

Plant Health News

Issue 33, March 2015



Clarification on the landing requirements of conifer wood from Pine Wood Nematode Countries

In our previous newsletter we advised importers of some important changes that were made in October 2014 to the landing requirements of certain wood products being imported from abroad. These changes included the landing requirements for wood of conifers from Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) countries as listed below-

Wood of Conifers (Coniferales – except *Thuja* and *Taxus*) originating in Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Taiwan or the USA (PWN Countries) have a revised landing requirement which will apply to all material. The official statement wording which must be used now is the ISPM15 definition for heat treatment i.e. ‘that it has undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum temperature of 56°C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood (including at its core)’. Also a new requirement which is additional to the heat treatment specification and must also be included, where appropriate, in the official statement has been added and is as follows -

- subsequent to its treatment the wood (that was not bark-free), was transported outside of the flight season of the vector *Monochamus*, until leaving the country issuing that statement, taking into account a safety margin of four additional weeks at the beginning and at the end of the expected flight season or with a protective covering ensuring that infestation with *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* or its vector cannot occur **except** in the case of wood free from any bark¹.

(1 Inserted by Forestry Commission for additional clarity)

Wood of conifers in the form of chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste or scrap originating in Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Taiwan or the USA (PWN Countries) must also meet the above landing requirements i.e. Phytosanitary certificate (PC), heat treatment and bark-freedom or PC and transportation restrictions or PC protective covering requirements when heat treated material is not bark-free.

Isolated bark of Conifers (Coniferales) originating in any non European must be accompanied with a Phytosanitary certificate declaring ‘that it has undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum temperature of 56°C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the bark (including at its core)’.

Since issuing this guidance we have been asked to clarify what the control measures as set out in the bullet point above means in practice for both exporters and importers trading in sawn conifer material. Clarification on the landing requirement is as follows -

What’s in this edition?

- Clarification on the landing requirements of conifer wood from Pine Wood Nematode Countries
- New derogation for the import of wood of ash originating in Canada and the USA
- Cessation of Reduced Frequency of Inspection for wood of Maple (*Acer saccharum*) originating in Canada
- New Plant Health Website
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The new requirement for conifer wood (except *Thuja* and *Taxus*²) from PWN countries to comply with Commission Implementing Directive 2014/78's new point 1.1, is for the wood to be **bark-free** (a new requirement) when it is accompanied with either a heat treatment certificate issued by the supplying mill (in accordance with long standing derogations for sawn wood only), or a phytosanitary certificate, declaring heat treatment, issued by the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) in the country of export.

Where the wood is not bark-free post heat treatment, a heat treatment certificate cannot be issued to accompany the wood by the supplying mill. Instead, the wood (which can retain any amount of bark) must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the NPPO declaring that the wood was, subsequent to its treatment, either –

- a. Transported, until leaving the country issuing the phytosanitary certificate, outside of the flight season of *Monochamus* with a safety margin of four additional weeks **or**,
- b. Transported with a protective covering

NB – timber need not arrive in the UK with a protective covering where there is a declaration on a phytosanitary certificate indicating that it was protected by a covering up until it was exported. This is because the covering requirements only apply up to the point that the consignment leaves the country of export.

Remedial Action

Where conifer wood (except *Thuja* and *Taxus*²) from PWN countries is landed in the UK which is not bark-free and is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate that does not declare compliance with either point a or b above we will take progressive remedial action against the material over a period of 3 months i.e. until 31 May 2015 when more stringent action will be applied. Initially, with immediate effect, warning notices will be issued to advise of the new regulations where they have not been complied with.

Progressive remedial action will also apply in instances where conifer wood from Canada or the USA is landed in the UK which is not bark-free and is accompanied by a heat treatment certificate issued by the supplying mill.

In the event that conifer wood (except *Thuja* and *Taxus*²) from PWN countries is landed in the UK during the *Monochamus* flight season (March – October) which is not bark-free and is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate declaring that it has been transported outside the *Monochamus* flight season, this will also result in us taking progressive remedial action.

² **Wood of *Thuja* and *Taxus* from PWN Countries** - Please note that the above transportation restrictions and protective covering requirements do not apply to wood of *Thuja* and *Taxus* from PWN countries. The landing requirements for these two genera of conifers are accompanied with a phytosanitary certificate declaring; bark-freedom or kiln drying or heat treatment. Alternatively they can still be accompanied with 'Debarking and Grub Hole Control Certificates' as these documents will continue to be accepted for these genera when they are imported from Canada and the USA. There is no requirement to make this material bark-free.

