

Collection: Importing and exporting wood and timber products

Updated: Removed information about email subscriptions to plant health news.

If you import or export certain wood and timber products to or from the UK you will have to comply with plant health regulations, restrictions and requirements. The regulations are designed to protect the natural environment and plant-based industries of receiving countries from introductions of harmful organisms that can be present in wood. These include certain species of insects, bacteria and fungi.

If wood material or products are not classed as regulated there are no restrictions on their movement.

Plant Health News

Plant Health News keeps importers and exporters of wood, timber products, wood packaging and dunnage up to date with changes in legislation, regulations and requirements. [Read past issues.](#)

Detailed guide: Import or export wood packaging material

If you import any goods using wood packaging material (WPM), you need to be aware of the requirements for landing them in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). (Separate but similar arrangements apply in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.) This is because wood packaging material is a known pathway for the introduction of harmful tree and forestry pests and diseases.

WPM includes:

- packing cases
- boxes
- crates
- drums and similar containers
- pallets, box pallets, pallet collars and other load boards

The GB landing requirements for goods from Third Countries – non-EU Member

States (except Switzerland, treated as an EU Member State) – are relatively straight forward. The rules are based on the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures number 15 (ISPM15:2018)¹.

ISPM15 applies to timber sourced from all species of tree and used to manufacture solid wood packaging materials, although certain wood product types are exempt. ([See the rules about exemptions below.](#))

Different, less stringent landing requirements apply to WPM originating in EU Member States, except Portugal and certain areas of Spain– see below for detailed information. The specific landing requirements for different consignor countries are explained below.

WPM imports from Third Countries (except Switzerland)

Wood packaging material may only be imported into Great Britain from Third Countries if they meet these requirements:

WPM treatment

Debarked wood packaging material, including dunnage (ie loose wood used to wedge or support cargo) is subject to one of the approved measures as specified in the ISPM15 (Revised 2018):

- heat treatment that achieves a temperature of 56 degrees Celsius for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood, including its core
- dielectric heating (eg microwave) of wood not exceeding 20cm when measured across the smallest dimension of the piece or stack – the material must be heated to achieve a minimum temperature of 60 degrees Celsius for one continuous minute throughout the entire profile of the wood, including at its surface
- fumigated with methyl bromide in accordance with [requirements described in Annex 1 of ISPM15](#)
- fumigated with sulphuryl fluoride in accordance with requirements described in Annex 1 of ISPM15

The material must also display a mark with the 2-letter ISO country code assigned by the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPP0) of the country concerned. It identifies the producer and the approved measure applied to the WPM as specified in [Annex II of ISPM15 1.](#)

Use of debarked wood

Wood packaging material must be made of debarked wood, irrespective of the type of treatment applied. For this standard, any number of visually separate and clearly distinct small pieces of bark may remain if they are either:

- less than 3cm in width (regardless of the length)
- or greater than 3cm in width, with the total surface area of an

individual piece of bark less than 50 square cm

For methyl bromide treatment and sulphuryl fluoride treatments, the bark must be removed before treatment because the presence of bark on the wood can affect the effectiveness of the treatment. For heat treatment, the bark may be removed before or after treatment. When a dimension limitation is specified for a certain type of heat treatment (eg dielectric heating), any bark must be included in the dimension measurement.

WPM imports from EU Member States and Switzerland

There is no requirement for ISPM15 treatment and marking to be applied to WPM being imported to GB from another EU Member State, except Portugal. However, if WPM has been applied and meets this standard, it will be accepted.

Where ISPM15 treatment and marking have not been applied, and the conifer WPM comes from another EU Member State (except Portugal), the less stringent GB Protected Zone landing requirements detailed below must be applied.

If you're importing conifer wood packaging material originating in Portugal or from certain areas in Spain to Great Britain, the wood must be ISPM15-compliant because of the outbreak of pinewood nematode (PWN) in these countries. [Refer to the EU Commission Implementing Decision 2012/535/EU and outbreak information.](#)

WPM treatment options for WPM from EU Member States other than ISPM15 requirements

Conifer wood

Conifer material shall be either:

- bark-free
- or accompanied by a plant passport issued by a registered forestry trader in an EU Member State declaring that the wood with residual bark originated in an area known to be free of certain bark beetle species
- or kiln dried (KD), marked with a KD mark, and accompanied by a plant passport issued by a registered forestry trader in an EU Member State

The bark-free requirement is stricter than the debarked wood requirement. Bark-free means wood from which all bark has been removed, except in-grown bark around knots, and bark pockets between rings of annual growth has been removed.

