



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

Director of Customs – James T. McDonald

Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Container held, treated and re-exported for non-compliance

BARRIGADA, GUAM – On June 16, 2017 the Maritime Section of the Customs and Quarantine Agency conducted an inspection of a twenty-foot container arriving from Singapore. Upon inspection, an officer noticed holes within the dunnage, pieces of wood used to keep cargo in position during transport, that may have come from a wood boring insect, immediately sealed the container and placed it on hold.



Dunnage within the container baring holes

The container was then forwarded to the Agency's Biosecurity Section where further inspection revealed the consignee did not have an import permit for lumber and that the dunnage used was not in compliance with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The IPPC verifies that dunnage used for transport is treated by affixing their IPPC stamp on packing material. In this case, the dunnage used did not bare the IPPC stamp and therefore was raw and untreated.



Dunnage with IPPC stamp

Once the consignee received a valid permit to import lumber, the entire container and all its contents were fumigated and no insect was later found. The lumber has since been cleared to the consignee and officers resealed the container housing the untreated, raw dunnage until it could be re-exported on the earliest vessel bound for Singapore. This occurred early in the week.

The consignee absorbed all costs associated with fumigating and re-exporting the container and raw packing material to its place of origin.

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos at (671) 475-6202 or email jessi.santos@cqa.guam.gov.