

19th April 2006

Dear Stakeholders,

Thank you for all your valuable input on the revision of the Import Health Standard for Wood Packaging. The consultation period for the standard ended yesterday and MAF has received significant input. Although responses have been sent to the majority of comments, additional responses will be sent over the next couple of weeks.

A number of stakeholders identified the need for additional time to prepare for the import requirements outlined in the standard. To allow time to come into compliance, MAF has decided that although the new standard will come into effect on the 1st May 2006, the enforcement of the standard will be phased in over the next two months according to the schedule below.

Wood packaging arriving after 1st May 2006:

1. New Import Health Standard for Wood Packaging enters into force.
2. Wood packaging should comply with the import requirements.
3. MAF will risk profile all consignments and select a subset for inspection.
4. Any wood packaging found to be infested with pests will be treated, reshipped or destroyed.
5. Wood packaging found to be free of pests may be granted biosecurity clearance.
6. MAFQS will tag non-compliant wood packaging with an advisory notice.

Wood packaging arriving after 1st July 2006:

1. Wood packaging must comply with the import requirements.
2. MAF will risk profile all consignments and select a subset for inspection.
3. Any untreated or uncertified wood packaging found will be treated, destroyed, or refused entry, regardless of whether pests are found.
4. A notice of non-compliance will be issued for any untreated or uncertified wood packaging.
5. Information from these non-compliances will be used to feedback into the risk profiling system, meaning that importers who develop a history of non-compliance will more frequently be selected for inspection.

Thank you again for your input.

Kind regards,

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