

Board of Review

American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated

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VIA E-MAIL

TO: ACCREDITED LUMBER, WPM & HT ONLY AGENCIES

FROM: THOMAS D. SEARLES

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2009

SUBJ: USE OF NON-HEAT TREATED CROSS-OUTS

Interceptions of positive findings for live nematodes by foreign countries have been reported to APHIS and the ALS staff has investigated each finding to try to determine the reason heat treated wood package material labeled under the ALS program contained live nematodes. In one case pinewood nematodes were found in lumber that had been produced using a high temperature kiln. Upon investigation of the positive findings, it was determined that the practice at this mill was to store the surfaced lumber in the yard using non-heat treated 4x4 cross-outs between the packages in the stack.

Additional samples of lumber were taken and tested for nematodes. The findings indicated that the pieces not in contact with the non-heat treated 4x4 cross-outs were negative for the presence of nematodes; whereas many of the pieces in contact with the non-heat treated 4x4 cross-outs were positive for either pinewood nematode or other non-quarantine nematodes. These findings would indicate that if the non-heat treated cross-out contained nematodes of any species there is a significant chance that the nematode will transfer to the boards resting on the non-heat treated cross-out.

Interceptions of WPM containing non-quarantine nematodes are generally reported to APHIS by the foreign country as a non-complying shipment. Most countries interpret the presence of any nematode in WPM as an indication of treatment failure and in many cases have rejected the shipment.

We ask that you inform your mills of the above and begin checking to see how prevalent this practice is at the mills. Depending on the mill's practices and your agency's findings, the mill may want to begin using cross-outs that have been heat treated to reduce the possibility of transfer of nematodes and infestation after treatment.

Please report your findings to us so we can quantify the prevalence of the above described practice and the effectiveness of any measure taken to control the presence or absence of non-quarantine nematodes and pinewood nematodes.

cc: ALSC Members & Alternates
Counsel