

Non-Commodity for Containerised Cargo Scheme

AQIS Industry Notice 23-2009 outlines a number of important changes that will be coming into force on 1st August 2009.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/ian/09/23-2009>

Some of the changes having major impacts are:

Change to the treatment of Plywood and Veneer packaging

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has reviewed the acceptance of Newly Manufactured Plywood/ Veneer Certificates for Plywood and Veneer used as packaging material in all imported shipments.

Currently Plywood and Veneer packaging requires a Newly Manufactured Plywood/ Veneer Certificate, confirming that the packaging has not been pre used, and is new. Further, the packaging must be shipped within 21 days of manufacture for plywood and veneer from Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Western Samoa and 3 months for Plywood and Veneer from all other countries to be released without further intervention from AQIS.

AQIS has adopted a new policy for the acceptable treatment of Plywood and Veneer used as packaging material.

The following requirements will be introduced from the 1st of August 2009. All shipments entered on or after this day must meet the above new conditions where Plywood or Veneer packaging is used.

Plywood and Veneer used as packaging material will require to be treated with an AQIS approved treatment prior to import or release from Quarantine. It will no longer be acceptable to use a Newly Manufactured Plywood Products Certificate.

The ISPM 15 standards do not apply to Plywood and Veneer that has been used as packaging material (e.g. pallets and crates). And as such these packaging materials require to be treated with an AQIS approved method / standard such as methyl bromide and supported by the appropriate certification / documentation. The Packing Declaration needs to be marked that timber packaging has been used.

Failure to comply with these conditions will see consignments either ordered for an approved treatment, re-export or destruction.

Where a Packing Declaration indicates that the timber used in an import shipment is marked as being ISPM 15 compliant but there is evidence that the packaging includes Plywood or Veneer, the shipment must be referred to AQIS for further assessment.

Methyl bromide fumigation certificates – plastic wrapping declaration

A plastic wrapping declaration is **currently not a mandatory** requirement on all methyl bromide fumigation certificates

As of 1st August 2009 all treatment certificates issued for the **fumigations using methyl bromide must include a Plastic Wrap Declaration.**

More details can be found in the "Minimum Documentary Requirements Policy" which can be accessed per the web link at the top of this notice

Prohibited Packaging Materials Statement

The previously used "**Straw Packaging Declaration**" will no longer be acceptable and has been replaced by the "**Prohibited Packaging Materials Statement**" which must be issued by the packer or supplier of the goods. The extract from the non commodity policy document which can be accessed via the web link above reads as follows

13 NON-COMMODITY CONCERN STATEMENTS (PACKAGING MATERIALS)

PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL STATEMENT (SUCH AS STRAW, BAMBOO, PEAT, HAY, CHAFF, USED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CARTONS ETC)

Various cargo types require a statement indicating whether prohibited packaging material has been used in the packaging of the consignment as indicated at Section 9.

The prohibited packaging material statement must read as follows:

"Have prohibited packaging materials or bamboo products been used as packaging or dunnage in the consignment covered by this document?" Yes/No

AQIS will accept prohibited packaging material statements on the following documents:

- Packing declaration*
- Packing List or Invoice*

AQIS ACTION IN RELATION TO PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL STATEMENT

No further action is required for packaging concerns where an acceptable prohibited packaging material statement is provided. In all other instances, consignments will be directed for inspection and/or treatment.

Attachment 1 provides an example of an acceptable packing declaration that includes the new statement

Attachment 2 provides an example of an acceptable annual packing declaration. The revised requirements will not be enforced till 1st January 2010 to allow sufficient time for the reissues of these declarations

Please note that these declarations / statements may only be supplied by the packer or supplier of the goods

Company Letterhead

(MUST be issued by the packer or supplier of the goods, and MUST include the company's name AND address)

FCL or LCL PACKING DECLARATION

[Boxes to be marked with an X in the appropriate place]

Vessel Name: Voyage Number:

Consignment identifier(s) or Numerical Link(s):

.....**PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL**

STATEMENT

(Prohibited packaging materials include *straw, bamboo, peat, hay, chaff, used fruit and vegetable cartons etc.*)

Q1. Have prohibited packaging materials or bamboo products been used as packaging or dunnage in the consignment covered by this document?

A1. YES NO

TIMBER PACKAGING/DUNNAGE STATEMENT

(Timber packaging/dunnage includes: crates, cases, pallets, skids, and any other timber used as a shipping aid.)

Q2a. Has Timber packaging/dunnage been used in consignments covered by this document?

A2a. YES NO

ISPM 15 STATEMENT

Q2b. All timber packaging/dunnage used in the consignment has been treated and marked in compliance with ISPM 15?

A2b. YES NO

BARK STATEMENT

(This is also applicable to ISPM 15 compliant packaging/dunnage. Bark is the external natural layer covering trees and branches.)

Q3. Is all timber packaging/dunnage used in this consignment free from bark?

A3. YES NO

CLEANLINESS DECLARATION (For FCL consignments only)

The container(s) covered by this document has/have been cleaned and is/are free from material of animal and/or plant origin and soil.

Signed: Date of Issue:
(Company Representative)

Company Letterhead

(MUST be issued by the packer or supplier of the goods, and MUST include the company's name AND address)

FCL or LCL ANNUAL PACKING DECLARATION

[Boxes to be marked with an X in the appropriate place.]

PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL STATEMENT

(Prohibited packaging materials include straw, bamboo, peat, hay, chaff, *used fruit and vegetable cartons* etc.)

Q1. Have prohibited packaging materials or bamboo products been used as packaging or dunnage in the consignment covered by this document?

A1. YES NO

TIMBER PACKAGING/DUNNAGE STATEMENT

(Timber packaging/dunnage includes: crates, cases, pallets, skids, and any other timber used as a shipping aid.)

Q2a. Has timber packaging/dunnage been used in consignments covered by this document?

A2a. YES NO

ISPM 15 Statement

Q2b. All timber packaging/dunnage used in the consignment has been treated and marked in compliance with ISPM15 compliant stamps?

A2b. YES NO

BARK STATEMENT

(This is also applicable to ISPM 15 compliance packaging/dunnage. Bark is the external natural layer covering trees and branches.)

Q3 . Is all timber packaging/dunnage used in this consignment, free from bark?

A3. YES NO

VALIDITY STATEMENT

On behalf of (Supplier's Business Name), I hereby declare that the information and statements above are true and correct. This declaration is **valid for 12 months from the date of issue** and I undertake to immediately advise AQIS of any change to the information provided.

CLEANLINESS DECLARATION (for FCL consignments only)

All container(s) packed by this business for..... (Importer's Business Name) and covered by this declaration will be cleaned free from residues of previous cargo and will be free from material of animal and/or plant origin and soil before packing.

Signed: Date of Issue:

(Company Representative)