

# Phytosanitary Certification of Forestry Products

**Laney Campbell**

National Operations Manager

Export Certification & Trade

**USDA, APHIS, PPQ**

# Export Certification Basics

- Phytosanitary Certificates (PC) are not required by APHIS-PPQ
- Foreign Countries may require a “Phyto” and an Import Permit (IP), sometimes an IP is mandatory
- Foreign Countries determine import requirements based on pest risk for their country
- Authorized Certification Officials (ACO) are required to meet all phytosanitary requirements stated on IP and in PExD

# Export Challenges Specific to Forestry Products

- For all forestry products –
  - **Proof Of Origin**
    - Origin required to establish whether the commodity came from a “Pest Free Area” or not
    - Logging contract, bill of sale, State PC, other
    - Accurate genus species & common name
  - **“Chain of Custody”** – Product Identity maintained
    - Documentation varies based on product type
    - Logs - tags, unique stencil marks, others?
    - Lumber – inventory records, kiln records, bill of sale, stencil marks, tally sheets, grading agency records, others?
    - Chips & Shavings – production records to inventory, others?

# Tools to help Manage Export Workload

- National Wood Products Compliance Agreement
  - Can be considered for all types of forestry products
  - Exporter's history of compliance with previous export shipments – **Local Stipulations** page tailored to each mill
  - National Section based on one of 3 options
    - Facility participates in one of the Mill Certification Programs in Export Program Manual
    - Facility operates under ALSC/NHLA grading agency program
    - Annual 3<sup>rd</sup> party kiln calibration record & treatment certificate on company letterhead
- Mill Certification Programs – HT - KD - Debarking & Grub Hole

# More Tools to help Manage Export Workload

- Exporters' familiarity with commodity requirements for specific country in **PCIT – PExD**
- Authorized Certification Officials (**ACO**) use of digital signatures for PCs when permitted
- Exporter / Applicant attaches courier label to PCIT application for faster returns
- Exporter / Applicant requests and complies with terms of Original Certificate Print Authorization (**OCPA**) - granted only by Export Services

# Product specific issues - Lumber

- When and where to inspect?
  - Prior to containerization best to inspect for pests, bark, moisture content, verify species and HT and/or KD marks
  - “Square-edged without bark” far more stringent than industry’s tolerances by grades
  - After containerization, documentation is even more critical and need for stenciled marks on pack sides and ends
- Adequate documentation?
  - Heat Treatment and/or Kiln Drying – grading agency endorsed certificate, kiln calibration, kiln charge records, etc.
  - Additional documentation necessary for “Super Heat Treatments” or Chemically Preserved material

# Product specific issues – Chips & Shavings

- Country specific definitions may include size and thickness of chips and shavings
- Contamination issues with bark, soil, branches, foliage, mixed species
- Treatment – Heat
  - Shavings obtained from KD lumber?
  - Shavings require HT but technology not yet available to obtain 56 degrees C for 30 minutes at wood core
  - Heat treatment of 300 degrees C for 30 minutes not approved by EU

# Product specific issues – Chips & Shavings

- Treatment – Fumigation
  - Methyl Bromide difficult product to obtain
  - Some ports not allowing MB use or greatly restricted
  - Phosphine fumigation approved in – transit for on some vessels for shipments to Turkey
  - Phosphine fumigation not approved for shipments to EU
  - China allows use of MB or Phosphine
  - Treatment must to be monitored by ACO
  - Product must be safeguarded post treatment



## **Product specific issues – Logs, cants, poles**

- Country may define each product type differently and apply different requirements
- “Debarked” material and specific tolerances for bark – normally less than 5% allowed
- Number of log yards requesting inspections may exceed ACO availability
- Effective Heat Treatment limitations by product size
- Fumigation facilities and ambient temperature constraints

# Product specific issues – Logs, cants, poles

- Place of Inspection and/or Place of Treatment?
- Logs identified and marked by species
- Logs inspected at log yard
  - Staged off soil with means to prevent soil contamination
  - ACO's safety during inspection and Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) sampling is considered when staging
  - Logs safeguarded & identity maintained after phytosanitary inspection to prevent insect infestation, hitchhiking insects, soil contamination, etc.
- Logs inspected at Port
  - Very difficult to inspect for pests, bark, soil, verify species
  - Extraordinarily difficult to do adequate PWN sampling

# One more issue for all forestry products ---

- Please be very aware of inspection date(s), cut-off dates, sail dates, post-departure restrictions, and PC issuance dates.
  - Found in **PCIT – PExD**, Country Summary, General Information, Definitions – **Phytosanitary Certificate**
  - **Each country can define their own time limits based on any of the dates above**
  - PPQ policy on time limits must also be met – Issue PC no more than 30 days from the date of inspection (day one!)
- Arrange for the shipment to get re-inspected at port of departure to meet the country's time limit especially if sail date slips!

# Any questions?

Please take a moment to stop by the APHIS-PPQ booth and meet some PPQ personnel from South Carolina.



*Thank you for your attention!*