Hardwood

Generally speaking, WPM made from most hardwood timber types are not regulated when they come from other EU Member States, and therefore do not require any treatment or marking. However, wood packaging made from sweet chestnut and plane wood coming from other EU Member States is subject to GB

plant health controls.

The specific landing requirements for these controlled hardwoods are not provided in this guidance, because these wood types are not often used in WPM. They can, however, be obtained from the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service if required. [\(Find contact information below if you have any queries.\)](#)

Exemptions

ISPM15 requirements or other landing requirements do not apply to:

- wood packaging material made entirely from thin wood (6mm thickness or less)
- wood packaging material constructed entirely from processed wood produced by using glue, heat and pressure, or a combination thereof, including plywood, oriented strand board (OSB), medium-density fibreboard (MDF) and other particle board products

These exemptions apply to wood packaging materials originating in EU Member States and Third Countries.

Phytosanitary and Treatment Certificates

There is no requirement for ISPM15-compliant WPM to be accompanied by a phytosanitary or treatment certificate because the certification is provided via the application of the ISPM15 mark. This applies to wood packaging materials originating in EU Member States and Third Countries. Certification will not be accepted by an inspector in lieu of an ISPM15 mark applied to the wood packaging material being imported.

Compulsory import notification procedures for certain goods from China and Belarus

The Forestry Commission GB require all importers of 52 commodities (identified by generic and specific CN Codes) from China and Belarus to provide advance notification of their intention to land any of them. This requirement is as per Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137.

The compulsory CN codes and their commodities are:

CN code	Commodity description
2514 00 00	Slate, whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of rectangular (including square) shape
2515	Marble, travertine, ecaussine and other calcareous monumental or building stone of an apparent specific gravity of 2,5 or more, and alabaster, whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of rectangular (including square) shape

CN code	Commodity description
2516	Granite, porphyry, basalt, sandstone and other monumental or building stone, whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape
4401	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms; wood in chips or particles; sawdust and wood waste and scrap, whether or not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms
4415	Packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, of wood; cable-drums of wood; pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood (excl. containers specially designed and equipped for one or more modes of transport)
4415 20	Pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood (excl. containers specially designed and equipped for one or more modes of transport)
4415 20 90	Box pallets and other load boards, of wood (excl. containers specially designed and equipped for one or more modes of transport; flat pallets and pallet collars)
4415 20 20	Pallets and pallet collars, of wood
4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry, of wood, incl. cellular wood panels, assembled flooring panels, shingles and shakes, of wood (excl. plywood panelling, blocks, strips and friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled, and pre-fabricated buildings)
4421	Other articles of wood, n.e.s.
6501 00	Hat-forms, hat bodies and hoods of felt, neither blocked to shape nor with made brims; plateaux and manchons, incl. slit manchons, of felt
6801 00 00	Setts, curbstones and flagstones, of natural stone (excl. slate)
6802	Worked monumental or building stone (except slate) and articles thereof, other than goods of heading 6801; mosaic cubes and the like, of natural stone (including slate), whether or not on a blocking; artificially coloured granules, chippings and powder, of natural stone (including slate)
6803 00	Worked slate and articles of slate or of agglomerated slate (excl. slate granules, chippings and powder, mosaic cubes and the like, slate pencils, and ready-to-use slates or boards with writing or drawing surfaces)
6810	Articles of cement, concrete or artificial stone, whether or not reinforced
6811 40	Articles of asbestos-cement, cellulose fibre-cement or the like, containing asbestos
6902 00	Refractory bricks, blocks, tiles and similar refractory ceramic constructional goods, other than those of siliceous fossil meals or similar siliceous earths
6904 00	Non-refractory ceramic building bricks, flooring blocks, support or filler tiles and the like
6905 00	Roofing tiles, chimney pots, cowls, chimney liners, architectural ornaments and other ceramic constructional goods

