

Industry News: Taicang Port Opening

Issue:

- Taicang is scheduled to be the second China port to receive Canadian “untreated” logs for fumigation at time of arrival
- Taicang and Jiangsu Provincial CIQ (China Plant Health Enforcement Agency) are concerned about Pinewood nematode associated with Canadian logs and raised this issue in September 2009 thus delaying the opening of Taicang Port to Canadian logs
- The China-Canada Log Export Arrangement cites rationale that requires logs with a high risk of nematode infestation be heat treated following processing in China which had been part of the original Taicang CIQ concerns outlining the lack of HT facilities locally.
- Alaska and Russia have the ability to enter this port with untreated logs for fumigation upon arrival.

Action:

- After numerous meetings with Taicang officials, the Canadian Embassy staff asked the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) to determine if there were any scientific rationale regarding Pinewood nematode (PWN) and its potential infestation of the coastal log species scheduled for export through Taicang Port and to report accordingly.
 - The CFS developed a lengthy scientific literature review on Pinewood nematode which summarized the following key points:
 - Since 1985, surveys of BC forests and products have not detected any Pinewood nematode (PWN) in coastal species,
 - The Beetle vector (called Monochamus) that moves the PWN from one tree to the next, is rarely found in coastal tree species,
 - The combination of the cool, moist conditions of the coastal forests and a beetle vector that is rarely found on the coast - suggests that nematode population development is not likely to happen in the Douglas fir, the Hem-Firs nor the Sitka Spruce,
 - The laboratory and field data have also shown that the ability of the PWN to infest any of the three coastal species being exported is very poor or does not occur.
 - This CFS report was sent to AQSIQ Beijing (China’s plant health regulators) but we are uncertain if the Jiangsu Province or Taicang Port CIQ enforcement agencies received a copy.

December 16th and 17th 2010 Meetings:

- Meetings were held with the Taicang CIQ , the Mayor, and other local authorities by Peter Chen of the Canadian Embassy, Brian Zak of Canada Wood, and Jennifer Yu of Canada Wood Shanghai Office.
- The Canadian Embassy provided a Mandarin-translated copy of the CFS PWN literature review for hand-out to CIQ officials
- Peter Chen of the Embassy reviewed the findings of the CFS paper with CIQ officials.

Outcome of the Meetings:

- Taicang CIQ were pleased to accept the scientific information as presented by Canada but indicated they intend to do their own verification of this study by receiving a “trial shipment of untreated Canadian logs” and determine if PWN is present in any of the log species.
- In a follow-up to this meeting, AQSIQ Beijing is supportive of the Taicang CIQ plan.