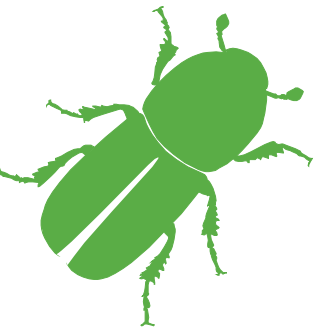


Plant Health News



Issue 35, December 2016

Amendment to Plant Health legislation coming into force on 1st January 2017

The Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 has been amended to introduce a new statutory notification scheme for landing consignments of solid fuel wood (firewood) and to implement changes to EU legislation including strengthened controls to prevent the spread of ALB (Asian Longhorn Beetle). The ALB measures were introduced in EU legislation in June 2015 and are now being introduced in national law and this newsletter explains the requirements for importers.

The changes are being implemented through the Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) (England and Scotland) Order 2016 (SI No.1167) which comes into force on **1 January 2017**. A copy of the amendment and explanatory memorandum can be downloaded from the legislation.gov.uk website at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1167/contents/made>

The new notification scheme for firewood does not alter procedures for importers of controlled firewood imported from third countries as these imports are already subject to advanced notification of landing requirements. However, in order to make timber product importers aware of those elements that may affect their business, if they are involved in the firewood trade, see the highlighted key elements below.

What's in this edition?

- **Amendment to Plant Health legislation coming into force on 1st January 2017 to include:**
- **Introduction of a Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) for Imports of Solid Fuel Wood (Firewood) into England and Scotland**
- **Implementation in England and Scotland of revised landing requirements for wood and products of certain tree species originating from countries where the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) is present.**
- **Temporary derogation in respect of imports of ash wood originating or processed in Canada.**
- **Amendments to derogations for bark-free sawn wood of Oak, Plane and Hard Maple originating in the USA**

Other topics

- **New team member.**
- **Presentation of timber in containerised consignments.**
- **Enquiries**

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Introduction of a Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) for Imports of Solid Fuel Wood (Firewood) into England and Scotland

The Forestry Commission has now introduced a specific requirement in respect of firewood (solid fuel wood), not previously subject to regulation, via the Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) which comes into effect on 1 January 2017. The SNS requires imports of firewood into England and Scotland, regardless of species or country of origin, to be notified to the Forestry Commission. All relevant consignments, irrespective of size or weight must be notified.

Imports of some species (mainly conifers, birch, oak, ash, maple, plane and poplar/aspens) of firewood from certain third countries must already be notified in advance to the Forestry Commission. The new notification scheme extends this pre-notification requirement to all other imports of firewood from third countries and also to imports from the EU.



Pre-notification of solid wood fuel will provide the Forestry Commission's regulatory Plant Health Service with information about the origin and the condition of material and allow targeted inspections to be carried out in response to potential threats posed by this material. The additional evidence obtained from these inspections may eventually lead to strengthened import controls for this material.

The downloadable enrolment, online notification and downloadable forms can be found at - <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-A4MEMQ>

The general guidance note 'Importing firewood – Requirements for landing material into Great Britain' is available at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCPH005.pdf/\\$FILE/FCPH005.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCPH005.pdf/$FILE/FCPH005.pdf)

Implementation in England and Scotland of Revised Landing Requirements for Wood and Wood Products of Certain Tree Species Originating from Countries where the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) is present

New strengthened control measures have been introduced in national law in England and Scotland in order to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the EU of the Asian Longhorn Beetle which is a harmful pest that poses a serious threat to a wide range of broadleaved trees. ALB is known to be present in **USA, Canada, China, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Turkey and Switzerland** and has a wide range of host species.

We covered details of this article in our last newsletter when the national legislation was being drafted and they are repeated below for ease of reference given the time delay in implementing the requirements. **The main change that timber importers will experience from 1 January 2017 will be that those timber types listed in Annex 1 from the above countries of origin which have not previously been subjected to Customs holds at the border will require a chargeable plant health inspection and PHF28 Clearance of Clearance form release.**

The requirements are that specified wood and wood products derived from the species listed in Appendix 1 other than in the form of chips, particles, shavings, wood waste and scrap originating in countries where ALB is known to be present (detailed in Appendix 1) shall be accompanied by an official statement that:

- a) The wood originates in pest-free areas, established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, known to be free from ALB. The name of the pest-free area shall be mentioned under the rubric 'place of origin'; **or**

- b) The wood is debarked and 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).

If option (b) is applicable, there shall be evidence thereof by a mark 'HT' put on the wood or on any wrapping in accordance with current usage.

Wood in the form of chips, particles, shavings, wood waste and scrap derived from the species listed in Appendix 1 originating in countries where ALB is known to be present (detailed in Appendix 1) shall also be accompanied by an official statement declaring one of the requirement options as in a) and b) for specified wood and wood products above or alternatively,

- c) the wood has been processed into pieces of not more than 2.5cm thickness and width.

Our Plant Health website guidance on Importing wood, wood products and bark changes will be amended to incorporate these changes.

Temporary Derogation in Respect of Imports of Ash Wood Originating or Processed in Canada

Commission Implementing Decision EU 2016/412 approved a temporary derogation in respect of wood of ash (*Fraxinus L.*) originating or processed in Canada which has been operational since 17 March 2016 and has been working well to date.

This derogation enabled those Canadian processors approved by the Canadian Authorities to use an integrated systems approach to eliminate the risk of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) *Agrilus Planipennis*. The systems approach included the supervision and inspection of processors by the Canadian Authorities and the requirement for wood to be debarked and subsequently heat treated, kiln dried to a moisture content below 10% and labelled HT-KD. The procedure allows for an alternative option to point 2.3 Section 1 Part A of Annex IV of Directive 2000/29. The official statement accompanying consignments of Ash wood under this derogation should include the following elements:

- a) In accordance with EU requirements as laid down in the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/412.
- b) It must also show the bundle numbers.
- c) The name of the approved facility(ies) in Canada.

