



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

The AQIS LOW RISK WOODEN AND RELATED ARTICLES SCHEME (LRWRA SCHEME)

**Part A: PROCEDURES FOR AQIS's LRWRA ACCREDITATION
Part B: AQIS's LRWRA TREATMENT STANDARD**

March 2011

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

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PART A

AQIS's PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING APPLICATIONS UNDER THE LRWRA TREATMENT STANDARD

1.1 Summary

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has reviewed the existing Low Risk Wooden Article Scheme (LRWA), and has developed the Low Risk Wooden and Related Articles Scheme (LRWRA - or the Scheme) using a Low Risk Wooden and Related Articles (LRWRA) Treatment Standard (hereafter referred as the Standard) to cater for a range of manufactured wooden and related articles. This Standard provides guidelines against which products from a manufacturer can be assessed for LRWRA status for AQIS clearance purposes. The Standard also describes AQIS's procedures for administration and management of the Scheme.

The aim of the Standard is to further minimise the risk of introduction of exotic pests to Australia while facilitating clearance of imported low risk wooden and related articles that are subject to the provisions of the Scheme. Importers of manufactured wooden and related articles (see 1.3 for products covered or not covered by the Standard) can apply to AQIS to assess their imported product under the Scheme.

An importer must submit an application for each individual product a manufacturer produces or group of products using the same manufacturing process.

Air dried, unprocessed and uncoated timber, solid wood packaging materials and products made from dried leaves, grasses or other plants without a timber component are excluded from the Scheme. Products protected only by a permanent timber preservative are also excluded from the Scheme.

AQIS will assess LRWRA applications in line with the Standard using a desk top assessment process. The assessment may consider quality control audit reports of the manufacturing process from an independent auditor. Compliance to the Scheme will be monitored by a five per cent random physical audit of imported consignments.

The Standard has been developed in consultation with industry stakeholders to provide importers of wooden and related articles a guideline to processes that confer low risk status during manufacturing and handling of their products. This will allow importers and their suppliers/manufacturers to streamline their production practices to be able to apply to AQIS for approval under the Scheme.

Submission of a LRWRA status application by an importer does not guarantee AQIS approval of low risk status. AQIS will grant LRWRA accreditation to a product if the assessment of treatment

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during manufacturing, and the packaging and storage is deemed to mitigate quarantine risks to an acceptably low level. AQIS has stringent requirements for commodities to be approved under the LRWRA Scheme. AQIS will review the performance of the Scheme/Standard two years after the implementation of the modified Scheme. AQIS reserves the right to modify or cease the Scheme at any time.

The LRWRA Scheme is in addition to the existing AQIS Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) procedure for clearance of manufactured wooden articles. However, the Scheme has the advantage of quarantine clearance at the Integrated Cargo System level. Importers of manufactured wooden articles may choose to use either the AEP or to apply for low risk status under the Scheme for facilitated clearance of their manufactured wooden articles.

1.2 The STANDARD

The Standard defines the processes that AQIS considers appropriate to mitigate quarantine concerns during manufacturing and storage of manufactured wooden and related articles. AQIS will assess products from specific manufacturers of manufactured wooden articles using the treatment guidelines outlined in the Standard. This involves onshore (ie in Australia) desk top assessment of manufacturing processes. The Standard is described in Part B of this document. The Standard is also available on the AQIS Website (www.AQIS.gov.au).

1.3 Products covered by the LRWRA Standard

PRODUCTS IN THESE ICON CASES MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR LOW RISK STATUS¹: 1) MANUFACTURED WOODEN ARTICLES; 2) BAMBOO ARTICLES; 3) CANE AND RATTAN ARTICLES and 4) WILLOW AND WICKER ARTICLES

Manufactured Wooden Articles

- This are highly processed solid wooden articles (e.g. furniture, doors, musical instruments, clocks) including timber-related products such as plywood, veneer, products made from mostly reconstituted or sliced wood. It also includes processed bamboo, or rattan, willow (woven materials) products or products made from a combination of wood or above materials that have been commercially manufactured, coated and packed commercially.

Bamboo Articles

- Bamboo blinds, bamboo chairs, bamboo chimes, bamboo chopsticks, bamboo furniture, bamboo kitchen ware, bamboo lacquer ware, bamboo mats, bamboo sticks, bamboo tables, bamboo utensils, bamboo wares, bamboo steamers.

