

**ACTION TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT ISPM 15 FOR THE REGULATION
OF WOOD PACKAGING AND WOOD FOR STOWAGE**

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, received on 24 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

1. Argentina has developed a system for the implementation of ISPM No. 15 of the IPPC. It has enacted Standards 03/2005 and 685/2005 of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA), which are applied by the National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA).
2. The system provides for the accreditation and registration of centres for the treatment of wood packaging materials (CATEM), traditional wood drying kilns (HOSETRAM) and facilities producing wood packaging materials (FEM), and for a register of technical professionals.
3. A centre for the treatment of wood packaging materials (CATEM) is understood to mean an establishment approved for quarantine treatment of wood packaging materials and wood for carriage and/or stowage; the term traditional wood drying kilns (HOSETRAM) refers to those that comply with heat treatment requirements; and facilities producing wood packaging materials (FEM) and wood for carriage and stowage refers to facilities that use wood treated in such kilns. To date, 149 CATEM, 9 HOSETRAM and 10 FEM have been accredited and registered.
4. Some 8,800,000 pallets, 4,700,000 boxes/crates, 1,600,000 drums and 100 cubic metres of wood for stowage received certification in 2005.
5. Imports are covered by SAGPyA Resolution No. 685/05 and SENASA Resolution No. 19/2002, which establish the phytosanitary requirements for wood packaging materials and wood for carriage and/or stowage entering Argentina.
6. Over 200,000 sworn statements have been checked and 10 per cent of the volume entering the country has been inspected, with a particular focus on origins presenting a major phytosanitary risk. The system has enabled us to intercept packaging materials that failed to conform to the legislation in force and consignments containing live insects or quarantine insects.
7. All the above standards and information concerning accredited firms and technical directors are available at: www.senasa.gov.ar.