

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition comments on the critical role being played by timber importers and wholesales in supporting the current new home building surge and comments on other topical issues.

Timber imports essential to housing surge

Providing essential building materials support for the building and construction timber importers and wholesalers are a central element of the current housing surge. This contribution has been critical to enabling new home construction to accelerate to present levels.

New housing starts have now reached levels not seen since 1994 with the number of commencements just a touch under 200,000 for the year ending December 2014, This is the highest level on record since 187,000 houses were built in 1994.

Compared with 2013 the value of imported wood products rose 25 per cent in the year ended December 2014, totalling \$1.5 billion. Import values have grown strongly, with records being consistently set throughout 2014. Most notable in the monthly data is October 2014, when timber imports set a monthly record of \$159 million. That was followed in November by the second highest ever value of imports.

In many cases importers and wholesalers also have the capability to provide a whole range of services and products, including design, engineering and technical support; cut-to-length engineered wood products with attachment fittings already in place; project quantity estimation, recutting and moulding, plus other manufacturing, and of course the broadest range of fit-for-purpose panels, engineered wood and solid wood products from both international and domestic supplier networks.

Copies of a generic timber importing and wholesaling flyer are included with this edition of the *Bulletin*. A PDF of this flyer will be circulated to allow companies to print-off additional copies for their own promotional and marketing use.



ATIF legality compliance training

Following several briefings and the first structured training session held in February ATIF-member companies were sent a questionnaire to assist in planning further training related to compliance with the illegal logging legislation and the utilisation of the *ATIF Legality Compliance Toolkit*.

Responses to the questionnaire are being collated to assist with the planning of further training. Please get in touch if you didn't complete the questionnaire but would like to take part in future training.

Illegal Logging Laws E-Update

The Department of Agriculture has produced the seventh issue of its *Illegal Logging Laws E-Update* that has been sent to subscribers on the department's illegal logging mailing list. The current issue covers: the new Malaysia Country Specific Guideline; the ongoing small business impacts review; the *ATIF Legality Compliance Toolkit* and the Department of Agriculture's new website. You can subscribe to future issues of *Illegal Logging Laws E-Update* by subscribing on line at www.agriculture.gov.au

ATIF Board meeting, Adelaide 21 April

The next ATIF Board meeting will be held in Adelaide on Tuesday, 21 April. Letters of invitation to join the Board for lunch and a briefing on current and future ATIF activities have been sent to South Australian ATIF-member companies and other state timber industry representatives.

IWPA annual convention

ATIF was sponsored to provide a presentation at the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) *World of Wood* convention held in Las Vegas in late March. The ATIF presentation, outlined legality compliance arrangements in Australia and was made along with presentations from Europe, the US and China in a convention session that focussed on global wood products legality assurance systems. The IWPA convention was attended by more than 300 importers, US manufacturers, exporters, wholesalers, offshore suppliers and service providers of timber products from about 30 countries.

Canadian forest industry update

ATIF assisted in arranging and participated in an industry update briefing by a Canadian timber industry delegation at the Canadian High Commission in Sydney on 1 April. The briefing included an update on meetings between the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding the proposed Green Lumber Certification program and the Canadian Untreated Wood Products Certification Program.

These programs are intended to provide assurances that green Canadian timber can continue to enter Australia without the costly, time consuming and stringent requirements of phytosanitary certificates and to provide assurances that green timber products will continue to be readily available to the Australian market. A PDF copy of the Canadian presentation will be distributed to ATIF members.

The update also discussed emerging Canadian timber product and market trends, plus enhanced timber product trade opportunities for the timber supply chain with Canadian suppliers.

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