Cane and rattan articles

- *Calamus* spp., cane and rattan articles, cane articles, cane chairs, cane furniture, cane kitchenwares, cane mats, cane products, cane tables, cane utensils, cane wares, *Daemonorops* spp., *Korthalsia* spp., *Plectocomia* spp., rattan articles, rattan chairs, rattan furniture, rattan kitchenwares, rattan mats, rattan products, rattan tables, rattan utensils, rattan wares.

¹ * Inclusion of a product in these ICON cases does not necessarily mean it will receive low risk status.

Willow and wicker articles - Dried

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TIMBER AND RELATED PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY THE STANDARD:

- **'Artefacts, natural forest produce'** – artefacts containing wooden components, which may include carvings, spears, statues, wooden masks, wooden blowpipes, bows, weapon handles, arrows and shields. Artefacts may also present other quarantine risks independent of the timber concerns such as rawhide, bone and seed.
- **'Chestnut bark hoops'** - Chestnut bark hoops which are hoops made from Chestnut wood (*Castanea* spp.) with bark adhering to the wood. They are used in the wine industry.
- **'Logs'** – timber that exceeds 200 mm in each dimension (length, width, depth and all diagonals) and is to be imported for further processing.
- **'Plywood and veneer sheet'** – plywood and veneer sheet only. Plywood: wood composed of solid or thin sheets of wood glued together. The grains of adjacent sheets are normally orientated at right angles to each other. Veneers: wood composed solely of sheets sliced or peeled on a veneer machine and often used for plywood or for surfacing furniture. This excludes products or articles (e.g. furniture, doors) made from plywood and veneer components and plywood used for packaging or dunnage.
- **'Sawdust products, Charcoal and Wood chips'** – sawdust products including (but not limited to): briquettes and pellets made from compressed wood; charcoal; coal; chunks/chips or bits of wood; sawdust; sawdust powder and wood shavings and any other timber by-products that are not used as packing material or for further processing.
- **Timber – Myrtaceae**
- **'Timber and timber mouldings'** – sawn timber (rough and dressed), timber machined into a desired shape but not a final product, roundwood that has been subject to a commercial debarking process and has a dimension less than 200 mm.
- **'Timber oversize'** – timber or timber products that exceed 200 mm in each dimension (length, width, depth and all diagonals) and are not imported for further processing.
- **'Timber packaging and dunnage'** – any kind of timber used as packaging, including cases, crates, pallets, bearers, dunnages and blocks and or wood packaging materials covered by ISPM 15 (*International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade*).
- **'Wine barrels'** – wooden wine barrels/oak barrels, wood chips used for wine making, stave inserts, oak cubes, oak balls, and wine woods.

1.4 Procedures for approval of manufactured wooden and related articles under the LRWRA Scheme

Importers of manufactured wooden and related articles must apply to AQIS for the specific products from specific overseas manufacturers to be approved/accepted under the Scheme. The information necessary for the application can be downloaded in **Appendix 1**. The application must be sent to the Timber National Coordination Centre. It can be sent either to the postal address (Timber NCC – AQIS, PO Box 1006, Tullamarine VIC 3043), or it can be lodged electronically by emailing to timber.imports@aqis.gov.au. All applications will be assessed using the requirements set out in the Treatment Standard in Part B of this document.

1.5 Assessment process

AQIS will carry out a preliminary assessment on receipt of a LRWRA application and the initial lodgement fee. During the assessment process, AQIS may ask for additional information, or where feasible/applicable, may seek information from the respective National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) or quality control agencies. To be eligible for LRWRA status, a product must receive either one or two quarantine treatments in the Treatment Standard as a minimum during manufacturing depending on the geographical locality and/or the presence of quality control systems. The second quarantine treatment may be required for items requiring a longer time to produce or pack (store and or be containerised) the finished product after receiving an initial quarantine treatment (e.g. heat or kiln drying).

Where an application is approved, the commodity in the application will be assigned a unique AQIS identification number (AIN). The AIN may have 8–10 alpha numeric values that will be used to identify the manufacturer, country of origin and product included in the accreditation. The list of accredited applicants, their products and AINs will only be used by AQIS officers (commercial-in-confidence).

