



UK WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL MARKING PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT NOTES – Issue 2

Wood Marking Quality and Standards within the UKWPMMP

Background

At an international ISPM15 Workshop held in Vancouver recently delegates discussed some of the poor quality marking applied to wood packaging material which was considered to be due to some national programmes taking time to 'bed in'. As the UKWPMMP has been operational since October 2001 ie it has had sufficient time to 'bed in', it was disappointing to note at the Workshop that some wood packaging material, which had been manufactured in the UK, displayed some extremely poor quality marks (see attached photographs). It is appreciated that some companies have experimented with different inks, stamps, stencils, branding plates etc in order to achieve a high quality of marking but participants should now be able to achieve ISPM15 marking requirements.

Immediate Action For Existing UKWPMMP Participants and Assessors

With immediate effect therefore Assessment Agencies will now take a more stringent line regarding marking issues during assessments to ensure that marking is performed properly. Assessors have been instructed to insist that the companies demonstrate the wood marking application process during assessments especially in cases where marked WPM is not available on the premises for inspection. Assessors will also inspect a reasonable proportion of marked material in stock to assess the quality of marking and where shortcomings are detected the poorly marked articles will be removed for re-marking to the required ISPM15 standard (as stated below). Wood Packaging Material Manufacturers will receive a 'Qualified Approval' assessment until all marking shortcomings are rectified.

Many importing countries consider illegible or inappropriate or poorly positioned etc marks as non-compliant and remedial treatments are applied routinely to them. It is therefore imperative that UKWPMMP participants apply marks which meet the requirements of ISPM15 ie Markings should be:

- according to the model shown in Annex II of the Standard,
- legible,
- permanent and not transferable and
- placed in a visible location, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the article being certified.

Immediate Action for New UKWPMMP Participants and Assessors

As new participants to the UKWPMMP have to await the outcome of an initial assessment before they are approved to commence marking wood packaging material to ISPM15 compliant standards, **all** newly assessed companies will be allocated with a 'Qualified Approval' Assessment until they can satisfy the assessment agency that they can achieve the required standard of marking. The paragraph entitled 'Qualified Approval' on page 5 of Plant Health Leaflet No.12 'The UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme' sets out this requirement and provides further information about qualified approvals.

Depending upon individual circumstances the newly assessed companies can either invite the assessment agency to view and photograph their first batch of marked material or they can provide the assessment agency with clear digital photographic images of their mark as applied to wood packaging material. One of the photographic images should be a close up shot of the mark and at least one other should illustrate the clarity of the mark applied to a batch of pallets for example where appropriate. The photographs supplied by the participant will serve as a representative example of their wood mark and it should be understood that assessment agencies and the Forestry Commission will not accept wood marks below that standard during any future visits to the participant's premises, which may be unannounced.

Photographic Register

The Forestry Commission will now maintain a photographic register of all UKWPMMP participants wood marks and therefore all assessment agencies have been instructed, with immediate effect, to provide the FC with a digital image, of all wood marks witnessed during assessment visits. It is appreciated that wood marks do change as companies change their stencil supplier or move from stencilling to branding. However, given the feedback received about the poor standard of marking applied by some of the UKWPMMP participants it is considered necessary to have a record of the general standard of marking within our programme.

The photographic register of wood marks will be made available on the Forestry Commission's website in due course.

Forestry Commission
Plant Health Service
April 2005

Assessment Note 2 Examples of Poor Quality Wood Marks

Example 1: Wood Mark/Stamp Newly Applied to Rough Sawn Timber Surface



Example 2 : Faded Wood Mark ie not permanent on a Pallet Block



Example 3: Poorly Applied Wood Mark Where Registration Number is Absent or illegible



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April 2005