

TP

HT NEWS



February 27, 2009

BARK INSPECTIONS TO BEGIN WITH ISPM 15 REVISION

The EU bark restriction to be enforced on July 1 is based on upcoming changes to ISPM 15. The new ISPM 15 language will incorporate the same restriction.

Once adopted into ISPM 15 (which could be as early as April), TP and other ALSC approved agencies will be reviewing IPPC stamped material for bark and

enforcing the restriction (regardless of product destination).

TP shall assist in setting up quality control procedures to address the issue.

NEW ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR HEAT CHAMBERS (140° F)

The American Lumber Standard Committee's Wood Packaging Material Enforcement Regulations, Section 8 (available at www.tpinspection.com/ippc-heat-treatment.html) describes a new requirement to assure materials treated under this program meet a core temperature of at least 133° F for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Per the new regulations, heat chambers utilizing core temperature reading probes are required to show that materials within have reached a core temperature of 140° for 30 minutes or have had a heat chamber verification of air temperature/ heat displacement conducted by an ALSC authorized agency. This air temperature verification is a one-time test per product or product combination and is not required annually and should not be confused with annual probe calibrations.

This new regulation is the result of both China and the U.S. having found instances of live nematode in U.S. products certified as HT. Based on these findings, the USDA has to rule out that material is not being properly heat treated. One way is to add a buffer (i.e., 140°) and the other is to have further support that all items are truly being heat treated.

If you do not want to increase

the core temperature to 140°, specific products and/ or product mixes will require individual verifications. Wood packaging material and lumber have various sized spaces and air obstructions within and around their structures. Since any changes in air space within and around a product could affect air circulation, TP must verify any and all potential changes in "cold spot" locations.

The verification study will involve heat chamber air circulation mapping and product placement/ orientation (ex., all pallets facing the same direction) for particular products (such as 4-way pallets vs. 2-way pallets vs. timbers/boxes/ crates/ etc.) and/ or product mixes. TP will assign multiple probes to various locations in the chamber in order to locate areas of relatively poor air circulation, also known as "cold spots". Once mapped, the facility will be required to place probes in these areas for this particular load type.

Once specific products are verified for a particular heat chamber, those products will be allowed to be heat treated to 133°. Any deviation from verified products will require a new verification or the bump to 140°.

For example, if I normally run a full previously verified load of

4-way pallets to 133° but in one instance decide to treat a ¾ load of 4-way pallets and ¼ load of lumber, I would need to up that particular load to 140°. Or, if I were to run a ½ load or any deviation from a full load, I would need to up that particular load to 140°.

The facility treating some products at 133° and others at 140° will need to keep close tabs on products treated and heat chamber setup to make sure that those run to 133° are properly setup and previously verified.

If you choose to bump your core temperature settings to 140°, product verifications and back and forth heat chamber setting adjustments from 133° to 140° will not be necessary.

TP will be available over the next several months to conduct verification studies at your request.

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