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Mexico

Post: Mexico

Mexico Finalizes Phytosanitary Regulations for Imports of Lumber

Report Categories:

Wood Products

Export Accomplishments - Other

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register), on March 4, 2013 an announcement containing the revised regulation NOM-016-SEMARNAT-2013, which regulates phytosanitary aspects of lumber imports. The regulation will enter into force 120 calendar days after publication or July 2, 2013.

Introduction: This report summarizes an announcement by the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published in Mexico’s “*Diario Oficial*” (Federal Register) on March 4, 2013, containing the revised Mexican regulation (norm) NOM-016-SEMARNAT-2013 regulating lumber imports.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Title: Mexican Official Norm –NOM-016-SEMARNAT-2013 that regulates phytosanitary aspects of new lumber imports.

Executive Summary:

The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published the final regulation - [NOM-016-SEMARNAT-2013](#)- modifying the initial draft that was published for comments on May 17, 2012. Modifications were positive for trade in this commodity as onerous shipping requirements were eliminated while still enabling Mexico to better protect itself against invasive forest pests.

Formerly the regulation requested, as a phytosanitary measure, a phytosanitary import certificate and a phytosanitary export certificate to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests into Mexico. However, to harmonize this standard with the provisions of transitory article eight of the Regulation of the General Law for Sustainable Forest Development, this new regulation will require only a phytosanitary certificate for export, thus reducing administrative burdens on individuals.

The United States is one of the countries of origin allowed to export fresh lumber, air dried, wet or green, to Mexico without having to present a pest risk analysis. The other countries are: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Spain, Fiji, the Philippines, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Russia, Taiwan, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The current regulation largely coincides with both the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 12, FAO, “Phytosanitary Certificates (2011)” and the International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures ISPM No. 15, FAO, “Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (2009)”.

Important Dates

- 1. Publication Date:** March 4, 2013.
- 2. Effective Date:** July 2, 2013 (120 calendar days after publication)

Additional Information

This new regulation replaces NOM-016-SEMARNAT-2003, published on July 25, 2003 and its modifications, published on September 23, 2004.

The NOM indicates that the specifications established in this Mexican Official Norm shall be observed without prejudice to the Work Plans for phytosanitary measures that the Secretariat signs with other countries.

The enforcement of this rule corresponds to the Secretariat, through [PROFEPA](#) (Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection), whose staff will perform inspection and necessary supervision.

For More Information

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Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, the equivalent of the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx, and the equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the reader's convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.