



INFORMATION SHEET

BIOSECURITY AND CUSTOMS PROCESSES REQUIRED FOR IMPORTING TIMBER PRODUCTS

PREPARING FOR IMPORT



Is your container clean?

Are there any requirements for the packaging?

Australia has strict biosecurity and cleanliness requirements for containers. There should be no soil, grain, plant, animal, insect or snail activity inside and out.

01



Are there any biosecurity treatments required for the product?

Review the BICOIN classification and strictly follow the pre-departure treatment requirements considering the country of export, any seasonal requirements, the product itself and the manufacturing process

02



Certificates required from the exporting country, compulsory and optional

A government issued phytosanitary certificate is a compulsory requirement. Optional certificates for heat treatment, kiln drying or permanent preservative treatment should also be considered.

03



Have you got a Country of Origin Certificate or a declaration of Country of Origin on your import documents?

Border Force apply tariffs which depend on the origin of the timber in the product, varying duties and taxes are payable by the importer.

04



Is Illegal Logging Due Diligence Required?

If the product is a Regulated Timber Product under the law, have you conducted due diligence very precisely in accordance with the requirements and signed the Community Protection Question?

05



CONTAINER CLEANLINESS

In addition to the timber commodity you are importing you also need to include any packaging materials that are used and the type of treatment that they have been subjected to.

[Timber and Bamboo packaging](#)

[Packaging and Non Commodity information requirements policy](#)

Container packing declaration for FCL can be per consignment or annual declaration.

This declaration covers the ISPM15 treatment for the packaging materials as well as the cleanliness of the actual container.

[FCL Container packing declaration](#)

BIOSECURITY TREATMENTS

All imported timber products must comply with conditions as stated in the Biosecurity Import Condition



The import conditions set out in BICON include requirements for you to demonstrate that pest risks are mitigated through the manufacturing process or through [approved treatments](#).

Approved treatment options for timber products include fumigation with Methyl Bromide, Sulfuryl Fluoride, Ethylene Oxide, Heat Treatment (Kiln Drying) or Gamma Radiation or Permanent Timber Preservative.

[Treatment for timber and timber products](#)

[Timber and bamboo packaging import requirements](#)

Offshore treatment must be performed by an approved treatment provider or in the case of heat treatment or timber preservative by exporting countries recognised companies that perform these treatments.

[Treating Timber Outside Australia](#)

[Methyl Bromide Methodology V3 effective 1st May 2025](#)

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG (BMSB)

There is a BMSB risk season from 1st September to 30th April (inclusive), BMSB seasonal measures apply to targeted goods manufactured and shipped from target risk countries. The targeted countries are updated prior to every season, it is now MANDATORY to be treated for BMSB offshore prior to arrival in Australia. If for any reason your consignment does not meet BMSB treatment requirement, the cargo will be subject to onshore treatment which is time consuming and costly.

BIOSECURITY TREATMENTS

Seasonal Measures for BMSB

Preparing to Import goods during the BMSB season

[Target Risk Countries](#)

[Target Risk Goods](#)

[AusTreat Offshore Treatment Providers](#)

A sealing declaration for containers for BMSB should be done even for countries that are not target countries if they are likely to tranship through a target risk country port.

A declaration on a company letterhead with the container number and date as well as the sealing date and commodity description, stamped, signed and dated is required. Multiple containers can be listed on the one declaration.

[BMSB sealing declaration example](#)

SEASONAL MEASURES FOR BPL (BURNT PINE LONGICORN) EX NZ

The flight season for the Burnt Pine Longicorn beetle in New Zealand runs usually from October to April. Shipments during this period need to meet strict import conditions that can include heat treatment, kiln drying, gamma irradiation or Ethylene Oxide treatment

[NZ Phytosanitary requirements for export to Australia](#)

[BPL Import conditions](#)

CERTIFICATES REQUIRED FOR IMPORT

Australia's requirement for Phytosanitary Certificates

A phytosanitary certificate is numbered and stamped by the government of the exporting country that has the details of the consignment including the exporter details, consignee, export country of origin, destination and details of the timber species including identifying and numbers plus the volume of export listed in M3.

Any additional declarations such as fumigation, heat treatment for the commodity plus the packaging material is listed here also. The type of treatment, duration and temperature and are also filled in.

It is stamped and signed by the relevant government department.

[Phytosanitary Certificates user guide](#)

In addition to the phytosanitary certificate the exporter may also choose to supply additional in house certificates to support their phytosanitary certificate, these are OPTIONAL and are not a requirement for clearance.

