

Forest product border measures to secure Australia's forestry future

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Forestry Australia Conference 2025



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

DAFF's biosecurity role



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

- National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)
 - Represent Australia in international plant health fora
- Regulator for import and export of goods to achieve safe trade
 - Sets and implements Australian import conditions
 - Negotiates export market access
- Coordinates national surveillance and preparedness activities
- Offshore capacity building and surveillance

Rules based trade

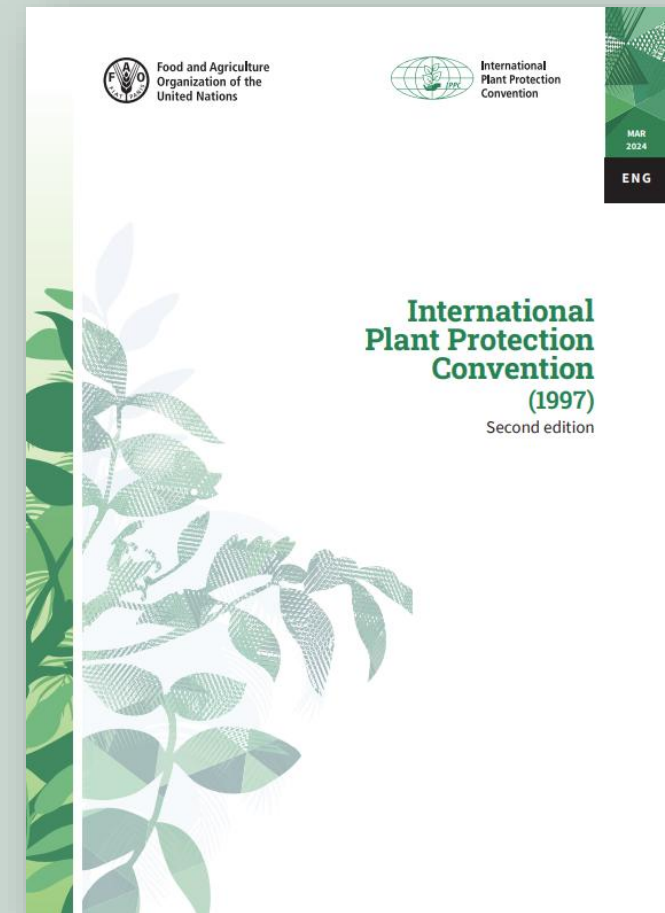
- Trade = phytosanitary risk
- DAFF's regulatory goal is to reduce the risk for safe trade
- Trade is bound by the WTO's SPS agreement:
 - Countries can impose **technically justified** measures to achieve an Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)
 - ALOP – very low but **not zero risk**



