



Background

ISPM 15 is a relatively recent standard, approved in 2002 and implemented in New Zealand in 2003.

The MPI certification mark for wood packaging standard (based on ISPM 15) aims to significantly lessen the risk of wood packaging made from raw wood becoming a pathway for the introduction and spread of quarantine pests and diseases through international trade.

To meet the requirements of this standard, all wood packaging material (e.g. pallets, dunnage, crates, drums, cases, spools, and skids) undergoes an ISPM 15 approved treatment (e.g. heat treatment). The treatment is verified and an internationally recognised ISPM 15 mark applied to certify the wood packaging as being ISPM 15 compliant and to provide traceability to the country of origin and the mark applicator.

The mark is valid for the life of the packaging unit. Consequently the timber used during repairs and remanufacture must also be treated and bear the mark.

The potential pathways for attaining ISPM 15 compliant timber is described in figure 1.

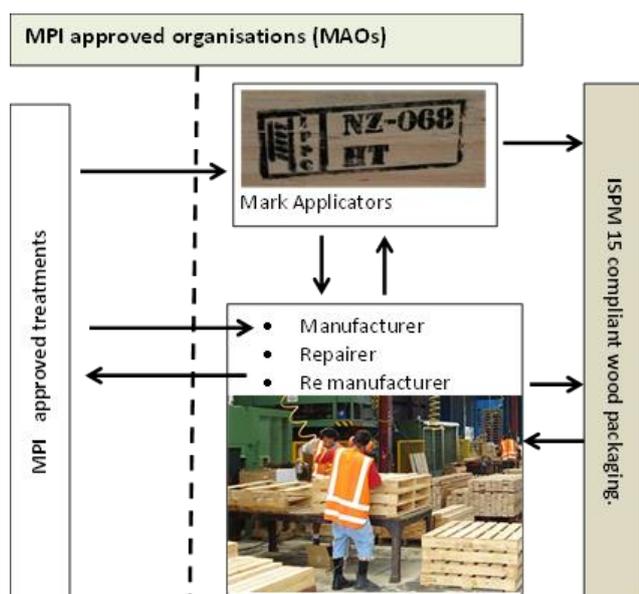


Figure 1: Pathways for producing compliant wood packaging

What have we changed?

The principles behind the certification mark for wood packaging standard remain relatively consistent; most of the change reflects a greater appreciation of the operational features and risks that have been observed since 2006:

- Removed the details of each of the approved treatments and instead reference directly the approved treatments in the Annex of ISPM 15.
- Added a new dielectric heating treatment option.
- Clarified that MPI approval is needed by anyone who alters ISPM 15 marked wood packaging.
- Greater onus on the mark applicator to ensure the correct treatments and procedures have been followed before the mark is applied.
- Recognition that imported treated wood may be eligible for ISPM 15 marking in New Zealand.
- Restriction of the number of different ISPM 15 marks on repaired wood packaging to a maximum of three.
- More relevant competency requirements for the mark applicator.
- Greater clarity of the role the manufacturer, repairer and remanufacturer plays and what they need to document to become approved by MPI.
- Greater clarity of what procedures need to be documented versus when compliance only needs to be demonstrated.
- Increased specification and guidance on how to apply the mark and security of the mark application equipment.
- Extra guidance on when MPI approval is required for use of marked dunnage.
- Clarifying the importance of traceability of the treated wood packaging units and the managements of non-compliant wood packaging.

Note: This communication only reflects the significant changes please refer to the applicable MPI Standard for all changes



How will this impact you?

This new approach should result in:

- Clearer understanding of which parties are responsible for what.
- Clarity of what each type of service provider needs to document and demonstrate to gain MPI approval.

Detailed description of changes to the certification mark for wood packaging standard

Change	Why?	Impact on existing systems
All	Reformatted into an MPI standards template.	Consistency of format will provide greater clarity for industry longer term.
All	Re-ordered the sections.	Re-ordered to better suit the reader of the standard.
Part (P) Intro.	A concise overview of who this standard applies to and why it is important to understand the requirements.	Provides a simplified introduction to the requirements contained in the standard.
P1	New section summarising the key principles for the use of the certification mark.	Outlines the principles and expectations of MPI as per the Framework standard and ISPM 15.
Deleted	The details on each approved treatment have been removed.	Treatment requirements are adequately addressed by MPI's treatment supplier programme and within Annex 1 of ISPM 15. The change focuses the standard on the application of the mark to wood packaging material that has been treated in compliance with ISPM 15.
P2	Clarifies that application of the certification mark can only be provided by IVA's and MAO's.	To ensure the application of the certification mark is appropriately managed.
P2.1	Outlines the requirements organisations need to meet to gain MPI approval to apply the mark.	To ensure the reader is clear what aspects require documented procedures.
P 2.1.1-2.1.4	Reworded the requirements in; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specifications of the mark, • applying the mark, • use of debarked wood, • security of application devices, • records. 	To provide clear, simple requirements. It also provides clarity where documented procedures are not required.
P2.1.6	Redefined the competency criteria for staff responsible for the application of the mark.	To ensure staff have the appropriate skill sets to perform their role on behalf of MPI.
P2.2 (2.2.1 – 2.2.3)	New requirement. Manufacturers, repairers and remanufacturers require documented procedures to demonstrate how they manage marked and non-marked packaging materials.	To ensure only ISPM 15 compliant timbers ends up in marked wood packaging units.

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