

Overview of NAPPO RSPM 38
Importation of Certain Wooden and Bamboo Commodities into a NAPPO Member Country



Purpose: Increased interceptions of pests (such as bark beetles and wood-boring beetles) on imported unfinished wooden and bamboo commodities are a constant concern to NAPPO member countries. RSPM 38 provides guidance to reduce/manage the risk that pests will enter the NAPPO region on imports of non-propagative bamboo and unfinished wooden items.

Contents: RSPM 38 provides lists of regulated and exempted commodities and discusses treatment, certification, and non-compliance requirements for importing non-propagative bamboo and unfinished wooden items.

Summary of RSPM 38: Commodities regulated under RSPM 38 include unfinished wooden commodities that contain bark, foliage or other plant parts, and non-propagative bamboo commodities.

Regulated and Exempted Commodities: Examples of imported wooden items regulated under RSPM 38 include: carvings or birdhouses; artificial Christmas trees containing wood or conifer cones; tree bark, foliage or cones used for crafts; wooden fencing, slats, or stakes, among others. Examples of regulated bamboo items include furniture; ladders; stakes; garden ornaments; or other decorative items. Examples of items not covered by RSPM 38 because of their level of processing or size include: items constructed of processed wood (e.g., particle board, plywood, or veneer); solid wood products (e.g., tool handles, gunstocks, or furniture) that have been kiln dried; and wooden commodities less than 6 mm in thickness.

Treatments: Regulated commodities should be treated in the country of origin, before processing or packaging, using treatment guidelines available in Annex 1 of ISPM 15 - <https://www.fao.org/3/mb160e/mb160e.pdf>. Alternative treatments are required when the amount of bark is greater than specified in ISPM 15.

Certification: All regulated commodities must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or other documentation approved by the importing country.

Non-Compliance: Actions taken following non-compliance will depend on the pest risk and impact on trade and may include detention or treatment; refusal of entry, or destruction. Repeat violations may result in suspension or prohibition of further trade.

Please read RSPM 38 for a more complete description of regulated items, treatments, certification and non-compliance for non-propagative bamboo and unfinished wooden commodities.

Photo by Deborah Miller, USDA Forest Service. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/images/photos/feb05/d017-1/>