Key steps after an application is submitted to AQIS are:

1. AQIS will acknowledge receipt of the LRWRA accreditation application;
2. AQIS will prepare an initial assessment of the application on the basis of the information provided;
3. AQIS will contact the applicant if further information on particular aspects of the treatments, manufacturing or storage conditions is required;
4. For applicants that are accredited under a recognised quality control system such as an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliant system, AQIS may request previous audit reports for review to ensure conditions conferring low risk status are maintained;
5. If AQIS decides to grant low risk status, AQIS will issue the applicant with a unique alpha numeric AQIS Identification Number (AIN) identifying the manufacturer, the country of origin and each of the products approved as a LRWRA;

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6. The accreditation will remain valid for a period of two years from the date of signing the acceptance declaration;
7. At the conclusion of the approval period, the applicant can reapply for the renewal of the existing agreement provided the process and products remain the same;
8. If an applicant is unsuccessful, AQIS will provide a report to the unsuccessful applicant/manufacturer detailing the reasons for failure; and
9. AQIS will maintain a list on its internal network of accredited manufacturers for use by AQIS only.

1.6 Confirmation of the accreditation and reassessment process

AQIS will notify applicants of the outcome of their applications. If approved/accepted, the approval will remain valid for two years subject to satisfactory compliance with the Scheme. If Importers need to modify the production processes of the product they need to reapply to AQIS as per the procedure in **Appendix 1**.

1.7 Compliance to the Scheme

Five per cent of consignments cleared under the LRWRA Scheme will be subject to random physical inspections by AQIS for auditing and verification of compliance with the Scheme. Where the commodity is found to be non-compliant with the Scheme a supplier profile will be created at the ICS level. This means the next five consignments from the identified supplier will be directed for full unpack at a Class 1 Quarantine Approved Premise (QAP). The supplier profiles will remain in place if further non-compliance is detected. Profiling will only be cancelled after five consecutive consignments have been unpacked and inspected and found to be compliant with the Scheme. Low risk status will then be reinstated for the term of the approval. All LRWRA profile referrals and supplier profile inspections will continue to be charged a [fee for service](#). AQIS charges for entry lodgement, assessment of documentation, and inspection will apply as normal. This cost is separate to any fees charged by QAPs or any transport and handling fees. All fees are the importer's responsibility.

PART B

LOW RISK WOODEN AND RELATED ARTICLES SCHEME TREATMENT STANDARD

How to use this Standard

This standard is divided into two sections:

1. AQIS Requirements (page 8)
2. Appendices (page 22)

1. AQIS Requirements

AQIS requirements for this section are designed to be subject to audit during quality control procedures, by AQIS, by other quarantine authorities or by the authorised agents of either.

This section is divided into three main columns:

MANDATORY

These two columns list conditions that **MUST** be achieved and actions which **MUST** be undertaken during manufacturing in order for the finished products to conform to the requirements of the AQIS Standard. **Column 1** lists treatments that may be applied as part of the manufacturing process that will mitigate quarantine concerns. **Column 2** lists AQIS-approved treatments to be applied if the manufacturing process contains no treatments that mitigate quarantine concerns.

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Column 3 lists information that may be helpful to an applicant.

2. Appendices

These appendices provide information about applying for low risk status and information about substrates used with panel products.

MANDATORY		INFORMATIVE
STANDARD MANUFACTURING PROCESSES THAT MITIGATE QUARANTINE CONCERNS (Column 1)	AQIS's QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS IF PROCESSES IN COLUMN 1 ARE NOT MET (Column 2)	INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO AN APPLICANT APPLYING FOR MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. (Column 3)

