

Heat Treatment Certification

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Introduction

- In the early 1990's, the E.U. intercepted nematodes in lumber from North America
- E.U. implements a ban on softwood lumber
- In 1992, Canada negotiates derogation
- Development of a Heat Treating process for softwood lumber resulted
- 1993 HT certification programs come into effect

HT Programs

- Two programs were developed, HT for regulated products exported in the green condition and KDHT for regulated products exported in the dry condition
- In these programs, a minimum internal wood core temperature of 56 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes is achieved

Recent Events

- In the late 1990's, new wood borers/bark beetles enter North America through wood packaging (BSLB)
- Portugal finds PWN in imported wood packaging
- E.U. establishes import restrictions for wood packaging

CHTWPCP

- CFIA has recently completed the modernization of existing export certification systems for heat treated wood products in compliance with Canadian and International standards (ISPM #14)
- The result is the “Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program”
- This directive supercedes previous policy documents and will become in full effect December 31, 2003

CHTWPCP

- Apply to participate
- Submit a Quality Manual
- Demonstrate sufficient and competent staff
- Contract with a Verification Body
- Issue and control of certificates
- Specify treatment conditions

Quality Manual

- Specifies how the facility achieves phytosanitary standards
- Quality management system in place
- Describes the means of heat treatment
- Describes who within the company is trained and responsible for implementation
- Who has the authority to sign the certificates and apply the HT mark

Quality Manual

- Details HT chamber operating conditions
- Air flow, fan operation, sensor locations
- Describes calibration of instruments
- How segregation of treated lots are handled
- Documented operating procedures, record keeping, product identification
- Training program for staff

Facility Certification

- Verification Body and/or CFIA will evaluate the application and the quality manual
- If they are unable to determine if the facility is capable of meeting phytosanitary standards, the facility may be required to have an approved technical laboratory verify some or all of the operating conditions

Facility Heat Treating Options

- There are several approved heat treating options for assisting facilities develop a quality manual for treatment of the wood under the CHTWPCP
- Have been developed for native Canadian softwood and certain hardwoods
- Some options do not require an authorized technical laboratory, these are known as the generic schedules or options

Facility Heat Treating Options

- As an example, Option A, Heat treatment without moisture reduction, 6hr. 26 min for 2 1/4” to 10 hr 57 minutes for 4 1/4” wood
- Must have 2hr. 30 min to 6 hr 34 min with the wet bulb above 60 °C and a final wet bulb temperature above 63 to 67 °C
- Air flow of at least 100 ft/min in all zones
- Must have 1 full fan reversal when WB is above 60°C
- Wood must be preheated if below 15°C

Develop HT Schedules by Third Party

- Technical lab can assist in preparing and finalizing the quality manual
- Conduct on-site evaluation of facility operations and heat treating chamber to validate facility phytosanitary standards
- Make recommendations for final certification

Develop HT Schedules by Third Party

- Verification of the integrity and function of the HT chamber and facility operations
- Measure zone air velocities
- Determine cold zone of HT chamber
- Collect wood core and HT chamber temperatures until 56 °C for 30 min is reached
- Analyze data to determine HT schedules
- Present data in quality manual

More Information

- D-03-02, Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program for Export, contact the Forestry Section of CFIA or at www.inspection.gc.ca
- Technical Heat Treatment Guidelines and Operating Conditions Manual at: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/for/fore.shtml.