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RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH BARK ON WOOD PACKAGING

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ISPM No 15

- *Adopted March 2002*
- *Uniform regulatory approach for controlling pests in wood packaging*
- *Treatment achieves protection from pests present at time of treatment*

Bark on Treated Wood Packaging

What about infestation after treatment?

Does debarking/bark removal increase protection from pests?

2005 Laboratory Studies

- *Bark beetles can attack and breed on treated wood packaging*
- *Moisture content of the wood is important factor in determining success*
- *The presence or absence of bark does not affect the efficiency of heat treatment but can affect the efficiency of methyl bromide treatment*

2005 Laboratory Studies

- *Small pieces of bark are less likely to support pests than larger pieces although the threshold is uncertain*
- *Australian inspections indicated that 0.5% of ISPM No. 15 marked wood was infested*
- *The EU reported that from 9978 consignments inspected 97% had less than 1% bark*

2005 Laboratory Studies

- *Laboratory studies provided sufficient sources of pests for attack and breeding*
- *Wood packaging is often in urban environments with significantly less pressure from forest pests*
- *What is the incidence of pests on the pathway?*

2006 Field Testing

NAPPO/EU and others collected data from ports of entry

US

- *9.4%of shipments had bark*
- *1.2% of marked wood packaging had live pests (most also had indication of failure to treat)*

- *20.1% of U.S exported wood packaging had bark*
- *None had pests in the wood*

2006 Field Testing

EU

- *3.4% of marked wood packaging with bark (>45cm^2) had pests*
- *Some of these were nematodes – likely indicating poor treatment*
- *76% of the infested packaging was dunnage*

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- *0.6% of marked wood packaging with bark inspected was found with pests*

Conclusions to Date

- *ISPM No. 15 is reducing the vast majority of pests associated with wood packaging*
- *The risks of pests associated with bark on treated wood packaging are small (> 1-3% of the total wood packaging volumes)*
- *Failure to treat or unsuccessful treatment may account for some pest occurrences*
- *As wood dries the risks associated with bark diminish*

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Next Steps

- *The definitions associated with bark are ambiguous*
- *Proposed ISPM tries to re-define/add technical information for “debarking”/ “bark-free”*
- *IPPC Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine charged with revising ISPM No. 15*

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Your Thoughts

What quantity of bark (size, shape, etc.) poses a sufficient risk as to warrant regulation?

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