

New Import Requirements for Pine Shoot Beetle host material from Canada.

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the importation of products into the United States to prevent dangerous pests from entering and attacking our plant resources. Pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*) has been found in pine nursery stock and cut pine, as well as pine products that consist of pine bark or have pine bark attached (i.e. Christmas trees). Pine shoot beetle (PSB) host material includes all varieties of *Pinus* species (*Pinus spp.*) and prefers the Scotch pine, *P. sylvestris*.

An interim rule, published on Oct. 20, 2004, specifies new restrictions imposed on the importation of PSB host material into the United States from Canada, to help prevent the introduction and spread of PSB into noninfested areas of the United States. Under the new regulations, pine nursery stock, as well as pine products that consist of pine bark or have pine bark attached, must meet new requirements relating to documentation, treatment, handling, and utilization as a condition of importation into the United States from Canada.

The requirement for a written permit, issued by APHIS for the importation of all restricted articles of pine (*Pinus spp.*) from Canada, has been expanded to all destinations in the United States. In addition, for importations that are not completely free of bark, APHIS requires an accompanying phytosanitary certificate or a statement of origin and movement.

A phytosanitary certificate is signed and issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Plant Health Division, stating that the article(s) have been inspected for plant pests. A statement of origin and movement is a signed, accurate statement certifying the area or areas where the regulated articles originated and, if applicable, the area or areas they were moved through prior to importation. The statement may be printed directly on the documentation accompanying the shipment of regulated articles, or it may be provided on a separate document. The statement does not require the signature of a public officer of a national plant protection organization; exporters may sign the document.

To obtain an import permit for Pine products described above, please complete PPQ Form 585 and mail to:

USDA APHIS PPQ Permit Services
4700 River Road Unit 136
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

or by facsimile to (301) 734-8529

For more information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/wood>