



Notice concerning the export of rough tree logs **(August 2019)**

The FASFC is responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates for shipments destined for export to third countries and it conducts checks to guarantee that the tree logs meet the phytosanitary requirements of the country of destination. The general certification procedure and other important export-related information is available on the [FASFC](#) website.

Phytosanitary requirements for import from third countries differ from country to country. Generally, these differences can be explained by the countries' different interpretation of the phytosanitary risks associated with the goods. This variety of requirements may be indicative of differences regarding the vulnerability of forests to harmful organisms or the phytosanitary hazard levels that are acceptable to the countries concerned.

Most third countries require that the tree logs are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. The phytosanitary certificate provides the following general declaration: *"This to certify that the plants, plant products or other regulated items described above were inspected and/or tested in accordance with the appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine organisms specified by the importing country and meet the applicable phytosanitary requirements of the importing country, including the requirements for regulated organisms which are not subject to quarantine measures"*. In some cases, the certificate has to provide additional declarations to clarify measures taken by operators and/or checks conducted by the FASFC or the responsible authority of the Member State of origin in order to meet the requirements of the country of destination.

On the following link "[Export of plant products](#)", you will find important information by country as well as general information on the issuing of phytosanitary certificates and information sources in order to search the phytosanitary regulations of third countries.

1 Phytosanitary checks for the export of tree logs

The following new procedure for phytosanitary checks on the export of wood logs will enter into force **1 month after publication of this document in FR/NL**.

This procedure must allow the certifying agent who signs the phytosanitary certificate to declare that the tree logs have been checked according to appropriate official procedures and that the tree logs meet the requirements of the third country (sections 10 (and 11) of the phytosanitary certificate). A thorough inspection of the logs is only possible before they are loaded into the container.

1.1 Tree logs of Belgian origin

- **The application for the phytosanitary check**¹ must be requested at the LCU where the tree logs were submitted for phytosanitary inspection at **least 5 days** prior to loading the tree logs in the containers (with the LCU issuing the phytosanitary certificate in cc). The request has to be accompanied by:
 - the phytosanitary requirements of the country of destination,
 - the list of log identification tags (this information must be provided at least 24 hours prior to inspection),
 - the location of the logs (address, GPS coordinates, location on Google Earth);
 - a telephone number to contact the applicant in case the logs cannot be located,
 - the pre-export certificate (on which sections 3, 4 and 5 are pre-completed) (cf. [Circular letter PCCB/S4/673795](#)).

If the phytosanitary inspection is favourable, the LCU will issue a pre-export certificate with the result of the inspection.

- **The application for the phytosanitary certificate** ([Issue of phytosanitary certificates](#)) has to be requested at least 48 hours prior to loading into the final means of transport (e.g. ship), Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays not included (Royal Decree of 10/08/2005, art. 20) at the LCU of the exporter's (or his representative's) localisation, and the application must be accompanied by:
 - the phytosanitary requirements of the country of destination,
 - the pre-export certificate issued by the LCU for the logs of the shipment. The phytosanitary inspection of the tree logs (attested by the pre-export certificate) must be carried out within a period of maximum one month prior to the delivery of the phytosanitary certificate. If the consignment has not been selected for inspection, a written proof of the LCU must be submitted to replace the pre-export certificate,
 - if applicable, the certificate of treatment of the logs (see point 2) issued by an enterprise authorized in Belgium and mentioning the date, the active substance, the dosage, the duration and the temperature of the treatment and the container numbers, so as to be able to fill out sections 12-17 on the phytosanitary certificate.
 - the previously completed phytosanitary certificate.

1.2 Tree logs from other Member States of the European Union

- The request for phytosanitary certificates and certification of wood logs has to be submitted **at least 48 hours** prior to loading the logs into the final means of transport (e.g. ship), Saturdays, Sundays and holidays not included (Royal Decree of 10/08/2005, art. 20) at the LCU of the exporter's (or his representative's) localisation.
- The request has to be accompanied by:
 - the phytosanitary requirements of the country of destination.
 - an IPCD or pre-export certificate from the Member State of origin stating that the tree logs meet the requirements of the country of destination with a clear reference to the logs and, if applicable, stating the treatment applied (information corresponds to sections 12 to 17 of the phytosanitary certificate) in the country of origin. The phytosanitary check of the tree logs (attested by the IPCD or the pre-export certificate) must be carried out within a period of not more than one month prior to the issue of the phytosanitary certificate,
 - if applicable, a certificate of treatment of the logs (see point 2) issued by an enterprise authorized in Belgium and mentioning the date, the active substance, the dosage, the duration and the temperature of the treatment and the container numbers, so as to be able to fill out sections 12-17 on the phytosanitary certificate.

¹ If only one LCU is involved, it is sufficient to submit the application for export certification in this LCU, which will also issue the phytosanitary certificate directly.

2 Treatment of logs

Some third countries require that tree logs have undergone a specific and “adequate treatment” prior to being exported. If this is the case, the business operator has to provide the certifying officer with the proof that this treatment was carried out, either by means of the IPCD or the pre-export certificate if the treatment was carried out in another Member State or by means of a certificate of treatment issued by the enterprise authorized to carry out that treatment in Belgium.

2.1 Treatment in Belgium

If the country of destination requires an "adequate treatment", and the treatment is carried out in Belgium, a phytosanitary certificate can only be issued based on a treatment authorized in Belgium for this purpose in accordance with the modalities described on the website www.phytoweb.be.

Currently, in Belgium only sulfuryl difluoride (commercial product: Profume) is authorized for the treatment of tree logs prior to shipment (pre-shipment).

If the country of destination requires a specific treatment which is not allowed in Belgium, the sector can prepare a file with arguments in favour of alternative methods with a view to conducting possible negotiations between the FASFC and the responsible authority in the country of destination.

2.2 Treatment in another Member State of the European Union

If the treatment of the logs was carried out in another Member State, the phytosanitary certificate can only be delivered based on an IPCD or pre-export certificate issued by the responsible authority of the Member State concerned. The IPCD or pre-export certificate has to include a declaration that the tree logs meet the requirements of the country of destination and provide information on the treatment carried out (information corresponding to sections 12 to 17 on the phytosanitary certificate).