



**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
LAREDO, TEXAS**

LAREDO FIELD OFFICE TRADE NOTICE

**DATE: OCT 02 2017
FILE: LFO-18-001**

FOR: Importers, Customs Brokers, Freight Forwarders, and other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Changes to Wood Packaging Material (WPM) Violation Threshold – Effective November 1, 2017

REFERENCES: Cargo Systems Messaging Service #17-000609 – Issuance of Wood Packaging Material Penalty - September 25, 2017

The purpose of this Trade Notice is to remind the trade community of changes to the WPM violation threshold which becomes effective November 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the United States began enforcement of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures - 15, requiring fumigation or heat treatment of all WPM and its corresponding treatment stamp. United States Department of Agriculture regulations requiring the treatment of WPM are found in 7 C.F.R. § 319.40-3 and are intended to protect U.S. agricultural resources from the introduction of potentially injurious wood boring pests. Penalties and/or liquidated damages are assessed when a company fails to comply with these regulations.

PROCEDURES:

Effective November 1, 2017, trade entities with a documented WPM violation can now be issued a penalty with each violative event. There is no longer a five violation threshold and the yearly resetting of the violation count has been discontinued. The ports of entry will have full discretion on the issuing of penalties.

For questions regarding this notice, please contact your local port agriculture cargo supervisor during normal hours of operation.

The Laredo Field Office point of contact is Agriculture Operations Manager, Henry E. Gutierrez at 956-753-1735.


David P. Higginson
Director, Field Operations