

## Wood Packing Materials (WPM) – Export Restrictions

"Around the globe, countries are adopting and implementing the provisions of the United Nations resolution IPPS ISPN 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade. In 2001, the European Union implemented these standards and began enforcing the standards in 2003. In 2003, the US Department of Agriculture approved the standard and sent it to USC&BP for approval and implementation. They did a soft roll out over a two year period and on March 9, 2007, U.S. Customs and Border Protection began issuing fines or requiring re-export of noncompliant cargo to the origin country. **In summary, all solid wood packing materials must be heat treated and properly marked with the burned brand showing the heat treatment symbol with the lumber production facility code.** Solid wood packing materials include lumber used to build crates, lift vans, pallets, blocking and bracing and bulkheads. The International Customs Association states that the lumber must display the heat treatment marking on at least two sides (directions) visible to the inspector. For lift vans, it is strongly recommended that the plywood sides each be marked. Though we know that manufactured wood products (plywood, chip board, pressed board etc) is heat treated through the manufacturing process, lift vans contain solid lumber in the pallet and corners supporting the construction of the crate. Therefore, the participating countries require lift vans to be marked correctly."

"U.S. government regulation requires all lift vans and crates used for government and military moves be properly marked as heat treated."

"No major international destination currently permits the use of non-treated lift vans or solid wood materials. Although there are some wood products that might be exempt in the rules, customs and agriculture officials are in practice not discriminating between the types of wood and preventing the entry of all such crates and packing materials into their countries. Therefore, it is the position of UniGroup Worldwide, that all lift vans, pallets, packing crates or other lumber used to pack, brace or contain household goods, used for international destinations or for import into the U.S. be properly marked and treated to meet the IPPS ISPN15 standard."



Please let us know if you have any questions, and we will be sure to address them as quickly as possible.

John Hiles  
Director of Operations,  
UniGroup Worldwide UTS Headquarters  
(636) 349-7329 [John\\_Hiles@unigroupworldwide.com](mailto:John_Hiles@unigroupworldwide.com)