

Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order

Effective January 1, 2012, the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will commence collecting a fee on imports of Softwood Lumber of **\$0.1483** per cubic meter from all parties that domestically ship and/or import **more than 15 million board feet annually**.

This fee is to be collected on goods classified under HTS Codes:

4407.10.01
4409.10.05
4409.10.10
4409.10.20
4409.10.90
4418.90.25

The Final Rule, which may be accessed at www.gpo.gov, includes the following:

§ 1217.52 Assessments

(b) Subject to the exemptions specified in § 1217.53, each manufacturer for the U.S. market shall pay an assessment to the Board at the rate of \$0.35 per thousand board feet of softwood lumber except that no person shall pay an assessment on the first 15 million board feet of softwood lumber otherwise subject to assessment in a fiscal year. Domestic manufacturers shall pay assessments based on the volume of softwood lumber shipped within the United States *and importers shall pay assessments based on the volume of softwood lumber imported to the United States.*

(g) Each importer of softwood lumber shall *pay through Customs* to the Board an assessment on softwood lumber...

§ 1217.53 Exemption from assessment

(2) Importers who import into the United States *less than 15 million board feet* of softwood lumber in a fiscal year are exempt from paying assessments. Such importers must apply to the Board, on a form provided by the Board, for a certificate of exemption prior to the start of the fiscal year. This is an annual exemption and importers must reapply each year....

The Board Members have now been selected, and their initial meeting is scheduled for later this month. To read the News Release from AMS, go to www.ams.usda.gov and search on **National Softwood Lumber Board Members Appointed**.

Once we receive the process from CBP and/or the board for BOTH the implementation and application for exemption, we will inform you.

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