CN code	Commodity description
6906 00	Ceramic pipes, conduits, guttering and pipe fittings (excl. of siliceous fossil meals or similar siliceous earths, refractory ceramic goods, chimney liners, pipes specifically manufactured for laboratories, insulating tubing and fittings and other piping for electrotechnical purposes)
6907	Ceramic flags and paving, hearth or wall tiles; ceramic mosaic cubes and the like, whether or not on a backing (excl. of siliceous fossil meals or similar siliceous earths, refractory goods, tiles specially adapted as table mats, ornamental articles and tiles specifically manufactured for stoves)
6912 00 83	Household articles and toilet articles, of stoneware (excl. tableware, kitchenware, baths, bidets, sinks and similar sanitary fixtures, statuettes and other ornamental articles, pots, jars, carboys and similar receptacles for the conveyance or packing of goods)
6912 00 23	Tableware and kitchenware, of stoneware (excl. statuettes and other ornamental articles, pots, jars, carboys and similar receptacles for the conveyance or packing of goods, and coffee grinders and spice mills with receptacles made of ceramics and working parts of metal)
7210	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width ≥ 600 mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled 'cold-reduced', clad, plated or coated
7313 00	Barbed wire of iron or steel; twisted hoop or single flat wire, barbed or not, and loosely twisted double wire, of a kind used for fencing, of iron or steel
7317 00	Nails, tacks, drawing pins, corrugated nails, staples and similar articles of iron or steel, whether or not with heads of other material (excl. such articles with heads of copper and staples in strips)
7318	Screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter pins, washers, incl. spring washers, and similar articles, of iron or steel (excl. lag screws, stoppers, plugs and the like, threaded)
7415	Nails, tacks, drawing pins, staples and similar Articles, of copper or with shafts of iron or steel and heads of copper, screws, bolts, nuts, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter pins, washers 'incl. spring washers' and similar articles, of copper (excl. staples in strips, and lag screws, plugs, bungs and the like, threaded)
8101 96	Tungsten wire
8102 96	Molybdenum wire
8205 90 10	Anvils; portable forges; hand- or pedal-operated grinding wheels with frameworks
8465 93	Grinding, sanding or polishing machines for working wood, cork, bone, hard rubber, hard plastics or similar hard materials (excl. machines for working in the hand and machining centres)

CN code	Commodity description
4504 90 80	Agglomerated cork, with or without a binding substance, and articles of agglomerated cork (excl. footwear and parts thereof, insoles, whether or not removable; headgear and parts thereof; plugs and dividers for shotgun cartridges; toys, games and sports equipment and parts thereof; blocks, plates, sheets or strips; tiles of any shape; solid cylinders, incl. discs; corks and stoppers)
4823 90 85	Paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, in strips or rolls of a width $\leq$ 36 cm, in rectangular or square sheets, of which no side > 36 cm in the unfolded state, or cut to shape other than rectangular or square, and articles of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres, n.e.s.
6912 00 83	Household articles and toilet articles, of stoneware (excl. tableware, kitchenware, baths, bidets, sinks and similar sanitary fixtures, statuettes and other ornamental articles, pots, jars, carboys and similar receptacles for the conveyance or packing of goods)
7108 13 80	Gold, incl. gold plated with platinum, in semi-manufactured forms, for non-monetary purposes (excl. sheets and strips of a thickness, excl. any backing, of > 0,15 mm and plates, bars, rods, wire and sections)
7110 19 80	Platinum in semi-manufactured forms (excl. sheets and strips of a thickness, excl. any backing, of > 0,15 mm and plates, bars, rods, wire and sections)
7304 31 20	Precision tubes, seamless, of circular cross-section, of iron or non-alloy steel, cold-drawn or cold-rolled 'cold-reduced' (excl. line pipe of a kind used for oil or gas pipelines or casing and tubing of a kind used for drilling for oil or gas)
7304 41 00	Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, seamless, of circular cross-section, of stainless steel, cold-drawn or cold-rolled 'cold-reduced' (excl. line pipe of a kind used for oil or gas pipelines, casing and tubing of a kind used for drilling for oil or gas)
8407 33 20	Spark-ignition reciprocating piston engine, of a kind used for vehicles of chapter 87, of a cylinder capacity > 250 cm ³ but $\leq$ 500 cm ³
8407 33 80	Spark-ignition reciprocating piston engine, of a kind used for vehicles of chapter 87, of a cylinder capacity > 500 cm ³ but $\leq$ 1 000 cm ³
8424 49 10	Agricultural or horticultural liquid/powder sprayers designed to be mounted on or drawn by a tractor
8424 82 90	Agricultural or horticultural mechanical appliances, whether or not hand-operated, for projecting or dispersing liquids or powders (excl. sprayers and watering appliances)
8424 89 40	Mechanical appliances for projecting, dispersing, or spraying liquids or powders, of a kind used solely or principally for the manufacture of printed circuits or printed circuit assemblies
8424 89 70	Mechanical appliances, whether or not hand-operated, for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders, n.e.s.

