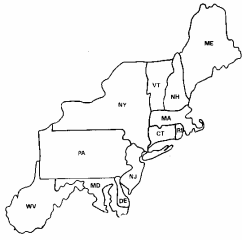


EASTERN PLANT BOARD



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2007 Resolution No. 4

National Regulation for Movement of Solid Wood Packing Material

The introduction and movement of invasive and exotic forest pests is often accelerated and assisted by human activities. State and federal agencies have implemented regulatory strategies to address a number of known pest pathways such as commercial log movement, nursery stock, etc. The movement of pallets and solid wood packing material (SWPM) is a specialized pathway with a high risk of carrying destructive forest and tree pests, both known and unknown, into new locations. Regulating SWPM for specific pests in limited geographical areas leads to competitive market inconsistencies within the SWPM industry, and confusion among the regulatory community and the public.

According to the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association, pallets move through the country unregulated at an alarming volume. Approximately 450 million pallets are manufactured each year. An additional 27 million are refurbished. An estimated 1.2 billion pallets are moving around the country at any one point in time.

With the adoption of ISPM 15 in 2006, approved treatments for SWPM and operational U.S. inspection stations are already in place. Many pallet manufacturers are already conducting these treatments if they ship pallets internationally.

Resolved, by the Eastern Plant Board at its 82nd annual meeting in Jackson, NH, on April 5, 2007, that USDA continue to develop and approve criteria/processes in addition to the ISPM 15 measures that could be adopted by industry to mitigate the movement of pests in pallets and SWPM within the United States.

Be it further resolved, that USDA APHIS should immediately start the process to federally regulate the interstate movement of pallets and solid wood packing material consistently nationwide.

Distribution:

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Dr. Rob Mangold, Forest Service, Chief Forest Health
Brian Woodward, Forest Products Program, US Department of Commerce
E. Austin Short III, National Association of State Foresters
Bruce Scholnick, President, National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
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