

11th June 2021

For the Attention of Mr Alexander von Bismarck

Dear Mr von Bismark

Thank you for your correspondence regarding your investigation into the illegal importation of Tropical Hardwood Plywood from China, specifically from Jiangsu High Hope Arser Company Limited.

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I am Mr David Attwood and I am the chairman of the International Plywood Group. Although semi retired I have a clear understanding of our buying procedures and our commitment to sustainable product purchasing, EUTR regulations and our responsibilities under that set of regulations.

Although I am abroad at present I have had a digital Zoom meeting with the Directors responsible within the company which will enable me to respond to your correspondence.

Firstly, I would like to extend an invitation for you or your representative to visit our company, to inspect any documents that would help you to give an honest appraisal of your investigation and to interview staff members and Directors, and for you to have access to our trading platform and operational procedures. This will include our systems for investigating the source of the products that we trade. We run a completely transparent Business, and to this end we would welcome your visit and to address any questions you may have on the subject. This is an open invitation and it is unconditional.

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During 2020 and 2021 we have only supplied plantation grown FSC certified European Beech Faced Plywood in large volumes, this product is very low risk. *[Deleted]*

We have not supplied any other customers in either 2020 or 2021 with the Pencil Cedar Faced Plywood *[Deleted]*

With regard to risk mitigation every purchase we make is from an approved source. We use the services of Track Record Global Limited to check every supplier, their certification, the source of raw

material and everything connected with the supply chain. We as a company do everything that is practically possible to confirm the source of every product that we import.

International plywood have not been informed by any credible organisation or body that Jiangsu High Hope Arser have been supplying more Tropical Faced Plywood including Pencil Cedar Faced Plywood that they claim to be made with 100% FSC material than was possible using timber only originating in KFPL.

International Plywood Group have not imported hundreds of the containers annually of Pencil Cedar Faced Plywood from Jiangsu High Hope Arser, this is not true . However, I will fully investigate this accusation if you can provide any evidence whatsoever in relation to container number, age of shipment, name of vessel, port of arrival in the UK or any shred of evidence that will enable me to investigate this accusation. Xtraplex and Maxply are 2 names of plywood products that relate only to the grade of the plywood. In other words it would never relate to uncertified or certified product unless it had a prefix or suffix with the FSC. The face veneer would not be a significant factor in the names of these two products. These names bear no relation whatsoever to Pencil Cedar Faced Plywood.

International plywood has a state of the art computer system which monitors all chain of custody data and is 100% accurate. We are able to substantiate every pack of plywood we deliver to any of our 300 customers on our customer base. As previously stated you are more than welcome to come and check everything about our company and see for yourself how every delivery to every customer is 100% accurate in its product description and certification status. I cannot reiterate this point more, please come and see for yourself, or get a local auditor to arrange a visit.

Your reference to the FSC certified Kolombangara Forest products based in the Solomon Islands is also flawed, Jiangsu High Hope Arser have obtained many species of FSC certified products from this organisation and we have, through our third party certification body, had these products checked out. It is not only Pencil Cedar that has been supplied from this source.

I do apologise for the lateness of our response for information and I appreciate that there are still many questions to be answered that I cannot do without further investigation, which I assure you I will carry out. I hope this response has been productive for your investigation, however I do urge you to fully investigate your source of information regarding our company and our company's activities. Please contact me by phone if you need anything to do with my report clarified. I can only reiterate my previous comments that we are a company committed to 100% transparency, 100% sustainability and a 100% fair trading policy.

Yours sincerely

INTERNATIONAL PLYWOOD (IMPORTERS) LTD
David Attwood
Group Chairman