

PALLET PHYTOSANITARY PROJECT BULLETIN



A Cooperative Effort of the Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development Area And The Wood Education and Resource Center USDA Forest Service

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AN OVERVIEW OF ACCREDITED INSPECTION AGENCIES FOR HEAT TREATED SOLID WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL (SWPM)

The American Lumber Standard Committee, Inc. (ALSC) is authorized, through a Memorandum of Understanding, to accredit and monitor organizations engaged in the inspection of facilities producing heat treated (HT) or kiln dried heat treated (KD HT) lumber for use as solid wood packaging material.

Kiln Dried is defined as lumber or used, previously assembled or repaired wood packaging material seasoned in a closed chamber by means of artificial heat to a maximum moisture content of 19% or less.

Heat Treatment is defined as lumber or used, previously assembled or repaired wood packaging material which has been placed in a closed chamber and artificial heat added until the lumber or packing achieves a minimum core temperature of 56° C for a minimum of 30 minutes.

The ALSC requires that any company currently in possession of an HT or KD HT stamp must be audited

monthly (12 times per year), regardless of their level of activity. The ALSC also requires a monthly fee for each company participating in an audit program, based on the amount of footage being stamped.

The ALSC has developed a detailed process for agencies or organizations to become accredited to conduct an inspection program. Any agency or organization is eligible to participate, provided they: (1) Formulate, maintain, and make available its quality control and inspection procedures for the specific wood packaging which it inspects and which are covered by the IPPC standard; (2) Demonstrates initial and continuing competency and reliability in the field of the wood packaging inspections; and, (3) Agrees to pay charges and fees assessed by the ALSC.

Before any applying agency or organization is accredited, the ALSC Board of Review requires evidence of conformance to a detailed series of requirements.

A complete explanation of the accrediting process and inspection procedures can be found on the ALSC website at: www.alsc.org.

ALSC ACCREDITED INSPECTION ORGANIZATIONS

There are currently 10 organizations accredited to conduct facility inspections under ALSC auspices. These organizations, with available contact information, are:

California Lumber Inspection
Service (CLIS)
420 West Pine St., Suite #10
Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 334-6959
(209) 334-6970 Fax
Email: clis@inreach.com

Missouri Forest Products
Association (MFPA)
611 East Capitol Avenue, Suite One
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 634-3252
(573) 636-2591 Fax
Email: moforest@moforest.org
Website: www.moforest.org

National Hardwood Lumber
Association (NHLA)
PO Box 34518
Memphis, TN 38184-0518
(901) 377-1818
(901) 382-6419 Fax
Email: info@natlhardwood.org
Website: www.natlhardwood.org

Northeastern Lumber Manufacturer's
Association (NeLMA)
272 Tuttle Rd., PO Box 87A
Cumberland Center, ME 04021
(207) 829-6901
(207) 829-4293 Fax
Email: info@nelma.org
Website: www.nelma.org

Northern Softwood Lumber
Bureau (NSLB)
272 Tuttle Rd., PO Box 87A
Cumberland Center, ME 04021
(207) 829-6901
(207) 829-4293 Fax
Email: info@nelma.org
Website: www.nelma.org

Pacific Lumber Inspection
Bureau (PLIB)
33442 First Way South
Suite 300
Federal Way, WA 98003
(253) 835-3344
(253) 835-3371 Fax
Email: info@plib.org
Website: www.plib.org

Package Research Laboratory (PRL)
41 Pine St.
Rockaway, NJ 07866
(973) 627-4405
(973) 627-4407 Fax
Email: ddixon@package-testing.com
Website: www.package-testing.com

Redwood Inspection Service (RIS)
405 Enfrente Drive, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94949
(415) 382-0662
(415) 382-8531 Fax
Email: info@calredwood.org

Timber Products Inspection (TPI)
PO Box 919
Conyers, GA 30012
(770) 922-8000
(770) 922-1290 Fax
Email: jrobison@tpinspection.com
Website: www.tpinspection.com

West Coast Lumber Inspection
Bureau (WCLIB)
Box 23145
Portland, OR 97281-3145
(503) 639-0651
(503) 684-8928 Fax
Email: info@wclib.org
Website: www.wclib.org

OVERVIEW OF INSPECTION AGENCY PRICING STRUCTURES

As companies deliberate the decision to engage an inspection agency for the purposes of certifying them to stamp their production with a heat treatment mark, the cost of that decision is an obvious consideration. A survey of the 10 accredited agencies resulted in a range of costing structures for businesses to evaluate.

