

# UNOLS Office Request

The UNOLS Office has I asked that I be sure to mention to everyone that all Institutions should include as part of their pre-cruise meeting / documentation the Wood Packing Material regulations.

It seems not all researchers are aware of the regulations that went into effect in September 2005 and have encountered problems with their shipments.

## Wood Packing Material –

As of September 16, 2005, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began enforcement of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) import regulation for wood packaging material (WPM). The rule requires WPM, such as ***pallets, crates, boxes, and dunnage*** used to support or brace cargo, to be treated and marked. In cases of noncompliance, the WPM will be subject to immediate export along with the accompanying cargo. Science gear and equipment is considered cargo.

CBP is charged with the important mission of preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States, while also facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel. Facilitating trade includes administering the laws and regulations designed to prevent the introduction of pests and agroterrorism that could prove extremely damaging to the U.S. economy.

The approved treatments for wood packaging material are 1) heat treatment to a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, or 2) fumigation with methyl bromide. To certify treatment, the WPM must be marked with the following International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) logo. Paper certificates of treatment will no longer be required or accepted.



**XX - 000**  
**YY**

XX represents the ISO country code.  
000 represents the unique number assigned by the national plant protection organization.  
YY represents either HT for heat treatment or MB for methyl bromide fumigation.

## Additional Wood Packing Material Information:

Additional information on the enforcement of the wood packaging material regulations can be found at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's web site [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov). Any questions should be directed to the Chief Agriculture Specialist at (206) 553-2400.