


The Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme (AWPCS) Fact Sheet



<p>Background</p>	<p>In recognition of the plant health risk associated with wood packaging, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has adopted a wood packaging standard: <i>International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures — Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging in International Trade</i> (ISPM 15). This standard aims to significantly lessen the risk of unprocessed raw wood being used as a pathway for the introduction and the spread of pests and diseases through international trade.</p> <p>To meet the requirements of ISPM 15 all wood packaging material needs to undergo either heat treatment or fumigation with methyl bromide. To verify that treatment has occurred and to provide traceability to the country of origin an internationally recognised certification mark will be applied to the treated wood packaging.</p> <p>SAI Global is accredited to certify to the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme (AWPCS). Under this scheme wood packaging manufacturers and treatment providers, who meet the requirements of ISPM 15, will be certified by SAI Global and authorised by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to apply the internationally recognised mark to wood packaging material produced for use in the export trade.</p>
<p>Regulated and Non-regulated Wood Packaging</p>	<p>The ISPM 15 standard applies to coniferous (softwood) and non-coniferous (hardwood) raw wood packaging material that may serve as a pathway for plant pests posing a threat mainly to living trees.</p> <p>The standard covers wood packaging material, such as pallets, dunnage, crating, packing blocks, drums, cases, bulk heads, load boards, pallet collars and skids, which can be present in almost any imported consignment, including consignments which would not normally be the target of phytosanitary inspection.</p> <p>The following are not subject to the requirements of ISPM 15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood packaging made wholly of wood-based products such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board, medium density fibreboard or veneer that have been created using glue, heat and pressure or a combination thereof; • Wood packaging material such as veneer peeler cores, sawdust, wood wool, and shavings, and raw wood cut into thin pieces (a thickness of 6mm or less).
<p>Approved Treatment Options</p>	<p>Presently the only internationally accepted treatment options under the ISPM 15 are heat treatment or fumigation with methyl bromide.</p> <p>Where wood packaging has been treated in accordance with the requirements of the AWPCS, the treatment is considered to be effective against the members of the regulated pest groups for the entire life of the article.</p>
<p>The Certification Mark</p> 	<p>All wood packaging material that has been subjected to an approved treatment and is produced for use in consignments exported to countries that have implemented ISPM 15 shall display an internationally recognised certification mark.</p> <p>The certification mark is non-transferable and ultimately provides traceability to the treatment provider and manufacturer. Each certification mark is unique to the individual treatment provider or manufacturer of the wood packaging material.</p>

SAI Global Product Certification

Steps to Certification	To proceed with certification, the following steps identify the key milestones and activities required:
	Applicant Types
	Identify relevant certification compliance to your organisation and develop processes and documentation as required by AWPCS. See relevant appendices to each type.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer of wood packaging with onsite treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer of wood packaging without onsite treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Treatment Provider <input type="checkbox"/> Methyl Bromide Fumigation Provider
	Application Form
	Complete the Application Form for the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme and forward to SAI Global with the appropriate fees.
	Quality Manual
	Send documentation to SAI Global for compliance review to AWPCS requirements.
	Initial Site Audit
	After the approval of Quality Manual, SAI Global conducts a certification audit of the applicant site(s).
	Audit Report
	SAI Global provides an audit report. If any non-conformances are identified, the applicant carries out corrective actions to address the non-conformances.
	Certificate
Upon successful certification SAI Global issues a Certificate to the applicant. SAI Global liaises with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for the applicable licence number.	
Commence Marking of wood packaging	
The certified customer commences the marking of the wood packaging.	
Verification Audits	
SAI Global performs two verification (surveillance) audits per annum to ensure the compliance to ISPM 15.	

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