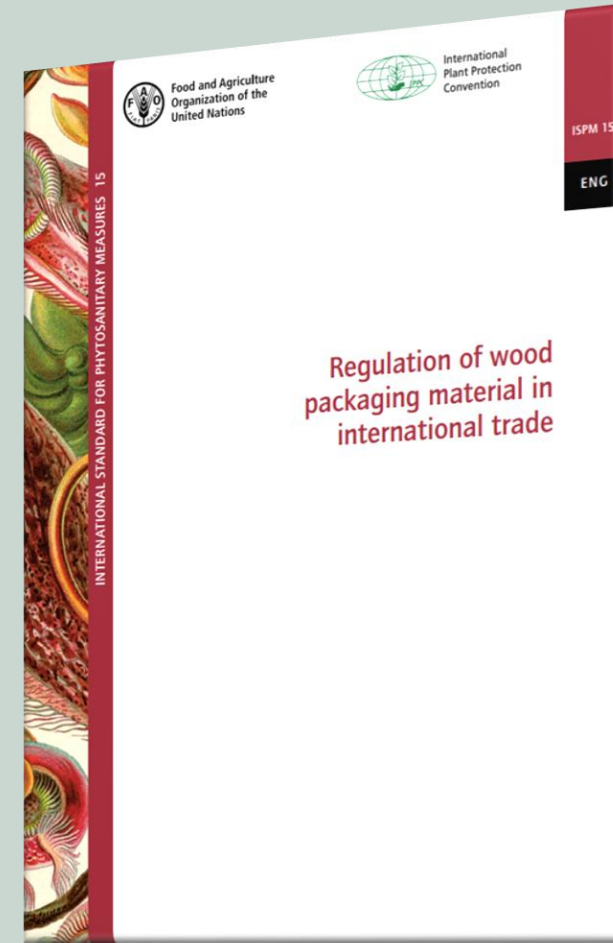
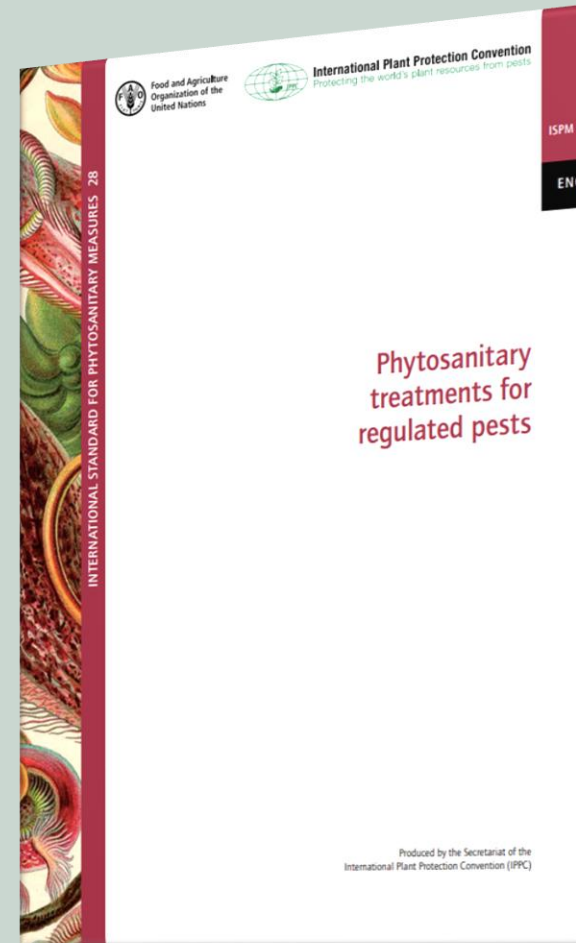
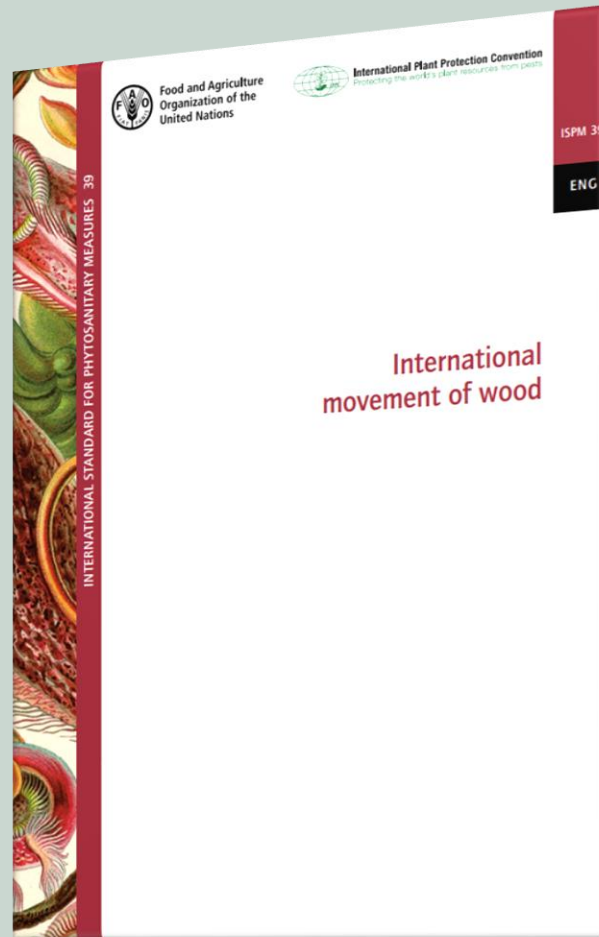
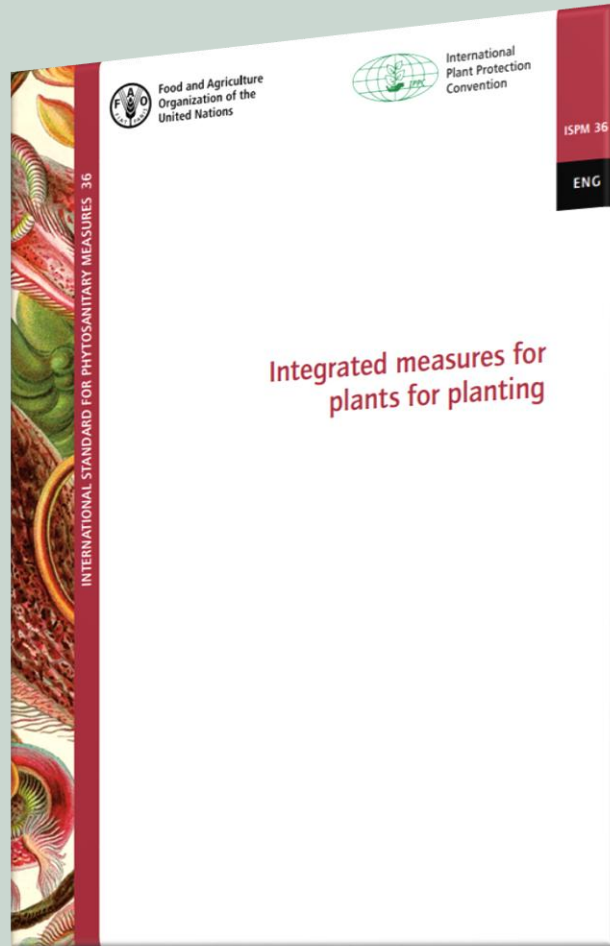
www.WTO.org

