

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This edition confirms the preparation and distribution of the ATIF structural softwood compliance guide: *Structural Timber Used in Construction*, and provides a reminder of the commencement of the 2019-2020 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) high-risk season. Also there is an update on the Federal Government's review of the first five years of operation of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012*, and details of the new Indonesian Timber Exchange developed in Australia by the PNORS Technology Group.

Structural softwood compliance guide

The structural softwood compliance guide: *Structural Timber Used in Construction* prepared by ATIF in association with the Timber Development Association has now been distributed in both hard copy and ecopy forms to ATIF members, TABMA members, some timber product export organisations and the recently appointed NSW Building Commissioner David Chandler.

Again, the guide has been prepared to assist importers and resellers to ensure that structural softwood products imported and sold comply with the requirements of the Australian building code and related standards. It is essentially a compliance check list for imported structural softwoods (treated and untreated) that provides information for compliance with Australian regulations and explains the consequences of providing non-conforming or non-complying products.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug 2019-2020 high risk season

The 2019-2020 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) high-risk season commenced on 1 September 2019 and ends on 31 March 2020.

Details on the 2019-20 BMSB seasonal treatment requirements, and for information on how to prepare for the BMSB season commencing 1 September see: : www.agriculture.gov.au/bsmb Queries can be directed to spp@agriculture.gov.au or the BMSB hotline 1800 900 090.



Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 review

A review of the first five years of operation of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* (Act) has been completed by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR). The review assessed the extent to which the Act and the associated *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* (Regulation) have met the Government's policy objectives. It also highlights operational issues encountered during the first five years of operation and identifies potential options for improving the Act's operation.

The review identified the potential for a number of regulatory and non-regulatory improvements that could enable the Act to better achieve its overall policy objectives. These potential improvements would:

- Provide clarity on the type of activities that are covered by the Act.
- Increase the reach of the laws by broadening the conduct and products regulated under the Act.
- Provide DAWR with more tools and greater flexibility in undertaking compliance activities.
- Facilitate DAWR's efficient administration of the Act.

While some of these initiatives would provide useful outcomes for importers and processors and potentially provide a better understanding of the requirements of the Act, other proposals would be likely to have a significant impact on who is a regulated entity and what their obligations are under the Act.

The review report concludes that any changes to the Act and Regulation would need to be carefully considered to ensure that there are not any negative consequences for the overall operation of the Act and that changes would not unduly burden Australia's importing and processing communities. Verbal advice from DAWR officials suggests that further action this year is unlikely.

Indonesian Timber Exchange

The PNORS Technology Group is pleased to announce the launch of the Indonesian Timber Exchange (ITE). The ITE is an online marketplace built for companies so they can acquire timber from Indonesian suppliers and create a transparent sales process.

In 2018 the PNORS Technology Group partnered with Indonesian industry association Asosiasi Pengusaha Hutan Indonesia (APHI) to create an eCommerce platform to promote timber sales across domestic and international markets. Today the ITE is live with several suppliers and members of ATIF have been given the first chance to use it.

Benefits of the ITE include that suppliers must have a registered SVLK (Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu) number to be able to trade through the ITE. SVLK is a system managed by an independent third-party legality verification system. Also, the ITE makes it easy - with a few simple clicks for companies to sign up to the system and begin ordering. In addition, the ITE is managed by PNORS Technology Group, an Australian owned and operated business who have been building timber industry-related software since 1982.

Plus there is no cost to use the ITE or to purchase timber products via the ITE. Furthermore, the ITE does not require payment as that is done directly with the supplier. Lastly, PNORS have strategically partnered with six timber associations. Therefore, if timber importers cannot find a product they are seeking within the ITE catalogue, they can use the partnership arrangement to connect with the right supplier. For additional information about the ITE go to: www.indonesiantimberexchange.com

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