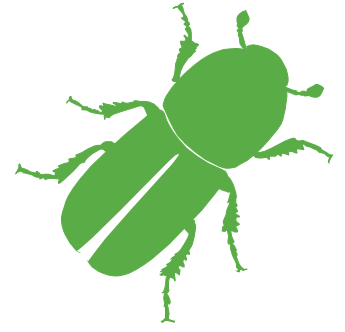


Plant Health News

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New landing requirements for wood products produced from a wide range of tree species originating in countries where the Asian Longhorn Beetle is present.

The Forestry Commission has prepared national legislation which will be introduced in **early April 2016** and will implement the requirements of the Commission Implementing Decision 2015/893 to further protect the EU from the threat of Asian Longhorn Beetle. The legislation will regulate a number of wood products (see Annex 1 for a list of Customs CN Codes affected) and a wide range of tree species (see Annex 2 for a list) which are hosts (food trees) for the beetle. Some of these tree species are currently subject to import controls and others are not, so we would recommend that you review the list to ascertain how the new regulations will affect your import trade. Third countries where Asian Longhorn Beetle is known to be present include; **Canada, China, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, Switzerland and the USA.**

When the legislation is introduced early next year all consignments of those wood products listed in Annex 1, made from wood obtained from the trees species listed in Annex 2 and originating in one of the third countries listed above will be held at ports of landing when they enter GB pending Route 2 documentary and plant health checks.

Timber importers who will be affected by the new legislation and who are not currently familiar with our controlled timber clearance procedures should read the 'inspection request' guidance on our website at –

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-9RDL8T>

More detailed guidance on importing controlled material is available at –

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-9QHUK3>

The landing requirements specified in the new ALB legislation for wood other than woodchips etc include an official statement declaring that –

(a) the wood originates in pest-free areas, established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, known to be free from the specified organism. The name of the pest-free area shall be mentioned under the rubric 'place of origin'; or

(b) the wood is debarked and has undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum temperature of 56 °C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood (including at its core). There shall be evidence thereof by a mark 'HT' put on the wood or on any wrapping in accordance with current usage.

What's in this edition?

- New Landing Requirements for wood products produced from a wide range of tree species originating in countries where Asian Longhorn Beetle is present.
- Expiry of derogation for the import of wood of ash originating in Canada and the USA
- Staff Update
- Enquiries

For wood in the form of chips, particles, shavings, wood waste and scrap the landing requirements include an official statement declaring that -

- (a) the wood originates in pest-free areas, established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, known to be free from the specified organism. The name of the pest-free area shall be mentioned under the rubric 'place of origin'; or
- (b) the wood is debarked and has undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum temperature of 56 °C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood (including at its core); or
- (c) the wood has been processed into pieces of not more than 2.5 cm thickness and width.

Details of the GB legislation will be provided when the actual coming into force date is known. However, we wanted to draw these changes to your attention now so that you are aware of the new inspections and inspection charges that will result from the legislation so that you and your customers can prepare in advance for them.

From a review of the host tree species that are affected by the new legislation as listed in Appendix 2 you will note that a number of the tree species are already currently regulated as they also provide a pathway for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This situation means that consignments of ash and other (EAB) host tree species will have to declare, on their accompanying phytosanitary certificate, treatments that address both pest risks. For example wood of ash from the USA could be declared on its accompanying phytosanitary certificate as meeting the following landing requirements for EAB and ALB respectively –

- (a) the wood originates in an area recognised as being free from Emerald Ash Borer in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 18(2). The name of the area shall be mentioned on the Phytosanitary certificates (**example EAB Requirement option**)
- (b) the wood is debarked and has undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum temperature of 56 °C for a minimum duration of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood (including at its core). In case (b) is applicable, there shall be evidence thereof by a mark 'HT' put on the wood or on any wrapping in accordance with current usage (**example ALB requirement option**).

Expiry of the derogation for the import of wood of ash originating in Canada and the USA

As planned and reported on in our previous Newsletter the temporary derogation (Commission Implementing Decision 2014/924/EU) relating to the imports of ash wood from Canada and the USA will expire on 31 December 2015. Phytosanitary certificates declaring that consignments meet the landing requirements specified in the derogation can be issued for consignments being exported from these two countries up to and including 31 December and landed in Jan/Feb 2016.

