

Wood Processing Technology Centre

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Requirements for wood packaging material heat treatment in sawn timber drying chambers

General terms

Untreated wood products are exposed to different pest infestation. Pest infected wood export to third countries can rise dangerous wood pests infestation in those regions and it can create losses to the national economy. Appropriate measures must be done to prevent pest infestation. Wood heat treatment, chemical treatment with methyl bromide or some other measures can be used for pest extermination. The most common wood treatment method is heat treatment at min. 56°C temperature with exposure at least 30 minutes. This is the cheapest and very effective wood treatment method against pests. Heat treatment can be performed alone or it can be included in sawn timber drying cycle.

General requirements

Company must cover all the requirements regarding personnel qualification, technology, equipment, storage and transportation, material flow accounting and quality control documentation to obtain certificate and permission for heat treated wood export in compliance with standard ISPM No.15

Each company must be certified in accordance with technical regulations KTC 001:2003 “Heat treatment of wood packaging material in wood drying kilns”

Technological equipment

Technological equipment must be suitable for wood packaging material heat treatment. New technological equipment for wood heat treatment company can use if it is approved by the Wood Processing Technology Centre Certification bureau.

Personnel qualification

Drying kiln service personnel must be able to maintain technological equipment used for heat treatment of wood. Staff responsible for heat treatment process and quality control must have good knowledge in the following questions:

- Wood drying and wood moisture content determination;
- Standard requirements and technical issues;
- Heat treatment schedules and other questions about heat treatment of wood.

Service staff must hold certificate, that they have attended training course on wood drying and hydrothermal treatment.

Wood drying kilns for heat treatment

Wood drying kilns must be approved by the Wood Processing Technology Centre Certification bureau in accordance with technical regulations KTC 001:2003 “Heat treatment of wood packaging material in wood drying kilns”.

Heat treatment process steering and control

Wood drying kiln must be fitted with automatic control system and/or wood temperature measurement system that ensure availability of all data about the treatment process. Control system can be joined with drying kiln steering system. Control and steering system operation principles must be described in technical regulations.

Documents required

In order to provide heat treatment process compliance with the Standard ISPM No.15 and quality continuously, company must have the following documents:

1. Standard ISPM No.15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade)
2. Regulation No 3. of Agriculture Ministry of Latvia Republic.
3. Technical regulations KTC 001:2003 (Heat treatment of wood packaging material in wood drying kilns)
4. Technical regulations for wood heat treatment
5. Technical passports of drying kilns
6. Sawn-timber drying kiln steering and control system operational manuals
7. Calibration journal of measuring devices
8. Heat treatment cycle protocols
9. Heat treatment (drying) cycle process reports (steering system printouts)
10. Summary table of heat treatment cycles

Certification procedures

Supervisory institution evaluates compliance of company with requirements of the Standard and Regulations during the audit. Audit visit is arranged according to the bilateral agreement with company.

During the pre-audit visit task of the KTC Certification bureau experts is to give objective appraisal of the company and all factors which can influence performance. Exposed shortcomings during the first visit are described in the report and delivered to the company. Company must eliminate exposed shortcomings until the next supervisor visit.

After company receives certificate, supervisory institution attends it twice a year and performs check-up.

See the list of certified companies in Latvia on KTC website <http://www.ktc.lv> or directly <http://www.ktc.lv/eng/certif.htm>

More information:

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