

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition provides a further update on the development of the regulations associated with the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and other activities, including a planned timber supply chain seminar to be held on Friday 11 October in Sydney in conjunction with Forest and Wood Products Australia's (FWPA) AGM and research fair.

Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 regulations development

The third and final in the series of regulations workshops related to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* were held in late February and mid March by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The February workshop focused on monitoring, compliance and enforcement issues, including details of compliance style, the enforcement model related to compliance, the approach that DAFF was likely to adopt on commencement of the regulations and associated due diligence requirements. The final workshop in March examined the entire regulatory package and legislative drafting instructions that will be the basis of the regulations to be tabled in the Parliament.

Both workshops emphasised the need for a well-resourced outreach program covering compliance requirements, education and training of importing companies, their brokers and other relevant parties.

Front line operators' workshop

ATIF convened a meeting of DAFF and Customs and Border Protection officials along with importers, brokers and representatives of 'front-line' operators in February to consider issues related to the practicalities of implementing the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* regulations at ports. The meeting discussed administrative arrangements and procedures, including reporting/declaration requirements and other customers broker/freight forwarding tasks, as required under the Customs legislation and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act*.



The meeting was valuable in advancing some of the practical day-to-day issues that will need to be faced at ports by brokers and other operational staff when illegal logging legislation regulations come into force.

Recent ATIF Board meeting

The ATIF Board meet in Sydney on 3 April. The meeting agenda included illegal logging legislation and the development of regulations; planning of the 11 October timber supply chain seminar, and timber importer matters related to the activities of FWPA. Steve Mitchell from the Timber Development Association joined the Board to assist with the discussions on aspects of timber product inclusion, due diligence, reporting, audit and future actions in relation to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* regulations.

Timber supply chain seminar

In collaboration with FWPA, ATIF will be holding the timber industry's *must attend* event for 2013 on Friday, 11 October in Sydney at the Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour Hotel. The *Obstacles and opportunities* seminar will cover key aspects of the timber industry supply chain, together with wider aspects of the timber industry's business environment, wood-based product marketing and matters related to company-level business success.

The seminar speaking line up will include leading international and Australian timber supply chain experts, policy-makers, marketing specialists, technology providers and regulatory authorities. The seminar will be a prominent component on the key industry day for 2013 that will also include the FWPA AGM and research fair, and the TABMA-hosted annual timber industry gala dinner and awards presentation. Further details will be circulated shortly.

Other news

- ▶ ATIF participated in an international seminar on green procurement of timber and wood products held in Beijing on 1 April. The seminar was a significant milestone for the Chinese timber industry in dealing with international moves to confront illegal logging and requirements of proof of legal origin of logs and timber products. The ATIF presentation outlined actions in Australia on illegal logging policy, the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act*, the scope of the emerging regulations and responsibilities of timber product importers.

The seminar was hosted by the China Timber and Wood Products Distribution Association with the assistance of the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Program and the European Forest Institute Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade Facility and the World Wildlife Fund.

- ▶ ATIF attended the last meeting of the Forest and Wood Products Council for the current Federal Government held at Parliament House, Canberra on 12 April. The meeting was chaired by Hon Sid Sidebottom, Parliament Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and forestry. Progress and related matters related to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* regulations and ongoing issues associated with the future of the timber industry in Tasmania were two of the prominent items on the agenda.

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