Thereafter, however, all phytosanitary certificates issued with consignments exported on or after 1st January 2016 must declare that the material complies with the landing requirements provided in the EU Plant Health Directive (Council Directive 2000/29/EC) Annex IV Part A section 1 ie

Wood of Ash (*Fraxinus spp*) and some other less traded species, which provide a pathway for Emerald Ash Borer, originating in Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Taiwan or the USA. The landing requirements which apply to all types of solid wood and which includes furniture or other objects made of untreated wood are that –

The wood shall be accompanied by an official statement that:

- (a) the wood originates in an area recognised as being free from Emerald Ash Borer in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 18(2). The name of the area shall be mentioned on the Phytosanitary certificates¹, or
- (b) its bark and at least 2.5 cm of the outer sapwood have been removed in a facility authorised and supervised by the national plant protection organisation²; or
- (c) the wood has undergone ionizing irradiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 1 kGy throughout the wood

Wood in the form of chips, particles must be accompanied by an official statement that it originates in a country known to be free from Emerald Ash Borer.

Note¹ - to date only the USA has been able to produce a list of Pest Free Areas which can comply with this landing requirement and therefore this option will only be available to wood originating in the USA. Commission Implementing Decision 2015/2416 detailing the states and counties in the USA which are recognised as Pest Free Areas for Emerald Ash Borer is available to view at - http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_333_R_0020

Note²– the details at Appendix 4 provides details of what FC inspectors will look for when inspecting ash wood declared on phytosanitary certificates as meeting the treatment option (b) above.

We have been updating the UK hardwood import trade on this issue as there has been concern expressed that the expiry of the derogation will seriously affect imports of ash wood to the EU from Canada and the USA. EU negotiations with these two countries are ongoing and a proposed Systems Approach for Canada including Canadian export certification program approved wood processing site facilities, debarking, heat treatment and kiln drying is under active consideration, but has not yet been approved. We will update importers on developments concerning these issues as they arise.

Staff Update

After 20 year's service with the Forestry Commission Steve Mears, Regional Manager (South) has decided to retire and his last day in the office will be Thursday 31st December. Steve, who came to the FC after working in the timber import trade for many years, is well known by many timber traders throughout the country and I'm sure that you will join us in wishing him a well deserved long and happy retirement. Steve's southern management area will be split between two of his colleagues and a map of the revised areas with the appropriate contacts is provided at Appendix 3.

Also leaving us in December (Friday 18th) is Nick Patterson-Sharp from our admin support team who is heading off to pastures new in the south of the country. Nick joined us in September 2013 and has been a valuable member of the team since and we are sorry to see him go. Nick is being replaced by Sophie McKenzie and I'm sure you will join us in welcoming Sophie to the team.

Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this newsletter should be directed to the relevant Plant Health Regional Manager –

Nick Hazlitt Regional Manager (South) - Mobile 07799 65417 timber imports to 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

(NB – Please see management area map at Appendix 3)

