



Notice to Industry

41/2007/08

New Import conditions for Chestnut bark hoops

What is the change?

This notice is to inform industry of the following changes to the import conditions for the importation of chestnut bark hoops:

- Non-commercial imports will be required to meet the same conditions as commercial imports.
- The implementation of mandatory treatment in the absence of an acceptable treatment certification.

Why was the change made?

Chestnut bark hoops are hoops made from chestnut wood (*Castanea* spp.) with bark adhering to the wood. The genus *Castanea* is on schedule 6 of the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998* as a kind of plant that must not be imported. The importation into Australia of a plant or plant part of a kind mentioned in Schedule 6 (whether or not capable of being used for propagation) is prohibited unless a Director of Quarantine has granted a permit for the importation.

In addition to this, Chestnut Blight, caused by the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*, is a serious disease of chestnuts trees (*Castanea* spp.). This fungus does not occur in Australia. Treating the Chestnut bark hoops will mitigate this serious quarantine concern.

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that the information they have is up to date by checking regularly on ICON or contacting AQIS.

When will these conditions be implemented?

These changes will be enforced from 29 September 2008.

Further Information

For further information on the changes to the timber ICON cases please contact Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre in the AQIS Victorian Regional Office by email at timber.imports@aqis.gov.au or by phone on 03 8318 6929.