

Plant Health News

Issue 28, March 2010

Consultation on proposals to amend the Fees Regulations 2006

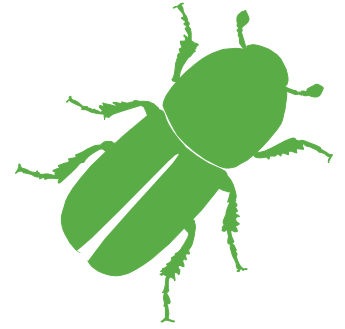
Back in January 2005 the European Community Council Directive 2002/89/EC, introduced new elements to Plant Health Directive 2000/29/EC ("the Plant Health Directive").

One of the changes introduced was to make it obligatory for member States to recover the costs associated with certain Plant Health inspections.

Prior to the global recession having an effect on the timber import trade the Forestry Commission managed to achieve full cost recovery for its inspection service but due to the significant down-turn in imports of controlled bulk coniferous material in FY2008/09 and FY2009/10 it has under-recovered its costs. Having calculated the costs of providing an inspection service in FY2010/11 the Forestry Commission concluded that it had to seek to increase its plant health inspection fees, by an amendment to the fees regulations, in order to fully recover these costs, especially in view of the fact that the import trade of bulk coniferous material is unlikely to return to pre-recession volumes in the short-term.

Details of our fees consultation can be found on the Forestry Commission's website at www.forestry.gov.uk/consultations

The consultation period runs from 1st March until 9th April 2010. We would welcome your views and we would encourage you to respond to the consultation and Impact Assessment.



What's in this edition?

- Consultation on proposals to amend the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006
- The cessation of Methyl Bromide for Quarantine and Pre-shipment (QPS) Uses w.e.f 18 March 2010
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The cessation of Methyl Bromide for Quarantine and Pre-shipment Uses w.e.f 18 March 2010

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, use of methyl bromide was banned from 2005, except for quarantine and pre-shipment (QPS) and for critical uses.

More recently, Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2009 of 16 September 2009 on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer stipulated that after 18 March 2010, placing on the market or use of methyl bromide for quarantine and pre-shipment (QPS) purposes will be prohibited within the EU except in an emergency.

Up to 18 March 2010, Port Health Authorities may authorise the use of Methyl Bromide for QPS as per the Association of Port Health Authorities guidance of August 2008. Any applications received after 18 March shall be rejected and the applicants made aware of the Legislative changes.

The Forestry Commission took a policy decision a few years ago to stop using methyl bromide as a quarantine treatment against non-compliant wood, wood packaging and bark material arriving from abroad.

As a result of these more recent legislative changes the Forestry Commission will no longer be in a position to issue export phytosanitary certificates for goods that have been fumigated with Methyl bromide in the EU after 18th March 2010.

Alternatives to Methyl bromide include using heat-treated solid timber or the use of other processed wood products such as MDF, Oriented Strand Board (OSB), particle board or plywood etc for wood packaging material and dunnage.

Exporters who used to rely on Methyl bromide fumigation are advised to find out about the import requirements by liaising with the relevant phytosanitary authorities in importing countries prior to consigning their goods.

Details of most global trading partner's National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) can be found on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) website at www.ippc.int

Inspections of freight containers loaded with both regulated and non regulated wood

The recession appears to have created situations for our inspectors whereby they are being presented with quantities of timber packs of both regulated and non-regulated material shipped in the same freight container.

This hinders their ability to adequately perform their inspections of the regulated material due the lack of space available to manoeuvre within the container.

Wherever our inspectors have concerns about the phytosanitary condition of consignments that they cannot access satisfactorily they have no other option but to require unloading at port so that an adequate inspection can be performed on the regulated material.

The loading of regulated material behind non regulated material is a development that the FC's Plant Health operational team is currently monitoring.

At present the situation doesn't present a great deal of problems and importers can be assured that our inspectors already do their utmost at all times to perform their duties without incurring additional costs for them.

However, in an attempt to prevent the situation from developing into a problem we advise importers to ensure that their containerised consignments of regulated timber are readily accessible to our inspectors. This action will avoid expensive un-loading and re-loading handling costs at the port's inspection bays in instances where our inspectors cannot physically see and inspect the regulated timber material in a containerised consignment of mixed (regulated/non regulated) species.



Photo: Containerised Hardwood Timber inspection

Enquiries

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