

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY SUPERVISION, INSPECTION
AND QUARANTINE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

To: Dr. Murali Bandla
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Phytosanitary Issues Management
Plant Protection and Quarantine

April 2, 2011

Letter on Suspending Logs from South Carolina and Virginia

Respectful Dr. Murali Bandla,

Since 2010, Shanghai CIQ intercepted pests, such as pine wood nematode (PWN, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*), Long-horned beetle and small bookworm, many times from logs imported from South Carolina (SC), North Carolina (NC) and Virginia (VA). We notified your side separately on August 24, 2010 and September 9, 2010 of 7 shipments being intercepted PWN. On December 15, 2010, we notified your side once again of 11 shipments being intercepted to request your side to strengthen export inspection and quarantine of logs to ensure the logs exported to China not carrying PWN and other quarantine pests. Unfortunately, the situation of logs imported from your country carrying pests is even worse.

Since March of this year, Jiangsu CIQ and Shanghai CIQ intercepted a lot of pests in five shipments of logs imported from South Carolina and Virginia. Having been identified by the laboratory technical staff, these logs carried not only Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*), prohibited by the Chinese regulation and law, but also quarantine pests such as *Platypus flavicornis*, *Xyleborus sp.* (non-Chinese), *Ips grandicollis*, *Xyleborus ferrugineus*, etc. In addition, *Orthotomicus caelatus*, *Silvanus bidentatus*, Scarabacidae, Cerambycinae, Lamiinae, Bostrychidae, Curculionidae, Formicidae, Culicidae, *Ips, sp.*, *Kaloterme sp.*, *Aphelenchoides sp.*, *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* are also being intercepted. We briefly notified to your side during our conference call on April 1, 2011.

It is very rare to intercept such a large amount of pests in imported logs. Because of the big volume of logs and the severe quarantine situation, it is very difficult and time-consuming to do the quarantine treatment at port of entry. Thus it is of high risk of carrying quarantine pests to introduce into China and severe threat for the agricultural and forest production and ecological security of China. All the imported logs are attached with Phytosanitary Certificates and Certificate of origin issued by your country. The interceptions of such a big amount of pests shows that the inspection and quarantine certificate system of exporting logs in your country still exists severe problems. The Chinese side decides that, from today, import of logs from South Carolina and Virginia is suspended. In order to minimize the impact of trade, for all the shipments of logs in transportation, it will be allowed to enter after being inspected and qualified.

Now we attached the Phytosanitary Certificate and Certificate of Origin of these five shipments. We hope your side could pay high attention to this issue, investigate the reason as soon as possible, take effective improvement measures. After being confirmed by the Chinese side, the two above mentioned states will be reinstated to export logs to china. China is willing to continue cooperation with the United States through mutual consultation to resolve the issue of inspection and quarantine of logs imported from the U.S.

With all the best wishes and looking forward to your reply,

Shi Zongwei
Deputy Director General
Department for Supervision on Animal and Plant Quarantine
General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
The People's Republic of China

CC: USDA APHIS IS Beijing Office,
Economic and Commercial Section of Chinese Embassy in the US