

PLANT HEALTH NEWSLETTER

NO. 27 (December 2009)

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Photo: Coniferous wood from Russia intended for ISPM15 compliant wood packaging material manufacture and therefore marked as 'HT' heat-treated on the side of the pack – see section 2

Notes

* A documentary check fee of £5.29 is payable for each consignment covered by a single phytosanitary certificate, regardless of volume

**Identity check charges of £5.29 are applied for each load of up to 30m³ forming part of the consignment contained in one truck, railway wagon, or comparable container.

We will implement the new reduced frequency inspection fees on **1st January 2010** and any material inspected on or after 1st January will be charged at the higher rate regardless of its date of export or landing from Canada.

Reduced Frequency Inspection fees only apply at present to consignments made up entirely of hard maple from Canada or the USA. If consignments contain other controlled species, such as Poplar/Aspen (from countries in the American continent), then the full plant health check fee of £12.25 will be applied, together with the fees for documentary and identity checks.

The reduced frequency of inspection percentage and plant health check fee for consignments of wood of maple from USA remain unchanged at 75% and £9.19 respectively.

An amendment to the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006 ie Statutory Instrument No. 2956 'The Plant Health (fees) (Forestry) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 has been made to implement the change.

1. Amendment to the Plant Health Fees legislation to increase the reduced frequency of inspection checks and fees for wood of Hard Maple (*Acer saccharum*) arriving from Canada wef 1st January 2010

In July every year the European Commission performs an annual review of all imported products that qualify for Reduced Frequency Inspection (RFI). During this year's review they concluded that due to the reduction in import volumes the percentage of checks for wood of hard maple (*Acer saccharum*) from Canada should be increased from 35% to 50% with effect from 1 January 2010. As a result of this decision the Forestry Commission must now increase the relevant plant health check fee from £4.29 to £6.13.

For example - new charges from 1st January 2010 will involve -

Containerised Volumes not more than 30m³

30m³ of Maple from Canada (50% inspection) - £5.29* + £5.29** + £6.13 = **£16.71** (current charge £14.87)

Containerised Volume of more than 30m³, up to 100m³

60m³ of Maple from Canada (50% inspection) of 60m³ - £5.29* + £5.29** + £5.29** + £6.13 = **£22.00** (current charge £20.16)

2. Controlled Timber imported for ISPM15 compliant wood packaging material manufacture – treatment requirements

During their inspections of controlled timber material entering the country from abroad our inspectors have reported that they are aware that coniferous wood, which is destined for ISPM15 compliant wood packaging material manufacture, is very often only marked and certificated as being kiln-dried material instead of being heat treated as well. The kiln-dried status is often sufficient for sawn timber arriving from non-Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) countries to meet the landing requirements of Great Britain. Indeed this is the case for coniferous material arriving from Russia. However, if it has not been subjected to the heat treatment specification detailed in the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures – Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade - ISPM15 the timber cannot be used for wood packaging material manufacture where the standard is required.

Wood which has only been subjected to kiln-drying will require further heat treatment, either in its sawn state or as a fabricated pallet etc, before the finished article can have an ISPM15 'HT' mark applied to it. This situation can, understandably, be very disappointing for the WPM manufacturers as they often purchase the material with the misconception that kiln-drying on its own is the same as heat treatment, which it is not.

The marking of wood with the initials 'KD' (Kiln-dried), only signifies that timber has a moisture content of less than 20% achieved under an appropriate time and temperature regime. However, if the process does not involve the wood reaching a minimum temperature of 56°C throughout the profile for 30 minutes, then the process will not be approved as meeting the requirements of ISPM 15 for wood packaging material manufacture. This is because the heat treatment process is aimed at eliminating a wider range of quarantine pests and diseases than are dealt with by kiln-drying, which does not stipulate any minimum temperature requirements.

Additionally, our inspectors have on occasions encountered instances where they have inspected consignments of sawn wood from Russia where the timber packs are physically marked with the letters for both treatments ie 'KD/HT' but the accompanying phytosanitary certificates only detail kiln -drying as the treatment type. In these cases the timber meets the landing requirements of Great Britain but if the 'HT'

element of the marking on the timber cannot be substantiated by a declaration on the phytosanitary certificate then the inspectors may have to refuse the consignment. An option for resolving such cases can involve the inspector requiring that the timber be "treated" by the removal of the 'HT' mark and substitution with the 'KD' mark.

In order to avoid these problems at quayside we strongly advise timber importers that where controlled timber is being imported with the intention for it to enter the ISPM15 compliant wood packaging material manufacturing chain, then the appropriate heat-treatment declaration is made on the accompanying phytosanitary certificate and the timber packs are marked 'HT' where appropriate ie in the case of coniferous wood from Russia. If the timber has only been subjected to Kiln-drying (KD) and is sold as heat-treated (HT) then this action could breach the sale of goods act.

3. Amendment to the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005

The Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) (NO. 2) Order 2009 (SI No. 2009 No. 3020) enters into force on 21 December 2009. The amendment implements certain changes to the Combined Nomenclature of customs codes (the CN codes) of regulated wood and wood products (waste wood and sawdust). The amendment also clarifies the rules regarding the prohibition of the import of soil and growing medium, either in isolation or when imported with growing trees.

4. Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this newsletter should be directed to the relevant Plant Health Manager –

Steve Mears, Regional Manager (South) – Tel/Fax: 01507 328275 Mobile 07831 204324 timber imports to Humber, Felixstowe, Ipswich, Thamesport, Tilbury and Southampton, The Wash Ports, South West England, Bristol Channel and South Wales

Dave Tracy, Regional Manager (North) Tel: 01546 602832 Mobile: 0777 180 8513 Fax:0131-3146148 timber imports to Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

Ian Brownlee, Operations Manager Tel: 0131-314-6480 Mobile 07831 159014 Fax 0131-314-6418

Issued by: Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT

Tel: 0131-314-6414

Fax: 0131-3146148

Email: plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth

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