

Plant Health News

No 30 - October 2013

NEW THIRD COUNTRY IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD OF PLANE

On the 11th November 2013 new landing requirements will apply to consignments of wood of plane being landed in Great Britain from third countries. At present special landing requirements only apply to wood of plane originating in USA or Armenia. The new legislation will however apply to wood of plane originating in **ALL** third countries. Details of the amended special landing conditions are provided in the table below and include wood of plane in the form of sawn timber, chips, particles, sawdust, shavings, wood waste and scrap

Description of Material

Wood of *Platanus* L., including wood which has not kept its natural round surface, which **originates in any third country**

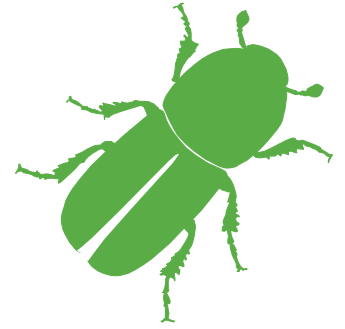
Requirements of Landing

- (a) The wood shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export which includes under the heading "Additional declaration" an official statement that it originates in:
- (i) a place of production in a country in which *Ceratocystis fimbriata* f. spp. *platani* Walter is known not to occur; or
- (ii) an area established and maintained as an area free from *Ceratocystis fimbriata* f. spp. *platani* Walter in accordance with ISPM No 4; or
- (b) there shall be evidence by a mark "kiln-dried" or "KD" or another internationally recognized mark, put on the wood or its packaging in accordance with current commercial usage, that the wood has undergone kiln-drying to below 20% moisture content, expressed as a percentage of dry matter, achieved through an appropriate time/temperature schedule";

This amendment to the plant health legislation is being implemented via The Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) (England and Scotland) Order 2013 (SI 2013 2691) a copy of which can be viewed at –

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/2691/introduction/made>

Currently the measures are restricted to England and Scotland but other parts of the UK are considering the introduction of equivalent legislation



What's in this

- New Third Country Import Requirements for wood of plane
- Finding of Forest Pests in Manufactured Wooden Furniture
- Plant Health Inspection Fees Consultation 2013

The new increased measures are considered necessary to further guard against *Ceratocystis platani* (Plane wilt) which is a serious disease of plane trees, both in the USA and Europe that has killed tens of thousands of plantation trees and street trees in



the eastern United States, California, and southern Europe. The pathogen is already present in Europe and, despite current EU wide legislation designed to limit its further spread, the pathogen is still spreading in France and other southern member states. Although there has been no spread to the GB to date, risk analysis has shown that it represents a threat, even with the EU measures in place.

Strengthened EU requirements are being pursued, through a case for protected zone status for the UK in relation to plane wilt

Photo EPPO: Plane tree showing advanced dieback after 2-3 years, after infection by *C. fimbriata* f.sp. *platani*.

Finding of Forest Pests in Manufactured Wooden Furniture

Forestry Commission Plant Health Inspectors and Fera scientists have made the first finding together in the UK of the tree pests Japanese Pine Sawyer Beetle (*Monochamus alternatus*) and Pinewood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) in wooden furniture recently imported from China.

Finding these two species together is significant because the beetle is an agent for spreading, or a vector for, the nematode. The inadvertent importation and subsequent escape of these pests is thought to have been responsible for numerous outbreaks of pine wilt disease which have killed millions of trees around the world. Within the EU an outbreak of Pine Wood Nematode was first discovered in Portugal in 1999 where eradication efforts have failed and the pest has now spread widely within the country with small outbreaks being recorded across the border into Spain in recent years.

Photo: Emerging *Monochamus* Beetle



The importer and sellers of the affected furniture have assisted us with our investigations to establish the extent of the infestation in the consignment. We have also issued a Pest Alert to the furniture industry to raise awareness of the problems and we will destroy any further infestations found.

Should any importer of wooden furniture become aware of infested timber components through the presence of insect bore holes and or sawdust/shredded wood material or live *Monochamus* beetles (see photo insert) please contact the plant health service using the details below.

Consultation on proposals to amend the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006

On 30th September importers of controlled wood, wood products and bark were sent copies of our consultation papers which include proposals to amend the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2006. The consultation period is open until 8th November and therefore if you would like to submit any comments on the proposals please do so before the close date.

Copies of the consultation papers can be downloaded from the Forestry Commission's website at www.forestry.gov.uk/consultations

Enquiries

All enquiries relating to this newsletter should be directed to the relevant Plant Health Manager for your area –

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Ian Murgatroyd, Regional Manager (North) Tel: 01698 222480 Mobile: 07767251379 Fax: 01387 251491 Email: ian.murgatroyd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk timber imports to Liverpool, Tyneside, North Wales and Scotland or alternatively

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