[Heat Treatment Certificate](#)

[Kiln Drying Certificate](#)

[Permanent Preservative Treatment Certificate](#)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, TAXES AND DUTIES

[MINIMUM DOCUMENTARY & IMPORT DECLARATION REQUIREMENTS POLICY V4.2](#)

BORDER FORCE - CUSTOMS ENTRY

Border Force requires a declaration by a licenced customs broker acting on your behalf to clear the imported goods, all timber imported into Australia are liable to duty and taxes, unless an exemption or concession applies. Refer to the tariff classification.

Current Tariff Classification

Timber products from a number of countries with which Australia have free trade agreements and are exempt from duty or have a preferential tariff, however a customs entry is still required by your broker.

[Free Trade Agreements](#)

[Other Preferential Agreements](#)

[Preferential rules of Origin Concessions](#)

The customs broker makes a declaration for the Country of Origin to determine the tariff classification, this information can be contained in brief on the bill of lading or a Certificate of Origin that is issued by the exporting countries government, which contains all the cargo details, species, quantity, including exporter details, importer details and country of origin of the commodity. It is important that the Country of Origin is where the timber originated from not necessarily where the timber was processed or exported from. This is particularly relevant in regard to the due diligence for the illegal logging act.

[Certificate of Origin Preferential Tariff \(AANZFTA\)](#)

[Generalised Certificate of Origin Example](#)

Most of the information provided covers containerised cargo, it is however applicable for break bulk and flat-rack shipments. There are however additional Biosecurity requirements especially for BMSB. Most of these requirements are covered above but extra care must be taken in getting correct paperwork.

DUE DILIGENCE - ILLEGAL LOGGING PROHIBITION ACT

STEPS TO COMPLIANCE



Establish and Maintain a Due Diligence System

You must have a written due diligence system that complies with the Act and the Rules.

01



Is your Product a Regulated Timber Product?

Check the tariff code against the list contained in Rule 5. If your product's tariff code matches and it is not recycled, made from a non timber forest product or is imported as part of a consignment with a customs value that does not exceed \$1,000, then you must conduct due diligence.

02



Gather Information

You must obtain as much information as is reasonably practicable to obtain before each occasion you import a regulated timber product.

03



Identify and Assess the Risk

Use a method to do this:

- Certified product (FSC or PEFC Only); or
- Uncertified product

04



Conduct Risk Mitigation

If you have not achieved a low risk designation, move to risk mitigation. Otherwise you can skip this step.

05



Exception to Steps 2 and 3 For repeat identical imports within 12 months

You can rely on an earlier risk assessment if you have confirmed the product is the same and considered whether there is any increased risk.

06



Keep Records

You must keep records of having made decisions and all references you have reviewed to evidence that you conducted due diligence prior to import

07

PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT



The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are extremely active in audit and require precise adherence to the requirements.



Penalties include fines, naming and shaming those in breach, seizure of goods, powers of entry and testing and even, where an illegally logged product has been imported, terms of imprisonment.



Importing illegally logged timber is a criminal offence.



WHERE TO GET THE DETAILS



<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/importers>

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has information available online describing each step and an FAQ section to which importers should refer.

If you need help in creating your due diligence system, ATIF has a list of consultants that can assist you.

The screenshot shows the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website. The header includes the Australian Government logo and navigation links: News & media, Jobs, Ministers, and Contact us. A search bar is also present. The main navigation bar lists: Agriculture and land, Biosecurity and trade, Science and research, About us, and Online services. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home / Agriculture and land / Forestry / Australia's forest policies / Importing and processing timber products - Australia's illegal logging laws / Importers. The left sidebar shows a menu for 'Illegal logging' with 'Importers' selected. The main content area is titled 'Importers' and contains the following text:

Australia's illegal logging law reforms

As of 3 March 2025, Australia's illegal logging laws have changed. Importantly, this includes changes to due diligence requirements for importers and processors of regulated timber and timber products.

The [Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012](#) has been updated to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose and aligns with international best practice. The new [Illegal Logging Prohibition Rules 2024](#) replace the previous [Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012](#) and outline the updated due diligence requirements.

We have updated our guidance material accordingly and strongly encourage our regulated community to ensure you are familiar with all changes and what it means for you.

Visit our [legislation review and consultation](#) page for information on the extensive review process that informed changes to these laws.

Before you import timber and wood-based products into Australia, you need to understand your responsibilities as an importer.

Illegally logged timber

It is a criminal offence to import illegally logged timber into Australia.

If you do import a product which is made from or contains illegally logged timber, you could face significant financial penalties and even prison time.

Regulated timber products

If you intend to import any timber or timber product/s, you will need to determine whether it is a **regulated timber product** and if any exemptions apply.

