

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 matters related to imported timber quarantine; further legality compliance training; the upcoming Frame Australia 2015 conference; proposals to strengthen the market for Western red cedar, and the preparation of a submission on the Forest Industry Advisory Council issues paper.

Meeting with AQIS/Biosecurity Australia

After periodic discussions ATIF has arranged a structured meeting with senior AQIS and Biosecurity Australia officials in Canberra to discuss matters of mutual interest. The initial meeting is scheduled for 5 June. At this stage items on the agenda are:

1. Issues related to the increasing volumes of imported timber products.
2. 21-day rule for Europe and the Pacific Coast of US.
3. Implementation of the new Canada Green Lumber Standard.
4. Container washing audit procedures.
5. Increased imports of green and kiln-dried timber from PNG.
6. Matters AQIS/Biosecurity wish to raise in relation to timber product imports.

If you have a quarantine-related matter you would like addressed please send me a email and a couple of paragraphs and it will be placed on the agenda for the initial or subsequent meetings.

Legality compliance training

Responses to the questionnaire related to training associated with the illegal logging legislation and understanding how to use the ATIF *Legality Compliance Toolkit* have now been reviewed. There are not large numbers requesting additional training, however two further training sessions, one in Adelaide and the other in Melbourne will be held.



Training will be available to those who have completed the questionnaire and to other ATIF member companies and their customs agents. Details about the training program, venues and dates are currently being worked out and will be advised as soon as possible.

Frame Australia 2015 conference

ATIF is an event sponsor for the Frame Australia 2015 conference. The conference and exhibition: *Building with engineered wood construction systems* will be held on 1 June at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Melbourne.

ATIF member companies, Stora Enso Timber Australia, Meyer Timber and Tilling Timber are sponsors of the event. In addition, Meyer Timber's Principal Engineer George Dolezal and Simmonds Lumber's, Managing Director John Simon will be speaking at the event.

The Frame Australia conference will have a particular emphasis on prefabrication building systems that are now underway around Australia in both residential and commercial construction. A copy of the Frame Australia conference brochure is included with hard copies of this bulletin.

Western red cedar marketing

Following a meeting with a Canadian timber industry delegation reported in the last edition that included discussions on Canadian timber product market trends and trade opportunities, ATIF is preparing a proposal for collaboration between leading Australia Western red cedar (WRC) importers and Canada Wood to develop a strategy to strengthen the market for WRC timber products in Australia.

This initiative has been motivated by the reality that in recent years while overall softwood timber product imports have strengthened along with new housing starts, WRC timber product volumes have moved downwards.

The marketing strategy is currently being prepared with limited consultation, but will be circulated to identified WRC importers and relevant industry bodies for input prior to being submitted to Canada Wood.

Forest Industry Advisory Council submission

As previously advised, the Forest Industry Advisory Council (FIAC) is developing a discussion paper to explore the opportunities and challenges for Australia's forest products sector over coming decades. As a first step FIAC has released an issues paper covering a range of matters affecting the sector.

ATIF has been invited to submit a submission on the issues paper that can be downloaded at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/fiac-issues-paper.pdf>.

A draft submission is presently with ATIF Board members for comment.

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