



E-News

From NWPCA

Australia Has “Zero Tolerance for Bark”

In addition to ISPM15 requirements, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has a “ZERO tolerance for bark on timber packaging and dunnage.” Bark is the external natural growth layer covering trees and branches. All timber, solid wood packaging and timber products imported to Australia must be BARK FREE.

This standard is different from the debarking requirements applied by the European Union. To see Australia’s examples of “bark contamination” click on the AQIS link below:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/timber/bark>

Where bark is found on timber or wood products, including timber packaging and dunnage, one of the options below will be applied to the consignment to address bark related quarantine risks:

- The consignment will be ordered for dry heat treatment, ethylene oxide 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 removed bark will be destroyed by an AQIS approved method
- The consignment will be re-exported or destroyed.

All options will be at the importer's expense. For further details please refer to the [Import Conditions Database \(ICON\)](#).