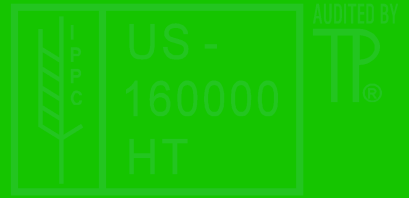


# TP

# HT NEWS



February 2010 Issue

## AUSTRALIA-

**Remains Bark Free**-- In addition to ISPM15 requirements, Australia also has a ZERO tolerance for bark on wood packaging material and dunnage.

Australia acknowledges that bark around knots, bark pockets between rings of annual growth, and inclusions in the vascular cambium are difficult to remove. However these have the potential to harbor quarantine risk materials such as fungal spores, fungal decays and insects.

Where bark is found on wood packaging material or dunnage entering Australia, one of the options below will be applied to the consignment to address bark related quarantine risks:

- the consignment will be ordered for heat treatment, fumigation or gamma irradiation.
- the consignment will be ordered to have the bark removed at a Quarantine Approved Premise. After the bark has been removed, the consignment will be inspected to verify that bark has been removed and that there is no quarantine risk remaining, such as insects.
- the consignment will be re-exported or destroyed.

All options will be at the importer's expense.

For more details, <http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/timber/bark>

**No Longer Requires Plywood To Have An Origin Date**-- The quarantine requirement for plywood/ veneer used only as packaging material with imported goods has changed. Australia no longer requires a "Newly Manufactured Plywood Declaration" for plywood/veneer packaging material. This is effective immediately. Documents presented that include the newly manufactured plywood/veneer packaging declaration will still continue to be accepted.

For more details, <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/ian/09/63-2009>

**Tests Blue Stain**-- According to the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Australia uses the presence of blue stain as a visual cue for further testing wood packaging material for the presence of harmful pests (many countries associate the presence of blue stain with decreased tree health due to possible stresses from the presence of harmful pests, hence the correlation and testing). In Australia, the importer is required to pay for everything: testing, demurge, multiple inspections, and treatment. To cut their losses, most importers with items targeted for testing will go ahead and pay for the shipment to be treated instead of paying thousands to wait and [possibly] find out it must be treated anyway.

The USDA says this is legal and untouchable. A country has the right to perform a test if they think a pest is present, and the importer has the right to opt for treatment. Australia does not report these as noncompliances, so there is no official record; only concerned businesses proactively protecting Australia. The Australian system does not even give the USDA the opportunity of getting a pest identification.

When sending items to Australia, understand that just because your wood packaging was treated does not mean your wood packaging was infested.

For more information on Australia import regulations, go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

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