2.1 Products covered under the standard

<p>1. Products covered under this Scheme/Standard must comply with Section 1.3 and must be made from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • processed solid timber (processed/treated as per columns 1 and 2), and/or timber-based products made from plywood, veneer, reconstituted wood; <i>or</i> • processed bamboo, cane, rattan, willow and wicker; <i>or</i> • a combination of the above materials (products hereafter referred to as manufactured wooden and related articles). <p>2. Products protected only by a permanent timber preservative are excluded from the Scheme.</p> <p>3. Products made using a component of laminaboard (laminboard) or blockboard are excluded from the Scheme.</p> <p>4. Wood packaging materials are excluded from the Scheme.</p> <p>5. Products containing/made from dried leaves, dried grasses or similar</p>	<p>The AQIS's Import Condition (ICON) for Manufactured Wooden - Articles includes products made from timber, wood, plywood, veneer, part reconstituted wood, rattan, cane or their combination. Components that are of non-quarantine concern may form part of the manufactured wooden article (e.g. steel, plastic, foam, etc.). These manufactured wooden articles may have undergone extensive processing and may have packing and storage processes, as well as shipping times that reduce the risk of re-infestation to an acceptably low level.</p> <p>Products other than Manufactured Wooden Articles, Bamboo Articles, Cane and Rattan Articles and Willow and Wicker Articles that have their own specific AQIS Import Conditions on ICON are not covered by the Scheme; for example, plywood and veneer sheets (also see Section 1.3).</p>
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<p>products or other plant parts (e.g. roots, bark) are excluded from the Scheme.</p> <p>6. The only seeds that may be allowed under the Scheme are permitted seeds covered under the <i>Quarantine Proclamation 1998</i> (Schedule 5). These may need to be identified to either genus or species. (See www.comlaw.gov.au).</p>		

2.2 Risk mitigation treatments for products made from wood or solid timber products

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manufactured wooden articles made from solid timber must have at least one dimension less than or equal to 200 mm. 2. Articles made from solid timber must be free of bark. 3. Articles made from solid timber must receive one of the following heat/drying treatments during or before manufacture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must receive a heat treatment of 56°C at the core for 30 minutes during manufacturing; or • Must be kiln dried at 74°C or above 	<p>Products in this category that do not receive one of the treatments in column 1 during manufacture can receive one of the following treatments. A risk assessment will be undertaken to ensure that these treatments are suitable for a particular commodity to reduce the assessed quarantine risk to an acceptably low level:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articles made from solid timber must receive one of the following heat/drying treatments during or before manufacture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must receive a heat treatment of 56°C at the core for 30 minutes during manufacturing (see T9968 of AQIS ICON - Wooden Articles Manufactured); or 	<p>Methyl bromide will only penetrate up to 100 mm (4 inches) from the surface into the timber within the fumigation exposure period (see AQIS quarantine treatments and fumigants). Therefore, timber greater than 200 mm (8 inches) thick cannot be treated effectively using equipment and facilities used for standard methyl bromide fumigations.</p> <p>Manufactured wooden articles that are not assessed as being low risk must meet the existing AQIS requirements. See details on ICON database at www.aqis.gov.au for the importation of Wooden Articles Manufactured.</p>
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<p>for 4 hours (depends on thickness of timber).</p> <p>4. All heat treated timber must be processed immediately into the finished products or stored securely to prevent re-infestation. The finished product must be containerised, shipped or securely stored within 21 or 90 days of receiving the heat treatment (depends on geographical locality). A second Quarantine treatment may be required if finished products cannot be containerised, shipped or securely stored within the time frames specified above.</p> <p>5. Articles may be made from solid wood following an auditable standard (national or international) or under a quality control system such as International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) or Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ). This should be included as part of the application.</p> <p>6. All articles made from wood or solid timber must comply with AQIS's storage requirements as detailed in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be kiln dried at 74°C or above for 4 hours (depends on thickness of timber) (See T9912 of AQIS ICON - Wooden Articles Manufactured). 2. Methyl bromide - must receive a fumigation treatment with methyl bromide at 48g/m³ for 24 hours at ≥21°C or 64g/m³ for 4 hours at ≥21°C under vacuum (660 mm vacuum) during manufacturing of the articles (see AQIS MB standard for details). 3. Ethylene oxide (ETO) - must receive a fumigation treatment with ethylene oxide under initial minimum vacuum of 50 kilopascals at 1500g/m³ for 4 hours at ≥50°C; or 1500g/m³ for 24 hours at ≥ 21°C. (See information on AQIS website about ETO treatment providers' scheme). 4. Irradiation – must receive a gamma irradiation treatment at 25 kGray (2.5 Mrad). (See information on AQIS website about Gamma irradiation treatment providers' scheme). 	