CN code	Commodity description
8467 29 51	Angle grinders for working in the hand, with self-contained electric motor, operating with an external source of power
8544 19 00	Winding wire for electrical purposes, of material other than copper, insulated
8544 49 91	Electric wire and cables, for a voltage $\leq 1\ 000$ V, insulated, not fitted with connectors, with individual conductor wires of a diameter $> 0,51$ mm, n.e.s.
8708 30 10	Brakes and servo-brakes and their parts, for the industrial assembly of: pedestrian-controlled tractors, motor cars and vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, vehicles for the transport of goods with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine 'diesel or semi-diesel engine' $\leq 2\ 500$ cm ³ or with spark-ignition internal piston engine $\leq 2\ 800$ cm ³ , special purpose motor vehicles of heading 8705 , n.e.s.
8708 40 20	Gear boxes and parts thereof, for the industrial assembly of: pedestrian-controlled tractors, motor cars and vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, vehicles for the transport of goods with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine 'diesel or semi-diesel engine' of a cylinder capacity $\leq 2\ 500$ cm ³ or with spark-ignition internal piston engine of a cylinder capacity $\leq 2\ 800$ cm ³ , special purpose motor vehicles of heading 8705 , n.e.s
8708 91 20	Radiators and parts thereof, for the industrial assembly of: pedestrian-controlled tractors, motor cars and vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, vehicles for the transport of goods with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine 'diesel or semi-diesel engine' of a cylinder capacity $\leq 2\ 500$ cm ³ or with spark-ignition internal piston engine of a cylinder capacity $\leq 2\ 800$ cm ³ , special purpose motor vehicles of heading 8705 , n.e.s
8708 92 20	Silencers 'mufflers' and exhaust pipes, and parts thereof, for the industrial assembly of: pedestrian-controlled tractors, motor cars and vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, vehicles for the transport of goods with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine 'diesel or semi-diesel engine' $\leq 2\ 500$ cm ³ or with spark-ignition internal piston engine $\leq 2\ 800$ cm ³ , special purpose motor vehicles of heading 8705 , n.e.s

Notification must be made using the ['Notice of landing form'](#) and sent by email to the local Forestry Commission or DAERA-NI/Forest Service plant health inspector. This form is also used as the Quarantine Release Certificate (QRC) notification form.

The importer or their agent should provide at least 3 working days' notice of their intention to land controlled material via sea freight, and at least 4 working hours' notice for material landed via airfreight. Importers are encouraged to provide as much notice as possible to help with prompt clearance of consignments, which will be beneficial in terms of time and costs.

Plant health for WPM with commodities from China and Belarus

Our inspector will then liaise with the importer/agent and advise them of those entries which will be held at the point of entry for a physical plant health check, using either a Port Inventory System hold or a direct hold request to HMRC. Inspectors aim to advise importers/agents within 24 hours (excluding weekends and bank holidays) of receiving the Notification of Landing form¹ that a consignment will be held for inspection or cleared without examination (CWE).