This derogation has been widely used but it has been noted that following a review of official statements (Phytosanitary Certificates) accompanying consignments under this derogation, under **point c)** there has been frequent reference to an Annex detailing the bundle numbers. Often this Annex has not been included with the official documents presented for inspection. It should be noted that we can accept Annexes but they will have to be validated by the CFIA and they will have to be cross referenced to the Phytosanitary Certificate. Importers should therefore ensure that the Annex is presented with the official statement to avoid delays in clearance.

See this link for further details: [EUR-Lex - 32016D0412 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

The Decision expires on 31st December 2017. Importers of ash wood should note that the derogation does not apply to ash material processed in the USA. The relevant landing requirements for the USA remain as laid out in the EU Plant Health Directive (Council Directive 2000/29/EC Annex IV Part A1 point 2.3 – see <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02000L0029-20140630>)

It is anticipated that the USA may agree the same systems based derogation in the near future and we will keep importers apprised of this development.

Amendments to derogations for bark-free sawn wood of Oak, Plane and Hard Maple originating in the USA

Commission Implementing Decisions (EU) 2016/1967 and 2016/2004 of 8th and 14th November 2016 respectively amended the derogations (Decisions 2002/757/EC and 2013/780/EU) in respect of bark-free sawn wood of *Quercus* (Oak), *Platanus* (Plane) and *Acer saccharum* (Hard Maple) originating in the USA. The amending Decisions removed *Platanus* and *Acer saccharum* from the derogations due to the new measures against Asian Longhorn Beetle applied to these tree species. The derogations which allow the use of US National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) Kiln Drying certificates instead of phytosanitary certificates now only apply to bark-free sawn wood of *Quercus* from the USA. The derogation has been extended to 31 December 2026 in order to avoid any unnecessary disruptions of trade in oak

New Team Member

Mike Ndeze joined the Cross Border Plant Health Service in May 2016. Mike is based in the South of England and among other duties will be managing the engagement and surveillance work in respect to the new Statutory Firewood Notification Scheme (see contact details below).

Presentation of Regulated Timber in Containerised Consignments

In our Newsletter Number 28 of March 2010 we addressed the developing problem of freight containers loaded in such a manner as to prevent the tailgate inspection of regulated timber and we advised importers to ensure that their containerised consignments of regulated timber are readily accessible to our Inspectors. The point was made in Newsletter Number 28 specifically in respect of consignments where regulated material had been loaded behind non regulated material. The FC's Plant Health Operational Team have come across a couple of recent examples of this practice and similarly mixed consignments of multiple species of both regulated and non-regulated timber have been presented and the regulated species has been obscured behind the non-regulated species. We therefore remind importers of the importance to ensure that their containerised consignments of regulated timber are readily accessible to our Inspectors to avoid unnecessary and expensive un-loading and re-loading handling costs at port inspection bays, or other premises. This will ensure that our Inspectors can physically inspect the regulated timber at the container's tailgate.



Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this Newsletter should be directed to the relevant Plant Health Regional Manager:-

Nick Hazlitt, Regional Manager (South) Mobile: 07799 65417 - Timber imports to Felixstowe, Ipswich, London Gateway, Thamesport, Tilbury, The Wash Ports, Sheerness, 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 Humber, Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

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

Mike Ndeze, Plant Health Officer Mobile: 0788 183299
Firewood Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) enquiries

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Tree Species (and wood products produced from them – see Appendix 2) which, unless they are currently subject to other import controls, will be subject to new Customs import holds from 1 April 2017 when imported from USA, Canada, China, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Turkey and Switzerland.

Acer* spp – Maple/European Sycamore (*A.saccharum* currently regulated from Canada or USA)

Aesculus spp – Horse Chestnuts and Buckeyes

Alnus spp - Alder

Betula spp – Birch (currently regulated from Canada or USA)

Carpinus spp – Hornbeam

Cercidiphyllum spp – Katsura Tree

Corylus spp – Hazels

Fagus spp- Beech

Fraxinus spp – Ash (currently regulated from Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Taiwan and USA)

Koelreuteria spp – Golden Rain Tree

Platanus spp – Plane/American Sycamore (currently regulated from Armenia, Switzerland and USA)

Populus spp - (Poplar/Aspen (currently from any country in the American continent) NB: this does not include *Liriodendron tulipifera*; – a common name for Yellow Poplar which is not from the genus *Populus*.)

Salix spp - Willow

Tilia spp – Limes, Lindens, Basswoods

Ulmus spp - Elms (*U.davidina* and *U. parvifolia* currently regulated from Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Taiwan and USA)

Note* - wood of *Acers* (including currently regulated *A.saccharum*) may be imported in significant volumes from Canada and USA

List of codes and respective wood products subject to new control measures on imports originating from ALB affected countries

CN Code	Description
4401 10 00	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms
4401 22 00	Non-coniferous wood, in chips or particles
ex 4401 39 80	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, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 92	Wood of beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
ex 4403 99	Non-coniferous wood (other than, beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.) or birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.)), in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 99 10	Wood of poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 99 51	Sawlogs of birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 99 59	Wood of birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, other than sawlogs
ex 4404 20 00	Non-coniferous split poles, piles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise
4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood
4407 92 00	Wood of beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6mm
4407 93	Wood of maple (<i>Acer</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4407 95	Wood of ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6mm
ex 4407 99	Non-coniferous wood (other than beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), maple (<i>Acer</i> spp.), ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.) or poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.)), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6mm
4407 99 91	Wood of poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
9406 00 20	Prefabricated buildings of wood