



Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 4/2/2001

GAIN Report #CH1011

China, Peoples Republic of

Solid Wood Products

China Announces Quarantine Requirements for Logs 2001

Approved by:

Larry Senger

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Ralph Bean/Freda Chao

Report Highlights:

China has recently announced that pest-free certificates will be required for all imported logs. In addition, logs including bark will require additional treatment. These changes could have a substantial impact on trade.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1], CH

New Quarantine Requirements for Imported Logs

The Chinese government has issued a joint circular requiring certification that all imports of logs are pest-free, effective July 1. Logs with bark will also require special treatment, including a certificate detailing the method of treatment, including chemicals, temperature and time of treatment. Any logs without pest-free certificates or logs with bark that have not received special treatment will not be allowed to enter the country. If quarantine pests are found in logs, treatment will be undertaken at the importer's expense. The translated text of the announcement is included below.

The announcement comes in response to claims by the State Administration of Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine (SAIQ) that over 250 species of pests had been detected in imported logs over the past four years. There are numerous details that remain unclear, particularly with respect to the acceptable treatment schedules for imported logs. SAIQ has stated that it will address these issues in a supplementary circular to be issued in April. At present, government sources say that the July 1 deadline will apply to the date of arrival in China, rather than the date of shipment from the source country. This, however, may change, as SAIQ will take into account the input that it receives from importers and exporters prior to issuing the April circular.

Industry officials believe that the new regulations could have a substantial effect on trade, though the full impact will not be known until the regulation is further clarified. It should be noted that the new regulations will have more impact on overseas imports than on cross-border trade. The ability of the Chinese government to monitor and enforce requirements on trade over its remote border areas with Russia and Southeast Asia cannot match that of its port facilities. In addition, smuggling is commonplace in cross-border trade with both Russia and Southeast Asia.

Translated Text of SAIQ Circular on Log Imports

(Unofficial translation)

Announcement

State Administration for Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China
General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China
State Forestry Bureau of the People's Republic of China
Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of the People Republic of China

Public Notice No. 2, 2001

Our state entry-exit quarantine inspection organizations have intercepted and captured a large number of forest pests from imported logs in recent years. According to the PRA [pest risk assessment] reports done by our experts, most of the pests intercepted and captured are subject to quarantine. In order to prevent harmful forest pests from entering China in the imported logs; to protect our forests, ecological environment and tourism resources; and based on the "Entry-Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine Law of the PRC" and its implementation regulations, we now announce the relevant quarantine requirements for imported logs as follows:

1. Official quarantine organizations of exporting countries or regions of the imported logs must present Phyto-sanitary Certificates to verify that the logs carry no pests subject to quarantine or other injurious species or soil which are specified in the bilateral agreement on phyto-sanitary quarantine.
2. Imported logs with bark should be effectively treated locally, and the phyto-sanitary certificates should indicate the methods, chemicals, dosage, treatment time and temperatures. Imported logs without bark should be stated in the phyto-sanitary certificates.
3. Imported logs without phyto-sanitary certificates, and logs with bark which have not been specially treated are not allowed to enter into China. If the exit-entry quarantine and inspection organizations find pests subject to quarantine while the imported logs are under quarantine, the importer should carry out special treatment under supervision. The importers are responsible for all expenses of the treatments. If no treatment can be done, the logs should be returned to the country of origin.
4. The importers should put the above quarantine requirement in written to the trade contracts.
5. The Customs of each entry port should strengthen the supervision and management of log imports. Logs meeting the quarantine requirement will need the "Certificate of import commodity clearance" issued by entry-exit quarantine organizations to start the Customs clearance paper work.
6. This Announcement shall go into effect as of July 1, 2001.

February 6, 2001