New derogation for the import of wood of ash originating in Canada and the USA

Also included in the previous Newsletter was the new (from October 2014), landing requirements for sawn wood of ash and we advised at that time that the previous landing requirements for solid wood of ash which required the wood to be 'squared so as to remove entirely the round surface' was no longer permitted. This situation quickly changed, however, with the publication of the derogation 'Commission Implementing Decision 2014/924/EU on 16th December 2014 which included the following landing requirements for sawn wood of ash originating in Canada and the USA –

Wood of ash (*Fraxinus* L) whether or not listed among CN Codes in Part B of Annex V to Directive 2000/29/EC, including wood which has not kept its natural round surface shall be accompanied with a phytosanitary certificate and satisfy either of the following conditions:

(a) It originates in an area established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of export as being free from *Agilus planipennis* in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures or,

(b) It is squared so as to remove entirely the round surface

and

(c) Wood of ash shall have been subject to visual inspections, sampling and testing as appropriate to the properties of those plant products and other objects, to ensure that they are free from Emerald Ash Borer (*Agilus planipennis*) in accordance with the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 23 on guidelines for inspection.

These are pre shipment requirements of the exporting National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).

This derogation will remain in force until 31 December 2015 unless it is revoked earlier. We will keep importers advised of any proposals to revoke the derogation before its published expiry date. The derogation can be viewed at – <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014D0924>

Cessation of Reduced Frequency of Inspection for wood of Maple (*Acer saccharum*) originating in Canada

Due to a fall in the level of imports of wood of maple (*Acer saccharum*) the EU decided that from 1st January 2015 it would withdraw the reduced (75%) level of inspections of this material where it originates in Canada. The Forestry Commission will implement this decision in April when it consolidates its fees regulations via the implementation of The Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015¹ which is has now been laid in parliament and has a coming into force date of 6th April 2015. The implementation of these new consolidated fees regulations will mean that inspections of imported consignments of *Acer saccharum* from Canada will be brought into line with those imports of the material originating in the USA and they will be subjected to 100% inspection and physical plant health check charges. The reduced frequency of charge for plant health checks of wood of maple from Canada i.e. £23.40 (75%) will be withdrawn and these inspection charges will be applied at the 100% inspection level for plant health checks for all controlled material i.e. £31.20 with effect from 6th April 2015.

A copy of the new consolidated fees regulations and its accompanying Explanatory Memorandum can be viewed at -
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/350/contents/made>

¹ The new consolidated fees Regulations 2015 will only apply to imports of controlled material landing in England and Scotland. The Welsh Assembly Government is aware of the amendment to the import requirements and will make corresponding changes to the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 to apply in Wales.

New Plant Health Website

In order to assist importers in the understanding of the import requirements for controlled wood, wood products and bark the Forestry Commission has revised its website information and presented it in a new user friendly format. Please take some time to visit our revised webpages at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4u4j4j> and let us know if there are any further changes that we could make to assist you in finding or clarifying the plant health import legislation.

Suggestions for improvement or other general comments about the website should be emailed to plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Customer Survey Results 2015

Many thanks to all of our Customers who took the time to complete our online customer survey recently. Overall we had a 32% survey completion rate and a positive response. An analysis of the responses is attached for information. We will use the results to help to improve on our service. Ten of our customers requested feedback contact and therefore we have been in touch to assist them with their enquiries.

Staff Update

We are pleased to report the return of Steve Mears, Regional Manager (South) who has returned to work after an absence. During Steve's absence the southern region was looked after by Nick Hazlitt, Cross Border Liaison Officer who will continue to support Steve by dealing with enquiries relating to the ports of entry listed against his name in the enquiries section below

Enquiries

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

Steve Mears Regional Manager (South) - Tel 01507 328275 Mobile 07831 204324 timber imports to timber imports to Humber, Felixstowe, Ipswich, Thamesport, Tilbury, The Wash Ports,

