

1 East Bay Street
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SEP 03 2009



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

PORT OF SAVANNAH PIPELINE# 2009-10

APP-6:SV:FO:CKB

TO: Port of Savannah Brokers, Carriers, Vessel Agents, Freight Forwarders,
Importers, and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Area Port Director
Savannah, Georgia

SUBJECT: Change in Wood Packing Material Policy – Advance
Notification of Vessels Intent to Discharge Dunnage Required

In the interest of agricultural safeguarding, U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) has updated the policy regarding the offloading of dunnage.

Wood dunnage poses a high degree of pest risk interceptions. During the past few years, CBP Agriculture Specialists interceptions of pests have significantly increased on marked and unmarked wood dunnage. Therefore, CBP is requiring notification of dunnage to be discharged prior to off loading. This is not a requirement to obtain permission to discharge dunnage, only provide notification.

Unmarked wood dunnage may not be discharged to shore and must be safeguarded on the vessel at all times. Wood dunnage bearing the appropriate IPPC stamps may be discharged with notification to Customs and Border Protection prior to off loading. Customs and Border Protection may assign a CBP Agriculture Specialist to perform an on-ship inspection of wood dunnage during discharging or prior to vessel departure based on risk such as the country of origin or previous interceptions.

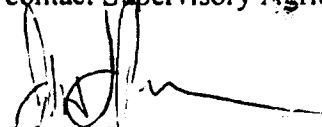
All vessel arrivals, foreign and coastwise (excluding those meeting the criteria in the Manual for Agriculture Clearance), are required to be reported to the local CBP office to include the estimated time of arrival and location (berth, pier, etc.). To meet the notification requirement, it is recommended that the vessel agent also include if dunnage is to be discharged from the vessel and if so, the time that discharge is scheduled to begin, and the country of origin of the dunnage. If the information is not known at that

time, the vessel agent will be informed to call back prior to discharge with the required information.

The intent behind prior notification to off loading of dunnage is based on several pest finds at ports of entry where CBP Agriculture Specialists could not attribute the discharge of dunnage to any specific vessel after multiple vessels departed the same location. Prior notification will allow CBP to assess the potential risk, provide resources for inspection during discharge if determined necessary, and identify specific vessels associated with pests when detected.

To notify U.S. Customs and Border Protection for discharging of dunnage, contact the 24 hour Command Center at (912) 232-7507.

For more information on this change and other frequently asked questions related to Wood Packing go to http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_programs/agriculture/wpm/ or contact Supervisory Agriculture Specialist Kyle Brinkley at 912-721-4854.



John S. Porter