

General Explanation of Key Points of the Draft Plan for Quarantine Inspection Operations and Handling of Imported Lumber

To reduce the risk of harmful organisms being brought in with lumber imports from abroad, the Plant and Animal Epidemic Prevention and Quarantine Inspection Bureau (Bureau) of the Agricultural Committee of the Administrative Yuan, in addition to having already listed saplings, seeds, bark, and vines as items subject to quarantine inspection, also plans to list the logs in lumber products and timber products [as items subject to quarantine inspection]. Further, pursuant to the provisions of Article 21 of the Plant Epidemic Prevention and Quarantine Inspection Law, and having consulted the quarantine inspection provisions for products such as logs of other countries, information on wood quarantine inspection for harmful organisms between nations, Standard 15 of the International Epidemic Prevention and Quarantine Inspection Measures, and the import operations of lumber at various harbors within our country, the Bureau has drafted the “Key Points of the Draft Plan for Quarantine Inspection Operations and Handling of Imported Lumber”. These Key Points consist of a total of 11 items, a summary of which is given below:

1. In a manner coordinated with actual operations, bulk logs and lumber are to be imported through designated harbors (Item 3).
2. When importing lumber subject to quarantine inspection, a certificate of inspection by the plant quarantine agency of the government of the exporting company must be provided; separate standards will be established for the items that must be complied with (Items 4, 5)
3. It is clearly established that lumber products free of bark do not require an inspection certificate when making quarantine declarations.
4. Principles are specified for the inspection by sampling of imported lumber subject to quarantine inspection and methods of handling controlled harmful organisms discovered in quarantine inspections (Items 7 and 9).
5. Items for which cooperation by the importer is required when conducting an imported lumber quarantine inspection [are stated] (Item 8).

Key Points of the Draft Plan for Quarantine Inspection Operations and Handling of Imported Lumber

Provision	Explanation
<p>1. These Key Points have been established to prevent harmful organisms in foreign lumber from entering and causing damage via lumber products, to ensure the continuous development of the domestic forestry industry and a balanced ecological environment, in response to the unique characteristics of lumber product imports, and to facilitate import quarantine inspection operations and handling.</p>	<p>The reasons for establishing the Key Points.</p>
<p>2. The types and scope of lumber subject to quarantine inspection under the present Key Points are: logs, firewood, tree roots, bark, unprocessed lumber, cut lumber, and other products specified by promulgation by the competent agency of the central government.</p>	<p>Based on the results of the establishment of quarantine inspection risk evaluation and international quarantine inspection standards, the plan is to place logs and preliminarily processed lumber products that may carry harmful organisms within the scope subject to quarantine inspection. Products that have been further processed to prevent rotting and/or subjected to pressure and/or high temperature, and lumber products not exceeding 6 mm in thickness will for the time being not be brought within the scope of products subject to quarantine inspection because they constitute a low quarantine risk. If the need should arise, these may be brought within the scope of quarantine inspection by promulgation by the [Agricultural] Committee.</p>
<p>3. Logs and lumber that are imported in bulk shall be imported through the international harbors of Kaohsiung, Suao, and Hualien. When imported through other harbors for special reasons, the importer shall submit an application in advance for approval by the plant quarantine inspection agency.</p>	<p>Since imported log and lumber products are quite bulky, they impose requirements on the vessels transporting them, the geographic environmental conditions of harbors handling imports, and on unloading facilities that cannot be met by common commercial harbors. Thus, in the import of bulk logs, the quarantine inspection agency will determine the current status of harbor operations with respect to the needs of actual quarantine inspection operations, and clearly list special import harbors to facilitate the smooth execution of lumber quarantine inspection operations.</p> <p>Special provision shall be made for exceptions when importation through some other harbor is necessary in consideration of international navigation routes or due to a special need arising under contract.</p>

