

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. In particular, this edition draws attention to concerns about illegal logging compliance and the substantial number of infringement notices that have been issued. Also comments on apparent rising non-compliance with the structural requirements of building codes and standards. Some key upcoming events are also highlighted.

Illegal Logging Prohibition compliance and infringement notices

It is now apparent that since the change of Federal government the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has been much more active on illegal logging compliance, and the issuing of infringement notices. A substantial number of infringement notices have now been issued for alleged non-compliance with the illegal logging legislation.

Based on advice received infringement notices have been issued to importers of furniture products subject to the illegal logging legislation exceeding \$200,000. Also, several timber importers have received infringement notices notwithstanding that these companies had already provided written responses to DAFF information requests, and also provided copies of their due diligence guides.

ATIF is of the view that some of the infringement notices appear to be for trivial reasons and outside the scope of the "reasonably practical" test in the illegal logging legislation, with related fines in the region of \$13,000. This matter has been raised with DAFF. It is recommended that companies:

1. Ensure that their illegal logging due diligence guides are up to date, including containing summary information about company corporate and contact details, such as emails, phone numbers, ABN/CAN, and a brief outline of business activity.
2. If concerned about receiving infringement notices for what appear to be trivial reasons companies are encouraged to make written representations to the Secretary of DAFF seeking the withdrawal of infringement notices. You may write to the Secretary through the Infringement Unit.



The Secretary may withdraw an infringement notice whether or not you have made written representations. You will be notified in writing if an infringement notice is withdrawn.

Correspondence should be sent to: Infringement Unit, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Forestry, GPO Box 858 Canberra, ACT 2601. Email: InfringementUnit@agriculture.gov.au

Compliance with building codes and standards

Compliance with building codes and standards has been a matter discussed by the ATIF Board in the past, and will again be on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Previous statements by the ATIF Board have included that concerns have been expressed that some imported structural softwood products may not always comply with the requirements of building codes. Further, it was affirmed that complaints received about possible non-compliance were taken very seriously by ATIF to protect the overall reputation and credentials of the timber supply chain.

Ongoing challenges around the sourcing of additional timber products are continuing to be exacerbated by a shortage of containers, shipping space availability, and port congestion. This has resulted in climbing costs and charges that have contributed to ongoing difficulties across the supply chain and for building and construction industries.

Upcoming events

Your attention is drawn to the following significant upcoming events:

1. TABMA and Hardware Australia conference Hunter Valley, NSW 25-26 May 2023

The TABMA and Hardware Australia 2023 Timber & Hardware National Conference will be held by the now-merged entity in the Hunter Valley 25-26 May 2023. The conference will be a great opportunity to be 'stronger together', especially across national advocacy and policy issues when engaging with important stakeholders. For more information see: <https://www.2023-tabma-national-conference.com/>

2. Malaysian Wood Expo (MWE 2023), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 18-20 June 2023

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and partners will be bringing together industry shapers, technology experts and key decision makers representing the timber trade and industry with exhibition space spanning 12,000 square metres. ATIF is assisting with the coordination of Australian attendance so companies and/or individuals planning to attend may if they wish notify ATIF. For more information see: <https://www.malaysianwoodexpo.com.my/>

3. Australian Timber Supply Summit, Melbourne, 29-30 August 2023

A *Timber & Forestry enews* collaboration invites you to the 2023 Australian Timber Supply Summit (TFE2023). Australian Federal and State governments, industry associations and the industry have long been debating the future Australian wood supply needed to provide for a growing population, and for building and construction demand.

The 2023 Australian Timber Supply Summit will engage the collective minds of the industry to seek a resolution to the timber supply issues. Summit speakers will include leading international and domestic speakers. For more information see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/766c3498-2748-451b-afdd-7265e7ee67d4/summary>

Timber Trader news

Your attention is drawn to the now bi-monthly expanded *Timber Trader News* magazine. For further information see: <https://www.timbertradernews.com/>

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