Trade harmonisation through standards

- WTO SPS:
 - “WTO members desire to use standards to harmonise trade where possible”
- The International Plant Protection Convention - IPPC
 - IPPC provides the governing framework for phytosanitary standards-setting
 - Facilitates the publication of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)



ISPMs guide NPPOs to determine ALOP



Technical justification

- Australia's favourable pest status!
 - National and jurisdictional surveillance
 - Implementation of Forest Watch Australia
 - AFPA's Forest Health and Biosecurity Subcommittee



Legislation



- *Biosecurity Act 2015* – states Australia's ALOP
- Enables legal pathways for importing commercial goods into Australia
- Determines basis for:
 - Import permit requirements or standard import conditions
- Provides powers for:
 - Assessment prior to release
 - Recall goods after release
 - Remedial phytosanitary measures
 - Re-export or destruction



Biosecurity Act 2015

No. 61, 2015

Measures - plants for planting and seeds

Management of pathogen and insect risk

Import permit



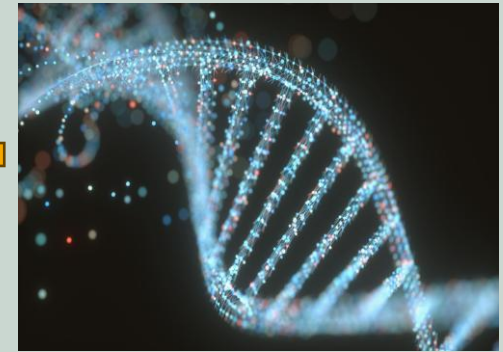
PEQ + inspection



Culturing



Molecular testing



Import permit



Surface sterilisation assessment



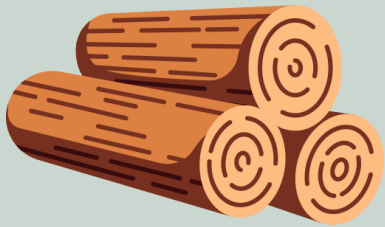
Inspection



Measures - wood products

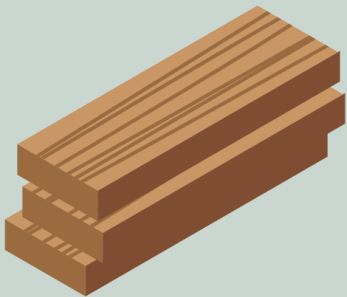


Management of pathogen and insect risk



Import permit
required

- Debarked
- Restrictions on species and country of export
- Phytosanitary treatment – heat treatment only due to dimensions



