

## **MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **Does the implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2005 refer to the date of arrival in South Africa or to the date of shipment?**

1 January 2005 refers to the date of arrival at any South African port of entry (including airports, seaports or border posts as well as container depots).

### **What will happen if wood packaging arrives in South Africa on 1 January 2005 and it has not been treated and marked in accordance with ISPM 15?**

Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) will inspect the material and if no pest infestation is found it will be released.

If infestation is found, in terms of existing phytosanitary regulations, the packaging material will be required to be treated prior to release.

From the enforcement date of 1 March 2005, all wood packaging material that enters SA must be marked according to official DOA requirements. If DOA inspectors find unmarked material, they will issue an instruction for it to be treated. The period from 1 January to 1 March 2005 is to phase-in this regulation, and to increase awareness of its implications and requirements.

### **Will a fumigation certificate from the exporting country be accepted as certification in terms of ISPM 15?**

A fumigation certificate will be accepted if it is an addendum to a phytosanitary certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization of the exporting country.

### **Wood packaging material from South Africa moves back and forth across borders to our neighbouring countries. Does it have to be treated and re-marked before it can be returned to South Africa?**

Currently the requirements of ISPM 15 apply and it must be ensured that wood packaging material is free from any pest infestation. Cross-border movement of wood packaging material without the required mark is subject to agreement of the relevant trading partner's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). The NPPO of SA is communicating with its counterparts in neighbouring countries about this and is awaiting replies.