Inspectors are therefore directly responsible for selecting for inspection the entries that they are notified of on a minimum frequency hold basis of 15%. This enables us to effect the EU's 15% minimum inspection level more readily, because inspectors can identify those consignments which potentially contain high-risk solid wood packaging material (WPM), and provide a clear automatic entry of the other consignments.

The entries we select for inspection will only be released from a Port Inventory System hold after our inspection has been carried out and/or the necessary quarantine release certificate (QRC) is endorsed by our inspectors and presented by the importer/agent to HMRC at the National Clearance Hub (NCH) in Salford for a Customs CHIEF Entry System release.

Additionally, we may select for inspection any consignment which, in the inspector's opinion, has potentially high-risk wood packaging material associated with it, regardless of the type of commodity being shipped. This might mean that importers/agents of the eight commodities listed above will have other commodities selected for inspection in addition to the minimum of 15% associated with stone and iron imports from China and Belarus.

For enquiries, or information which might assist targeted plant health checks on wood packaging material associated with imports of stone or iron materials from China, phone 0300 067 5155 or email plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Exporters' guide to ISPM15 compliant packaging – UK Wood Packaging Material Marking

Find out if countries you are exporting to [require ISPM15 compliant packaging](#).

You can become a member of the UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme (UKWPMMP). Members get email updates to country guides as soon as they become available.

Contact us

Email: plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 067 5155

Collection: Tree pests and diseases

There are many things you can do to prevent or minimise the introduction, establishment, spread and impacts of tree pests and diseases, including:

- learning to recognise and report pests and diseases of concern
- adopting good biosecurity practice to avoid the spread of organisms from place to place
- not bringing soil or plants back from holidays abroad

Understand the threat to our trees

The damage to our trees, woods and forests from insect pests and organisms such as bacteria and fungi is significant. The rapid increase in movements of goods and people between countries has increased the risk of spreading pests and diseases. They can travel hidden in plants, plant products, packaging, wood, vehicles and holidaymakers' luggage – even in the soil carried on shoes.

Some of these pests and diseases do little harm in their native environments, where predators, environmental factors and co-evolution with their host plants keep them in check. However, they can cause significant damage to trees and plants in other countries where those limiting factors are not present. Some single species of insect, fungus or bacterium can damage or kill dozens of different plant species, including trees. As well as causing economic losses for the forestry, timber and plant-based industries, they can disrupt other sectors, such as tourism, and threaten woodland biodiversity, ecosystems and native species.

Get notifications about tree pests and diseases

Sign up for, and read previous editions of, the Forestry Commission's [Tree Health News](#) newsletter.

Follow the [Forestry Commission on Twitter](#).

Contact the tree health teams

[Make a general enquiry about tree, woodland and forest health in England](#)

For the rest of the UK, see:

- [tree health in Wales](#)
- [tree health in Scotland](#)

- [tree health in Northern Ireland](#)

You can also find more information on [scientific research into tree pests and diseases](#).

Form: Statutory Firewood Notification Scheme

Updated: The online version of the notification form has been updated.

You must complete and submit a notification form for each new consignment of firewood for import.

Go online to submit notifications

You can [notify the Forestry Commission of solid fuel \(firewood\) imports online](#). You should [enrol on the scheme](#) first.

You'll get a unique reference number for your consignment. Use this number in any correspondence with us.

How to submit your paper form

Print the form and complete it manually, then post to:

Plant Health Service

Forestry Commission

Silvan House

231 Corstorphine Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7AT

Or, you can download and complete the form electronically or scan your manually completed form and email it to plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Read the full guide on [importing firewood into Great Britain](#).

Form: Become a registered trader

Read Forestry Commission guidance on trading in timber and timber products before you apply to become a registered trader.

Notes on submitting the form

Make sure your application is received by us as soon as possible and, in any event, before you begin to trade in any of the material mentioned in this form.

Keep a record of the information you entered on this form.

Remember to sign and date the back page.

You can also request an application pack or further information by emailing plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, or calling 0300 067 5155.

Post your application form to:

Forestry Commission

Plant Health Service

Silvan House

231 Corstorphine Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7AT

Payment options

If you import regulated wood material and are registered with the Forestry Commission to do so, you can [apply for a credit account](#).