

From: HYMEL, MERLIN

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 7:30 AM

Subject: TPP: INFO: Grace Period for the Implementation of the Softwood Lumber Act of 2008

INFO:

PASS TO: PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO PORT DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT PORT DIRECTORS FOR TRADE, IMPORT SPECIALISTS, ENTRY SPECIALISTS, CBP OFFICERS, IMPORTERS, BROKERS, CARRIERS AND ANY OTHER

INTERESTED

PARTIES.

CONTACTS:

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Mr. Joseph Rees, Director, Trade Agreements and Communications, at 202-863-6065 or email to swl2008@dhs.gov.



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

AUG 18 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTORS, FIELD OPERATIONS

FROM: Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of
International Trade

SUBJECT: Grace Period for the Implementation of the Softwood Lumber Act
of 2008

PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO PORT DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT PORT DIRECTORS FOR TRADE, IMPORT SPECIALISTS, ENTRY SPECIALISTS, CBP OFFICERS, IMPORTERS, BROKERS, CARRIERS AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Field Offices, the importing public and all other interested parties of a grace period that is granted to importers with regard to the implementation of the Softwood Lumber Act of 2008 (SLA 2008) contained in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly referred to as the Farm Bill.

The SLA 2008 applies to softwood lumber and softwood lumber products described by the Act that are imported into the U.S. on or after August 18, 2008. The SLA 2008 requires importers of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products to provide on the CBP 7501, entry summary, the export price and estimated export charge and to make a declaration with regard to these amounts. A memorandum to the CBP Directors of Field Operations setting forth the Guidance with regard to Softwood Lumber Act of 2008 Implementation Instructions was issued on August 18.

The SLA 2008 was enacted June 18, 2008, and effective 60 days after that date on August 18, 2008. CBP has been informed that the interim rule will not be published prior to August 18. Further, the Trade has advised CBP that, due to the complexity of the programming changes required to provide the three new data elements required for each line of softwood lumber articles on the entry summary, it will not be ready to comply with the SLA 2008 on August 18.

Accordingly, in order to permit the trade sufficient time to comply with the requirements in the SLA 2008, and thereby ensure the integrity of the data collected on importation of softwood lumber articles, CBP will delay the enforcement of the SLA 2008 for 30 days. Thus, CBP will commence the enforcement of the data collection requirements contained in the SLA 2008 on September 18. Entries of softwood lumber subject to the SLA 2008 made between August 18 and September 17 will not be rejected based on any SLA 2008 requirements. In addition, entries of softwood lumber subject to the SLA 2008 made between August 18 and September 17 will not be amended nor supplemented to provide the three new data elements.

The Trade is, however, strongly encouraged to implement the requirements of the SLA 2008 as soon as feasible before September 18.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Mr. Joseph Rees, Director, Trade Agreements and Communications, at 202-863-6065 or email to swl2008@dhs.gov.

Brenda B Smith

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