Standard import
conditions

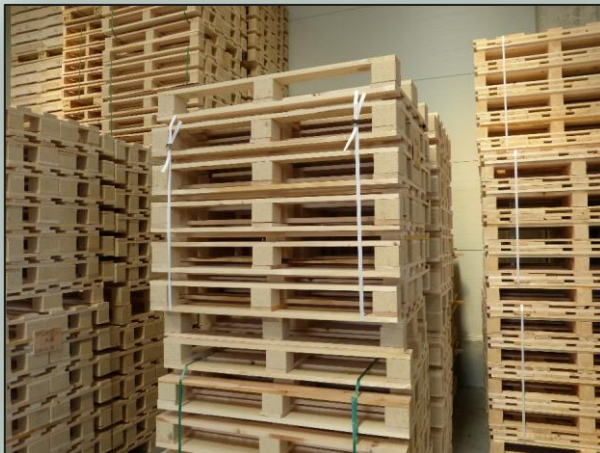
- Debarked
- Restrictions on species and country of export
- Phytosanitary treatment – heat or fumigation
- Some highly processed products do not require treatment



Measures - wood packaging

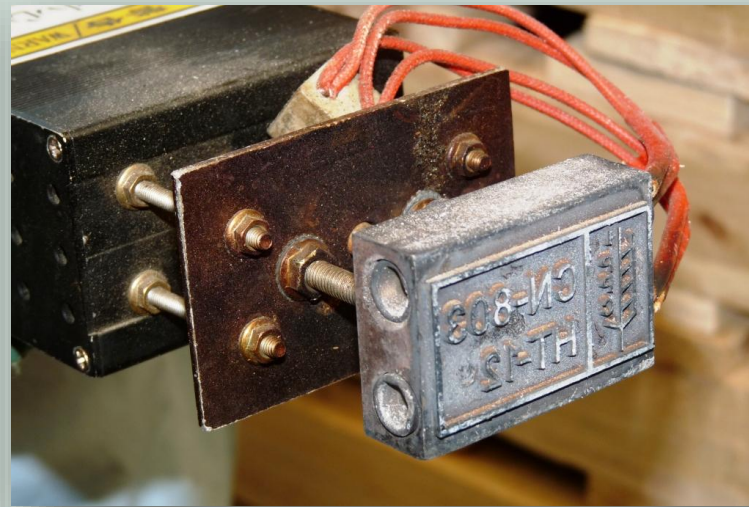
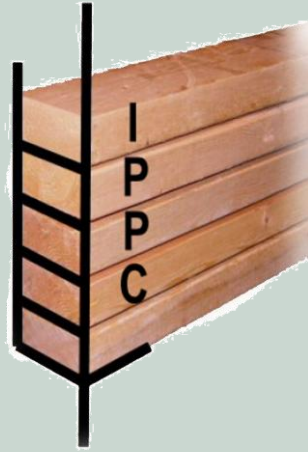


- DAFF implements ISPM 15
 - 'Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade'
- Scope - "This standard describes phytosanitary measures that **reduce the risk** of introduction and spread of quarantine pests associated with the movement in international trade of wood packaging material made from raw wood."



ISPM 15

- Competent authority (usually an NPPO):
 - Responsible for an auditable program that ensures that the phytosanitary treatments occur and authorised 'marks' are applied to treated wood packaging



ISPM 15 – effective?

- Scope
- The measures are built upon technically justified and proven studies
- Globally recognised by traders/freight forwarders
 - Simplifies importing country requirements
- Compliance and enforcement is the answer



Biosecurity Import CONditions database



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

BICON

Australian Biosecurity Import Conditions
and Food Safety Requirements

Login or Register

[Home](#) [Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) [Food Safety Requirements](#) [Permits](#) [Alerts & Changes](#) [News](#) [Contact Us](#) [? Help](#)

Welcome to BICON

BICON houses Australia's biosecurity import conditions and food safety requirements for more than 20,000 plants, animals, minerals and biological products. It will help you determine what biosecurity import conditions and food safety requirements exist. Refer to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [Importing to Australia](#) page for more information.

Search

Before importation you must search and review:

- the **biosecurity import conditions** to determine if your item can be imported into Australia and whether an import permit case is required.

If the import item is food for human consumption intended for sale, you must also search:

- the **food safety requirements** to understand whether the food you want to import is subject to inspection, including labelling inspection, sampling and testing, or requires certification.

Refer to the [BICON Help](#) page for tips on searching.

