

American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated®

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E-MAIL

TO: US LUMBER AND WOOD PACKAGING ACCREDITED AGENCIES

FROM: DAVID E. KRETSCHMANN

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2022

SUBJECT: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN USDA APHIS LOGS/LUMBER AND
IPPC/ISPM 15 PACKAGING HEAT TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS

American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) has become aware of some recent confusion regarding what requirements are applicable to the ALSC Export Wood Packaging Program and what requirements are applicable to the import of heat-treated lumber into the United States. This letter is meant to clarify requirements for companies that wish to import lumber into the US and have this lumber treated as acceptable for meeting ALSC Heat Treated (HT) lumber requirements for the ALSC Export Wood Packaging Program.

The United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection has established Import Permit requirements for lumber from around the world to be imported into the United States. These are not new requirements, but the enforcement of these requirements has created confusion and import delays. The USDA has complete authority over these import requirements for lumber and these specific requirements are outlined in appropriate USDA documentation. These requirements are separate from the ALSC requirements for acceptance of lumber for use in Export Wood Packaging Material (WPM).

ALSC oversees the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 15 (ISPM 15) export wood packaging requirements and the marking and use of HT lumber for export. ISPM 15 guidelines are not the same as the USDA import requirements; rather, ISPM 15 is an international standard for the production and shipping of Export Wood Packaging Material from the United States as well as for the marking of lumber as meeting HT requirements of the standard. Wood packaging and lumber components produced according to ALSC requirements must meet ISPM 15 and ALSC Enforcement Regulation guidelines in order to be acceptable for use as HT. Imported lumber may meet both the USDA requirements and the ALSC HT requirements, but companies should recognize that these are separate requirements.

Please contact your accredited lumber or wood packaging inspection agency or the ALSC at 301-972-1700 if you have any questions. For questions specifically related to the importation of lumber for wood packaging components to the USA under USDA requirements, please contact Tyrone Jones at 301-851-2344.

cc: Tyrone Jones
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