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AQSIQ Entry Wood Packing Material Requirements Finalized (SPS/42)

2005

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Report Highlights:

On January 31, 2005 the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine, the Customs General Administration, the Ministry of Commerce, and the State Forestry Administration released 2005 Joint Announcement No. 11 on the requirements of entry wood packing materials. The new requirements enter into force on January 1, 2006. A draft version of this document was first notified to the WTO on December 8, 2003 in G/SPS/N/CHN/42. The final announcement does not contain any details on proposed phytosanitary treatment measures. This report is a free UNOFFICIAL translation provided for the benefit of U.S. exporters by the USDA FAS Agricultural Affairs Office in Beijing.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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Disclaimer

Information in this translated report may not be completely accurate either because policies may change when the regulation is adopted, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. Therefore, U.S. exporters should try to verify all import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best informed, before any goods are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry. In the event of any errors or omissions in this translation, the original Chinese version shall prevail.

Background

On January 31, 2005 The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the Customs General Administration (Customs), the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), and the State Forestry Administration (SFA) published Joint Announcement 2005 No. 11 on the requirements of entry wood packing material. The original document is available in Chinese at:

http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn/cms/template/item_dzwjy.html?did=1720&cid=1011\13800

The new regulations are scheduled to enter into force on January 1, 2006. A draft of the decree was first circulated for comments on December 8, 2003 through the World Trade Organization, see announcement G/SPS/N/CHN/42.

Article 2 of these final measures indicates AQSIQ will separately announce the phytosanitary treatment measures.

BEGIN TRANSLATION**2005 No. 11 Joint Announcement**

By The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, The Customs General Administration, The Ministry of Commerce, and the State Forestry Administration (January 31, 2005)

In order to prevent the introduction of harmful forest organisms into the People's Republic of China that are associated with the entry of wood packing material and to protect domestic forests, the ecological environment, and tourism resources, in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and with reference to the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) "Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packing Material in International Trade," the above parties hereby announce the following quarantine requirements for entry wood packing material.

Article 1

Wood packing material specified in this announcement refers to wood material for carrying, packing, bedding, supporting and reinforcing cargo, such as crates, wooden crates, wooden frames, wooden pallets, wooden casks, shafts, wedges, wooden poles, sleepers, dunnage, etc.

The following are not included:

Synthetic or heat-treated wood packing material such as plywood and fiberboard;
Wooden material such as veneer peeler cores [from plywood production], sawdust, fine wooden shavings/wool, wooden chips, and wooden material with a thickness not exceeding 6 millimeters.

Article 2

Entry cargo wood packing should be treated by authorized organizations of the plant inspection and quarantine offices in the exporting countries or territories with phytosanitary treatment measures accepted by China. The IPPC special mark as approved by the official plant quarantine offices should be presented. Phytosanitary treatment measures will be released by AQSIQ separately.

Article 3

For entry cargo using wood packing, the owner or his agent, should request inspection from the Inspection and Quarantine Office (CIQ) and cooperate with CIQ during the inspection. CIQ will punish, in accordance with relevant regulations, those who do not request inspection.

Article 4

CIQ is responsible for clarifying and managing the inspection of entry wood packing; strengthening communications with other departments, such as shipping agencies and Customs offices; and examining information, such as the shipping list (bill of lading), in order to focus inspections on cargo that frequently uses wood packing materials.

Article 5

For the entry cargo using wood packing that is included in the CIQ "List of the Entry-Exit Commodities Subject to Inspection and Quarantine" (hereinafter referred to as "List"), CIQ should issue the "Clearance Note of Entry Goods" and subject the wood packing to inspection and quarantine. For entry cargo using wood packing that is not included in the List, CIQ should subject wood packing to inspection and quarantine after the cargo is released by Customs.

Article 6

For those wood packing marks not in compliance with the requirements or when harmful, live organisms are found during inspection, the cargo owner, or his agent, should under the supervision of CIQ, subject the wood packing to phytosanitary treatment, destroy, or return the wood packing together with the cargo. The owner should cover the expense. Cargo with wood packing subject to the inspection and quarantine cannot be used until the wood packing is inspected and meets the requirement.

Article 7

The regulations in this announcement also apply to wood packing coming from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

Article 8

The announcement becomes effective January 1, 2006. The previous announcement on quarantine regulations for entry wood packing is terminated at the same time. Prior to the official implementation of the new regulations, the CIQ office should accept entry wood packing declarations that meet the requirements of Article 2.

It is hereby announced.

[issued]
AQSIQ, Customs
MOFCOM, SFA
Jan. 31, 2005

END TRANSLATION