

# BIOMASS USER

Biomass User

NUMBER 4

## Plant health import controls for wood-based biofuel products entering Great Britain

### Introduction

Plant Health controls apply to a wide range of wood products, including some of those destined for use as biofuel. This section aims to explain the current rules, covering imports both from countries outside the European Union (third countries), as well as consignments originating in other member States. This guidance is based on the legislation set out in the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2517) which implements in Great Britain the requirements prescribed in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (“the Plant Health Directive”). You are advised to check that there have been no amendments to the Order before arranging for the supply of any consignment from outside Great Britain. Information about the Order, and any amendments, are posted on the Plant Health pages of the Forestry Commission’s website ([www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)).

Imports of all consignments of all goods coming from third countries must be declared to HM Customs and Revenue quoting the relevant Customs Nomenclature (CN) Code from the Integrated Tariff of the United Kingdom. For the purpose of this guidance, it is assumed that consignments will meet the description of CN 4401 21 and 4401 22. These cover fuel wood in the form of chips or particles from coniferous wood and non-coniferous wood, respectively, other than wood agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms, which is not regulated. Although not subject to Customs formalities, consignments meeting this description, originating inside the EU and introduced into Great Britain, are nevertheless subject to plant health controls. This is covered in the section headed ‘Registration and plant passports’. For the purpose of this note, the term ‘fuel wood’ means that which meets CN4401 21 or 4401 22. For advice on plant health controls on fuel wood in other forms, please consult the Forestry Commission’s Plant Health Service (helpline; 0131 314 6414; e-mail; [plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)).

### Consignments from Third Countries

Fuel wood comprised in whole or in part of coniferous wood, other than agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms, originating in any third country is subject to controls. The requirements are set out in table 1.

Table 1 Entry requirements for coniferous wood originating in third countries

Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
1 All coniferous wood, other than consignments comprised wholly of wood of <i>Thuja</i> L., originating in Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and the USA (countries where Pine Wood Nematode occurs)	Official statement <sup>1</sup> that the wood has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes
2 Consignments comprised wholly of wood of <i>Thuja</i> L., originating in Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and the USA	Official statement that the wood: (a) has been produced from debarked round wood or (b) has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes or (c) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20% moisture content

<sup>1</sup> An ‘Official statement’ means a phytosanitary certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organisation in the country of export.

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<p>3 Non-European countries, other than those in item 1 above, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey</p>	<p>Official statement that the wood:</p> <p>(a) originates in areas known to be free from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Monochamus</i> spp. (non-European)</li> <li>• <i>Pissodes</i> spp. (non-European)</li> <li>• <i>Scolytidae</i> spp. (non-European)</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <p>(b) has been produced from debarked round wood,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(c) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20% moisture content,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(d) has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes,</p>
<p>4 European countries</p>	<p>Official statement that the wood:</p> <p>(a) is bark-free</p> <p>or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20% moisture content</p>

The requirements for non-coniferous fuel wood originating in third countries are set out in table 2.

Table 2 Entry requirements for non-coniferous wood originating in third countries

Wood	Country of Origin	Entry Requirement
Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> L.)	USA	<p>Official statement that the wood:</p> <p>(a) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(b) has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes</p>
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Canada, USA	<p>Official statement that the wood:</p> <p>(a) has been produced from debarked round wood,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(c) has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes</p>
<i>Platanus</i> L.	Armenia, USA	<p>Official statement that the wood:</p> <p>(a) has been produced from debarked round wood,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(b) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content</p> <p>or</p> <p>(c) has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes</p>
<i>Populus</i> L.	Any country in the	Official statement that the wood:

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	American continent	(a) has been produced from debarked round wood, or (b) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content, or (c) has undergone heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes
<i>Fraxinus</i> L., <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> , <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> , <i>U. parvifolia</i> and <i>Pterocarya rhoifolia</i>	Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Taiwan and the USA	Official statement that the wood: (a) originates in areas known to be free from <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> (Fairmaire) (the Emerald Ash Borer), or (b) has been processed into pieces of not more than 2.5 cm thickness and width
<i>Castanea</i> L.	All Third Countries	The wood shall be bark-free Or Official statement that the wood: (a) originates in areas known to be free from <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i> (Murrill.) Barr. (the cause of Sweet Chestnut Blight) or (b) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content

### Consignments from within the EU

#### Coniferous wood

Because Great Britain is a 'Protected Zone' in the EU, plant health controls apply to fuel wood of coniferous wood entering the country from any other part of the EU, other than another similar Protected Zone. Only Ireland and Northern Ireland meet this requirement and there are no controls on coniferous fuel wood coming from either territory. (Controls do, however, apply in respect of movements of coniferous fuel wood from Great Britain in the other direction. This because both Ireland and Northern Ireland are free of certain pests that are present in Great Britain).

The requirements for coniferous fuel wood coming from other parts of the EU are the same as for item 4 in table 1, except that the official statement will take the form of a plant passport (see 'registration and plant passports below). There is no plant passport requirement for coniferous wood which is bark-free.

The requirements for non-coniferous fuel wood originating in the EU are set out in table 3.

Table 3 Entry requirements for non-coniferous wood originating in the EU

Wood	Entry Requirement
<i>Castanea</i> L.	The wood shall be bark-free, Or Official statement (plant passport) confirming that the wood: (a) originates in areas known to be free from <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i> Murrill.) Barr. (the cause of Sweet Chestnut Blight) or (b) has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content
<i>Platanus</i> L.	(a) Official statement (Plant passport) confirming that the wood originates in areas known to be free from <i>Ceratocystis fimbriata</i>

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	f.sp. <i>platani</i> Walter; (the cause of Canker Stain of Plane) or (b) that it has undergone kiln-drying to below 20 % moisture content
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**Note:** if there is any doubt as to the identity of the genera or species of chips at the time of import inspection the consignment will be regarded as regulated. It is therefore important, especially for consignments not containing any of the genera or species listed in tables 1 or 2 that the commercial documentation gives adequate details of identification.

### Registration and Plant Passports

All importers and traders of regulated fuel wood must be registered with the Forestry Commission. Application is free and should be made to the Plant Health Service at the Commission's Edinburgh office. When a consignment of controlled material is to be imported from a third country, the importer (or his agent) must give an inspector three day's advance notice of his intention to land. He must then present the phytosanitary certificate for the consignment to an inspector within three days of landing and before the goods can be cleared through Customs. The consignment will be subject to inspection, for which a fee is payable (see Plant Health Leaflet No 2 "Fees for Plant Health Services") and on completion of inspection a Certificate of Clearance will be issued to enable the goods to be cleared through Customs.

Traders dealing with consignments from within the EU must retain records of all transactions and these will be subject to an annual inspection. A fee will also be payable for this examination.

Registered traders may be authorised to issue plant passports to attest that the consignment meets the specified requirements. For consignments of fuel wood, the plant passport should accompany the normal commercial documentation or be integrated into, for example, the despatch note. Plant passports must be retained for a minimum of one year and be produced to an inspector on demand.

### Sources of further information

[www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)