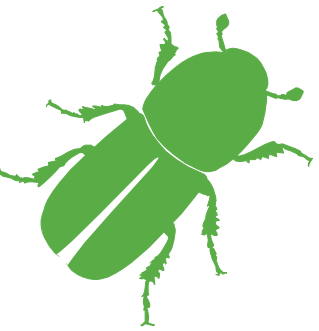


# Plant Health News



Issue 36, February 2017

## Amendments to the EU Plant Health legislation affecting wood of ash imports from USA came into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

Following the report of the publication of the temporary derogation in respect of ash wood originating or processed in Canada (see Newsletter No 35 dated December 2016), we now write to advise importers, of ash wood, of the publication of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/204 (see <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017D0204.>) This new derogation does two things ie:-

1. it repeals the Decision regards Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Pest Free Areas (PFAs) in the USA (Ref: Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2416) and

2. it provides a similar set of derogation landing requirements for wood of ash to those currently afforded to Canada (Ref. Commission Implementing Decision 2016/412 of 17 March 2016)

In respect of the new landing requirements in point 2 above - the derogation enables those wood processors in the USA, approved by the American Authorities (USDA/APHIS), to use an integrated systems approach to eliminate the risk of the tree pest Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) *Agrilus Planipennis*. The systems approach includes the supervision and inspection of processors by USDA/APHIS officials and the requirement for wood to be debarked and subsequently heat treated (71°C for 1 200 minutes), kiln dried to a moisture content below 10% and labelled HT-KD. The procedure allows for an alternative landing requirement option to point 2.3 Part A, section 1 of Annex IV of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The Additional Declaration of the Phytosanitary Certificate accompanying consignments of ash wood issued under this derogation should include the following elements:

a) In accordance with EU requirements as laid down in the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/204.

b) It must also show the bundle number(s). (NB: FC Note -Where these bundle numbers are referenced in an annex or packing list, the list shall be verified by the USDA/APHIS and cross referenced to the phytosanitary certificate and presented to the FC inspector on landing.

c) The name of the approved facility(ies) in the United States of America.

## What's in this edition?

- Amendments to the EU Plant Health legislation affecting wood of ash imports from USA came into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017
- Update on the operation of Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) for Imports of Solid Fuel Wood (Firewood) into England and Scotland
- Enquiries

We anticipate that the derogation will become as widely used in the USA as the Canadian one is in Canada and we await details of the USDA/APHIS's approval Program and their published database list of registered facilities in due course.

It should be noted that the derogation for Canada ends on 31 December 2017 but the derogation in place for the USA does not end until 30 June 2018.

In respect of the repeal of the EAB PFAs in the USA in point 1 above, exporters of wood of ash will no longer (with the exception of a period of grace – see details below) be permitted to declare on phytosanitary certificates that their material has originated in areas known to be free of the pest in order to comply with Council Directive 2000/29/EC Annex IV Part A section 1 point 2.3 (a) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2416

The Forestry Commission recognises that ash material from previously designated EAB PFA's will currently be loading onto ships or is sailing on ships destined for the UK and are accompanied by phytosanitary certificates issued by the USDA, declaring that material meets EAB PFA landing requirements. Therefore Forestry Commission Plant Health Inspectors will continue to accept ash material from the USA accompanied with Phytosanitary Certificates declaring compliance with Council Directive Annex IV Part A section 1 point 2.3 (a) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2416 until the **date of arrival/landing in the UK of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**. This implementation date will apply to all consignments landing on or after that date, regardless of the date that the material was shipped or the date of issue on the phytosanitary certificate issued by the USDA.

### Update on the operation of Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) for Imports of Solid Fuel Wood (Firewood) into England and Scotland

Since the introduction of the Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) for importing solid wood fuel (firewood) into England and Scotland which came into effect on 1 January 2017, a total of 29 out of 50 potential firewood importers have enrolled into the scheme. Communication is continuing to encourage others to enrol.

Plant Health Officers and Inspectors have been visiting firewood importers across the country. The visits aim to provide support and advice on the operation of the new SNS as well as ensuring that importers are fully aware of their plant health responsibilities in relation to imported firewood and any associated wood packaging material. During visits checks have also been carried out on recent imports of firewood that have been notified to the Forestry Commission (FC). **The physical inspection of the firewood is largely based on the potential plant health risk with some inspections carried out randomly to verify that the correct species has been notified. The aim is inspect approximately 10% of the total number of imported consignments on an annual basis.**

Our team will continue to ensure that all relevant information regarding firewood imports is understood. But equally, importers are expected to consult and familiarise themselves with import guides and the FC's newsletter No. 35 published in December 2016. See [www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)

Current statistics on volume of firewood imported in the last 2 months, obtained via SNS notifications, indicate a dominance of Ash, Birch, Alder and Beech (7610 Tonnes in total) as the favoured firewood species, all exported from the Baltic States (mainly Latvia). The firewood is therefore sourced from some high risk host tree species affected by tree pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB). The proximity of these exporting countries to Russia, where EAB and ALB are known to be present, means that plant health inspections need to be robust to prevent the spread of these pests to GB. Importers are also encouraged to put systems in place to ascertain the origin (i.e. where grown) of their firewood to help reduce the risks of importing these pests.

