

USDA Suspends Importation of Manufactured Wood Items from China

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), beginning April 1, 2005, will suspend the importation of craft items from China that contain wooden logs, limbs, branches, or twigs greater than 1 centimeter in diameter and with intact bark. Manufactured wood items that have been heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and have had 100 percent of the bark removed are not subject to the import suspension.

The following are a series of frequently asked questions to assist importers and exporters in determining whether their products are subject to the import suspension. APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) officials cannot make case-by-case determinations based either on photographs, or oral or written descriptions of a product's regulatory status.

Q. What wooden products from China are subject to the import suspension?

A. Manufactured wood items made from wooden logs, limbs, branches, or twigs greater than 1 centimeter in diameter and with intact bark, arriving in the United States after April 1, 2005, are subject to the suspension. The importer or exporter should follow the aforementioned guidelines to determine a product's applicability to the suspension.

Q. The import suspension applies to bark-covered wooden logs greater than 1 centimeter in diameter. Would wooden logs with a diameter less than 1 centimeter be eligible for import with or without bark?

A. Manufactured items that contain bark and are less than 1 centimeter in diameter will be subject to inspection. If insects are found, the appropriate quarantine actions will be taken.

Q. Can specific manufactured wood items continue to be imported from China?

A. Yes. Plastic craft items and items made of debarked wood that have been heat treated or fumigated may continue to be imported from China.

Q. Can pine cones, bamboo, and grapevine be imported from China?

A. Pine cones, bamboo, and grapevine are eligible for import into the United States from China provided they meet all entry requirements and are found free of plant pests.

Q. What is the definition of debarked wood?

A. For manufactured wood items from China to be eligible for import they must be debarked in accordance with 7 CFR 319.40-7(b), which requires that 100 percent of the bark be removed. Debarked wood is commonly referred to as peeled wood.

Q. Where can I find the regulatory provisions for wood requiring the heat treatment or fumigation with methyl bromide?

A. The regulatory provisions that specify the appropriate treatments for wood and wood products is found in 7 CFR 319.40-7, paragraphs c through f.

Q. Why is APHIS suspending the import of non-debarked manufactured wood items from China?

A. APHIS is suspending the import of manufactured wood items made from wooden logs, limbs, branches, or twigs greater than 1 centimeter in diameter and with intact bark because of their potential to introduce wood-boring quarantine pests into the United States from China. In January 2005, APHIS conducted its fourth recall in a consecutive 6-month period due to the presence of quarantine pests found in wooden decorative items imported from China.

Q. What pests is APHIS most concerned about being introduced into the United States from China through the import of wooden craft items?

A. The primary insects of concern are *Callidiellum villosulum* and *Callidiellum rufipenne*, also known as the brown (fir) longhorned beetle and the Japanese cedar longhorned beetle (which are both related to the Asian longhorned beetle; currently being eradicated in Chicago and the Metropolitan New York area).

Q. What signs should importers or exporters look for to determine whether a product is infested by a wood-boring beetle?

A. Importers and exporters concerned about possible infestation of a product should check for exit holes in the wood and a sawdust-like material called frass.

Q. When will the import suspension go into effect?

A. The import suspension applies to products arriving in the United States after April 1, 2005. The suspension will remain in place until APHIS is assured mitigation measures are effective to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests into the United States from China through imported wooden craft items.

Q. If my product enters the United States on or before April 1, 2005, and travels in bond to another port, will it be allowed entry?

A. All shipments must be cleared by April 1, 2005, to be authorized entry.

Q. Prior to the suspension taking effect on April 1, 2005, what will happen to manufactured wood items imported from China at ports of entry?

A. Shipments of manufactured wood items imported from China will be inspected at the port of entry. If live insects are intercepted, the shipments will be refused entry.

Q. How can I receive regular updates about changes in import policies and regulations governing manufactured wood items?

A. To receive regular updates via e-mail on amended import policies and regulations, please subscribe to the PPQ Stakeholder Registry for the craft industry by visiting <https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/PPQStakeWeb2.nsf>. Please be sure to update your account if your contact e-mail, or mailing address change.

APHIS will also update information about these craft items under the Hot Issues at:
www.aphis.usda.gov
www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq
www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits
[www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/craft items](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/craft%20items).

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