

Expand Bilateral Trade by Kiln Dry Certification

The US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, works closely with all agriculture business groups and China government agencies to expand bilateral trade opportunities and facilitate the use of U.S. agricultural products that are in great demand by China's industry sectors. The contributions has made wood products trade between the U.S. and China blossom in the recent years.



Opening Remarks by Mr. Lou Vanechanos, Asia-Pacific Regional Manager, USDA APHIS International Services, U.S. Embassy, Beijing

Since the 1990's APHIS has been in China to provide the critical support needed by trade regarding the application of phytosanitary measures. Critical partnerships for APHIS in both the United States and China have been with the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) and the National Hardwood Council of STTA (NHC) along with their members. APHIS involvement in the certification of hardwood lumber is essential to maintain and expand the relationships within the traders in the industry that have been built over many years. The result is a robust trade in wood products that benefits the U.S. wood industry, brought about success for China's wood manufacturing industry and answered the needs of consumers in China and other countries. But as times change, new approaches and innovative ways of doing business should be considered. Kiln Dry Certification of US hardwood lumber is then proposed to meet the new era.

Co-hosted with APHIS and NHLA, AHEC team went to Beijing to organize the US Lumber Kiln Dry Certificate Roundtable Meeting with China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association (CTWPDA), China National Forest Products Industry Association (CNFPPIA), Department for Supervision on Animal and Plant Quarantine, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and China Entry & Exit Inspection and Quarantine Association (CIQA) at the St. Regis Beijing on June 23, 2014. Meeting directly with the corresponding China government officials helps APHIS, NHLA and AHEC to move further steps on advocating China to accept Kiln Dry Certificate on US hardwood trade.



Currently Australia, Brazil, Mexico, United States, Vietnam, Venezuela and 28 countries and their territories in the European Union (EU) have accepted the Kiln Dry Certification and China is the only major market not accepting Kiln Dry Certificate and is at a logistical disadvantage. Through participation in this seminar, APHIS, NHLA and AHEC hoped to provide updated information on the use of the Kiln Dry Certificate to the counterparts in the Chinese government at AQSIQ/CIQ in lieu of the Phytosanitary Certificate currently used in the bilateral trade of US hardwoods.