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<p>Section 4.</p> <p>7. Articles wrapped with plastic wraps or coated with impervious layers such as synthetic paint, resin, varnish, wax and lacquer and requiring fumigation treatment must comply with AQIS's requirements for impervious coatings and the perforation standard for plastic wrapping (see Sections 5 & 6).</p>		

2.3 Risk mitigation treatments for products made from plywood and veneer

<p>1. Veneer based products such as Plywood and Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) must meet the following conditions during manufacturing of veneer sheets and plywood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veneer should be peeled from logs free of bark, insect activity and fungal decay. • Individual veneer thickness in the plywood must be less than 3 mm. See below for additional requirements when veneers are over 3 mm thick. • Logs used for peeling veneer must be conditioned using a hot bath at >40°C for a minimum of 12 hours or steam- 	<p>Plywood and veneer products that do not receive a treatment listed in column 1 during manufacturing must receive a methyl bromide, ethylene oxide, or gamma irradiation treatment as detailed in section 2.2 above; or</p> <p>Kiln dried at 74°C or above for 4 hours (depends on thickness of timber) (See T9912 of AQIS ICON - Wooden Articles Manufactured); or</p> <p>Heat treatment at 74°C for at least 60 minutes once the core temperature has been reached (T10025).</p>	<p>For details of substrate requirements for manufactured veneer and panel products see Section 3.</p> <p>AQIS has no quarantine concerns with products or articles made solely of reconstituted wood. These pose minimal quarantine risk, and can be released without quarantine intervention. Reconstituted wood products are those that as a result of the manufacturing process no longer contain solid wood. This includes particleboard, chipboard, hardboard (masonite), Oriented Strand Board (OSB), medium and high density fibreboard (MDF and HDF respectively).</p> <p>AQIS has concerns with products made from plywood and veneer components because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. products made from plywood are still natural wood products and could attract timber pests if stored in an environment that favours pests; 2. plywood and substrates used for veneer are hygroscopic (i.e. they have the capacity to absorb moisture) and this may encourage infestation by
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<p>conditioned (>90°C) for a minimum of six hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peeled veneer sheets used in plywoods must be glued together, pressed and dried at ≥100°C for at least five minutes. • Glue line treatments with insecticidal additives (e.g. AS/NZS 1604 parts 2, 3 and 4 to Hazard Level H1 or H2) can be used as an additional measure to mitigate quarantine concerns. • Plywood products must be dried to a final average moisture content of less than 15% . • Panel products must not use substrates made from cubes of solid wood (e.g. blockboard) and must comply with AQIS's requirements for substrate as detailed in Section 3. • The application should include details if the product is made following an auditable standard (national or international) or a quality control system (e.g. ISO, JAS-NZ, Plywood Association of Australasia - PAA). 		<p>pests (e.g. termites);</p> <p>3. reconstituted wood products may also absorb water, but generally are less porous and contain more water repellents than veneer-based products; and</p> <p>4. the finished product may have a small amount of solid timber components (e.g. as a border or as structural components).</p> <p>Examples of acceptable glue line pesticides for veneer-based products, and reconstituted wood, or acceptable equivalent standards are provided in Cargo Container: Quarantine aspects and procedures.</p> <p>Panel products and plywood products not assessed as low risk must enter Australia meeting AQIS's existing requirements for Manufactured Wooden Articles. See details on ICON database at www.aqis.gov.au for import conditions for these products.</p>

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(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
<p>2. Plywood products with individual veneers of over 3 mm thickness must receive the following treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat treatment of 56°C for 30 minutes at the core during drying; • A glue line treatment that is mixed with an appropriate pesticide (details must be provided as indicated above); and • A final moisture content of the plywood product should be a final average moisture content of less than 15%. <p>3. All plywood and veneer articles must comply with AQIS's storage guidelines as detailed in Section 4. Alternatively, products made from plywood and veneer must comply with post-manufacture storage requirements as set out in Australian Standard AS/NZS 1859 series published by Standards Australia.</p> <p>4. Plywood products that are coated with impervious layers such as synthetic paint, resin, varnish, wax or lacquer must be fumigated before the</p>		

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<p>application of the impervious layer (see Section 5). Plywood products wrapped with plastic wraps must comply with AQIS's Perforation Standard for Plastic Wrapping (see Section 6).</p>		

