

## Combined TIMCON DEFRA (UKGOV) EU Exit Statement

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

- From the 1st January 2021, it will be a legal requirement for all wood packaging material moving in both directions between UK and the EU to be compliant with a treatment and mark as specified in the International Standard for Phytosanitary measures No 15 (ISPM15).
- The wooden packaging industry is clear in its view that there is no scientific or fact-based rationale to justify any change in the rules or enforcement regimes applied to wooden packaging material (WPM) moving between the UK and EU when the Transition Period ends, because there will be no change in the plant health risk embodied by such movements.
- Nevertheless, the UK Timber Pallet and Packaging Confederation (TIMCON), Logistics UK (formerly FTA), National Association of Pallet Distributors (NAPD), the European Federation of Wooden Pallet and Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB) and the Closed Pallet Pooling Coalition (CPPC representing CHEP, LPR and IPP) have been working hard with DEFRA, and industry to ensure there are fully compliant WPM available for January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.
- Measures taken include:
  - Manufacturers increasing their heat-treating capacities with new investment in equipment
  - Increasing the capacity of current equipment - moving to 24/7 shift patterns, for example, which in many cases more than doubles capacity without major investment
  - In Wales, a scheme has been set up for small- and medium-sized business to seek grants to invest in increasing heat-treatment equipment
  - Work has been carried out in conjunction with the Forestry Commission, the UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme Advisory Council, TIMCON and the major pooling companies, allowing the use of heat-treated repair boards
- To ensure that any potential disruption created by the change in requirements is minimised, Timcon is strongly encouraging FEFPEB and EU national associations to engage and support their countries' WPM industries to increase their stock of ISPM15 compliant pallets. Further, Timcon is recommending an aligned approach to inspections in all EU member states to reflect the risk-based approach to ISPM15 inspections, already advocated by the UK Government. Such an approach is consistent with current EU legislation relating to ISPM15 and allows member states to continue to do this after the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- TIMCON is working with the industry across the EU, through national associations and FEFPEB, to provide advice on increasing ISPM15 capacity and to seek clarification on how NPPOs in EU member states might continue to employ a risk-based and pragmatic approach to enforcement.
- During the pandemic, the timber packaging and pallet industry has been recognised in both the UK and EU as a key sector to support the delivery of food, medicines and other essential goods to retailers, underlining the importance in ensuring no delays or supply chain issues surrounding the flow of goods between the UK and EU from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

- Wooden packaging is the most cost-effective method of transportation of goods and is recognised as one of the best examples of a circular economy in operation. Wooden packaging has unrivalled environmental and hygienic credentials - wood absorbs carbon from the atmosphere as it grows and locks it in until it reaches the end of its useful life; and is ultimately recycled.
- Wooden packaging has been the preferred choice for many years - and will continue to be when the EU transition period ends on 1st January 2021. TIMCON, along with the other associations and individual companies in the industry are keeping customers updated, reassured and supplied with our ISPM15 compliant products.

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