

New Timber Quarantine Processing Facility in China

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reported that China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) is nearing completion of a new timber quarantine processing facility, located in the southern province of Fujian in the port of Putian Xiuyu. The facility will represent China's first and only combined quarantine and treatment facility for imported logs and will have the capacity to treat logs with bark. Current Chinese import regulations stipulate that shipments of logs with bark be fumigated with methyl bromide prior to entry and have a phytosanitary certificate.

This is especially welcome news for Alaskan log exporters, because fumigation in Alaska is not feasible. Due to the unique terrain and isolated geographic area, the Alaskan log industry operates across numerous archipelagos and roadless areas, precluding transportation of logs to centralized fumigation points. In addition, for most of the year, the climate is too cold to allow for efficacious fumigations. For these reasons, it has been a challenge for Alaskan exporters to treat in accordance with Chinese regulations and obtain phytosanitary certificates from APHIS. A temporary solution had been arranged by APHIS for exporters to transship logs with bark through Japan, where they were fumigated before arriving in China. In 2004, log exports from the Anchorage, Alaska customs district to China were valued at \$2.5 million.

Officials from AQSIQ reported that they will approve the importation of untreated logs with bark once the timber quarantine processing facility at the Xiuyu Port is completed. APHIS officials would then issue phytosanitary certificates for untreated logs with bark exported to China.

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