List of CN Codes affected by new ALB import Legislation

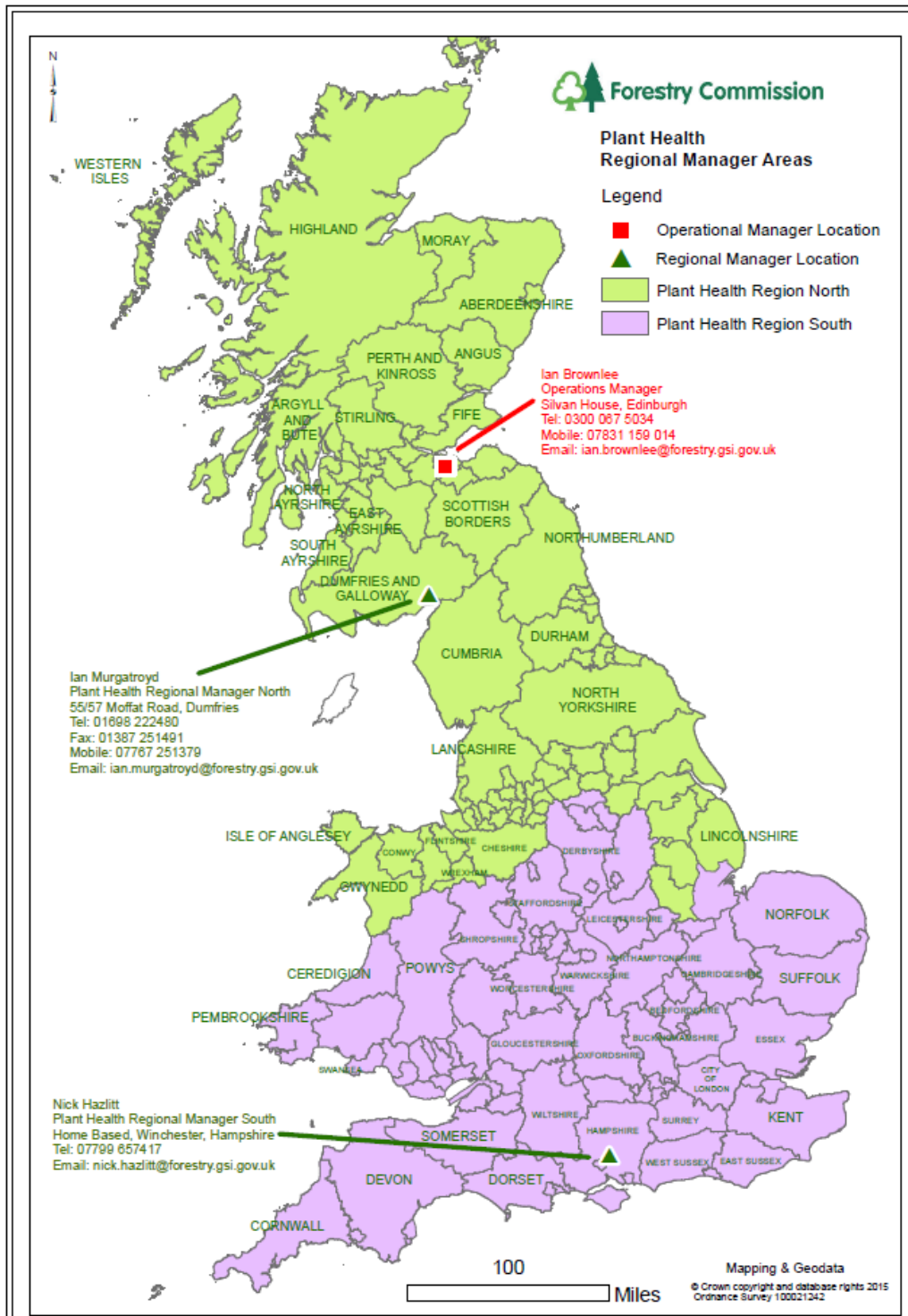
CN code	Description
4401 10 00	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms
4401 22 00	Non-coniferous wood, in chips or particles
ex 4401 39 80	Other wood waste and scrap, not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms
4403 10 00	Wood in the rough, treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 92	Wood of beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
ex 4403 99	Non-coniferous wood (other than, beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.) or birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.)), in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 99 10	Wood of poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 99 51	Sawlogs of birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4403 99 59	Wood of birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.) in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, other than sawlogs
ex 4404 20 00	Non-coniferous split poles; piles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise
4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood
4407 92 00	Wood of beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4407 93	Wood of maple (<i>Acer</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4407 95	Wood of ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
ex 4407 99	Non-coniferous wood (other than beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), maple (<i>Acer</i> spp.), ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.) or poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.)), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4407 99 91	Wood of poplar (<i>Populus</i> spp.), sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
9406 00 20	Prefabricated buildings of wood

List of high risk host tree species affected by the new ALB legislation for imports

