

Implementation of Wood Packaging Standards

From 1st May 2006, new requirements will come into effect with respect to wood packaging in import containers. There has been a revision of the Import Health Standard for wood packing. The consultation period for the standard has ended after MAF received significant input and new requirements have been decided upon.

A number of stakeholders identified the need for additional time to prepare for the import requirements outlined in the standard. To allow time to come into compliance, MAF has decided that although the new standard will come into effect on the 1st of May 2006, the enforcement of the standard will be phased in over the next two months according to the schedule below.

Wood packaging arriving after 1st May 2006:

1. New Import Health Standard for Wood Packaging enters into force.
2. Wood packaging should comply with the import requirements
3. MAF will risk profile all consignments and select a subset for inspection
4. Any wood packaging found to be infested with pests will be treated, reshipped or destroyed.
5. Wood packaging found to be free of pests may be granted biosecurity clearance.
6. MAFQS will tag non-compliant wood packaging with advisory notice.

Wood packaging arriving after 1st June 2006:

1. Wood packaging must comply with import requirements
2. MAF will risk profile all consignments and select a subset for inspection
3. Any untreated or uncertified wood packaging found will be treated, destroyed or refused entry, regardless of whether pests are found.
4. A notice of non-compliance will be issued for any untreated or uncertified wood packaging.
5. Information from these non-compliances will be used to feedback into the risk profiling system, meaning that importers who develop a history of non-compliance will more frequently be selected for inspection.

NEW ZEALAND BORDER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

With reference to the above, kindly be advised that New Zealand border authorities have introduced new bio-security regulations, effecting all shipments entering New Zealand after July 1st 2006.

All Shipments Entering New Zealand after July 1st 2006 must comply

Any wood packaging material (pallets, dunnage etc) must be pre-treated so it meets the ISPM15 standard (and the stamp evidencing this must be marked on the wood, by the pallet supplier) and this includes LCL, air-cargo, FCL, breakbulk, etc). FCL containers may be alternatively treated with methyl bromide and an original certificate must be available to present to New Zealand border authorities as proof of fumigation. If not, Ministry Of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF), will impound the shipment and order the shipment to be quarantined at the arrival terminal and will undergo inspection, incur extra MAF costs, incur a MAF penalty fine, incur extra treatment costs, and the shipment will face lengthy delays.

Revised documentation for containers

MAF also has amended the Container Packing Declarations, and this must be used on ALL SEA CONTAINERS shipped to New Zealand FCL as well as consolidated FAK's. Please find attached a copy of the new MAF Supplier Packing Declaration, this amended Declaration is needed for every container entering New Zealand must cover every FCL arriving New Zealand on or after August 1st 2006, so please ensure imports of FCL's to New Zealand complete a copy of this declaration for every container.