Quick Search

Scientific Name

Tariff Code

Import into Australia Effective on 18 October 2025

[Advanced search](#)

<https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0>

Point of contact: imports@aff.gov.au

Future

- Scope to sharpen our sledgehammer?
- National Action Plan for Trees and Timber:
 - **Action 1.1** Establish a shared understanding of emerging biosecurity risks and management options for an Australian context
 - **Action 1.2** Develop new phytosanitary treatments and import conditions to protect against priority timber and tree pests

National Action Plan for Pests of
Trees And Timber 2024–2034



Plant Health Committee

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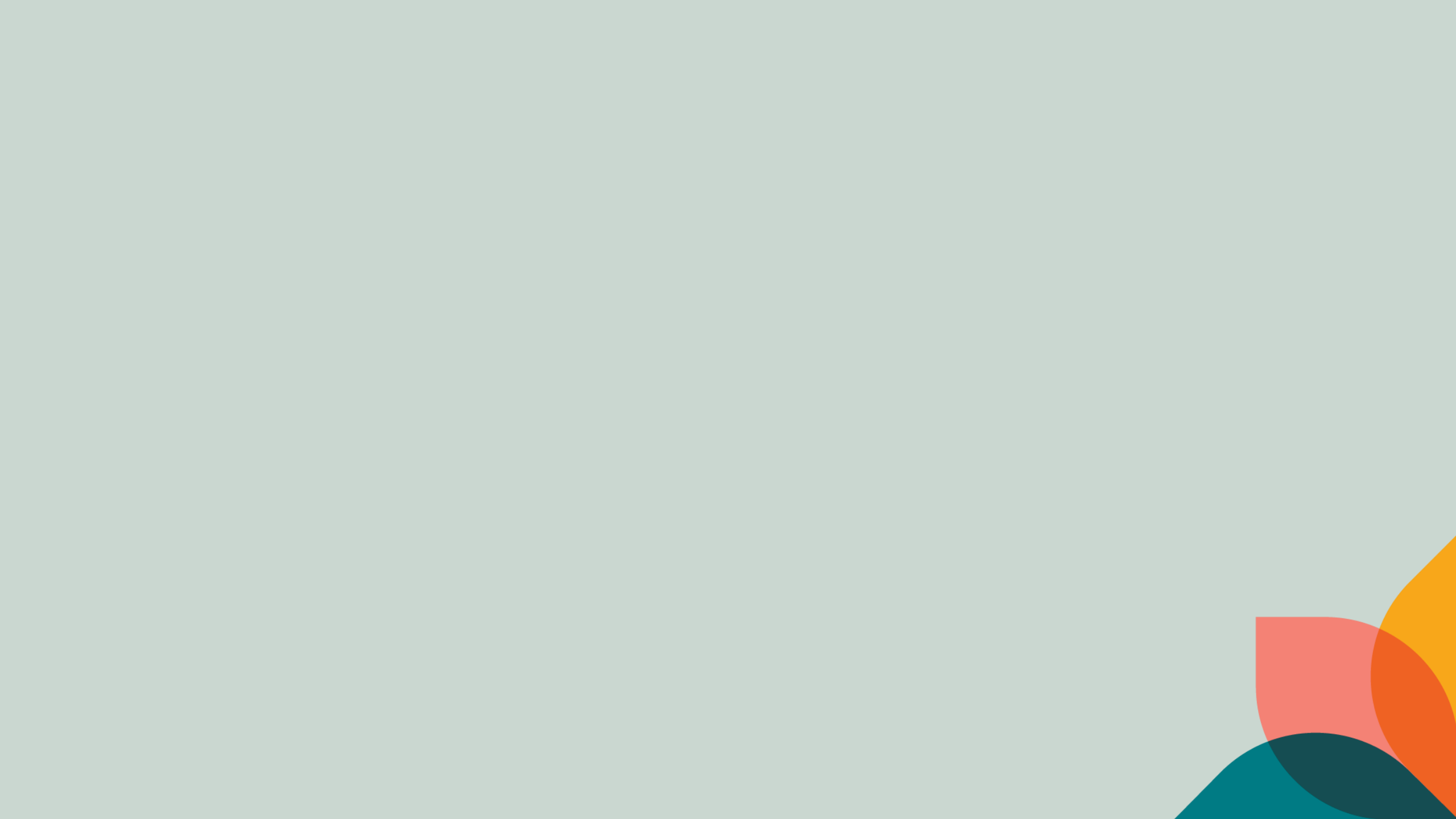
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How does DAFF implement these for forest products to achieve ALOP?

