



INFORMATION NOTE – ISPM No.15

ISPM No.15 and Wood Packaging Material (WPM) requirements in the event of a 'No-deal' Brexit

What is ISPM No.15?

ISPM No. 15 is an international phytosanitary (plant health) measure developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that sets down standards for the phytosanitary treatment and marking of Wood Packaging Material (WPM). WPM is a term used to describe pallets, crates, dunnage etc. used in international trade for the transport of goods of all kinds. The aim of ISPM No.15 is to prevent the international movement and spread of disease and insects harmful to the health of plants, trees forests or ecosystems.

ISPM No. 15 does not currently apply Ireland-UK trade. The following is a summary of the stated positions of the UK and the EU in relation to ISPM No.15 as of the withdrawal date. In the event of a No-Deal Brexit, the UK will leave the EU and become a third country (i.e. a non-EU Member State) when the UK leaves the EU.

ISPM No.15 and the export of goods using WPM from Ireland to the UK

Wood Packaging Material (WPM) including pallets, crates and dunnage, used in the transport of goods moving from Ireland to the UK does not currently need to meet ISPM No.15 requirements. In the event of a 'no deal' Brexit the position of the UK Government, as indicated in its guidance document updated 21st February 2019 (and which can be accessed by following the link below), is *"In the event of no deal, all WPM moving between the UK and the EU must meet [ISPM15 international standards](#) by undergoing heat treatment and marking. All WPM may be subject to official checks either upon or after entry to the EU. Checks on WPM will continue to be carried out in the UK on a risk-targeted basis only. The plant health risk from WPM imported from the EU is not expected to change as a result of an EU exit.*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-if-theres-no-withdrawal-deal>

ISPM No.15 and the import of goods using WPM from UK to Ireland

The EU has indicated the following regarding imports into the EU. *"As of the withdrawal date, the introduction of plants, plant products and other objects from the United Kingdom into the EU-27 will be governed by this Directive (Council Directive 2000/29/EC). This is in particular relevant for the introduction into the EU of wood packaging material: such wood packaging, whether or not actually in use for the transport of objects of all kinds, has to be compliant with a treatment and mark as specified in the FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary measures No 15 ('ISPM 15')".*

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/plant_health_en.pdf

Keeping up to date

In the context of Brexit preparedness and in order to monitor developments on the UK Government's position and the EU Commission's position in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit, it is recommended that you refer to the above links in order to remain fully informed of the official positions. You are strongly urged to keep this evolving situation under review.

Contacts and further information

- DAFM & EU Brexit information is available at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/brexit/> and
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity_en
- Further information on ISPM No.15 is available at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests/foresthealthandseeds/exportsofwoodpackagingmaterialispmno15/>
- Any queries in relation to this matter can also be sent by email to ispm15@agriculture.gov.ie