

## IMPORTING UNMANUFACTURED TIMBER TO OREGON

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**Chestnut blight... gypsy moth... Dutch elm disease... pine shoot beetle... What do they all have in common?** They are all non-indigenous (exotic) organisms that have devastated or are threatening American forests and urban landscapes. Native tree species have no natural protection against these exotic forest insects and pathogens. For example, the American chestnut, which once dominated the forests of eastern North America, has been driven into virtual extinction by an exotic fungal pathogen. Dutch elm disease and its exotic insect vector have forever changed America's urban landscapes. These and other exotic pests and pathogens cost Americans an estimated \$123 billion annually in economic and environmental losses.

One of the ways exotic forest insects and pathogens can enter the United States is on imported, untreated timber products. To monitor that means of entry, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) started the Imported Timber Products Inspection Program. The goal of the program is to protect Oregon's forests, Christmas tree plantations, agriculture and urban land-

scapes by preventing the introduction and establishment of exotic forest insects and pathogens. Pest exclusion is accomplished through regulations and inspections of untreated timber and wood products imported into the state. Since 1991, ODA inspectors have examined over 50 million board feet of untreated timber and timber products for exotic pests and pathogens.

### State Regulations

Oregon Administrative Rules 603-052-1100 to 603-052-1130 establish fees to support the inspection and monitoring of imported untreated timber. *Treated timber products, those that have been processed so as to completely eliminate all potential insect pests and plant pathogens [i. e. kiln-dried or sterilized with dry heat at 71.1°C (160°F) for 75 minutes measured at the core], are not assessed fees and typically do not require inspection.* "Imported" means timber products from any source outside North America and includes those states in Mexico that are not adjacent to the United States.

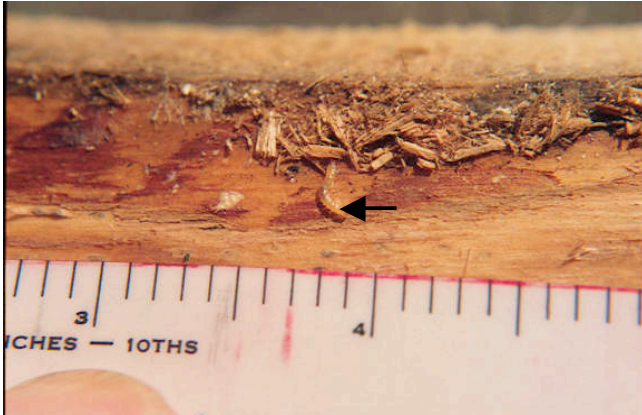
ODA must be notified at least 7 days in advance of the estimated date of each shipment's arrival. Notification must include:

- Estimated date and time of arrival
- Planned unloading site(s)
- Estimated unloading time
- Contact person, phone & FAX numbers

Within 21 days after the shipment's arrival, the importer must present ODA with a copy of the bill of lading and the scaling bureau scale certificate(s). The scaling certificates are used to assess the fees for importation.



ODA Inspectors examining Monterey pine logs from New Zealand.



*Insect larvae found on Russian railroad ties (←).  
The larvae were killed by fumigation.*

Fees are assessed according to the following schedule:

- Wood chips: \$0.50/bone dry ton
- Timber products other than chips: \$5/1,000 board feet (bd ft)
- Minimum charge: \$50

Fees must be paid within 30 days. If no scaling certificate is supplied, the department will use the following conversion factors to determine the fee:  $4.8 \text{ m}^3 = 1,000 \text{ bd ft}$  for logs or  $2.4 \text{ m}^3 = 1,000 \text{ bd ft}$  for lumber applied to the quantities listed on the bill of lading.

## Federal Regulations

The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for the nationwide establishment and enforcement of plant pest regulations for imported wood. *Permits from APHIS are required for the importation of any unmanufactured wood products to the U. S.* Please see Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 300 and 319, for more information. Applications for permits may be obtained from Deborah Knott, USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Permit Unit, 4700 River Road, Unit 136, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, or may be

downloaded from the Internet at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

Current federal regulations allow the importation of any unmanufactured timber products if the timber is treated as follows prior to importation (Universal Importation Options, CFR319.40-6):

- Timber is debarked such that <2% of the total surface area of all regulated articles retain bark (raw lumber must be 100% bark-free);
- Timber is heat treated; and
- Timber is protected against reinfestation.

However, federal treatment requirements vary depending upon the country of origin and the type and species of timber product imported. *Anyone interested in importing unmanufactured timber to the U. S. should review the complete text of the federal regulations.* The complete text can be found in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 300 and 319, or on the Internet at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

## For further information, please contact:

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