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China, Peoples Republic of

Solid Wood Products

China Announces Wood Substitution Policy Guidelines

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Report Highlights:

On November 29, 2005, China's General Office of the State Council released its Document No. 58 of 2005, - "Accelerating the Conservation and Substitution of Wood Resources". This report is a free UNOFFICIAL translation provided for the benefit of U.S. exporters by USDA/FAS's Office of Agricultural Affairs in Beijing.

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Executive Summary

On November 29, 2005, China's General Office of the State Council released its Document No. 58 of 2005, - "Accelerating the Conservation and Substitution of Wood Resources". The document is an advisory policy guideline, not a mandatory standard. This report contains a translation of that document. (Note: Currently, Post expects the policy will not impede China's wood imports. Please refer GAIN [CH6052](#) for more information of Post's views on the new policy.

Disclaimer

In the event of any errors or omissions in this translation, the original Chinese version shall prevail.

Report Text

About the Translation: The language of the original document was highly formalized, bureaucratic Mandarin Chinese that was difficult for even native Chinese speakers to read and comprehend. Consequently, this document was very difficult for even the most experienced translator to translate to a readable form of English. While Post made every effort to stay true to the original Chinese text, a small amount of interpretative license was taken when necessary to make it more comprehensible in English.

[Begin Translation]

*"Opinion on How to Accelerate the Conservation and Substitution of Wood Resources"
Submitted by the General Office of the State Council to the attention of the Development and Reform Commission (NRDC) and other Ministries*

The General Office State Council has recently transmitted to the attention of the Development and Reform Commission and other Ministries its, *"Opinion on How to Accelerate the Conservation and Substitution of Wood Resources."* The General Office of the State Council therefore informs NRDC and the other Ministries that following the approval of the State Council concerning its *"Opinion on How to Accelerate the Conservation and Substitution of Wood Resources"* all the concerned regions and their related departments shall strictly implement it.

The following integral text concerning the *"Opinion on How to Accelerate the Conservation and Substitution of Wood Resources:"* shall be jointly issued by the NDRC, Ministry of Sciences and Technology, Ministry of Finance., Ministry of Personnel, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce General Administration of Taxation, General Administration of Quality and Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, State Environmental Protection Administration and State Forestry Administration:

China has been actively developing wood resource conservation and substitution for a long period of time and has obtained remarkable results by implementing the comprehensive utilization of by products of timber production and processing, wood preservation methods, old discarded wood products, recycling and re-use methods and by substituting wood with non-wooden materials. Wood resource conservation and substitution, however, is still inadequate to meet the needs of economic social development. Wood consumption patterns and structure are irrational and the levels of recycling, processing and conservatory measures are relatively low. Therefore, in accordance with the spirit of the *"Notification issued by the State Council Regarding [China's] Key Development Project for the Preparation of a Society Based on a Resources Efficiency Model"* (Guofa [2005] number 21) the following

opinion about how to accelerate the conservation and substitution of wood resources is submitted hereafter to increase the rate of wood resource utilization, protect the resources of forests and their natural environment and favor foster a harmonious development between man and nature.

1- Thorough Understanding About the Importance of Wood Resource Conservation and Substitution

- 1- Wood resources conservation and substitution represents the main means to achieve a sustainable use of wood resources and alleviate the imbalance between wood supply and demand. China is a country where wood resources are in short supply, forest coverage represents only 3/5 of the average worldwide rate and per capita forest is less than 1/4 of the average worldwide rate. With the constant increase in wood consumption, the imbalance between supply and demand is becoming acute. It is therefore of the utmost importance to accelerate the conservation and substitution of wood resources to meet the market demand, control the logging quotas, maintain the ecological balance, encourage a sustainable utilization of wood resources and preserve the image of China as a country that actively protects its natural resources.
- 2- Wood resources conservation and substitution represents a necessary condition to the development of a recycling based economy and to the construction of a society based on a resource efficiency model. Presently China's overall utilization of its wood resources represents only 60%, whereas the rate for developed countries has reached more than 80%. Only 1% of commercial wood production is treated for preservation, which is far lower than the worldwide average level currently at 15%. Consumption patterns and production methods are irrational, wood processing is low tech and recycling methods are far from ideal thus creating a serious waste of wood resources. It has therefore become an urgent and necessary task to ensure that wood resource conservation and substitution not only be integrated to the development of a recycling based economy, but also will be part of the building of a society based on a resource efficiency model. Similarly, all the necessary attention shall be paid to the overall utilization of resources conservation and further efforts shall be made by exploiting wood resources' full potential, optimizing the utilization of wood resources and recycling methods, and reduce the irrational consumption of wood resources.