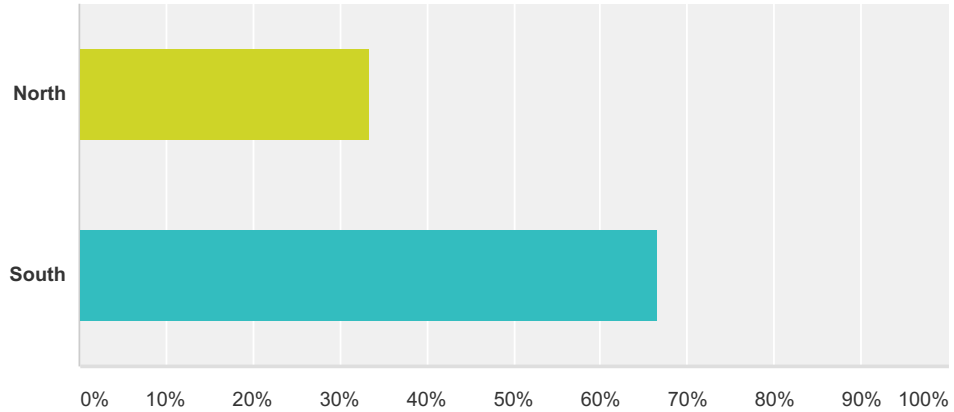
Nick Hazlitt, Cross Border Liaison Officer – Mobile 07799 65417 timber imports to Southampton, South West England, Bristol Channel and South Wales

Ian Murgatroyd, Regional Manager (North) Tel: 01698 222480 Mobile: 07767 251379 Fax: 01387 251491 timber imports to Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

Ian Brownlee, Operations Manager Tel: 0300 067 5034 Mobile 07831 159014 Fax 0131-314-6148

Q1 Plant Health Region(If you operate in more than one region, please complete a separate survey for each region so that we can review the service provided by each region) For details of regional divisions please refer to the map attached in the introduction email.

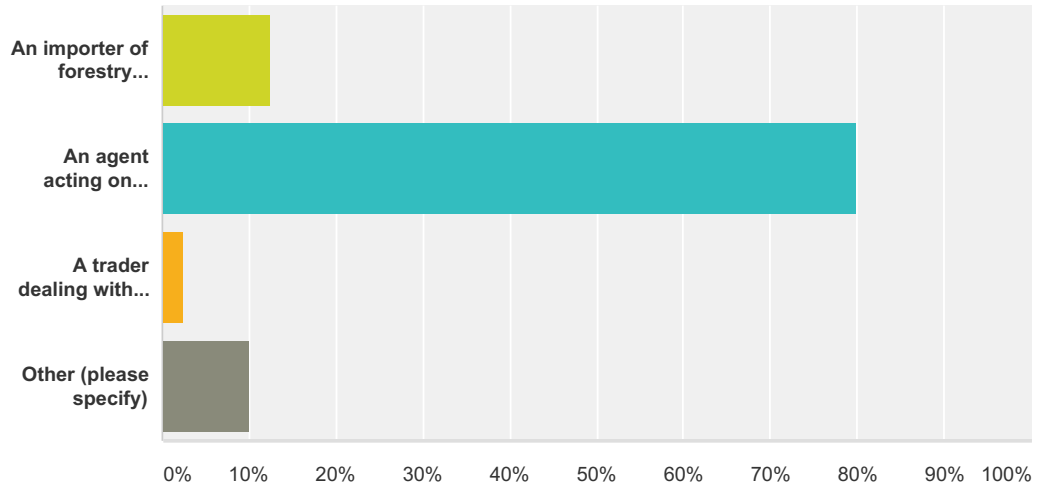
Answered: 39 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
North	33.33%	13
South	66.67%	26
Total		39

Q2 Are you;

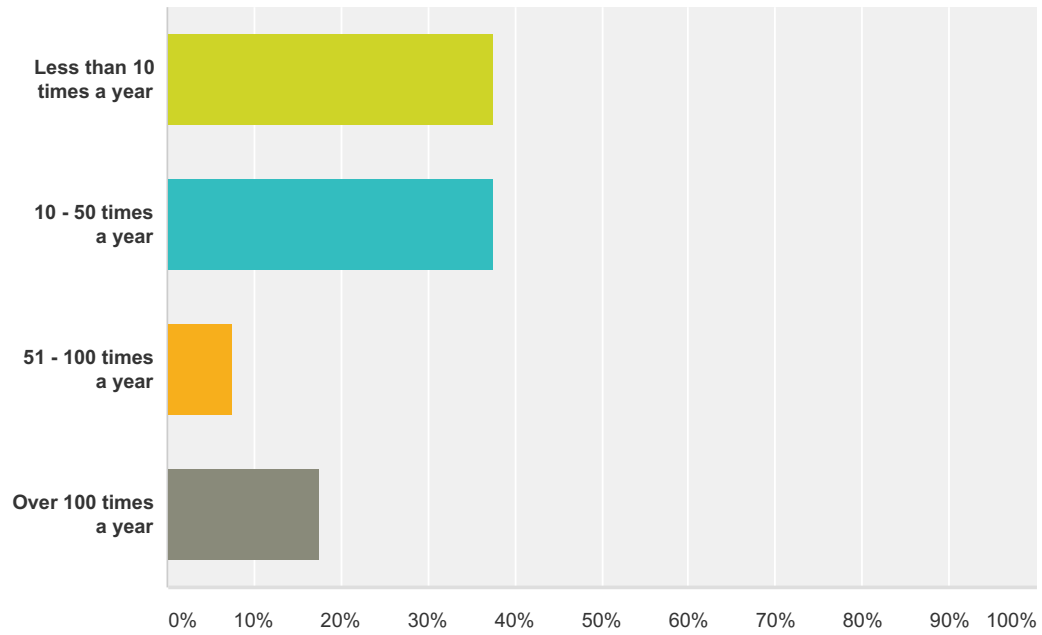
Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
An importer of forestry material	12.50%	5
An agent acting on behalf of an importer of forestry material	80.00%	32
A trader dealing with forestry material within the EC	2.50%	1
Other (please specify)	10.00%	4
Total Respondents: 40		

