

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 a quick summary of recent meetings with Department of Agriculture and Water Resources illegal logging-related staff and with Plant Import Operations staff. Also some preliminary advice on the 2017 *Insights and Outlook* Conference that will be held in Melbourne on 5 October as a joint venture between DANA, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and the ATIF.

Illegal logging-related regulatory and due diligence compliance matters

A recent meeting with Department of Agriculture and Water Resources illegal logging-related policy and compliance staff discussed the following matters:

1. Progress with the analysis of submissions on the regulatory impact statement: *Reforming Australia's illegal logging regulations: consultation regulation impact statement* (RIS) and likely modifications to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*.
2. An update on the ongoing status of the 'soft start' to compliance.
3. The outcome of the review of compliance for the 500 'please explains' issued by the department.

Staff indicated that the analysis on submissions to the RIS was nearing completion, and that recommendations to the minister for possible changes to the regulation were likely about August. Until that time the present 'soft start' would continue to remain in place. However, compliance activity would also continue.

A report on the analysis of the first 500 compliance due diligence requests related to specified consignments of regulated timber products will be made available (also via the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website) shortly. Compliance staff indicated that, in their view, there were a significant number of instances of non compliance with due diligence requirements, notably of imports of furniture-related products. Further information would be detailed in the upcoming compliance report.

Timber products import conditions review

As previously reported the timber import conditions review team within the Plant Import Operations section of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has now completed a preliminary draft of import conditions changes for a specified range of timber products, and



has established a new format BICON case scenario. At the request of the review team, ATIF made a submission on the review process.

ATIF is supportive of the review that seeks to streamline and simplify some existing processes; reflect the changing nature of some categories of timber product imports, and incorporate new biosecurity treatment methodologies.

ATIF joined with the Customers Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association and the Australian Furniture Association to discuss the review with Plant Import Operations staff.

Minutes from the meeting and a communiqué from Plant Import Operations will be provided shortly.

The meeting covered activity since the close of submissions on the draft changes to import conditions. Early advice is that the 21-day rule will be replaced by a 6 month rule coupled with a manufacturers declaration concerning biosecurity issues related to product storage. Further advice about modifications to BICON cases and other issues will be contained in the communiqué. Plant Import Operations will also be developing a communications strategy intended to better inform the timber product import industry, including customs brokers about BICON changes and associated matters..

2017 Insights and Outlook Conference

A tripartite 2017 *Insights and Outlook* Conference will be held in Melbourne on Thursday, 5 October. This collaborative conference will be a joint venture between DANA, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and ATIF. The event will also provide opportunities for collocated events and meetings that will include the FWPA and ATIF annual general meetings.

Conference lead organisation DANA has previously held several conferences in Melbourne. Managing director and internationally recognised timber industry strategist Dennis Neilson said the conference will be a carefully crafted one day event.

“It will focus on market trends and changes, new technologies and products that are, and will continue to grow the size of the timber industry with its related benefits for company commercial performance and employment in building and construction industries.”

The conference will address global and regional market demand and supply issues for timber products that will impact on the forest growing and wood processing industries. “We will also be examining major new industry policy settings, mega trends, domestic wood demand outlook for housing and other uses, and the importance of data in providing context for changes in markets or movements in the business cycle,” said Mr Neilson.

FWPA managing director Ric Sinclair added that the conference will be promoted throughout Australia, and it is anticipated that the audience will include industry leaders, key decision makers and policy makers covering the forest growing and wood processing sectors. “The conference is being designed, and anticipated to attract individuals from the wholesale sector, timber merchants, resellers, retailers, manufacturers, builders, technical experts, supply chain professionals and trade associations.”

A range of conference-related sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, and for conference inquiries call conference organiser, Julie Bell on +64 7 349 2764 (Ext 2) or email admin@dana.co.nz. You can also get in touch with John Halkett on 0417 421 187 or email: john.halkett@bigpond.com. Detailed information about sponsorship opportunities will soon be posted in the conference website www.danaevents.co.nz/2017melbourne.

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