

PLANT HEALTH NEWSLETTER

NO. 21 (October 2006)

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1. The Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006

Having issued approximately 2000 consultation papers back in May regarding the 'Consultation on a proposal to revoke and replace the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) (Great Britain) Regulations 1996 (as amended) with new regulations charging for plant health inspections', the Forestry Commission received 7 substantive responses from timber importers and registered forestry traders concerning the proposals. On considering the comments after the consultation close date of 8th August, we concluded that none of the suggestions merited a change to the proposals and therefore we recommended to Ministers that the fees detailed in consultation paper should be adopted as legal charges. The Regulations fix the fees we charge for import inspections, as well as inspections relating to the issue of plant passports and import licences. It also sets the fees we charge when action is taken on a non-compliant consignment.

The Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006. (Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 2697) will come into force on 6th November and rates of the new fees are set out in the attached Key Points for Timber Importers.

All importers of controlled wood and wood products and their agents should now prepare for the introduction of the new charges which our inspectors will be using on the revised version of the Certificate of Clearance forms PHF28 for all inspections taking place from Monday 6th November, regardless of the actual date of landing.

We are currently revising our Plant Health Fees leaflet and copies will be issued to all of our regular importers and Registered Forestry Traders (RFTs), who are approved to issue plant passports, at the end of October. A copy of the leaflet will also be available on our website at www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth.

A copy of the Statutory Instrument SI No. 2006 2697 'The Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006 will be available from the Office of Public Sector Information and can be viewed at www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/index



Delegates of the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group Meeting in Rome on 2-6 October 2006 – see article at para. 4.

2. The Plant Health (Wood Packaging Material Marking) (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 2006

The UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme has been operating as a voluntary programme since it was first introduced in October 2001 and it now has over 700 participants approved to apply the ISPM15 mark to treated timber and fabricated articles of wood packaging material. In accordance with the assurance we gave some time ago to the industry representatives on the Programme's Advisory Council, we are now putting the Programme on a statutory footing. This will give our trading partners greater confidence in our Programme and addresses the concern amongst the wood packaging material manufacturing and repair trade associations that we have lacked the ability to deal effectively with fraudulent marking and malpractice within the Programme. The Plant Health (Wood Packaging Material Marking) (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 2006 (Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 2695) will come into force on 6th November and, in addition to setting out the requirements to be met by members of the Programme, it also prescribes a number of offences and penalties.

Our UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme leaflet is currently being revised to reflect the Programme's new statutory footing and copies of the leaflet will be provided to all UKWPMMP participants at the end of October. The leaflet will also be made available on both the FC's and TIMCON's websites at –

www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth
www.timcon.org

A copy of the Statutory Instrument SI 2006 No. 2695 'The Plant Health (Wood Packaging Material Marking) Order 2006 will be available from the Office of Public Sector Information and will be published at –

www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/index

3. The Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) Order 2006

Reflecting changes to the EU Plant Health Directive, the Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) Order 2006 comes into force on 6th November.

The Order amends the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 and implements the EU emergency measures against *Dryocosmus*

kuriphilus Yasumatsu (the Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp) which is present in China, Korea, Japan, USA and which has recently become established in Italy. New requirements have been put in place concerning the import of trees of *Castanea* (Sweet chestnut) from areas where the pest is known to occur. There are no changes to the requirements for imports of wood.

The Order also makes minor changes to:

- a. amend the definition of "Europe" to clarify the geographical area of Russia which falls within it;
- b. clarify that plant passports are among the documents that are required to be retained by Registered Forestry Traders for a period of one year;
- c. amend the requirements to notify pests to make it clear that the obligation to confirm a notice in writing only applies where that notice was given orally.

These changes are reported for information only as they are relatively minor and do not have a significant impact on importers or Registered Forestry Traders.

A copy of Statutory Instrument SI 2006 No. 2695 'The Plant Health (Forestry)(Amendment) Order 2006' will be available from the Office of Public Sector Information and will be published at - www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/index

4. International Forestry Quarantine Research Group Meeting 2 – 6 October 2006

The International Forestry Quarantine Research Group was established to provide a mechanism where critical forestry quarantine issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. It serves to bring together scientists, regulators and industry to foster multi-disciplinary approaches to forest quarantine-related problems of global significance such as the implementation of ISPM15. The Group advises the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures and its Technical Panels, in particular the Technical Panel on Forestry Quarantine, expert working groups as well as regional and national plant protection organisations.

The Group met at the FAO Headquarters in Rome earlier this month to discuss a number of issues, which included the risks from wood packaging material with bark and alternative treatments to the approved measures within ISPM15 ie Heat Treatment and Methyl bromide fumigation.

These included Passive/Solar heat treatment, Microwave, other fumigants such as Sulphuryl fluoride and Chemical Pressure Impregnation.

