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POLICY

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Mexico

Post: Mexico

Change to Certificates Required to Export Lumber to Mexico

Report Categories:

Wood Products

Approved By:

David Wolf

Prepared By:

Alicia Hernandez

Report Highlights:

On December 16, 2014, Mexico notified in the Diario Oficial (Mexico's Federal Register) a simplification of the import process for lumber. Beginning January 16, 2015, imports of lumber from the United States will no longer need a phytosanitary certificate from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to enter Mexico. Instead, a certificate from an APHIS-approved company detailing the treatment applied will be sufficient. This change does not apply to green or wet wood.

General Information:

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcements and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulations in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

On December 16, 2014, Mexico notified in the Diario Oficial (Mexico's Federal Register) a simplification of the import process for lumber. The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) has accepted the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) proposal to permit various lumber risk mitigation measures including heat treatment, kiln-drying, and methyl bromide fumigation. Beginning January 16, 2015, imports of lumber from the United States will no longer need a phytosanitary certificate from APHIS to enter Mexico. Instead, a certificate from an APHIS-approved company detailing the treatment applied will be sufficient. This change does not apply to green or wet wood.

Norma Oficial Mexicana-16, more commonly known as NOM-16, was published in the Diario Oficial on March 4, 2013. NOM-16 regulates phytosanitary requirements on lumber and established the acceptable treatments to import lumber into Mexico. The following are acceptable treatments for lumber destined for Mexico:

- 1) Kiln-drying
- 2) Heat treatment
- 3) Methyl bromide fumigation

Mexico's recent publication recognized that APHIS has developed a certification program that authorizes certain specialized companies to apply phytosanitary treatments similar to those outlined in NOM-16 to U.S. lumber bound for Mexico. As a result, certificates from those specialized, APHIS-approved companies will now be sufficient proof that the lumber underwent an acceptable phytosanitary treatment prior to entering Mexico.

Lumber importers are responsible for presenting the certificate from the APHIS-approved company that applied the treatment to the lumber contained in the shipment at the point of entry into Mexico.

The certificate must attest to compliance with the following requirements of NOM-16:

3.11-Kiln-drying: Lumber subjected to an artificial drying process in a dryer or kiln with a heat content equal or lesser than 18 percent expressed as a percentage of its non-water weight.

3.12-Air-dried lumber: Lumber subjected to an air dry process with the humidity content approximately in balance with the surrounding environment.

3.21-Methyl Bromide Treatment: Treatment with a gaseous chemical agent.

3.22-Heat Treatment: Process through which lumber is subjected to a heat until it reaches a minimum constant temperature for a defined period of time according to the specifications of the regulation.

Important Dates:

1. **Publication Date:** December 16, 2014
2. **Effective Date:** January 16, 2015

For More Information:

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com.mx or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico

Report Number	Title of Report	Date Submitted
MX3020	Mexico Finalizes Phytosanitary Regulations for Imports of Lumber	03/07/2013
MX2039	Mexico Modifying Rules Related to Lumber Imports	06/25/2012