

PALLET PHYTOSANITARY PROJECT NEWSLETTER



A Cooperative Effort of the Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development Area And The Wood Education and Resource Center

Number 3

June 2003

REGULATORY UPDATE

No-Bug Logo Status

The latest information was posted on the APHIS website on May 2, 2003 and stated, "While the new symbol that will be part of the certification mark is still being registered, countries are now free to implement programs and require compliance relevant to the International Standard".

Importation of Solid Wood Packing Material

The May 20, 2003 edition of the Federal Register contained the Proposed Rules for the Importation of Solid Wood Packaging Material. The rules were developed by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS is proposing "to adopt the IPPC guidelines because they represent the current international standard determined to be necessary and effective for controlling pests in wood packaging material used in global trade, and because current US requirements for wood packaging material are not fully effective, as shown by analyses of pest interceptions at ports that show an increase in pests associated with wood packaging material".

Note, that APHIS has elected to continue using the term solid wood packaging material (SWPM) instead of the IPPC designation of WPM. The reason for this is to maintain continuity with the numerous documents and enforcement policies that have been in place for many years.

Adopting the IPPC standard requires SWPM imported to the US to be either heat treated to a wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes or fumigated with methyl bromide in an enclosed area for at least 16 hours at the IPPC designated dosage rates and temperatures. Further, all imported SWPM must be marked in a visible location on each article with a legible and permanent mark that indicates the article has been treated as required.

The proposed rules contain an exception for the Department of Defense when moving material from foreign locations to the US. While DOD must still meet heat or fumigation requirements, it is exempted from bearing the permanent mark. The exception is proposed for reasons of security, practicality, and timeliness for DOD in moving materials internationally.

APHIS will consider all comments on the proposed rules that are received on or before July 21, 2003.

Written comments can be submitted by regular mail or by email at the following addresses:

Docket No. 02-032-2
Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS
Station 3C71
4700 River Road Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

For email use:

regulations@aphis.usda.gov

The pertinent Federal Register documents, as well as, information on those providing comments on APHIS dockets are available at: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webreport.html.

Methyl Bromide

The National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) will administer the Export Wood Packaging Material (WPM) Fumigation Program. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the NWPCA and APHIS authorizing NWPCA to accredit and monitor inspection agencies that will conduct inspections and auditing of facilities fumigating WPM as defined in the International Standards For Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) Publication Number 15, "Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade".

In cooperation with APHIS and the Great Lakes Chemical Company, NWPCA has developed a training program for inspectors charged with verifying that fumigation companies have treated and manufacturing facilities have marked WPM according

to the international standard. Training will be conducted in Atlanta (8/7/03), Washington, DC (8/14/03), and Los Angeles, (8/21/03).

NWPCA is currently developing a list of fumigators participating in the program and will post it on their website.

NWPCA has indicated that program implementation should occur in late August 2003.

This action closes the loop on establishing accrediting agencies for the accepted treatments under the IPPC Standard for WPM. The American Lumber Standard Committee had previously entered into an MOU with APHIS to act as the accrediting organization for heat treatment of WPM.

Pinewood Nematode

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area (NA) State and Private Forestry has developed a publication on the Pinewood Nematode. This publication is included with this newsletter as an email attachment. Feel free to distribute it to your clients.

Scientists at the NA are currently developing a more comprehensive treatment of the Pinewood Nematode, with more and better photos and diagrams. It should be available late fall/early winter 2003.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry's Forest Health Protection program provides a wealth of information forest pests through their website. A great deal of valuable information, including detailed

publications, photos, information on specific infestations in the US, and a variety of other topics on the Asian Longhorned Beetle is available at www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/alb.

STATE LEVEL GRANT PROGRAM

Twenty-three of the thirty-two states in the eastern hardwood region participated in the state level grant program, sponsored as part of the Pallet Phytosanitary Project. Each state contracted, at a minimum, to attend a Briefing Session and to sponsor at least two informational meetings for local businesses, organizations, and interested individuals. Each newsletter issue will summarize the results of a number of state cooperators who have completed their projects.

