

January 30, 2008

## UPDATE - US/ CANADA BILATERAL AGREEMENT

Ongoing discussions between the US and Canada may affect your ability to ship wood packaging across the Canadian border.

Reports from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency verify that talks between Canada and the US have taken place. According to sources, the US is likely to send notices to stakeholders, alerting of plans to remove the exemption within the next two



years. If this happens, expect a phased-in approach consisting of letters and warnings before a full implementation.

Tyrone Jones, Trade Director for the Forestry Sector, USDA-APHIS

will be presenting on this topic and others at the National Wooden Pallet and Container Leadership Conference, February 22-25 in Florida ([www.nwpc.com](http://www.nwpc.com)).

## LOOK FOR BARK LIMITATION IN 2009

The IPPC Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) has PROPOSED the following bark limita-



*Vascular Cambium (top) and Bark (bottom)*

tion to be incorporated into ISPM 15:

“Irrespective of the frequency of their occurrence on an individual unit of wood packaging material, pieces of bark greater than 3 cm in width should not be permitted on wood packaging moving in international trade unless the total surface area of the bark is less than 50 square cm (for example, long strips of bark less than 3 cm in width may be present).”

Translation— components of

wood packaging material should have a tolerance for bark approximately 1 inch or less in width (for any length). Larger widths can be tolerated if the total surface area of the bark (on any wood component) can fit in an area equivalent to the size of a credit card.

The IPPC Standards Committee will review the proposal and send it out for country comment.

This proposal has a lot of international support and will likely be adopted.

## DOMESTIC HT HEATS UP

ALSC has completed an HT Capacity Survey for some 4000 current WPM facilities and 1500 HT Lumber manufacturers in the US.

The results indicate that 20% of current softwood and hardwood lumber heat treating capacity is unused, while 67% of current WPM heat treating capacity is unused.

This information on availability may be used to support the domestic adoption of ISPM 15.

## WEBSITE UPDATES

[www.tpinspection.com](http://www.tpinspection.com) has downloadable ISPM 15 documents, HT Mark Facsimiles, Quality Control Procedures (Spanish version available), and the WPM Audit Agreement.

**For more information, contact:**

**EST, CST: Bryan Smalley (770) 922-8000 ext. 156**

**PST, MST: Casey Dean (360) 449-3138 ext. 12**