2.4 Risk mitigation treatments for products made from bamboo, cane, rattan, willow and wicker

<p>1. All products must be made from materials free of bark in the case of willow, wicker, cane or rattan, or external cuticles in the case of bamboo.</p> <p>2. All materials (willow, wicker, cane, rattan and bamboo) must receive one of the following treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat (hot air/steam) or kiln drying - all raw materials must receive a heat treatment of at least 56°C at the core for at least 30 minutes during manufacturing; or • Boiling - all raw materials must be boiled/steamed (≥100°C) for at least 30 minutes and then dried to an average moisture content of 12% or less. • All heat/boiled bamboo, cane, rattan, 	<p>Products made from willow, cane, rattan and bamboo not meeting one of the required quarantine treatments during manufacturing must receive either a methyl bromide, ethylene oxide or gamma irradiation treatment as detailed in Section 2.2.</p>	<p>AQIS has concerns with products made from bamboo, cane, rattan and willow and wicker because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. these products are often manufactured in rural-based cottage industries; 2. processing of the raw materials in a cottage industry-based environment will have no rigorous quality control mechanisms and will not have processes adequate to address quarantine concerns; 3. these products may be sent for pre-export methyl bromide fumigation after the application of lacquer and paints. This is not acceptable to AQIS, as efficacy of fumigation is almost completely reduced if the product is sent for fumigation after the application of impervious coatings; 4. these products can harbour pests if not treated properly and can be susceptible to infestation or re-infestation by some specific pests (e.g. termites – <i>Cryptotermis</i> spp., powder post beetles – <i>Dinoderus</i> spp.); and 5. the complex nature of finished products means that they often contain small amounts of other materials such as solid timber used as supporting or structural components. <p>Products made from bamboo, cane, rattan, willow and wicker that have not been assessed as low risk must meet AQIS's existing requirements to enter Australia. See details on ICON database at (www.aqis.gov.au) for the importation of Wooden Articles Manufactured, Bamboo Articles, Cane and Rattan Articles, and Willow and Wicker Articles.</p>
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<p>willow and wicker must be processed immediately or else stored securely after treatment to prevent infestation. The finished product must be containerised, shipped or securely stored within 21 or 90 days of receiving the heat treatment (depends on geographical locality). A second quarantine treatment may be required if finished products cannot be containerised, shipped or securely stored within the time frame specified above.</p> <p>3. Products made from willow, wicker, cane, rattan or bamboo may be manufactured following an auditable standard (national or international) or a quality control system (e.g. ISO, JAS-ANZ). This information should be included in the application.</p> <p>4. All willow, wicker, cane, rattan or bamboo products must meet AQIS's storage requirements as detailed in Section 4.</p> <p>5. Willow, wicker, cane, rattan or bamboo products must be fumigated before the application of any impervious layers such as synthetic</p>		

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paint, resin, varnish, wax or lacquer (see Section 5). Products wrapped with plastic wraps must comply with the AQIS Perforation Standard for Plastic Wrapping (see Section 6).		
3 AQIS's requirements for substrates used with veneers and panel products		
<p>1. All substrates used for veneer panels must not contain solid cubes of wood or sizable pieces of solid wood. These include laminaboard (laminboard) and blockboard.</p> <p>2. AQIS only accepts substrates for veneers that are free of solid wood i.e. made from reconstituted wood or wood particles (such as wood flakes, sawmill shavings, or even sawdust), that are bonded together with synthetic resin or other suitable binders, and are pressed and extruded. Substrates for veneers or panel products that are acceptable to AQIS may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● particle board; ● chipboard; ● flake board; ● hardboard/masonite; ● orientated strand board; and 		<p>Various types of substrates such as particle board are used for the production of veneered panels. However, not all of these substrates are free of quarantine concerns because of the presence of sizable pieces of solid timber in some of these substrates (e.g. blockboard). These pieces of solid timber can harbour pests or be easily infested or re-infested by pests (see Appendix 2 for details of substrate requirements).</p> <p>AQIS acknowledges that there may be a range of other reconstituted wood products used as a substrate for veneer products. AQIS will assess production processes of those materials on a case by case basis.</p>

