

## **New EPAL pallets to become ISPM15 compliant by Jan 2010**

**From January 2010 all new approved EPAL pallets from all EPAL partners worldwide will be ISPM15 compliant – meeting export standards around the globe. EPAL will be the only pooling option offering this as standard, thus reinforcing EPAL's position as the premier pallet platform for international trade.**

ISPM15 is an internationally agreed standard for the treatment of wood packaging. It is progressively being adopted worldwide as a measure to minimise the risk of unintentional plant pest transportation such as the Asian longhorn beetle and pinewood nematode, and reduce import delays amongst ISPM15 member countries. Current member countries include the EU, USA, China, Australia, Canada and a large part of the Americas.

To qualify, all new EPAL pallets will be subject to heat-treatment and kiln-drying, maintaining a temperature of at least 56 degrees centigrade for a minimum of 30 minutes, in a process similar to pasteurisation. Within the UK and Ireland, each new EPAL pallet that has been through this process will carry the ISPM15 marks as approved by their respective national authorities

Paul Davidson, CEO of EPAL with the UK and Ireland, added 'As the first pallet pool to implement these phytosanitary commitments as standard, EPAL is leading the way in worldwide pallet trade in response to customer demand. Across the whole network, we anticipate 70 million new pallets will be treated during the first year. Here in the UK and Ireland, we are proud to announce that all approved partners can meet these new standards ahead of the deadline – with all partners already able to supply ISPM15 compliant EPAL pallets.

ENDS

### **Notes to Editors**

- EPAL is the largest pallet pool in the world with 500 million pallets in use and 70 million added annually.

- In the UK EPAL grew by 22% in 2008.
- New research shows that using EPAL pallets can be 25% cheaper than renting pallets.
- EPAL has the toughest quality control in the world, all partners received unannounced visits from independent inspectors at least monthly.
- New size 1000 x 1200 pallet compatible with UK standard distribution.
- EPAL has solutions for all pallet users – importers, exporters and home trade industries.
- For more information about EPAL, call Paul Davidson on 01223 479594, email [davidsonpaulj@googlemail.com](mailto:davidsonpaulj@googlemail.com) or visit [www.brepal.org.uk](http://www.brepal.org.uk)

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