

**NEW ZEALAND SPS MEASURES FOR FOREST PRODUCTS**

Submission by New Zealand

1. New Zealand's current import requirements for forest products were prepared in accordance with the Forests Act 1949 and the Forest Produce Import and Export Regulations 1989. As the related sections of The Forests Act 1949 and almost all of the Forest Produce Import and Export Regulations 1989 are soon to be repealed, draft import health standards have been prepared to comply with the Biosecurity Act 1993 and replace existing standards.
2. Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, import health standards detail the SPS requirements that must be met in the country of origin or export, during transit, and during importation and quarantine in order to enable biosecurity clearance to be given in New Zealand.
3. The draft import health standards for forest products do not include any new phytosanitary measures, and introduce only minor changes to New Zealand's current import requirements that will not significantly affect trade, and accordingly no international consultation under the SPS Agreement is necessary.
4. Draft import health standards have been developed for the following forest products from all countries:
  - (a) Sawn wood;
  - (b) Wood packing;
  - (c) Piles, rounds, and sleepers;
  - (d) Wooden panels;
  - (e) Sawdust, wood wool, and wood chips;
  - (f) Woodware;
  - (g) Bark;
  - (h) Bamboo, cane, willow, and rattan;
  - (i) Palm and fern fibre.
5. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has released, for industry consultation, the draft import health standards for the commodities listed above. Comments will be accepted from interested parties up until 30 November 2001.
6. A copy of the draft import health standard(s) can be accessed on the Internet at the following web site address:

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/imports/forests/>