- Acer* spp** – Maple/European Sycamore (*A.saccharum* currently regulated from Canada or USA)
- Aesculus spp** – Horse Chestnut
- Alnus spp** - Alder
- Betula spp** – Birch (currently regulated from Canada or USA)
- Carpinus spp** – Hornbeam
- Cercidiphyllum spp** – Katsura Tree
- Corylus spp** – Hazels
- Fagus spp**- Beech
- Fraxinus spp** – Ash (currently regulated from Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Taiwan and USA)
- Koelreuteria spp** – Golden Rain Tree
- Platanus spp** – Plane/American Sycamore (currently regulated from Armenia, Switzerland and USA)
- Populus spp** - (Poplar/Aspen (currently from any country in the American continent)
- Salix spp** - Willow
- Tilia spp** – Limes, Lindens, Basswoods
- Ulmus spp** - Elms (*U.davidina* and *U. parvifolia* currently regulated from Canada, China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Taiwan and USA)

Note* - wood of *Acers* (other than *A.saccharum*) may be imported in significant volumes from Canada and USA

Map of revised Plant Health Regional Manager's Management areas w.e.f 1 January 2016



Appendix 4

FC Inspection note for imported controlled ash wood declared on the accompanying phytosanitary certificate as meeting the removal of bark and at least 2.5cm of the outer sapwood landing requirement

Sawn Boards

Figure 1 below - shows an exploded view of a coniferous log that has been sawn lengthwise and this can be used to show acceptable sawn boards which can be sourced from the log to comply with the ash landing requirement i.e. Council Directive 2000/29 Annex IV Part A Section 1 point 2.3 (b) - **the bark and at least 2.5 cm of the outer sapwood are removed in a facility authorised and supervised by the national plant protection organisation.**

The 4 outer most boards described in red text as 'waney edged' boards (original rounded surface of the log) **are not** compliant with the above ash wood landing requirements because they retain bark and wane.

Depending on scale, the four square sawn planks highlighted with yellow lines may not have had the outer 2.5 cm of sap wood removed from the surfaces, i.e. the yellow lines are close to the inner surface of the bark layer but they do not have an original rounded surface. The Plant Health Authorities in the USA and Canada will have to decide if ash wood derived from these types of boards meet the requirement of removal of the outer 2.5cm of sapwood or not. FC inspectors will view them as being compliant when no original rounded edge is evident.

The two inner most, largest dimension boards are fully compliant.