Indiana

The Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association, Inc. is the project cooperator for Indiana. Two informational meetings were organized and presented. The first was held in Nappanee to cover northern Indiana and had 27 individuals in attendance, representing 17 companies involved in solid wood packaging, including sawmills, pallet manufacturer's, pallet recyclers, and exporters.

The second session, covering southern Indiana, was held in Starlight, IN. Attendance at this session was 36 and represented 17 sawmills, pallet manufacturer's, exporters, and heat treatment equipment manufacturer's.

A number of attendees thought that the phytosanitary regulations were strictly a softwood issue and were surprised that hardwoods and any solid wood packaging material were

also included. Methods available for treating SWPM were a popular discussion topic at each session.

Louisiana

The project cooperator in Louisiana is the Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory, School of Renewable Resource, Louisiana State University AgCenter. A project team was established and included members from LSU, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's Forest Products Program and the State Quarantine Program, and USDA APHIS PPQ. The team developed a mailing list of all pallet producers and others with interest in phytosanitary issues. A total of 40 companies were represented on this list.

Two half-day informational meetings were sponsored, one in Ruston and the other in Baton Rouge. Through the workshops, follow-up visits to plant sites and follow-up requests for information, 15 of the 40 companies contacted received assistance.

Most of the companies participating knew about the new regulations, but 4 or 5 did not.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

In the April 2003 Newsletter we provided brief summaries of three projects funded under the Pallet Phytosanitary Project Competitive Grants Program. These were the University of Minnesota, Ouachita Mountains RC&D, Inc., and PSC, Inc., projects. This issue summarizes two more of the projects.

Penn State University
Project Leader: John J. Janowiak
**Title: Microwave Eradication of
the Pine Wood Nematode
and Beetle Vectors Infesting
Wooden Packaging Material**

The intent of this research project is to develop data on the efficacy of 2.45GHz microwave processing for eradication of nematodes and their beetle vectors infesting solid wood packaging material as a basis for developing approved microwave treatment methods, as well as microwave process parameters for commercialization purposes.

The specific objectives of this research include:

1. Determine the optimal 2.45 GHz microwave conditions (including time, power, and temperature) for eradicating individual species studied (i.e., pine wood nematodes, surrogate nematodes, and cerambycids) infesting each wood type (laboratory dimensions) and each of four wood moisture content levels.
2. Determine the power/time requirements needed to heat different wood species (pine and hardwood) via 2.45 GHz microwave energy to lethal temperatures for nematodes.
3. Provide a suggested microwave treatment schedule for the eradication of the selected pests.
4. Conduct preliminary testing of the treatment schedule on commercial lumber dimensions in industrial microwave ovens.

The final results will contribute needed information for both the U.N.'s International Standards Committee analysis process in evaluating alternative treatment methods for SWPM and to the industry's design of

microwave equipment for eradicating these pests.

West Virginia University
Project Leader: Ben Dawson-Andoh
**Title: Meeting Current IPPC Heat
Treating Standards With Hot
Water Bath Treatments.**

This project will develop baseline information on a "hot water bath" procedure to sanitize pallet components to meet current IPPC requirements. Green red oak, white oak, and yellow-poplar stringers and deckboards will be submersed in heated water at a constant temperature of 60°C. Thermocouples will be used to determine the length of time to achieve an internal wood temperature of 56°C.

A second treatment will be tested, which includes submersion in a heated solution of water containing Timbor® for mold control. In addition to determining the heat treatment effectiveness, the experimental samples will be used to determine retention and penetration of the Timbor® treatment, as well as mechanical testing of individual parts to determine any effect on mechanical properties.

MISCELLANEOUS

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter via email or hard copy to all interested parties.

This issue of the newsletter and all subsequent issues will be posted on the following USDA Forest Service website:

www.na.fs.fed.us/econaction/palletnews.

Suggestions and items for upcoming newsletter issues are welcomed. Contact Curt Hassler, Project Manager, at (304) 282-5417 or via email at curth@mail.wvnet.edu.