



## WPM – How to Identify Potential Pest Infestations

US Customs and Border Protection Blaine has provided guidance to carriers and shippers to help them check for and identify wood packaging material (WPM) infested with pests prior to approaching the border.

Carriers and shippers should take the time to check any WPM they are using to transport shipments into the US. Although WPM that originates in Canada and the US is exempt from treatment and marking requirements under the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is still responsible for ensuring that all WPM, irrespective of the country of origin, is free from pests and may check shipments that otherwise comply with requirements. Shipments including WPM found to be infested will not be allowed to enter the US.

The guidance suggests checking WPM for the following indicators of infestation:

- Galleries – Galleries are tunnels or passageways made by insects. Although they are usually found under the bark, galleries may also be found throughout the wood.
- Bark – Insects are typically found under bark, which is prohibited on WPM.
- Frass – Frass or insect waste is a sign of insect activity. It varies in color from pale to almost black and may be fine and powdery, coarse like wood shavings, or any texture in between.
- Exit holes – May look like nail holes, but nail holes typically have some rust.
- Concealed solid wood – Look for signs of solid wood concealed under a layer of plastic, cardboard or veneer.
- Insects – The presence of possible foreign insects poses a risk. Adults and larvae can both be destructive.

The following lists identify the top six high-risk commodities, countries where the WPM originated, and pests discovered:

***Commodities:***

1. Machinery & machine parts including auto parts
2. Metal products & raw material
3. Stone products, including tile
4. Electronic and electric components
5. Plant products in crates and pallets
6. Manifested WPM imported as pallets and crating

***Countries of origin:***

1. Mexico
2. China
3. Turkey
4. Italy
5. India
6. Germany

***Pests:***

1. Bark Beetle - [Scolytidae](#)
2. Long Horned Beetle - [Cerambycidae](#)
3. Metallic beetle - [Buprestidae](#)
4. Horntail or Wood wasp - [Siricidae](#)
5. Ambrosia beetle - [Platypodidae](#)
6. Bark Weevil - [Curculionidae](#)

For more information about ISPM No. 15 certification and marking requirements and the Canada-US exemption, see the March 29, 2012, *Bulletin* article "[Update: Requirements for WPM Moving Between Canada and the US](#)".