

Plant Health News

Issue 32, September 2014

Important changes to the landing requirements of certain wood products with effect from 3rd October 2014

The Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 has been amended to implement recent changes to EU legislation. The landing requirements for some controlled materials have been changed in response to new information about the risk presented by certain regulated tree pests and diseases. In particular new measures have been introduced to regulate wood of birch in response to a serious threat from the forestry pest the Bronze Birch Borer which is present in North America.

The changes are being implemented through The Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) (England and Scotland) Order 2014 which comes into force on **3rd October 2014**. A copy of the amendment can be downloaded from the [legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) website at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/2420/contents/made>

In order to make timber and timber product importers aware of those elements that affect their business we have highlighted some of the key changes below. Additionally, we have updated our Plant Health Guide 'Importing wood, wood products and bark' which incorporates the changes. The guide is now produced in a new A4 format and is available as a pdf download on our website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/DocsByUnique/x8746770D9769E013802572A6005262AA>

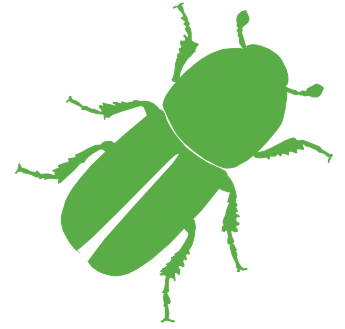
Key changes to landing requirements of certain controlled timber products

Wood of Birch (*Betula spp*) originating in Canada or the USA will become controlled for the first time due to the threat from the Bronze Birch Borer. The newly introduced landing requirements which apply to all types of solid wood and which includes furniture or other objects made of untreated wood are that –

The wood shall be accompanied by an official statement that:

- (a) its bark and at least 2.5 cm of the outer sapwood have been removed in a facility authorised and supervised by the national plant protection organisation; or
- (b) the wood has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1 kGy throughout the wood.

Wood in the form of chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste or scrap must be accompanied by an official statement that it originates in a country known to be free from Bronze Birch Borer.



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Bark or objects made out of bark of Birch (*Betula spp*) originating in Canada or the USA where the Bronze Birch Borer is known to occur has a newly introduced landing requirement as follows –

- The bark or objects made out of bark shall be accompanied by an official statement that the bark is free from wood”;

Wood of Ash (*Fraxinus spp*) and some other less traded species, which provide a pathway for Emerald Ash Borer, originating in Canada, China, North Korea, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, Russia, Taiwan or the USA. The newly revised landing requirements which apply to all types of solid wood and which includes furniture or other objects made of untreated wood are that –

The wood shall be accompanied by an official statement that:

(a) it originates in an area recognised by the European Commission as being free from Emerald Ash Borer. The name of the area must be declared on the phytosanitary certificate.

(b) its bark and at least 2.5 cm of the outer sapwood have been removed in a facility authorised and supervised by the national plant protection organisation; or

(c) the wood has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1 kGy throughout the wood

Wood in the form of chips, particles must continue to be accompanied by an official statement that it originates in an area recognised by the European Commission as being free from Emerald Ash Borer. The name of the area must be declared on the phytosanitary certificate.

Note – the previous landing requirements for solid wood of ash to be ‘squared so as to remove entirely the round surface’ is no longer permitted (see new point b. above).

Woodchips of ash originating in the countries listed above must also originate in an area recognised (by the European Commission) as being free from *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald Ash Borer). The name of the area shall be declared on the accompanying phytosanitary certificate

Wood of Conifers (Coniferales) originating in Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Taiwan or the USA have a new landing requirement which will apply to all material. The wording which must be used 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)’. A new requirement which is additional to the heat treatment specification and must also be included in the official statement has been added and is as follows -

- subsequent to its treatment the wood 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, in the case of wood free from any bark, with a protective covering ensuring that infestation with *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* or its vector cannot occur.

Wood of conifers in the form of chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste or scrap must also meet the above landing requirements.

Isolated bark of Conifers (Coniferales) originating in any non European country outside Europe has the same landing requirements as wood of conifers above.

Wood of Plane (*Platanus spp*) – is now only controlled when it originates in Armenia, Switzerland or the USA. Previously emergency measures controlled the material from any third country.

Wood Packaging Material and Dunnage coming from any third country except Switzerland now has a new legal definition within our national legislation which is as follows –

- “wood packaging material” means wood in the form of packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, pallets, box pallets or other load boards, pallet collars or dunnage, whether or not actually in use in the transport of objects of all kinds;
- “dunnage” means wood used to wedge or support cargo;”

Note: the important change in the definition of wood packaging material is the reference to “whether or not” the material is “actually in use”. Previously the definition only related to material that was “in use”. The landing requirement i.e compliance with ISPM15 remains unchanged but now also applies to material that is shipped as the commodity (CN Code 4415) that is “not in use”.

The definition of dunnage has been simplified as previously the definition in certain circumstances only related to wood used to wedge or support “non-wood” cargo. This was because dunnage associated with a controlled wood cargo was not required to be ISPM15 compliant where it met the same landing requirement as the controlled timber cargo that it was accompanying.

In order to maintain and clarify this landing requirement we have introduced a new definition for this specific type of dunnage which is as follows –

“associated controlled dunnage”, in certain items of Part A of Schedule 4 of the Order means wood which supports a consignment of wood of a genus or species specified in that item and which —

- (a) is constructed from wood of the same type and quality as the wood in the consignment; and
- (b) meets the same European Union phytosanitary requirements as the wood in the consignment;

Enforcement of New landing Requirements

Forestry Commission Plant Health Inspectors will continue to accept phytosanitary certificates declaring the previous landing requirement and will take a progressive approach to enforcement in order to permit consignments already shipped, which do not present a plant health risk, to be landed without intervention. Warning notices will be issued to advise of new regulations where they have not been complied with.

New Plant Health Operational Team Member

Back in April this year Nick Hazlitt joined the Plant Health Operational team from one of our Forest Districts as our newly appointed Cross Border Liaison Officer based in Winchester. Since joining us Nick has been busy familiarising himself with the timber import inspection work performed by his operational colleagues by visiting a number of ports of landing in the country. This has been extremely useful as Steve Mears our Regional Manager (South) will temporarily be out of action for approximately 3 - 6 months and Nick will be stepping into the breach to provide a plant health service in the southern region in Steve's absence. Nick's contact details are provided in the enquiries section

Enquiries

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

Nick Hazlitt, Acting Regional Manager (South) – Mobile 07799 65417 timber imports to Felixstowe, Ipswich, Thamesport, Tilbury and Southampton, The Wash Ports, 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 Humber, Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

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