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## MOLD CONDITIONS

All molds have four basic requirements for growth; suitable temperature (70-80° F), oxygen, food and moisture. Eliminating one of these elements can prevent mold growth. The most practical strategy for mold prevention is to eliminate the moisture factor. Nineteen percent or less moisture content on any component will not facilitate the growth of mold. Unfortunately, wooden components can be exposed to weather conditions prior to or during shipping that increase moisture content. Therefore, it is recommended that the

following steps be taken to limit exposure to moisture and possibly mold.

- Have lumber shipped wrapped in paper and under tarp
- Open or close storage sheds are preferable to outside storage
- Store pallet components away from standing water
- Ensure the storage area has good drainage
- Elevate the wooden components to allow cool, moist air to move downward and away from the pallet components
- When stored outside, wooden components should be stacked

so they are not touching. This will enable sufficient airflow.

- Require forklift operators to inspect wooden components prior to loading. If mold is observed, these wooden components should be removed from shipment and cleaned in accordance with facility mold growth clean up and control procedures.

We realize that many of you utilize components with moisture content exceeding 19%, but by following the above guidelines, we can diminish the development of mold growth.

## US/ CANADA ISPM 15 PHASE-IN STILL UNCLEAR

The bilateral agreement exempting ISPM 15 requirements for wood packaging material traveling between the United States and Canada is still in effect.

Look for the ISPM 15 Phase-In to begin in 2011 with possible full implementation to begin in 2012.



## STAMP MAINTENANCE

We recommend that a water or alcohol based ink that is compatible with rubber or photopolymer type stamps should be used. Use of stencil ink or high-solvent based ink may result in a decreased service life.

The stamp may be cleaned with a soft bristle brush or rag with a mild detergent. Rinse with water and dry immediately. If the stamp is extremely dirty and detergent is not effective you may use Isopropyl Alcohol or Acetone, being sure to rinse thoroughly when done. Use caution when using Alcohol or Acetone as they

may react harmfully with other chemicals. Do not use abrasives or strong solvents. Do not allow the stamp to soak in any fluid or ink.

We recommend that the stamps and ink pad be stored in a sealable container in an access controlled area. The stamp is registered to your facility, take action to secure it.

**For more information, contact:**

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