Figure 1 – sawn boards

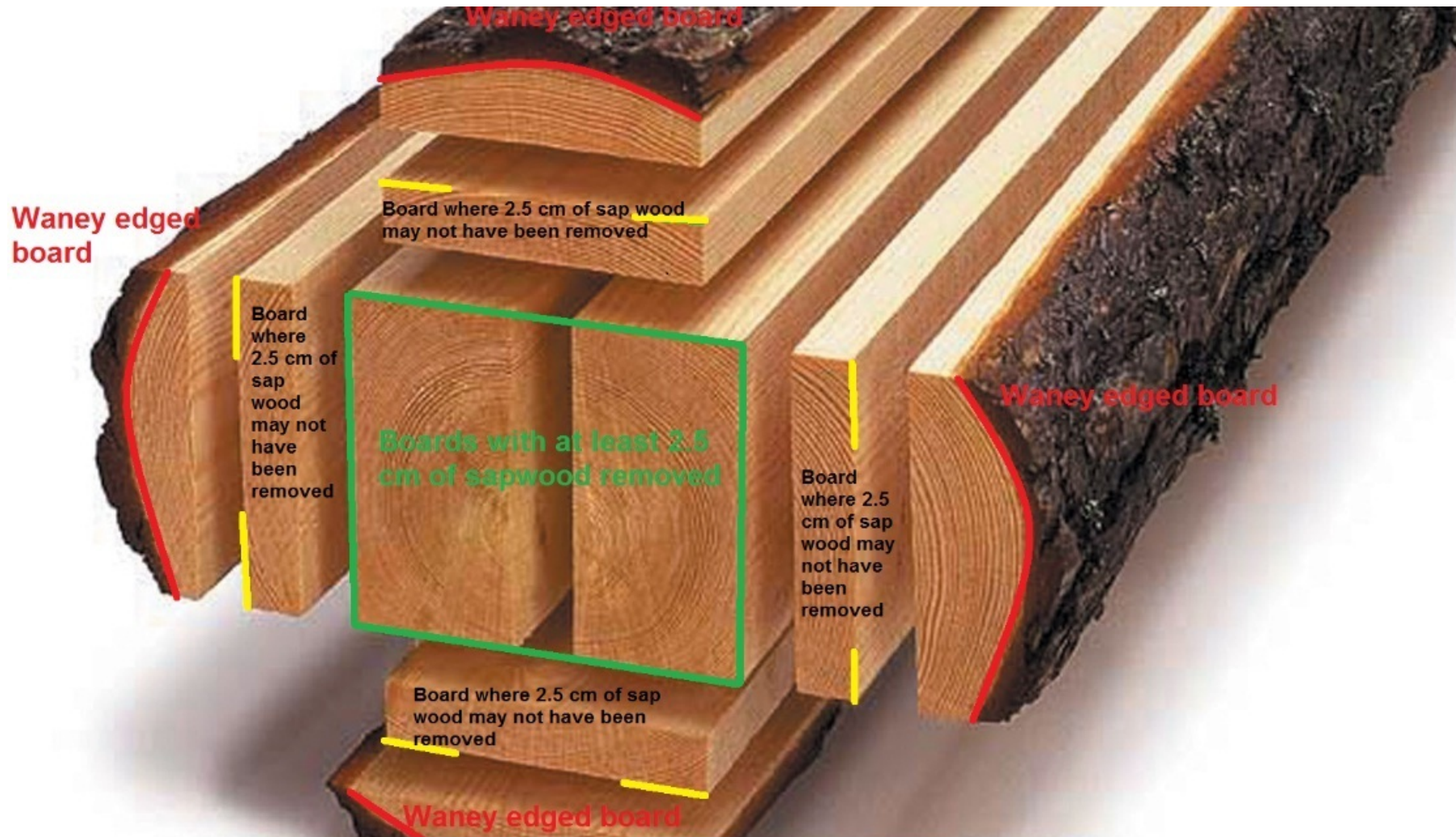
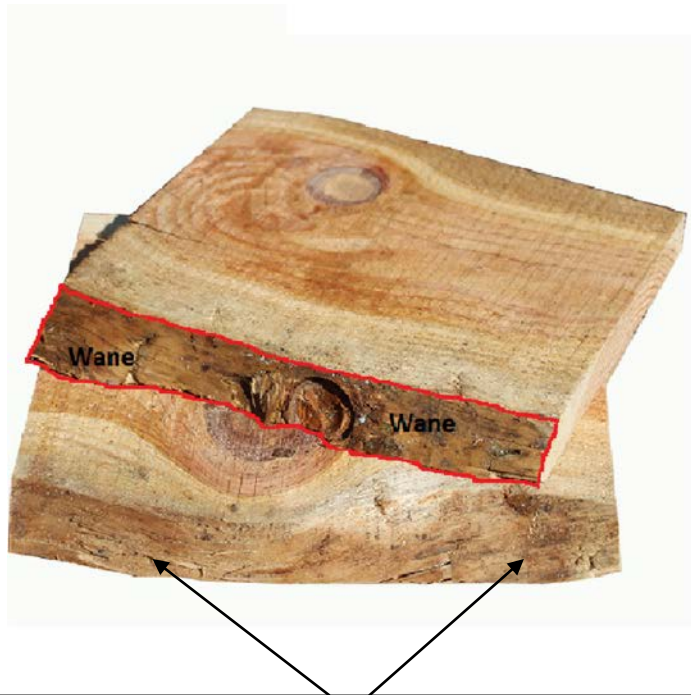


Figure 2 Larch, as an example, of sawn timber with wane retained

Wane can be seen on both pieces of wood in Figure 2 below and the top piece has had the waney edge highlighted. Only when inspectors are satisfied that all evidence of wane has been removed can they consider sawn boards to be compliant with the removal of 2.5cm of sapwood requirement. Machine rounded boards will make it difficult for inspectors to gauge if the original round surface has been removed and should exercise their own judgement in these cases based on the evidence presented via a review of a selection of sawn board edges.



Evidence of processing to remove the bark but the original rounded surface of the log on the edge of the sawn timber is still visible and therefore the timber has not had 2.5cm of the outer sapwood removed. If the wood was wood of ash from the USA or Canada neither piece of wood would comply with the landing requirement of removal of bark and the outer 2.5cm of sapwood.