



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

11/2007-08

AQIS Requirements for Permanent Preservative Treatments for Timber

This Industry Notice (11/2007-08) supersedes the previous Industry Notice (10/2007-08) issued on 18 October 2007. The reason for the change is a change in the date for introduction of the new permanent preservative treatment certificate from 1 November 2007 to 1 December 2007.

The purpose of this notice is to advise industry that AQIS is conducting a review of the “Cargo Containers – Quarantine Aspects and Procedures” Booklet (the Cargo Containers Booklet), available on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/cargoqap.

As part of this review, AQIS proposes to amend requirements for imported timber and timber products with respect to permanent preservatives as quarantine treatments, with effect from **1 May 2008**. AQIS requirements for all other timber treatments (fumigation, heat treatment, kiln drying, gamma irradiation) and ISPM 15 will remain unchanged.

AQIS welcomes comments on the details below, including how best to implement the changes. This formal comment period closes on 8 November 2007, and these comments will be taken into consideration during the phase in period, along with any other issues that may arise.

Summary of Proposed Changes Affecting Commodity Timber and Timber Packaging and Dunnage

- The two lists of AQIS approved permanent preservatives to be withdrawn on 1 May 2008.
- Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 to be the basis for acceptable quarantine treatment of permanently preserved timber imported into Australia. That is, permanently preserved timber must meet the requirements of Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 (or greater) or its overseas equivalent.
- Certification of permanent preservation in accordance with these standards to be an AQIS requirement.
- The content of the existing treatment provider’s Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificate to be changed to reflect new quarantine requirements. Sample certificates are contained in Attachments 2 and 3.
- The certificate will be trialled alongside the existing treatment certificate until 1 May 2008, when the old certificate would be withdrawn.

Summary of Proposed Changes Affecting Timber Components of Cargo Containers

- The two lists of AQIS approved permanent preservatives to be withdrawn on 1 May 2008.
- Timber components of cargo containers to be treated to Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 (or greater) or its overseas equivalent.
- The quarantine risk of cargo containers with timber components to be monitored through existing AQIS surveillance and AQIS may conduct audits if changes in risk status are identified.

Further Information

Additional details are provided in Attachments 1, 2 and 3.

For further information, or to submit comments, please contact the AQIS Sea Cargo Unit on telephone, 02 6272 3390 or by email, treat.inspect@aqis.gov.au.

ATTACHMENT 1 - AQIS Requirements for Permanent Preservative Treatments for Timber

1. Current Approach

Approval of treatments

AQIS currently maintains lists of permanent preservative treatments for solid timber and for plywood and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) in the Cargo Containers Booklet. AQIS also assesses applications for new permanent preservative treatments to be approved for quarantine purposes. If approved, these new treatments are added to the relevant list in this publication.

The permanent preservative treatments listed in the Cargo Containers Booklet have been approved as quarantine treatments for AQIS's clearance purposes only. Their inclusion on these lists is based on requirements for Hazard Class H2 set out in the following three parts of Australian Standard[®] 1604 for timber preservative treatments:

- AS1604.1 Specification for preservative treatment - sawn and round timber;
- AS1604.3 Specification for preservative treatment – plywood; and
- AS1604.4 Specification for preservative treatment – Laminated Veneer Lumber.

Certification

At present, imported timber that has been permanently preserved using one of these listed treatments must be accompanied by a Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificate, signed by the treatment provider.

If the permanently preserved timber has also undergone an AQIS approved non-permanent treatment (e.g. fumigation, heat treatment, kiln drying, gamma irradiation) prior to import, AQIS will also accept this non-permanent treatment certification. Details of AQIS approved non-permanent treatments and the time limits which apply to their acceptance can be found on the AQIS Import Conditions Database (ICON) at www.aqis.gov.au/icon.

If preservative treated timber is imported without appropriate certification of permanent or non-permanent treatment, it will be directed for treatment onshore, re-exported or destroyed, with all options being at the importer's expense.

2. What would change?

2.1 Solid Timber, Plywood and LVL (commodity timber and timber packaging and dunnage)

New Certification Requirements

Certification of permanent preservation would continue to be an AQIS requirement, with the Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Level H2 (or greater) level of treatment being the basis for acceptable quarantine treatment for permanently preserved timber imported into Australia.

Specifically, AQIS would accept certification for imports of solid timber, plywood or LVL that have been permanently preserved in accordance with:

- Hazard Class H2 (or greater), of the appropriate part of Australian Standard[®] 1604 mentioned above; or

- A wood preservation technical specification officially recognised in another country or region (e.g. USA, European Union). The hazard or usage class must be equivalent to Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 (or greater).

The general requirements of Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 are protection from borers and termites for timber installed inside, above ground, protected from wetting, nil leaching. For full requirements, please refer to Australian Standard[®] 1604, or appropriate overseas standard.