The following cost components may be included in an accrediting agencies pricing structure:

1. Monthly audit/inspection fee (a minimum of 12 audits/inspections are required annually).
2. Travel expenses associated with monthly audits/inspections.
3. Monthly fees assessed by ALSC, which are generally assessed on a board foot production basis. The inspection agency is responsible for paying this fee to ALSC. In some cases, the inspection agency will assess client companies for this expense. Others incorporate the fee into the monthly audit costs.
4. Startup/Initiation Fees
5. Cost of Hand Stamps.
6. Miscellaneous charges. One such fee is charged for certifying kilns or heat chambers with respect to the accuracy of temperature measuring and recording devices.

In some cases, where an enrolled company is not manufacturing, shipping, or marking solid wood packaging material for an extended time period, the certifying agency may permit the company to return their stamps and pay no fee or a reduced fee monthly fee during this period. Companies considering enrolling in a certification program should be sure to explore this option with the

certifying agencies they are considering.

Of the 10 accredited agencies, 3 do not provide services in the Eastern hardwood region and therefore are not included in the following summary of price structures. These agencies are the California Lumber Inspection Services, the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, and the Redwood Inspection Bureau.

The remaining seven accredited agencies maintain at least a limited presence in the Eastern hardwood region and in some cases may be considering expanding their service area with the advent of the IPPC standards for hardwoods.

Due to some variation in service areas and the potential for expanding service areas, companies interested in employing an inspection agency for heat treatment certification should contact the agency to determine their current service area.

The table on page 4 of this bulletin summarizes the costs a company might expect to incur for the purposes of stamping their material with a certified heat treating mark.

BULLETIN AVAILABILITY

Please feel free to distribute this bulletin via email or hard copy to all interested parties.

All Pallet Phytosanitary Project Bulletins will be posted on the following USDA Forest Service website:

www.na.fs.fed.us/econaction/palletnews

TABLE – Summary of Pricing Structures for Inspection/Audit Agencies Operating in the Eastern Hardwood Region

AGENCY	Cost of Each Audit/Inspection ¹	Travel Expenses	Monthly ALSC Fee Per MBF	Startup or Initiation Fees	Cost of Hand Stamps ²	Misc. Costs
Missouri Forest Products Association	Member - \$240 Non-Member - \$295	Yes	\$0.13	None	None for first stamp/\$20 for additional stamps	None
National Hardwood Lumber Association	Member - \$245 ³ Non-Member - \$295 ³	Yes	None	None	\$35 to \$45 per stamp	None
Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association	\$275	No	None	None	\$5.90 to \$13.40 per stamp	None
Northern Softwood Lumber Bureau ⁴	\$275	No	None	None	\$5.90 to \$13.40 per stamp	None
Package Research Laboratory	First two months of service - \$280; \$305 thereafter ⁵	No	\$0.10	None	First stamp free, additional stamps \$20 each	None
Timber Products Inspection	\$320	No	None	None	\$35 each	Yes ⁶
West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau	\$330 Minimum	No	\$0.33 ⁷	\$990 Deposit	\$7 - 10 each	None

¹ Any active enrolled company will receive 12 on-site inspections annually.

² Costs do not include supplies, such as ink.

³ Monthly audit/inspection fee is waived for the initial visit.

⁴ Heat treatment inspection services are handled through the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association.

⁵ Prices effective August 2003.

⁶ A \$60 per hour fee plus travel expenses is charged for certifying any kiln or heat treatment chamber. Hourly charge begins when inspector arrives at site. Generally, certification takes approximately one day at the site.

⁷ Applied to footage in excess of 500 mbf per month being marked.

