

FORESTRY COMMISSION PLANT HEALTH SERVICE – INFORMATION NOTE

USE OF UKWPMMP STAMPS ISSUED TO FUMIGATORS BUT APPLIED BY THIRD PARTIES

The procedures set out in this guidance note apply only to wood packaging material (WPM) that is to be fumigated in a container after final loading and immediately before shipping. In all other circumstances marking shall only be carried out on completion of fumigation and be applied by the fumigator.

It is essential that any fumigator who is registered with the United Kingdom Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme (UKWPMMP) and has been issued with a unique registration number is aware of his responsibility to prevent abuse or misuse of registration numbers and treatment stamps. This guidance note sets out the means by which the UKWPMMP mark is to be used and safeguarded by fumigators when the stamp is to be applied by someone other than the fumigator on his behalf and under the obligations incumbent on him as a member of the UKWPMMP.

The registration number assigned to the fumigator under the UKWPMMP must be applied to all WPM that is to be attested as having been fumigated in accordance with the specification set out in ISPM 15 (see example below).

In order to ensure that all WPM materials are correctly marked, the general requirement is that all items should be treated and stamped in accordance with the requirements of ISPM 15 before a container is loaded. This should involve treating packaging materials after the timber is cut or worked into the required lengths or shapes but before the product is loaded. Circumstances may arise where a container containing WPM (including dunnage) must be loaded before fumigants are applied. In these circumstances the fumigator may allow the third party that loads the container to stamp WPM with the fumigator's UKWPMMP stamp during loading. This can only be permitted with the express approval, in writing, from the fumigator. In each and every instance where a fumigator authorises a third party to apply their stamp to WPM he must inform the Forestry Commission, Plant Health Service via TIMCON of the details of the third party and the duration of the approval to use the stamp. Records must be maintained of the issuing and receipt of stamps by both the fumigators and the third party.

Where approval is given to a third party, responsibility for the safekeeping and proper use of the stamp shall remain with the fumigator. It is imperative therefore that the fumigator satisfies himself that the third party to whom he has given approval to use his stamp uses this facility honestly and responsibly. If, at any time, the issuing bodies (FC/DARDNI/TIMCON) detect evidence of misuse or abuse of the UKWPMMP stamp by the fumigator or the approved third party then legal action may be taken. UKWPMMP registration will be suspended pending investigation and may be withdrawn if the Forestry Commission is not satisfied that the fumigator is again able and willing to abide by the rules of the Programme. Fumigators must also note that the Forestry Commission requires records to be kept of consignments to be treated under these arrangements by both the fumigator and the third party who has been given access to the fumigator's UKWPMMP stamp. The Forestry Commission, via its Independent Assessment Agencies, shall retain the right to carry out record checks on the third party approved by the fumigator as part of the periodic assessment process for that fumigator. If additional assessment costs are incurred for performing audits of a third party's records, these costs shall be payable by the fumigator.

In all circumstances it is always the fumigator's responsibility to ensure that all timber items marked with their individual UKWPMMP number has been fumigated. If the fumigator cannot guarantee the proper stewardship of his UKWPMMP stamp it must not be released. The fumigator shall be held responsible for any piece of timber bearing his stamp.

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(NB - This protocol has been produced in agreement with the UKWPMMP Advisory Council which comprises of representatives from Forestry Commission, DARDNI, TIMCON, BPCA, UKFPA and NAPD)