2- Basic Principles and Main Objectives

- 1- Basic Principles: according to China's current situation [the following basic principles should be applied]: combine the principle of market development system with governmental macro control, combine the principle of industrial structure adjustment with technological progress, combine the principle of reinforcement in supervision management with policy incentives, combine the principle of prominent focuses with complete progress, combine the principle of enterprise as a global entity with the public participation of society's main players
- 2- Main objectives: by 2010 a body of law and regulations, standards, policies and information service system concerning the conservation and substitution of wood resources duly adapted to the socialist and market economy shall be tentatively established. The acceleration of the utilization of new techniques, technologies for wood conservation and substitution, the standardization and popularization of newly developed products shall enable China to develop a resource efficiency and environmentally friendly model for the production and consumption of its wood and wood substitution products. China's overall wood utilization rate will increase beyond 65% and about 5% of the national commercial wood production will be treated. About 40-50 million cubic meters of

wood will be saved annually and shall effectively solve China's imbalance between wood supply and demand.

3- Key Phases and Key Points (actions):

- 1- *Developing a Highly Efficient Wood Processing Industry and Optimizing (increasing) the Utilization Rate of Wood Resources:* we shall implement an engineering digital control of wood processing machinery, develop extended scientific research and manufacturing sites for fine wood machinery and increase the proportion of digitally controlled wood processing machinery. By selecting some large scale wood processing enterprises and set as an example quota-based productions for wooden products made from raw material, shall advance the standardization, systematization and intensive production for wood and all its related wood products and accessories as it shall reinforce quality management for those wood processing enterprises. We shall reinforce quality certification and popularize quality brands for those key industries with high tech possessing machinery such as wood based panels, flooring and furniture, etc. We shall popularize the use of modern methods for log exploitation. Collective transportation and production and encourage the overall utilization of lop wood and thereby greatly reduce waste during the different production phases. The use of artificially planted and fast growing forests shall be expanded and those resources, such as by products and imperfect wood, shall be fully used during wood production and processing.
- 2- *Promoting Techniques for Wood Protection and Expanding the Useful Life of Wooden Products:* we shall accelerate the implementation of wood preservation and industrialization of plantation timber modification, focus our effort on developing and producing different types of highly effective wood treatment chemicals that have low toxicity. We shall achieve the standardization and implementation of a system for wood protection products, set up and perfect a system based on quality tests for wood protection products. Implementing such a wood conservancy project shall encourage protective measures, such as wood treatments for pests, toxins, dryness, flammability, and alteration. We shall focus on wood protective measures related to wooden structures used in constructions such as windows, doors, floorings, garden landscape, wooden railroad sleepers, wooden pit in mines, wooden fishing boats, and supporting wooden structures used in agriculture, increasing the proportion of treated wood, improve wood's performance, and prolong wood's useful life.
- 3- *Setting up a System for Recycling Discarded and Unused Wood and Achieving the Utilization of wood resources recycling:* We shall standardize the various recycling channels for discarded and unused wood and set up a system for recycling, processing and utilization of discarded and unused wood and its related products. Second hand wood markets shall be expended to the possible extent nearby medium or large sized cities and regions providing such conditions. We shall develop pilot zones for recycling discarded wood per category and promote the re-use of wood, implement an industrialization project for reusable discarded wood and focus on recycling and re-use of construction materials such as old furniture, disposable wooden products and wood packaging materials.
- 4- *Developing Wood Substitution and Optimizing Wood Consumption Patterns:* we shall advocate and encourage the production and utilization of wood substitution products, give priority to those wood substitution products and others green related goods whose economic, durable and recycling use is environmentally friendly and thus reduce irrational wood consumption. We shall actively substitute wooden products with processed other products by using resources such a wood-based panels, agricultural by products and bamboo, etc., therefore implementing an environmentally friendly program for wood substitution. During urban and rural construction works, priority should be given to the use of non wooden construction equipment and materials including recyclable non wooden material, extended use of steel, bamboo panels and scaffolding, etc. In forestry