Acceptable certification

Under the new requirements, AQIS will require Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificates to be signed and dated by the treatment provider, stating that the timber has been treated to Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 (or greater) or overseas equivalent. A sample certificate is provided in Attachment 3.

Note that there are additional AQIS requirements for timber coming from some countries (for example, host timbers from Sudden Oak Death and Pine Pitch Canker risk countries and all timber from Giant African Snail countries). Please see ICON for further details.

AQIS would continue to accept certification for additional non-permanent treatments (e.g. fumigation, heat treatment, kiln drying, gamma irradiation) applied to permanently preserved timber as was previously the case.

Importers should note that provision of one of the above certificates does not mean that goods, packaging or dunnage will be granted immediate release. AQIS reserves the right to inspect any goods, packaging or dunnage entering Australia.

Withdrawal of permanent preservative treatment lists

The current lists of AQIS-approved permanent preservatives would be withdrawn on 1 May 2008. These lists would be withdrawn because the new AQIS requirements (detailed above) address quarantine risks associated with permanently preserved imported timber without the need for AQIS to maintain the lists.

Details of the new AQIS requirements for permanently preserved timber will be in:

- Further Industry Notices;
- The “Cargo Containers – Quarantine Aspects and Procedures” Booklet (the Cargo Containers Booklet) on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/cargoqap.

Interim Arrangements

From 8 November 2007, AQIS will no longer assess or approve permanent preservatives as quarantine treatments for solid timber, plywood or LVL.

However, for a trial period until the lists are withdrawn, AQIS will accept certification from treatment providers that the timber in a consignment was treated to Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 (or greater) or its overseas equivalent. This new type of certificate can be presented for timber treated with any permanent preservative formulation which satisfies the aforementioned criteria, whether or not it is currently on the AQIS lists.

Important dates for certification changes

Between now and 1 May 2008, AQIS will accept:

- Current Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificates for existing AQIS-approved permanent preservative treatments (see Attachment 2).

Between 1 December 2007 and 1 May 2008, AQIS will accept:

- Current Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificates for existing AQIS-approved permanent preservative treatments (see Attachment 2), or
- Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificates which meet the new AQIS requirements for permanent preservative treatment (see Attachment 3).

After 1 May 2008, AQIS will accept:

- Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificates which meet the new AQIS requirements for permanent preservative treatment (see Attachment 3).

2.2 AQIS Monitoring of Timber Components of Cargo Containers

Because the lists of AQIS approved permanent preservative treatments would be withdrawn on 1 May 2008, from the date of release of this Industry Notice AQIS will no longer approve such treatments for timber components of cargo containers. Timber components of cargo containers would still be required to be treated to Australian Standard[®] 1604 Hazard Class H2 (or greater) or its overseas equivalent (see Section 2.1 for details).

Every cargo container carries a compliance plate (Container Safety Convention (CSC) plate, data plate) in accordance with the International Maritime Organisation International Convention for Safe Containers (1972). This plate can specify the permanent preservative treatment applied to any timber components of the container. From 1 May 2008 AQIS may check as part of tailgate inspections that containers with timber components include information regarding permanent preservative treatment on their CSC plates.

Regular AQIS surveillance activities have proven to be effective means of monitoring quarantine risks associated with cargo containers. In addition to these measures, AQIS may conduct periodic surveys specific to containers with timber components to monitor the level of risk posed by new materials (e.g. bamboo, softwoods, mixed timbers) used as timber components of cargo containers.

Anyone seeking to manufacture or use permanent preservative treatments for timber components of shipping containers should approach the appropriate chemical registration body in the country of manufacture and/or use for chemical end use approval in accordance with local requirements.

ATTACHMENT 2

Example of a Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificate that would be acceptable until 1 May 2008

Treatment Provider Letterhead

Include contact details: physical address

Details of Treatment

This is to certify that the timber described below was treated on (date) in accordance with AQIS requirements.

Name of preservative treatment

Chemical composition of preservative (eg CCA)

Loading of preservative..... % mass/mass based upon the oven dried mass of the treated wood

Or

kg/m³ or lbs/cu ft (net dry salt retention. nb Only limited preservatives can be expressed in these terms after 1 November 1999)

Description of goods being treated.....
(includes packaging such as pallets, crates, etc.)

Consignment identifier or numerical link

Signature of Treatment Provider.....Date.....

ATTACHMENT 3

Example of a Permanent Immunisation Treatment Certificate that would be acceptable both from 1 December 2007, and after 1 May 2008

Treatment Provider Letterhead

Include contact details: physical address

This is to certify that the timber described below was treated on (date).....with a permanent timber preservative to Hazard Level H2 (or greater) of Australian Standard® 1604 or overseas equivalent.

Description of goods being treated.....
(includes packaging such as pallets, crates, etc.)

Consignment identifier or numerical link.....

Signature of Treatment Provider.....Date.....