<p>4. Prior to importation, lumber imported from countries and areas harboring harmful organisms subject to specific regulation in lumber under the class A “import prohibited” items listed in the “Quarantine Inspection Provisions for Plants and Plant Product Imports to the Republic of China” promulgated by the competent agency of the central government shall be processed by the quarantine inspection processing method specified by the plant quarantine inspection agency; this processing method, the date processed, the processing chemicals and concentrations, processing temperature, and other detailed information relating to processing shall be recorded on a plant quarantine certificate; and the product shall be exported within 21 days of processing.</p>	<p>To strengthen imported lumber quarantine inspection control measures, strict standards for appropriate quarantine inspection processing that must be followed prior to export shall be established for lumber from countries and areas with quarantine inspection conditions. Information related to this processing shall be clearly stated on the plant quarantine inspection certificate issued by the exporting country. The product shall be exported within a certain period following processing based on international quarantine inspection standards and provisions so that following the processing of the lumber being exported, it does not remain at the original location for an excessively long period and become reinfested with harmful organisms.</p> <p>Quarantine inspection processing methods shall be clearly established.</p>
<p>5. When importing lumber, the importer or agent thereof shall submit the export plant quarantine inspection certificate issued by the plant quarantine inspection agency of the government of the exporting country, along with a bill of lading and price certification, to the plant quarantine inspection agency in a quarantine declaration. Only after the submitted documents have been inspected and found to be in compliance with provisions and an on-site quarantine inspection has been successfully passed may the product be imported.</p> <p>When the imported lumber of the preceding paragraph must be transshipped through a country or area harboring harmful organisms subject to special [regulation] while in transit, the importer shall submit safety protection measures and, prior to import, obtain approval from the plant quarantine inspection agency.</p>	<p>Clear standard lumber import-related declaration provisions provide the lumber importer or agent thereof guidelines for making quarantine declarations.</p> <p>Given that the lumber import route may pass through an area undergoing an epidemic where there is a risk of reinfestation by harmful organisms, strict standards are provided for such situations, and the importer must follow the provisions for advance applications.</p>
<p>6. Barkless lumber imported from countries or areas not harboring harmful organisms subject to special regulation is exempted from the requirement for a plant quarantine inspection certificate from the exporting country.</p>	<p>Pursuant to principles of controlling quarantine risks, the possibility of barkless lumber carrying harmful organisms is relatively low. Thus, a special provision is established exempting such lumber from the requirement of providing a plant quarantine inspection certificate from the exporting country.</p>

<p>7. In principle, one percent of the declared quantity of imported lumber will be inspected, which may be increased or decreased as deemed necessary by the plant quarantine inspection agency.</p>	<p>Pursuant to principles of controlling quarantine risks, and given the current operations of import harbors and the status of facilities, import lumber quarantine inspection standards and principles are clearly established.</p>
<p>8. The importer or agent thereof shall follow the instructions of the quarantine inspection personnel of the plant quarantine inspection agency, providing assistance in moving, pulling out, turning over, suspending, and other tasks relating to the inspection of the lumber.</p>	<p>To facilitate lumber import quarantine inspection operations, items requiring cooperation by the importer or agent thereof are clearly established.</p>
<p>9. When imported lumber is found upon quarantine inspection to be infested with a commonly regulated harmful organism, it may only be imported after having been subjected to suitable quarantine processing. When emergency measures are warranted, the processing will be conducted by the plant quarantine inspection agency and the necessary related costs borne by the importer.</p> <p>When no suitable quarantine processing method exists for, or existing quarantine processing facilities cannot handle, the imported lumber of the preceding paragraph, the plant quarantine inspection agency may demand that the importer remove or destroy the lumber.</p>	<p>Based on the provisions of Article 19 of the Plant Epidemic Prevention and Quarantine Inspection Law, clear principles are established for handling harmful organisms that are discovered in the course of imported lumber quarantine inspections, upon which plant quarantine inspection personnel may rely in conducting quarantine inspection operations.</p> <p>When the clearly established principles for handling controlled harmful organisms discovered during lumber quarantine inspections afford no suitable method of quarantine processing or existing quarantine processing facilities cannot handle the harmful organism, the plant quarantine inspection agency may, based on the situation, order the importer to remove or destroy the lumber in compliance with the demands of quarantine operations.</p>
<p>10. In imported lumber quarantine inspection, individual quarantine inspection applications shall be bundled and submitted in batches to the plant quarantine inspection agency. However, applications for logs and other products that have been designated by the plant quarantine inspection agency may be individually submitted.</p>	<p>The provisions of Article 12 of the Implementation Provisions for the Plant Epidemic Prevention and Quarantine Inspection Law clearly establish principles for determining the results of quarantine inspections of imported lumber; this determination should be made for batches of declarations. However, given the peculiar circumstances of logs and other cut lumber products that are imported and differences in the facilities of harbors handling imports, and having consulted Japanese lumber quarantine inspection standards, individual selection provisions are provided to conform to actual current trade conditions.</p>
<p>11. These Key Points shall enter effect on the date of promulgation.</p>	<p>The effective date of the Key Points is clearly established.</p>