

MEMBERS'

BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This edition comments on further illegal logging-related education, the ongoing work associated with timber import conditions and current major ongoing issues related to the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug risk season treatment requirements. Also a quick analysis of softwood timber imports.

Illegal logging further education

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' first webinar: *Australia's Illegal Logging Laws – Your responsibilities as an importer* held in August has now been uploaded on the Department's illegal logging web pages. You can find the recording and transcript here:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/webinar-recordings>

The second webinar: *Australia's Illegal Logging Laws – A deeper look at due diligence* will be held at 11am to 12pm AEST, Wednesday, 19 September 2018. This webinar will provide a more detailed examination of the due diligence requirements for importers. This will include information on the laws' requirements, practical tips on conducting your due diligence, what the Department, as a regulator expects, and useful supporting resources. Similar to the last event, there will be opportunities to ask questions of the departmental panel.

ATIF company importing management and compliance staff are encouraged to participate in this second event. To register for the second webinar, visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6878713361734334977>

Any follow up questions regarding the illegal logging laws, or the webinars, should be directed to the department via our dedicated email inbox: ILCA@agriculture.gov.au or via our illegal logging inquiry line: 1800 657 313

Timber import conditions review

A recent meeting was held with Plant Import Operations staff of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of the ongoing review of timber import conditions. The following matters were discussed.

1. Enquiries for help with BICON and import conditions.
2. Canadian Green Lumber Certification Program.



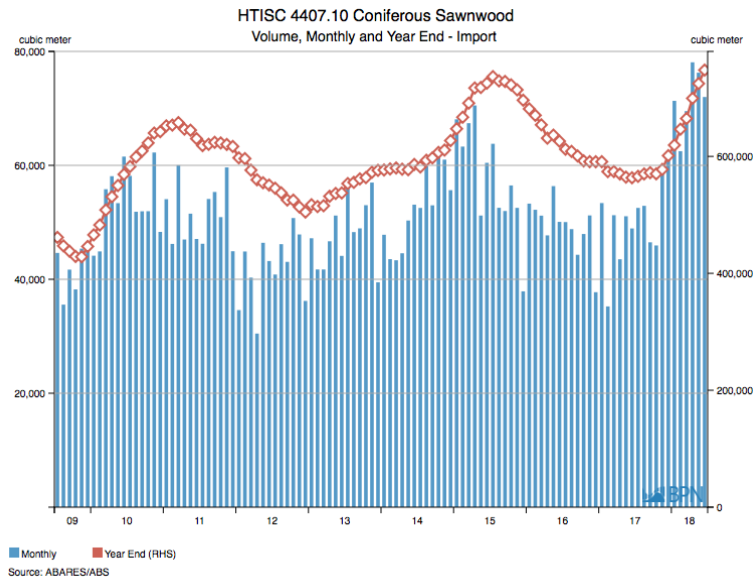
3. *Myrtaceous* permit requirement.
4. Possible pathogen risk review.
5. Green sawn timber from PNG.
6. Approved treatment providers.

Further advice on these matters will follow in a separate briefing.

Softwood timber imports continue to grow

Imports of sawn softwood rose to a new peak over the year-ended June 2018, totalling 747,645 m³, up 32.7% on the prior year, despite strong rises in average import prices. In June itself, imports totalled 72,001 m³, below the monthly peak but still a 47.2% higher than in June 2017.

The rise in imports, shown in the chart below, over the longer term, has come about because domestic capacity is constrained, while demand is very strong. In particular, the closure of the Morwell sawmill has fuelled the sharp lift in imports of the first half of 2018.



Brown Marmorated Sting Bug (BMSB) further advice

Further to the information set out in the ATIF Members' Update of 15 August 2018, significant concerns continue to be raised with me and Plant Import Operations about timber products being affected by required BMSB treatment measures.

In response to queries, Plant Import Operations has indicated that pest free areas in target risk countries are not being considered. The recognition of pest free areas by the Department requires the exporting country's National Plant Protection Organisation to delimit the extent of the pest's presence in their country and to report this at an international level. This is unlikely to happen, at least in the foreseeable future and that means that the Department is limited to regulating at the country level, rather than a country's regional level.

In relation to heat treatment performed outside the 120 hours prior to export, as this treatment is completed outside of the allowable time, the goods will require retreatment prior to export or treatment on arrival. They are not prohibited – they just need to be treated to mitigate the BMSB risk.

Heat treatment is only evidence that the commodity has been treated for internal pests. Normally, the department accepts 90 days between treatment and export for timber commodities as other insect pests that can internally infest timber are not likely to re-infest within this time. However, during BMSB season, BMSB can contaminate the surfaces at any stage following treatment.

The Department has acknowledged that the BMSB season treatment measures are placing a considerable burden on industry. ATIF is continuing to liaise with Plant Import Operations over this matter and will keep you advised of developments.