

Milan, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**To Wood Packaging Users**

**Main Offices**

**RE: The importance of FITOK-branded production**

Why produce IPPC-FAO pallets or wood packaging?

The IPPC-FAO mark on wood packaging certifies that it has been produced in compliance with the ISPM-15 standard. The mark guarantees that wood packaging can freely enter the 177 countries that signed the Standard and in particular the 65 countries that have made it mandatory.

Why use Italian-made pallets or wood packaging from authorized FITOK producers?

In Italy the IPPC-FAO mark falls under the Regulations for the Use of the FITOK Voluntary Phytosanitary Mark, which implements ISPM-15 requirements and is recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The FITOK system ensures that packaging is produced in compliance with ISPM-15, guaranteeing safety and traceability for users. Under FITOK regulations, all Authorized Companies are required to use the Phytosanitary Traceability Code Number (RRF).

Traceability

The Phytosanitary Traceability Code is a 4-digit code with a slash that divides the last two numbers: 0000/00 and is affixed to the packaging.

The first four numbers represent the progressive number identifying the production batch and are separated by a slash from the last two numbers corresponding to the last two digits of the current year.

**FederlegnoArredo**

*Sede/Headoffice*

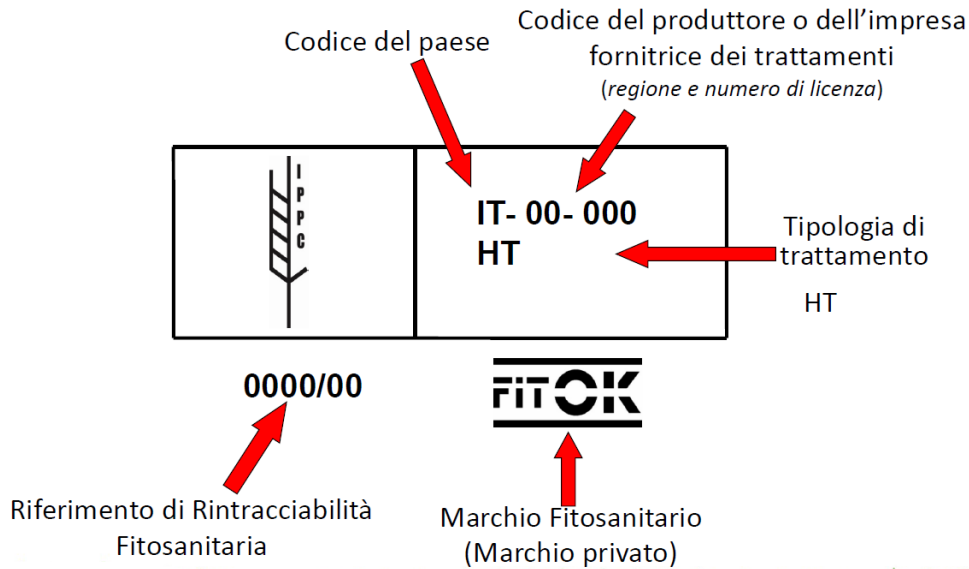
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The use of the FITOK mark makes it possible to identify the manufacturer and date of production can, as well as trace the entire production chain, starting with the end product and going back to the pack of semi-processed wood that was used to produce the packaging, or to the number identifying the heat treatment used. As such, in case of dispute the responsibility of each single operator in the chain can always be determined.

The importance of traceability in ISPM-15 compliant packaging is also underlined in the "Explanatory Document for ISPM 15: 2009 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade)" which states that the NPPOs should provide for traceability methods by affixing marks or other identifying marks on the wood.

#### Safety for user companies

The presence of a traceability system structured in this way has meant that all packaging produced by FITOK authorized companies is insured for one year from the date of production or treatment.



The FITOK mark shown above guarantees safety, traceability and phytosanitary protection for both users and manufacturers.

What is the added value of a pallet or wood packaging produced in Italy in compliance with IPPC-FAO?

Companies affiliated with Fitok are inspected at least twice a year by European-certified inspectors to check the procedures used for the acceptance and selection of raw materials and production of the finished packaging.

All these companies adopt FITOK procedures and are monitored daily by FitokWeb

FITOK authorized companies receive regular updates on new regulations and technologies in phytosanitary treatment, wood processing and marking.

In 2012, ISPM-15 traceability for used pallets was also introduced by using non-removable numbered labels to trace operator who performed the selection, repair and re-placement on the market of used pallets.

**Therefore in addition to minimizing any risks of phytosanitary disputes and goods being held up at Customs, FITOK guarantees customers a quality product.**

Best regards

**Sebastiano Cerullo**

Deputy General Manager  
FederlegnoArredo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sebastiano Cerullo', written in a cursive style.