Q3 Are you involved in the importation and/or exportation of timber:

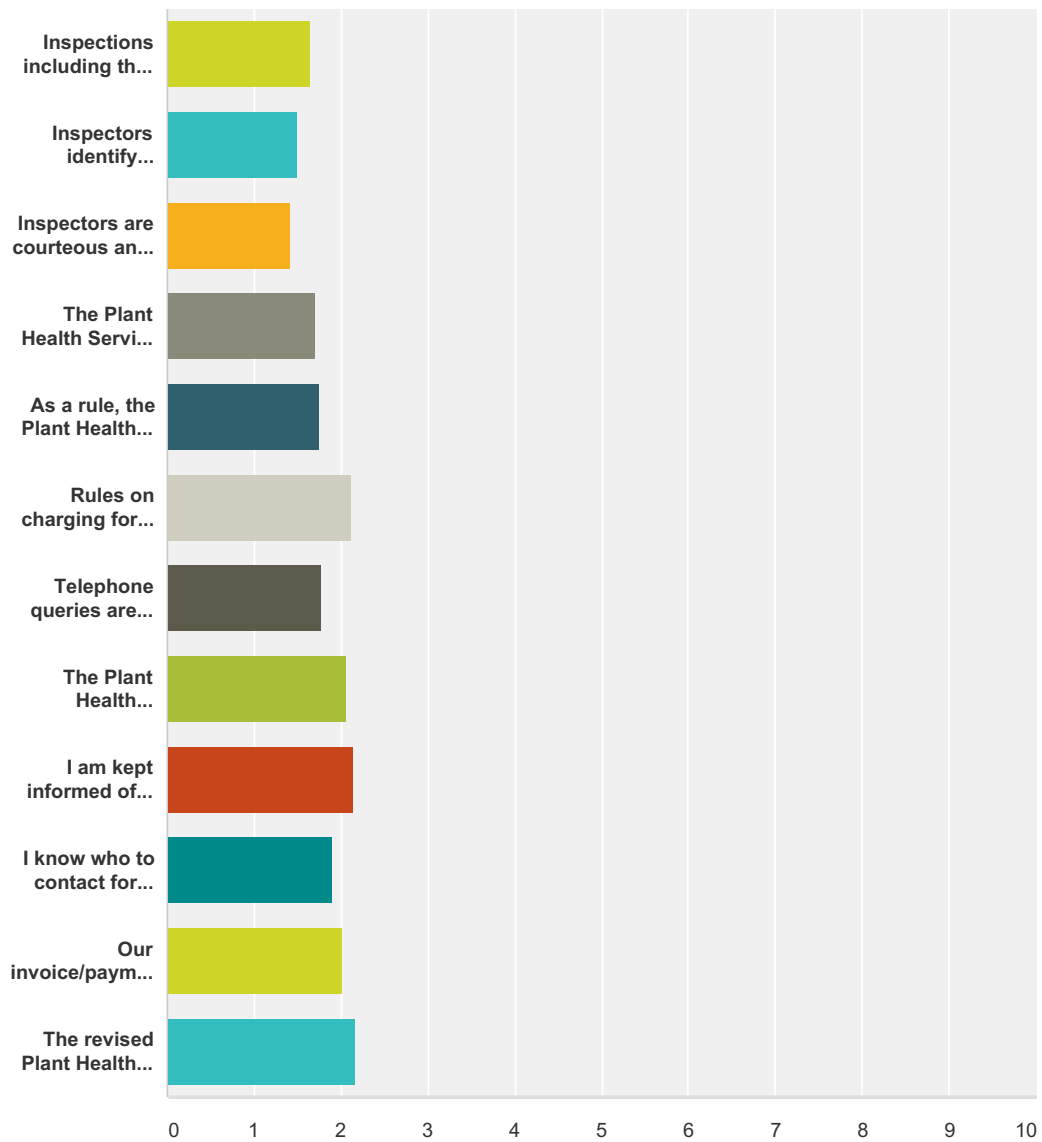
Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 10 times a year	37.50%	15
10 - 50 times a year	37.50%	15
51 - 100 times a year	7.50%	3
Over 100 times a year	17.50%	7
Total		40