If any of you are interested in reading the meeting report and any of the meeting background papers they can be found at http://www.forestry-quarantine.org/meetings_e.html

5. Enquiries

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

Steve Mears, Regional Manager (South) – Tel: 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

Stewart Snape, Regional Manager (North) Tel 0131-314-6103
Mobile 07810 690670 timber imports to Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

Or Ian Brownlee, Operations Manager Tel 0131-314-6480

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

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'Protecting and Expanding Britain's Forests and Woodlands and Increasing their Value to Society and the Environment'

KEY POINTS FOR TIMBER IMPORTERS

The Plant Health (Fees) Forestry) Regulations 2006 (SI No. 2006/2697)

What imports must be inspected?

1. Imports of wood, wood products and bark of the species and origins referred to in this paragraph must be declared to the Forestry Commission for inspection. The principal commodity codes from the combined Customs Nomenclature, which are subject to control are set out in table 1. The 'Plant Health Guide for Importers of Wood, Wood Products and Bark Originating Outside the European Union' gives more detailed information on the import requirements, which are set out in Schedule 4 Part A of the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005, as amended. In summary, however, the controlled species and their origins are -

- All conifers (Coniferae) e.g. European redwood and whitewood, Maritime pine, spruce, pine, fir (SPF), western red cedar etc; originating in third countries (except wood which originates in a European third country and which is bark-free);
- Maple (*Acer saccharum*) (e.g. hard maple, sugar maple, rock maple) originating in the USA or Canada;
- Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea*) originating in any third country (except wood which is bark-free);
- Oak (*Quercus*) originating in the USA;
- Plane (*Platanus*) originating in the USA or Armenia;
- Poplar/Aspen (*Populus*) originating in countries of the American continent.

Additionally, prefabricated buildings of wood comprising any of the species mentioned above and originating in one of the relevant countries are also subject to chargeable inspection.

Table 1-

CN code	<u>Commodity Description</u>
4401 10 00	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms (includes isolated bark)
4401 21 00	Coniferous wood, in chips or particles
4401 22 00	Non-coniferous wood, in chips or particles
4401 30 10	Sawdust
ex 4401 30 90	Other wood waste and scrap, not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms
4403 10 00	Wood in the rough, treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives, not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 20	Coniferous wood in the rough, other than treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 91	Oak wood (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) in the rough, other than treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
ex 4403 99	Non-coniferous wood (other than tropical wood specified in subheading note 1 to Chapter 44 or other tropical wood, oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) or beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.)), in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, not treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives
ex 4404	Split poles; piles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise
4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood
4407 10	Coniferous wood, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4407 91	Oak wood (<i>Quercus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

ex 4407 99	Non-coniferous wood (other than tropical wood specified in subheading note 1 to Chapter 44 or other tropical wood, oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) or beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.)), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4415	Packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, of wood; cable-drums of wood; pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood
4416 00 00	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs and other coopers' products and parts thereof, of wood, including staves
9406 00 20	Prefabricated buildings of wood.

How are the fees calculated and how much are they?

2. Plant Health inspection charges include separate charges for documentary, identity and plant health checks. This separation is necessary because in certain circumstances where an agreement has been reached with the authorities in another member State, the documentary check may be carried out and charged for there (the first point of entry into the Community) while the identity and plant health checks may be carried out and charged for in Great Britain.

3 .The definitions of documentary, identity and plant health checks are

Documentary check - the consignment or lot is accompanied by the required phytosanitary certificate or alternative document and that these are properly completed.

Identity Check – on the whole consignment or on one or more representative samples, it consists of, or contains the plants, plant products or other objects, as declared on the required documents.

Plant Health Check – on the whole consignment or on one or more representative samples, including the packaging and, where appropriate, the transport vehicles, they or their wood packaging material comply with the requirements laid down in the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005.

4. For a **documentary check** the fee is £5.29 per consignment. Where there is more than one certificate in a single consignment, we only make one charge. This arrangement is being kept under review.

5. For **identity checks**, other than for bulk shipments, the charge is £5.29 where the consignment is a load of up to one container, railway wagon or truck. A load is defined as 30m³ of controlled material. A further charge of £5.29 is payable for each additional 30m³ (or part thereof), per container, wagon or truck in the consignment. For bulk-shipments the identity check charges are:

- £5.29 for consignments less than 100m³
- £10.58 for consignments of 100m³ or more.

6. For **plant health checks** the fees are

- £12.25 per consignment up to and including 100m³.
- £0.20 for each additional m³

A summary of charges payable is provided in table 2.–

Table 2

Item	Quantity	Fee (£)
Documentary Checks	Per consignment	5.29
Identity Check for each load of up to 30m ³ forming part of the consignment contained in one truck, railway wagon, or comparable container	Per Consignment,	5.29
Identity Check for bulk loads	Less than 100m ³	5.29
“ “ “ “ “	100m ³ or more	10.58
Plant Health Check: Per consignment of Wood (including wood chips etc) -	Up to 100m ³ Each additional m ³ or part thereof	12.25 0.20
Plant Health Check: Per consignment of Isolated bark (other than that which forms part of a component of growing medium, containing soil etc)	Up to 25,000kg Each additional 1,000kg or part thereof Maximum price	12.25 0.49 98

**Forestry Commission
Plant Health Service
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