

MEMBERS'

BULLETIN

August-September 2015**No 35****IN THIS ISSUE:**

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition provides details of issues related to illegal logging legislation compliance and the recent mid-rise building symposium.

Biosecurity information series

During September staff from the Department of Agriculture's Targeting and Enforcement and Forestry branches will be visiting Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane to hold information sessions on Australia's illegal logging laws. The sessions will be held as part of the Department's Biosecurity Information Sessions.

The illegal logging sessions will be valuable to customs brokers and any businesses who import wood, paper or pulp products into Australia. The sessions will provide an overview of the first year of operation of the illegal logging due diligence requirements, with a focus on key developments, emerging issues and future approaches. They will also provide a review of the first six months of compliance assessments, including common areas of non-compliance and potential solutions. There is no cost for these sessions but registration is required. For more information about all of the sessions being held visit:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/public-awareness/BiosecuritySessions2015>

You can register to attend the illegal logging or other Biosecurity sessions by completing online registration at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=WdKWxRQBGXmozoWT5RrCCP80lx32WCxnn52M43JtVZ4%3d>

New Compliance Advice Notices

The Department of Agriculture will soon begin publishing *Compliance Advice Notices*. These notices will provide advice on specific compliance issues and guidance on what is acceptable practice when carrying out illegal logging-related due diligence. They will allow timber product importers to better understand the steps required to comply with the due diligence requirements



The Department is currently preparing its first *Compliance Advice Notice*. Once published, it will be available on the Department's website. It will be copied to ATIF members.

Mid-rise building symposium

An industry symposium to discuss rapidly growing new opportunities in the mid-rise apartment, hotel and office sectors was recently held in Melbourne. The event was hosted by ATIF along with the Australian Forest Products Association, ForestWorks and Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA).

The objective of the symposium was to provide an opportunity for timber industry supply chain companies and groups to explore possible market development approaches to the rapidly expanding mid-rise market for timber products and timber-based building solutions.

The symposium followed a submission for Proposal for Change for the National Construction Code Volume 1 to make it easier to build mid-rise buildings (up to 8 storeys) out of lightweight and massive timber construction systems.

There was unanimous agreement at the symposium that this new mid-rise and commercial market holds an opportunity for timber products and systems and that the competition here is concrete and steel – rather than other timber products. There was also agreement that these new markets provide opportunities for all timber products: local and imported; structural and appearance, sawn, engineered and panels; mass timber and lightweight structural timber products.

The presentations and a summary of the discussions at the symposium are available on the FWPA website at:

<http://www.fwpa.com.au/news-and-events/latest-news/777-timber-opportunities-in-the-mid-rise-market-symposium-presentations.html>

Service offer Port of Melbourne

Associate Customs & Forwarding (ACF), located in Coode Road, West Melbourne at Melbourne Port (100 metres from Patricks Terminal and 500 metres from DP World) with a second facility at Phillips Road would welcome a call from any ATIF member company that is interested discussing how ACF may be able to provide services in handling their imports out of the two Melbourne terminals.

ACF currently handles boxes from the port 24 hours a day, five days a week, but also could extend this through the weekend to assist ATIF member companies with their storage and transport needs.

ACF is able to offer the following services; international freight forwarding; Customs clearance; wharf cartage; container unloads; cross docking storage, and transport. Direct any enquiries to Steve Brogan: Mob: 0414 202 885.

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