MANDATORY		INFORMATIVE
STANDARD MANUFACTURING PROCESSES THAT MITIGATE QUARANTINE CONCERNS	AQIS's QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS IF PROCESSES IN COLUMN 1 ARE NOT MET	INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO AN APPLICANT APPLYING FOR MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS.
(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium and high density fibre board. 		
<p>4 AQIS's accepted storage guidelines for LRWRA</p>		
<p>1. After manufacturing all LRWRA must be stored in a way to prevent contamination by hitchhiker pests and/or other pests or quarantine risk material.</p> <p>Some suggested guideline for storing finished products are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All buildings and structures must be maintained in a state of good repair and be weather-proof. All wall/floor junctions must be sealed, or some other measure must be in place to ensure that vegetation can not grow into the building; • All buildings must be kept clean at all times and cargo/packaging residues, contaminants and spillages must be cleaned up and correctly disposed of without delay; • An effective pest control program must be in place to ensure that goods are not contaminated or infested by pests during storage. A document outlining the control measures (including the use of 	<p>AQIS accepts the requirements for storage and handling of veneer, substrates and veneered panels set in the AS/NZS 1859 series dealing with reconstituted wood-based panels as well as The Australia/New Zealand plywood and LVL product standards AS/NZS 2269, AS/NZS 2270, AS/NZS 2271, AS/NZS 2272 and AS/NZS 4357.</p>	<p>The following points are to be considered to ensure if storage conditions are appropriate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the goods containerised? 2. Are the goods wrapped? 3. Are the goods stored in a locked storage? 4. Are the goods isolated from non-accredited products? 5. Are the goods sharing a storage space with other products? 6. What methods are in place to prevent cross contamination if goods are stored with other products? 7. What routine pest control measures are taken, such as a monthly spraying schedule? 8. What rodent (rat) control measures are in place? 9. What post-manufacturing treatments, if any, (fumigation, radiation, etc.) are carried out to prevent infestation or reinfestation by pests? 10. What post-manufacturing treatments, if any, (fumigation, radiation, etc.) are carried out to prevent infestation or re-infestation by pests?

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MANDATORY		INFORMATIVE
STANDARD MANUFACTURING PROCESSES THAT MITIGATE QUARANTINE CONCERNS (Column 1)	AQIS's QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS IF PROCESSES IN COLUMN 1 ARE NOT MET (Column 2)	INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO AN APPLICANT APPLYING FOR MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. (Column 3)
<p>insecticides, rodenticides, baits and traps) and contract details where applicable, must be supplied with the application form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If timber or timber components are treated with the quarantine treatment(s) before assembly, they must be stored securely to prevent infestation by pests. • All finished articles (products) must be packed immediately after production and stored securely until shipment/containerisation within 21 days or three months of the treatment date depending on the geographical region. • The stack should be placed in a way so that it will not be exposed to mechanical damage. • If packs are supported on bearers care must be taken to ensure water does not make contact with the bearers. 		
5 AQIS's requirements for impervious coatings		
Manufacturers who use methyl		Impervious coatings such as synthetic paint, resin, varnish, wax or lacquer,

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MANDATORY		INFORMATIVE
STANDARD MANUFACTURING PROCESSES THAT MITIGATE QUARANTINE CONCERNS (Column 1)	AQIS's QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS IF PROCESSES IN COLUMN 1 ARE NOT MET (Column 2)	INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO AN APPLICANT APPLYING FOR MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. (Column 3)
<p>bromide as the only quarantine treatment for their manufactured wooden articles must fumigate the articles before the application of impervious coatings.</p> <p>Coatings may be applied before fumigation only if the product has at least one uncoated surface on each component and each component has a maximum thickness of 100 mm.</p> <p>A methyl bromide treatment certificate detailing that fumigation occurred before the application of impervious coatings will be required for all such commodities.</p>		<p>used before or after the manufacturing process can significantly reduce the efficacy of a methyl bromide treatment. (see Impervious wrappings surfaces and coatings section of the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard).</p>
6 AQIS's requirements for plastic wrapping and the perforation standard		
<p>Plastic wrappings used around manufactured wooden articles and other articles do not need to be cut or removed before fumigation if the wrapping conforms to the AQIS Wrapping and Perforation Standard.</p>	<p>Plastic wrapping used around Manufactured Wooden Articles and other articles must be slashed, cut or removed before fumigation if it does not conform to the AQIS Wrapping and Perforation Standard.</p>	<p>Plastic wrapping used around commodities prevents penetration of methyl bromide gas. Therefore fumigation should be carried before wrapping with plastic wraps (see Impervious wrappings surfaces and coatings section of the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard).</p>

Acknowledgements

AQIS would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following people and organisations in developing the AQIS Low Risk Wooden and Related Article Accreditation Standard:

- Brad Allan, Plywood Association of Australasia;
- Philip Court of Sawtow Imports, Australia;
- Simon Dorries, Plywood Association of Australasia;
- Jim Godworth of Islander Imports Pty Ltd, Australia;
- Hart Krtschil, Chairman of the AQIS Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC);
- Paul Moore, Woods and Wood Pty Ltd, Australia;
- Curt Stocksiek, IKEA, Australia;
- Ken Thomas and Jack Simpson, Biosecurity Australia; and
- CSIRO.

