

Official European Union Bark Restriction (July 1, 2009 Enforcement)

The following was included in a recent announcement from the World Trade Organization Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures:

...In addition to the implementation of treatment and marking requirements described in ISPM 15, the new European Communities import requirements provide that the WPM [wood packaging material] instead of being produced from debarked round wood ... will need to be free from bark with exception for the presence of any number of individual pieces of bark. These should be either less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or, if greater than 3 cm in width, of not more than 50 cm² in area. This latter free-from-bark requirement will be applicable from 1 July 2009 onwards.

This regulatory amendment is consistent with the standards, guidelines and recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC):

<https://www.ippc.int/IPPC/En/default.jsp>

Enforcement date: July 1st, 2009

What This Means to Your Company:

The European Union will only accept wood packaging material that is “free from bark” beginning July 1st of this year. Timber Creek Resource has been upgrading the quality of our lumber since this restriction was announced, and we are prepared to handle any necessary changes to your export packaging requirements during this transition period and beyond.

This new regulation will impact any companies exporting or planning to export products to one of the 27 member states of the European Union (see below). If your company exports to any one of these countries, or if you have questions regarding this announcement, please be sure to give us a call so that we can discuss your options.

We intend to keep you informed through the Timber Creek email update list, if you are not a member, [click here to join](#). When important industry regulations change, we will send out an email to avoid unnecessary complications.

The European Union Member States:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

The EU Will Be Joining These Other “Bark Free” Countries:

Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Turkey

More Information (External Links)

For more information call your sales representative, or visit the following 3rd party websites:

ISPM (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures)
<https://www.ippc.int/id/35225?language=en> (ISPM 15 Regulations)

IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention)
<https://www.ippc.int/IPPC/En/default.jsp>

Timber Products Website
<http://www.tpinspection.com/ippc-heat-treatment.html>