

# 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 new Global Timber Forum website; a summary of a meeting with the Department of Agriculture in relation to timber product quarantine matters, and ongoing legality compliance training and legality assurance compliance assessment requests.

**Global Timber Forum website**

ATIF has been involved in supporting the development of the Global Timber Forum (GTF) and its website now live at: [www.gtf-info.com](http://www.gtf-info.com). This new website provides a source of news and timber sector information and data. It is also an international networking and communications platform, through which people across the timber and associated industries can engage with others worldwide.

It provides a vehicle for sharing best practice and ideas. In association with others, its goal is also to help strengthen the voice of the international timber sector with decision-makers and the wider market place.

News on the GTF website is categorised under five key themes, but all broadly focus on developments and initiatives that highlight the economic, social and environmental benefits of a sustainable and legal timber and forestry sector.

The website also includes an *Industry Information* section, providing accessible industry background information, guidance and market data. This is complemented with an interactive *Knowledgebase* providing contacts and brief profiles of relevant timber and forest industry and associated organisations.

In a major innovation for the timber sector it also provides a live, open access *Forum* facility where site users can post opinions, raise key issues, highlight and discuss important new developments and ask questions. Others can then respond and provide answers to queries. The goal is to provide a channel for a global timber industry dialogue and exchange



Have a look at the GTF website - it contains lots of information pertinent to ATIF member companies.

### **Meeting with Plant Import Operations Branch, Department of Agriculture**

A meeting with Department of Agriculture quarantine and border protection officials took place on 5 June. ATIF was supported at the meeting by Hart Krtschil, Managing Director, Industry Working Group on Quarantine. The discussion included:

1. The 21-day rule application for Europe and other countries.
2. The new Canadian Green Lumber Standard and its implementation.
3. Increased imports of green and kiln-dried timber from PNG.
4. Issues attaching to increasing volumes of imported timber.

A number of follow up actions were identified both for ATIF and for the Department to progress over coming weeks. A further meeting has been scheduled for late October-early November. At that meeting the Department will also provide a briefing of changes and efficiencies related to timber product imports that are being considered.

### **Further legality compliance training**

A further training session related to understanding, implementing and complying with the requirements of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*, plus using the *ATIF Legality Compliance Toolkit* was held on 30 June in Adelaide at Le Messurier Timber & Building Products. Thanks for the assistance provided by Simon Angove, Lou Boffo and Maureen Pennington.

The next training session will be held in Melbourne, venue, date and other details are presently being worked out and will be advised as soon as possible.

### **Legality compliance due diligence assessment requests**

A number of companies have received requests from the Department of Agriculture's Illegal Logging Compliance Assessment Team to provide information in relation to specific consignments of imported timber product. ATIF is fielding a number of inquiries from companies in relation to preparing their response to the Department's information request. The Illegal Logging Compliance Assessment Team now has a page on compliance on the Department's website that includes a complete copy of the information notice pack. See: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/compliance>

ATIF has been advised that the deadline for submitting information is flexible. If you are experience any difficulties, or require any clarification call me – details below.

ATIF will be meeting with Department policy and enforcement officials shortly to review information provided by companies. The industry will then receive some feed back to assist in carrying out future legality compliance due diligence.

### **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 released an issues paper covering a range of matters affecting the sector. Following an invitation to do so ATIF prepared and forwarded a submission on the issues paper. This submission is available to anyone wishing to see it.

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