



OIA12-211

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request dated 21-11-2012 in reference to the following:

- Whether the slabs queried in OIA 12-158 were fumigated.
- Who exported the slabs queried in OIA 12-158.
- Your contention that a slab featured on the Ancientwood website is not stump material and therefore, constitutes an illegal export.

New Zealand does not require export consignments to be fumigated; however the USA may do. If the destination country does require fumigation it is the responsibility of the exporter to arrange.

It is not possible for us to guarantee the source of the timber for three reasons,

- It is not unusual for whole stumps to be exported then milled in the destination country; therefore, it would be very difficult to identify a particular piece of stump material.
- It is not unusual for swamp kauni stumps to be exported wet then air dried for up to two years prior to kiln drying. Therefore, we cannot be sure when the consignment that contained the items on the website left New Zealand.
- If the timber was exported as sawn material we do not individually photograph and record every item in every consignment.

The length of the slab is within the dimensions we would expect from stump material. The width of the slab does not necessarily correspond to the ground-line diameter of the complete stump. MPI does not have the jurisdiction to follow this up in the USA.

I trust that this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand

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