

**BU-[text removed]**

[text removed]

Dear [text removed]:

This is in response to your letters [text removed], on behalf of a U.S. Company [text removed], requesting clarification as to whether containers of Burmese teak lumber, sawn in third countries [text deleted] and leaving from those ports, are able to be imported into the United States if the shipments arrive after August 27, 2003.

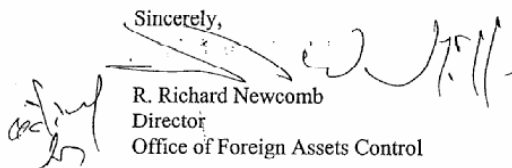
Executive Order 13310 prohibits the importation into the United States of any article that is a product of Burma, beginning 30 days after the effective date of the E.O. E.O. 13310, section 3.

Pursuant to the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (July 28, 2003), OFAC cannot authorize the importation of any product of Burma after August 27, 2003, unless the President issues a national interest waiver for that product. The Secretary of State has been granted the authority to act on behalf of the President in issuing such waivers, but he has not done so for post-August 27 importations from Burma.

It appears from the materials you have provided that the Burmese lumber has been transformed into finished products of third countries [text deleted], but that is a matter for Customs to decide. If under the Customs Rules of Origin, the Burmese lumber was "substantially transformed" in a third country, then the goods would not be considered products of Burma and are not prohibited from importation by Executive Order 13310. The US Customs Service is the primary authority that could ultimately determine whether or not a good is of Burmese origin and it would be most appropriate to contact them to determine if the finished teak products indeed satisfy the threshold standard.

If you have additional questions concerning the U.S. economic sanctions programs administered by OFAC, please visit our Website at [www.treas.gov/ofac](http://www.treas.gov/ofac) or call our office at (202) 622-2480.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
  
R. Richard Newcomb  
Director  
Office of Foreign Assets Control