

# Ultimate Guide To Pallet Markings

Understand what your pallet stamps and markings mean with our quick guide.

Universal  
Pallets®

## International Pallets

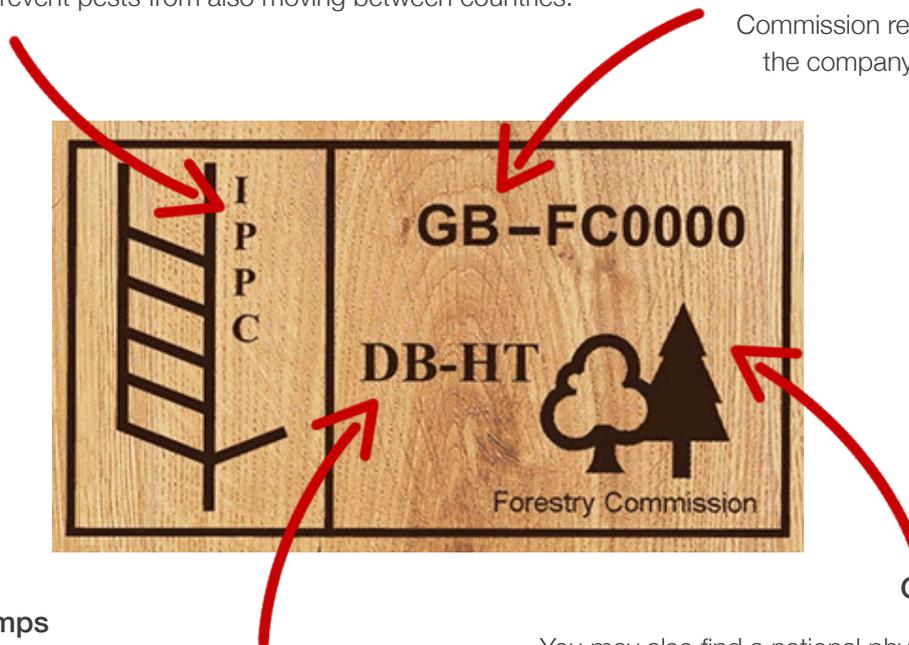
If a pallet is going to travel outside the EU or to Portugal it must bear an IPPC stamp showing a few key details. Let's take a look at an example:

### IPPC logo

The IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) exists to prevent and control the spread or introduction of pests of plants/plant products around the world. This logo should always be present on pallets moving between countries. Its purpose is to advise of the measures that have been taken (if any) to prevent pests from also moving between countries.

### Geo-Specific Identifier

The first two letters will indicate which country the pallet is from (as per ISO 3166), followed by a regional identifier - in this case, the Forestry Commission registration number of the company that built the pallet.



### Treatment Stamps

This section is used to display the treatment stamps. There may be one, two or three depending on the treatments a particular pallet has received. See below for a list of commonly used treatment stamps.

### Other Certificates

You may also find a national phytosanitary certificate on your pallet, depending on its country of origin. This pallet originated in the UK, so it features the Forestry Commission logo as its phytosanitary certificate. However, this detail is no longer required so it's often missed off when space is limited.

## Treatment Stamps

Here's a look at the most common treatment stamps you'll find on your pallet, and what they mean:

### **DB** Debarked

Just about all pallets are made from 'debarked wood', which means that the bark of the tree has been removed from the wood used. This is done to ensure any other heat treatments can be applied efficiently to the wood.

### **HT** Heat Treated

Heat treatment eliminates parasites and insects. The wood is heated to a minimum of 56°C (60°C for hardwoods) for at least 30 minutes.

## **KD** Kiln Dried

Kiln drying kills off any wood pests, and can also help to avoid warping and fungal growth. Many lumber mills now kiln dry their wood to a higher temperature so that the wood can be categorised as both kiln dried and heat treated (marked with KD-HT).

## **DH** Dielectric Heated

Dielectric treatment involves heating the wood with a microwave or radiowave. It is accepted within ISPM15 standards as a form of heat treatment.

## **MB** Methyl Bromide

These pallets have been treated with a highly toxic pesticide which can be necessary in certain regions of the world where there are pests that can't be eliminated by heat treatments. **You should never use MB stamped pallets for a craft project and you should never burn these pallets on a fire.** Methyl bromide treatment was made illegal in the UK in 2010 and is being phased out worldwide. Pallets are durable though, so there are some MB stamped pallets still in circulation. So it's always worth being careful and double checking your pallet stamps. If you can't tell what the stamp was, don't use the pallet!

## **EU Stamps**

Heavy duty pallets that include the EUR logo are made to exacting standards and all measure 1200mm x 800mm.

There are several brands of EUR pallets that have their own logo stamp, such as EPAL, MAV and UIC.



## **CP Stamps**

CP stamps are found on all chemical pallet sizes. There are 9 styles/sizes in total, so you'll see 'CP1, CP2, CP3' etc. These pallets are mostly used within the chemical industry, as they're built to hold drums and bags of chemicals. As such, you should avoid using CP stamped pallets for your craft projects.



## **Other Stamps and Markings**

It is possible to find other marks on your pallet. These may be an indication of the lumber grading and the details of the original mill that produced the pallet pieces. There may also be the odd pallet around that is still brand-marked, though this practice is uncommon now. If in doubt about any pallet markings, then please avoid using them for craft projects.

If you come across coloured pallets - most commonly painted red, blue or brown - this means that they belong to a pallet rental company. Again, don't use these pallets for craft projects as they are owned by another company.

Our final message is that if you're ever in doubt, don't risk using a discarded pallet. Take a look at our range of pallets online, or give us a call if you have questions.

[See all our pallets](#)



Questions? Call Universal Pallets on 0161 223 4427