Q4 Do you agree with the following statements?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



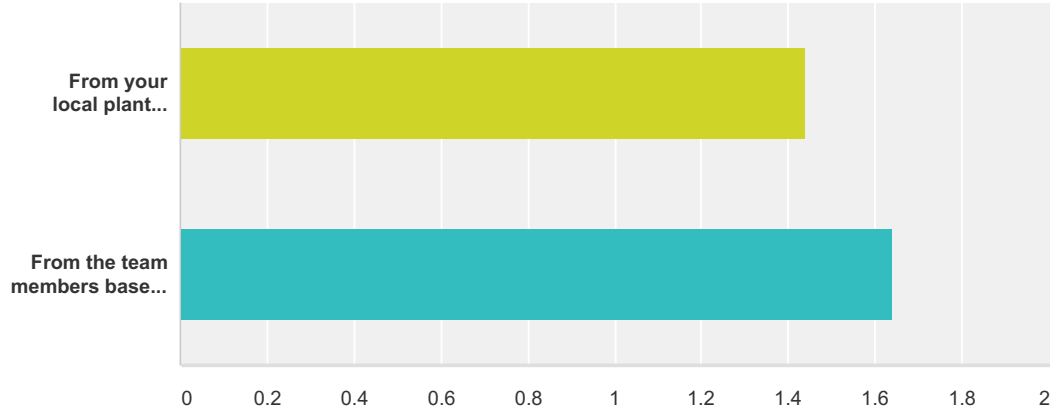
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Inspections including the issue of Clearance Certificates are carried out promptly	47.50% 19	42.50% 17	2.50% 1	5.00% 2	0.00% 0	2.50% 1	40	1.64
Inspectors identify themselves by name	50.00% 20	37.50% 15	0.00% 0	2.50% 1	0.00% 0	10.00% 4	40	1.50
Inspectors are courteous and helpful	57.50% 23	32.50% 13	2.50% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7.50% 3	40	1.41
The Plant Health Service keeps my business affairs confidential	37.50% 15	40.00% 16	12.50% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.00% 4	40	1.72

FC Internal Audit - Plant Health Service Customer Survey 2015

As a rule, the Plant Health Service avoids disrupting my business operations	37.50% 15	42.50% 17	15.00% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.00% 2	40	1.76
Rules on charging for inspections are easy to understand	27.50% 11	42.50% 17	12.50% 5	10.00% 4	2.50% 1	5.00% 2	40	2.13
Telephone queries are answered quickly and accurately	32.50% 13	45.00% 18	12.50% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10.00% 4	40	1.78
The Plant Health Newsletter is interesting and informative	17.50% 7	37.50% 15	22.50% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	22.50% 9	40	2.06
I am kept informed of developments in Plant Health	17.50% 7	47.50% 19	22.50% 9	5.00% 2	0.00% 0	7.50% 3	40	2.16
I know who to contact for advice on Plant Health	37.50% 15	37.50% 15	10.00% 4	5.00% 2	2.50% 1	7.50% 3	40	1.89
Our invoice/payment arrangements work well	22.50% 9	40.00% 16	5.00% 2	2.50% 1	5.00% 2	25.00% 10	40	2.03
The revised Plant Health internet site is up to date and informative	20.51% 8	35.90% 14	23.08% 9	2.56% 1	2.56% 1	15.38% 6	39	2.18

Q5 In your dealing with the Plant Health Service would you rate its overall performance as:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
From your local plant health inspector	64.10% 25	15.38% 6	12.82% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7.69% 3	39	1.44
From the team members based in the Edinburgh, Dumfries and Louth offices	33.33% 13	20.51% 8	10.26% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35.90% 14	39	1.64