

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 an update in the preparation of the ATIF illegal logging tool kit and related training, the recent *Chile Wood Expo* and illegal logging information sessions.

ATIF illegal logging regulation compliance tool kit

A tool kit designed to help timber product importers and associated businesses comply with the requirements of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013* is being prepared by the ATIF.

The tool kit is being written in plain, practical language and is intended to assist importers understand and comply with the legislation.

General manager John Halkett said he thought the tool kit will assist importers and their delegated agents with at least 90 per cent of the solid timber products presently imported into Australia.

He said the tool kit should be available about in early November and will include a brief overview of the legislative framework followed by explanatory commentary and draft letters and templates, plus 'decision-trees' to aid mandatory information gathering, carry out due diligence and risk mitigation, and complete the required Customs declaration.

"Given the 30 November start date for the legislation ATIF is anticipating strong interest in the tool kit, not only from ATIF-member companies, but others in the timber products supply chain, plus other timber product imports, such as furniture importers."

Mr Halkett said ATIF acknowledges the support for the preparation of the tool kit provided by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck and from the Department of Agriculture. "This support will assist ATIF to prepare the tool kit in a relatively short period of time with input from relevant technical experts."

He said he believed the tool kit would assist timber product importers to take a positive approach to compliance with the legislation and to see this as a progressive business opportunity.

Chile Wood Expo success

Support for the ATIF co-hosted *Chile Wood Expo* held recently in Sydney was a testimony to the quality, innovation and increasing significance of Chilean timber products in the Australian market.

According to ATIF general manager John Halkett the expo attendance was further recognition of the increasing importance the timber industry supply chain now places on Chile-sourced timber products.

“There is little doubt that Chile is the stand-out market-leader in the Southern Hemisphere in relation to the production of innovative, exceptionally well regarded softwood-based timber products. They are leading the world in advanced engineered and remanufactured products, in preservative treatment and pre-coating processes.”

Chile Wood Expo attracted about 150 visitors to inspect Chilean timber product exporter and trade association stands. Chilean companies were supported by Australian wholesalers, trade associations, Forest and Wood Products Australia and the Department of Agriculture. ATIF-member company ITI (Australia) was notable among exhibitors being the only wholesaler and distributor also with a substantial manufacturing and exporting presence in Chile.

“I was very pleased with the level of interest and participation in the expo by wholesalers, agents, merchants and others in the timber industry” said Mr Halkett.

“The involvement of principal expo supporter Arauco was especially appreciated. Also expo co-host ProChile was a critical ingredient in getting Chilean exporters and trade associations to Sydney.”

“I am confident the expo will help strengthen timber trade and industry ties between Chile and Australia,” said Mr Halkett.

Over a three-day programme the visiting Chile timber trade group also held a meeting with Sydney-based trade associations and visited Bunnings and Masters stores to inspect trade and retail functions and the range of and trends in timber products on sale.

Mr Halkett said that with Australian housing starts moving towards 200,000 a year Chile is likely to play an increasingly vital role in supplying plywood, panels and a wide range of laminated, finger-jointed, treated, pre-coated timber products into the Australian supply chain.

Department of Agriculture illegal logging information sessions and webinars

The Department of Agriculture is holding information sessions and webinars focusing on customs brokers and importers on illegal logging due diligence requirements in October and November 2014. For details and registration go to:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/information-resources>

Information sessions remaining in November are:

Perth Wednesday 5 November 2014

Botanical Room, Crown Perth Convention Centre, Great Eastern Highway, Burswood

Cairns Tuesday 18 November 2014

Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort, 122 Lake Street, Cairns

Darwin Thursday 20 November 2014

Mantra on the Esplanade, 88 The Esplanade, Darwin

Webinars sessions relevant to timber product importers and customs brokers are as follows:

Webinar Session 2 – Customs Brokers

Monday, 10 November 2014 1.00 to 2.00pm (AEDT)

Webinar Session 3 - Importers

Monday, 10 November 2014 3.00 to 4.00pm (AEDT)

Companies should send an email (see above link) to register their interest in participating in webinar events. In order to view the webinar, participants will require access to both a telephone line for the audio stream as well as a web browser to view the accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

***This newsletter has been prepared by ATIF General Manager John Halkett
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