Appendix 1 – Information required for a LRWRA accreditation application

A fee will be charged for documentary assessment of all LRWRA applications. The fees charged will be based on total time spent on the assessment of the application. This charge is in blocks of 15 minutes. There will be an initial 3 x 15 minutes charge for lodgement and initial assessment of the application. Please contact the Timber NCC for the initial lodgement fee. As these assessments are charged on a time-based fee for service, you may be required to pay an additional fee on completion of the assessment. It is important to note that the fee paid is used for the administration and assessment of the low risk status application and the outcome of the assessment will not be provided until full payment has been received.

Applicants can pay their application fees by cheque, credit card or cash in one of the following ways:

- in person at a [local AQIS office](#) in Australia;
- by mailing or faxing fax credit card details, with your application form, to Timber NCC – AQIS, PO Box 1006, Tullamarine VIC 3043. Download and attach a completed **Credit Card Payment Form** to your application [Credit Card Payment Form](#); or
- by a cheque, with your application form, to the above address. Cheques should be made payable to the ‘Collector of Public Monies, DAFF’ and be in Australian dollars.

Download the **Low Risk Wooden and Related Article Application Form**

 [PDF \[27kb\]](#)  [Word \[56kb\]](#)

Please note: The LRWRA Scheme is to facilitate clearance of approved manufactured wooden and related articles (including articles of timber, bamboo, willow, wicker, cane and rattan) of minimal risk through Quarantine. It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of other agencies are met.

Appendix 2 – Substrates (used with veneers) that are acceptable or not acceptable to AQIS

Engineered wood, also called composite or reconstituted wood, includes a range of derivative wood products that are manufactured by binding together wood strands, fibres, or veneers with adhesives to form composite materials. Some of these products are also used as substrate for veneer (i.e. the veneer is applied to these substrates) and they contain solid timber components that can harbour insect pests. Typically, engineered wood products are made from the same hardwoods and softwoods used to produce lumber. Sawmill scraps are often used for such products.

Various types of substrates can be used for the production of veneered panels. These include particleboard, medium density fibreboard, plywood and blockboard. AQIS considers many, but not all of them, to be a quarantine risk because of the presence of sizable pieces of solid timber that can harbour pests or be easily infested or reinfested by pests.

Examples of some AQIS acceptable substrates for veneer panels

1. Particleboard

Particleboard is a panel manufactured from lignocellulose materials (usually wood) primarily in the form of particles, flakes or strands bonded together with a synthetic resin, or other binder, under heat and pressure until cured.

2. Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)

MDF is a wood-based panel manufactured from wood fibres bonded with synthetic resin, or another binder, under heat and pressure until cured. MDF is widely used as a substrate material owing to its smooth surface and edge-finishing qualities.

Examples of some substrates not acceptable to AQIS for veneer panel

1. Blockboard

Blockboard is usually made of strips of wood about 25 mm wide. These are glued together with the heartwood facing in alternate directions. In Australia, blockboard is rarely used in the production of decorative veneered products. In Europe, it is often used in joinery and architectural products.

2. Laminaboard (Laminboard)

Laminaboard is similar in appearance to blockboard, but is made of softwood strips, 5–7 mm in width, as opposed to blockboard that has strips 25 mm wide. In both cases, the strips are sandwiched between two outer veneers with the grain running at right angles to the core strips.

3. Plywood

Plywood is sometimes used as a core material. Plywood is typically made from thin layers of natural wood. These products all contain solid timber that can easily attract pests or be infested or reinfested by pests.

Other

AQIS acknowledges that there may be a range of other reconstituted wood products used as a substrate for veneers to produce a range of panel products. AQIS will assess those materials on a case by case basis.