and pasture areas, priority shall be given to non-wooden structure constructions. In packaging and transportation industries, we shall popularize the use of plastic, metal and bamboo materials etc. as well as non-wooden packaging and complex packaging made of wood and plastic. In railways and mining industries, we shall increase the utilization rate of metal, cement concrete forming and railroad sleepers. We shall restrict the utilization and production of wooden packages and disposable wooden products made of raw material derived from natural forest resources as we shall restrict any excessive wood packaging used for foods, beverages, wine products, and any other consumable product.

4 – Measures of guarantee

- 1- *Strict Formulation of the Program and Improving Regulations and Standards:* each concerned region and department shall regard wood resources conservation and substitution as a long-term strategic mission. *“The development plan for wood resource conservation and substitution”* shall be formulated under the leadership of NRDC and be integrated on the same level as the overall planning for the national economy and social development and special planning for the comprehensive use of resources. The implementation of the plan shall become effective by developing a practical and feasible plan for wood conservation and substitution. We shall accelerate the creation of a wood conservation and substitution legislation and enact clear regulations regarding wood conservation and substitution in the fields of production, construction, consumption etc. We shall strictly monitor market access, establish and improve the normalization, verification, certification and supervision systems for wood conservation and substitution. We shall conduct appraisals on the professional and technical abilities for those employees working in the wood related industry and implement a professional qualification system for those technical employees.
- 2- *Reinforcing the Policies Guideline and Enlarging the Scope of Technical Support:* we shall research and define in a national guideline catalogue of which techniques, equipment and products used in wood conservation and substitution shall be encouraged, prohibited or restricted in time. Wood conservation and substitution shall be considered as an important component in favorable policies concerning overall resource utilization. *“The policy outline for wood resource conservation and substitution technology”* shall be formulated by and under the leadership of NRDC together with the other related departments. A global application of economic policy tools such as financial policies, taxation, pricing, etc., shall concurrently encourage the development of wood conservation and substitution while restricting irrational production, use, and consumption pattern of wood resources. Enterprises shall contribute to accelerating and developing the technological achievements of industrialization. Each region and department shall respectively give all its necessary support in the areas of research, development, and extensive application of wood resources conservation and substitution with new techniques, technologies and new products, as they shall also focus in investment programs for wood conservation and substitution. Energy efficient methods, such as a reduced use of wood cooking stoves and the use of centralized heating systems shall be widely implemented, other new resources such as biogas, solar and wind energy shall be actively put in use to reduce the consumption that exhausts China’s natural forest resources.
- 3- *Ensuring Educational Communications and Shaping Public Opinion:* we shall reinforce educational communication measures and have them integrated into primary and middle schools teaching materials, the concept that wood conservation and substitution is an important part in energy saving so that such awareness will be raised from childhood among the Chinese citizens. Wood conservation and substitution shall also be set as a public interest issue and part of the media daily communication. Guidelines and supervision for the public shall be reinforced. Such behaviors that will consist in wasting wood natural resources will be exposed and constant self-awareness among citizens

regarding wood conservation, rational utilization of wood materials and wood substitution shall be reinforced. We shall take it one step further by encouraging the exchange of information and technical cooperation between China and the international players and draw upon their experience and methods regarding wood conservation and substitution.

- 4- *Specifying Responsibilities and Missions and Strengthening Group Leadership*: we shall reinforce group leadership and coordination regarding wood conservation and substitution, define responsibilities and constantly improve the management system and work methods for wood conservation and substitution. A concrete implementation of the Measures for the promotion of wood conservation and substitution shall be decided by NDRC with the State Forestry Administration and other related department based upon the need for responsibilities in work allocation. Statistics and information dissemination systems regarding wood conservation and substitution will be further established and improved by giving a full role to the concerned authorities and industry associations. [End Translation]

For More Information

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