The notifications of imports are captured by the FC on a regular basis and it has been noticed that some importers notify us separately of each and every freight container that they import via manual email notifications or via the online notification system. In order to administratively reduce the number of notifications that importers submit, therefore, we

would encourage importers to notify us by **consignments** instead (which can involve notifications of one or more container loads). As an immediate step to assist with this, we have amended the manual notification form to include details of consignments, including container numbers, and Purchase Order numbers or other company order reference numbers. The amended form is now available on our website to download at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-A4MEMQ> . For those importers that are familiar with the online notification system, every row can accommodate up to 6 species, which is sufficient record space for 1 single consignment of 6 container loads. We will be amending the online form soon to include an additional data field for 'Purchase Order numbers or other company order reference numbers' as well.

In order to assist Plant Health Officers and Inspectors carry out their inspections efficiently and effectively, it would help if importers could have their relevant import documentation readily available for the inspector to review (where appropriate). The documentation will include details of container numbers, Purchase Order Numbers or other forms of unique ID identifying which firewood product is available to inspect in the storage yard. Where appropriate and depending on the country of export, documents should also show:

- Which country the firewood was exported from
- Which country the firewood was grown in (and system in place to ensure/prove the wood was grown within the county indicated)
- The species of wood and the identity of imported material displayed on consignments that importers have in their storage yards match the ones declared on the import documents
- Type of firewood product (i.e. logs, kindling, etc.)
- Treatments applied to firewood (if applicable eg kiln drying)

Please also note that the wood packaging material that you use for shipping/transporting firewood is required to meet GB entry requirements.

## Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this Newsletter should be directed to the relevant Plant Health Regional Manager:-

Nick Hazlitt, Regional Manager (South) Mobile: 07799 657417 - Timber imports to Felixstowe, Ipswich, London Gateway, Thamesport, Tilbury, The Wash Ports, Sheerness, Southampton, South West England, Bristol Channel and South Wales

Ian Murgatroyd, Regional Manager (North) Tel: 01698 222480 Mobile: 07767 251379 Fax: 01387 251491  
Timber imports to Humber, Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland

Ian Brownlee, Operations Manager Tel: 0300 067 5034 Mobile: 07831 159014 Fax: 0131 314 6148

Mike Ndeze, Plant Health Officer Mobile: 0788 183299  
Firewood Statutory Notification Scheme (SNS) enquiries

**Issued by:** Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT  
**T:** 0300 067 5155 **F:** 0131 314 6148 **E:** [plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) **W:** [www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)

## Forestry Commission firewood import notification form

Prior to importing non-regulated solid wood fuel\* wood from non EU countries and from EU Member states you must complete this form and return it to the Forestry Commission by email [plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) three days prior to the material's arrival if arriving by sea and four hours if arriving by air. For each consignment (which may involve one or more container<sup>1</sup>) the following information is required.

Date of arrival	
Place of arrival	
Name and address of importer (or enrolment number if available)	
Address of first destination after landing (or enrolment number if the same as above)	

Please provide information on a separate line for each species, form of material and country of origin

<sup>1</sup> Container*** Numbers (use 1 row per consignment)	Genus and Species	Form i.e. logs. kindling	Quantity (tonnes)	Country firewood imported from	Original country wood was grown	Phytosanitary treatment**	Supplier name and address	Purchase Order Number Or other company order reference ID

\* In the form of logs, kindling, twigs, billets or faggots

\*\* List any phytosanitary treatments such as bark-free, air-drying, kiln drying to below 20% moisture content or heat treatment.

\*\*\* Container number should have four letters followed by seven numbers e.g XXXU1234567

Postal Address

Forestry Commission Plant Health  
Corporate and Forestry Support  
Silvan House  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh  
EH12 7AT

Data Protection Act 1998: The information provided on this application form will be used solely in connection with the production of documentation for the service requested. Any other personal information provided will only be used within the Forestry Commission and will not be disclosed to third parties.