

Wood Packing Material Import Final Rules

Phase III of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) implementation plan for wood packing material (WPM) entering the United States began on July 5, 2006. In Phases I and II, CBP operated under a policy of "informed compliance" and phased enforcement, with educational information provided to the importing community. In Phase III, all shipments must comply with global standards for treatment and marking of regulated WPM. The new WPM rules affect shipments imported to the U.S. that contain raw wood materials over 6 mm (0.24 inch) in any dimension. Some exemptions exist, as mentioned below.

Phase III

- Began on July 5, 2006
- Informed compliance ended
- Full enforcement of WPM final rules for all regulated material, for U.S. destination and transiting shipments.
- Re-export of all Non-Compliant Wood Packing Material (NCWPM) is required. When CBP determines that it is not feasible to remove the NCWPM from the shipment, the entire shipment must be re-exported with the NCWPM.
- Transiting shipments containing NCWPM will not be allowed to proceed.
- All expenses incurred by CBP in connection with supervision of NCWPM removal will be billed to the importer or other party.
- NCWPM and associated merchandise that is re-exported will be at the importer or other party's expense.

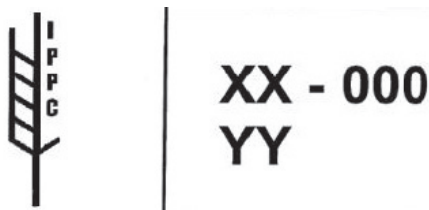
Exemptions to the new WPM rules include the following:

- Pieces of wood less than 6 mm/0.24 inches in any dimension
- Loose wood packing material such as shavings, excelsior, etc.
- Wood packing material originating in Canada and made in Canada (an importer's statement may be required to document the origin of the WPM)
- Processed wood packing materials that have received more than primary processing, e.g., plywood, corrugated board, fiberboard, veneer, whiskey and wine barrels, strand board, etc.
- Shipments for the U.S. Department of Defense

Additional items of interest:

- Removal of NCWPM must be approved by CBP, and supervised by CBP. Charges will be assessed for both approval and supervision of compliance activity
- The CBP Port Director's decision regarding removal of NCWPM is final

Example of the WPM logo:



- **XX** represents the International Standards Organization country.
- **000** represents the unique number assigned by the national plant protection organization to the treatment facility.
- **YY** represents either HT for heat treatment or MB for methyl bromide fumigation.

Additional Resources:

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

<http://www.aphis.U.S.da.gov/ppq/wpm/import.html>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/commercial_enforcement/wpm/