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**Plantenziektenkundige
Dienst**

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Contactpersoon

PD Helpdesk Uitvoering

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Onze referentie

TRCPD/2010/980

Date 2 April 2010
Subject More stringent import inspection

Dear Madam, Sir,

More stringent phytosanitary inspections will be introduced following the detection of the citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*) in some consignments of trees imported from China and the effect this has had on Boskoop, our major nursery growing area.

In Brussels, the debate is still underway on how to deal with imports of host plants for these species from countries where the pest is established. The potential risk of introducing pests via host plants is under review. In anticipation of the adaptation of phytosanitary inspections, which is soon likely to be realised, we have decided to impose more stringent rules. We have made every effort to harmonise these inspections with the logistic processes of the nurseries at risk.

More stringent phytosanitary inspections will cover:

- All broadleaved trees and shrubs and all trees of the *Cryptomeria* genus from China. This includes woody indoor plants such as Ficus. Exceptions are Cycas and monocotyls, such as palms. The new rules do not apply to bonsai trees as stringent phytosanitary inspections for these species are already in place.
- The new rules apply to all imports of *Acer* spp from the Philippines, Hawaii (US) Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and South Korea.

The new rules imply:

- Intensive visual inspection of every genus by Naktuinbouw officials (the Inspection Service for Horticulture). Inspection will include destructive sampling. This involves cutting or sawing the wood to check for the presence of eggs, larvae or tunnels created by the feeding larvae inside.
- Per genus each consignment is subject to destructive sampling. Percentages vary:

- in consignments of up to 1,200 trees or shrubs, 20% will be sampled;
- in consignments of 1,200 to 30,000 trees or shrubs, 240 to a maximum of 300 plants will be sampled;
- in consignments above 30,000 trees or shrubs, 1% will be sampled.

- Consignments **not originating from China** will be released if no sign of *Anoplophora chinensis* or any other quarantine organism is detected;

Consignments **originating from China** will not be released immediately. The imported trees or shrubs will have to remain on the company's premises in a separate space approved by the Plant Protection Service. After a three to six-week period, they will be inspected a second time, this time inspection will include destructive sampling of 1% of the consignment. Only then will the consignment be released, provided no sign of *Anoplophora chinensis* or any other quarantine organism is detected.

In specific situations the interval between inspections may be shortened at the company's request. After having assessed a company's risk of contamination or logistic limitations the Plant Protection Service may decide to comply with the request.

Quarantine conditions apply to all imported trees or shrubs from Asia, stored, treated or moved on the company's premises to prevent any citrus longhorn beetle from escaping. If wire mesh is used to trap the animal, mesh size width must be a maximum of 0.5 x 0.5 cm or 0.2 x 0.7 cm .

If the consignments cannot be stored on the company's premises they should be moved under supervision to an alternative location. The conditions under which this is to take place must have been approved by the Plant Protection Service. For further details please contact our PD Helpdesk (Tel: 0317 – 49 66 47)

I understand that these drastic measures may have a major impact on the way you run your business. But these measures are necessary: they are in fact the only way to restore the clients' trust in trees and plants imported from the Netherlands.

For more information you can go to the Plant Protection Service website or call the PD Helpdesk (Tel. 0317 – 49 66 47).
You can also send an email to pd.info@minInv.nl.

Yours sincerely,

H.A. Harmsma
Plant Protection Service

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