

EN

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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.4.2021)

Pallets and other wood packaging material in international trade must comply with the International Standard for Phytosanitary measures No. 15 (ISPM 15). The standard requires that such material must bear a specific mark, applied by duly authorised and supervised professional operators. All Member States of the EU, as well as all trading partners (including the United Kingdom), are obliged to implement this standard, as they are signing parties of the International Plant Protection Convention.

Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031¹ lays down rules for the implementation of these provisions in the EU. According to these rules, wood packaging material must be subject to approved treatments following ISPM 15 and marked with a mark as foreseen in the standard.

The correct application of ISPM 15 allows easy recycling of wooden pallets in international trade, e.g. under deposit or exchange systems. The Commission is of the opinion, that a possible exemption for the trade with the United Kingdom would be disproportionate vis-à-vis the risk of introducing pests through infested wood packaging material into the EU.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R2031&from=EN>