



THE CHARLOTTE BULLETIN

GOVERNMENT AND TRADE WORKING TOGETHER

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SUBJECT: Port policy change for wood packing material

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance on wood packing material policy at the Port of Charlotte. Wood packing material that has not been treated may harbor insects and provide a route of entry for these insects into the U.S. where they do not currently exist. Should one of these insects enter and become established, the effect on the timber industry as well as forests would be devastating.

The chance of an insect, if present, leaving wood packing material increases the longer the wood sits in a facility. Manipulations to separate the wood further delay the wood from being exported and therefore greatly increase this risk. The Port of Charlotte will be taking a more precautionary approach to non-compliant wood packing material entering the United States. Effective June 16, 2008, previously allowed manipulations to separate non-compliant wood packing material from a commodity will no longer be an option at the Port of Charlotte. Instead, the entire shipment will be required to be re-exported. This is necessary to mitigate the risk of a non-native, wood-boring insect entering the country in wood packing material.

When wood lacking the IPPC stamp is detected in Charlotte, CBP Agriculture Specialists will issue an Emergency Action Notification (EAN), as is the current policy. However, beginning June 16, 2008, a maximum time period of five (5) days will be granted on the EAN as the deadline for filing export paperwork with the CBP Agriculture Specialist. CBP form 7512 for an Immediate Export, or Transportation & Exportation when an IE is not feasible must be filed within the allotted five (5) day time period. If the paperwork is not provided to the CBP Agriculture Specialist within the allotted time, a civil penalty may be issued to the importer for failing to comply with the EAN. This will be strictly enforced.

To help you facilitate the transition into the new policy, manipulations will continue to be an option until June 16, 2008. Please note that manipulations may not be allowed in cases where previous violation by the shipper or importer has occurred. Each incident will be evaluated on a case by case basis and regulatory action will be at the discretion of the Port Director.

As always, thank you for your continued assistance in ensuring that wood packing material regulations are met. Should you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact CBP Agriculture Specialist Shelly Kellogg at 704-329-6115.

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Area Port Director

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