



**DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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To Whom It May Concern:

INFORMATION SESSIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES – GUIDELINES FOR REGULATING WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

South Africa is implementing the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No.15 ("Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade") from 1 January 2005.

This standard of the International Plant Protection Convention describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material (including dunnage), made of coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood, in use in international trade.

Wood packaging material made of unprocessed raw wood is a pathway for the introduction and spread of pests. Because the origin of wood packaging material is often difficult to determine, the standard describes globally approved measures that significantly reduce the risk of pest spread. In a publication on the guidelines for the treatment of wood by the International Plant Protection Convention, National Plant Protection Organisations are encouraged to accept wood packaging material that has been subjected to an approved measure without further requirements. Such wood packaging material includes dunnage, but excludes processed wood packaging material.

Procedures to verify that an approved measure, including the application of a globally recognised mark, has been applied, should be in place in both exporting and importing countries. Wood packaging material that does not comply with the requirements of this standard should be disposed of in an approved manner.

All manufacturers of and treatment providers for solid wood packaging material in South Africa for exporting purposes must be registered at the Department of Agriculture to qualify as an authorised user of the required treatment verification mark for those products that comply to the requirements of the international standard.

To assist all involved in exporting and importing, information sessions have been arranged by the Department of Agriculture as follows:

17 January 2005	Johannesburg	10:00 – 13:00	The Library Auditorium, Kempton Park Civic Center, Cnr C.R. Swart and Pta Roads;
18 January 2005	George	09:00 – 12:00	The Far Hills Country Hotel, George;
19 January 2005	Stellenbosch	09:00 – 12:00	Olive Grove Auditorium, ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij;
20 January 2005	Port Elizabeth	09:00 – 12:00	EPRFU Stadium
21 January 2005	Durban	09:00 – 12:00	Bluewaters Hotel, Marine Parade.

No cost will be involved.

Everybody involved in exports and imports is welcome to attend. You are requested to extend this invitation to your members.

Please indicate attendance via e-mail to MarindaN@nda.agric.za.

Kind regards



MIKE HOLTZHAUSEN
MANAGER: NATIONAL PLANT AND PLANT INSPECTION SERVICES
SAAFQIS (SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL FOOD, QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICES)
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