustrates the basic approved mark.

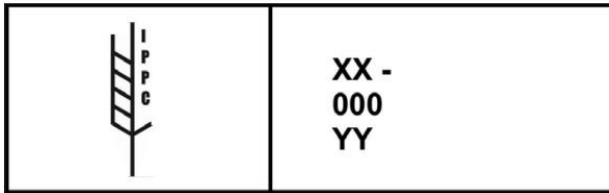
Example 1: Basic design of marking



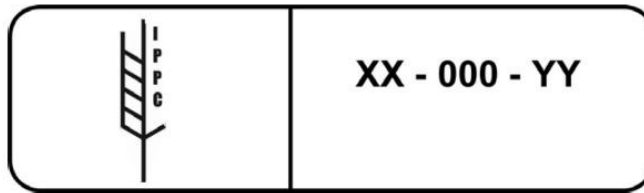
- The IPPC logo is on the left.
- On the right, XX represents the ISO country code.
- To its right, and separated by a required hyphen, 000 represents the unique number assigned to the producer of the wood packaging material. This number allows the tracing back to the treatment facility.
- Below those codes, YY represents the method of treatment.

Acceptable variations are shown in examples 2 – 6.

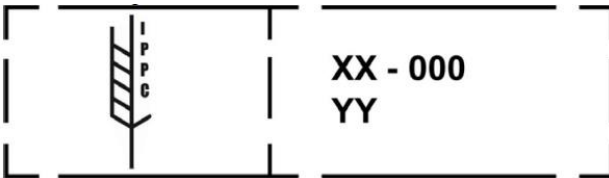
Example 2: Right side elements stacked.
Rectangular design.



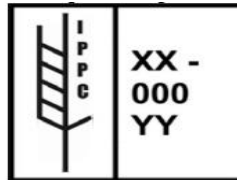
Example 3: Right-side elements in single line.
Box with rounded corners.



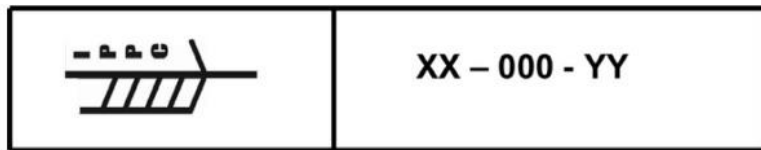
Example 4. Stenciled design. Usually inferred
by the gaps on the box border and other elements.



Example 5. Square box instead of rectangular.



Example 6. Logo rotated 90° to the left. Right-side elements in one line.



EXCEPTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

The regulation applies to WPM made from softwood or hardwood. Certain articles are exempt or excepted from the treatment and marking requirements, and they include:

1. Manufactured wood materials such as fiber board, plywood, whisky and wine barrels, and veneer,
2. Loose wood materials (defined as excelsior [wood wool], sawdust, and wood shavings, produced as the result of sawing or shaving wood into small, slender, and curved pieces),
3. Pieces of wood that are less than 6 mm (0.24 in) in any dimension, and,
4. Firewood, mesquite wood for cooking and small noncommercial packages of unmanufactured wood for personal cooking or personal medicinal purposes coming directly from Mexican Border States.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH 7 CFR §319.40-3

Regulated WPM must be properly marked to indicate that it has been either heat treated or treated with methyl bromide. There are three categories under WPM for this enforcement:

1. **UNMARKED:** WPM that is encountered by CBP during the course of inspection and found not bearing the required treatment and markings required under 7 CFR §319.40-3(b)(1) and CFR §319.40-3(b)(2)
2. **INAPPROPRIATELY MARKED:** WPM that is encountered by CBP during the course of inspection and found to be inappropriately marked or illegibly marked is assumed to be untreated by either of the approved methods identified under 7 CFR §319.40-3(b)(1); and
3. **INFESTED:** WPM that is infested with a timber pest confirms that the WPM has not been treated in accordance with 7 CFR §319.40-3(b)(1).

TITLE 7 CFR §319.40-3(b)(3)

- Immediate export (return) of WPM that does not contain the required mark in accordance with 7 CFR §319.40-3(b)(3).
- Marked WPM containing pests is considered “WPM that has not been treated and marked” in accordance with 7 CFR §319.40-3 and shall be immediately exported (returned) pursuant to 7 CFR §319.40-3(b)(3).

ENFORCEMENT ACTION:

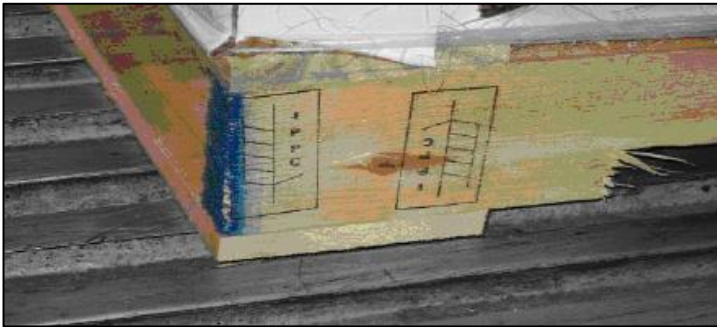
CBP may take two separate types of enforcement action, or take both, depending on the specific circumstances of a WPM violation.

1. CBP may assess a claim for liquidated damages when there is a failure to comply with direction in an Emergency Action Notification (“EAN”).
2. A penalty may be assessed, regardless of whether a party has complied with direction in an EAN. In this writing, the terms “liquidated damages claim” and “penalty” are not interchangeable.

When assessing liquidated damages and/or penalties, the value of the merchandise is the value of the WPM plus the value of the commodity or commodities identified for importation on the entry documentation.

ISPM 15 requirements apply to all species of coniferous (softwood) and non-coniferous (hardwood) packaging materials.

Examples of violative Wood Packaging Material (WPM)



Non-compliant marking



Illegible marking



Pest infested



Pest infested (showing frass)