



PACIFIC LUMBER INSPECTION BUREAU

Heat Treatment (HT) Certification and Supervision Services

In January 2019, PLIB merged with West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB) and American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC) to form one of the world's largest and broadest-based wood products quality control, inspection and certification organizations.

PLIB provides inspection and certification services for lumber and timbers, glulam, wood packaging, wood trusses, CLT and other wood products for members in the United States, Canada and Europe. PLIB is an independent, non-profit organization approved by ALSC, CLSAB, and IAS as an accredited third-party auditing agency for a variety of programs including lumber grade rules writing, grade stamping, HT certification, CE marking and California WUI certification.



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Heat Treatment (HT) is a process whereby lumber is heated in a closed chamber until it reaches a core temperature of 56° C for at least 30 minutes in order to kill pathogens such as insects, fungi or micro-organisms. It differs from kiln drying in that it specifies a core temperature for a minimum time period, while kiln drying specifies only a certain moisture content.

The difference is significant. Kiln drying can be accomplished without reaching the temperatures required for heat treating, and conversely, heat treating can be achieved (and often is) without drying the lumber.

Phytosanitary concerns are, by far, the most common reason to heat treat lumber. Heat treating (also referred to as heat sterilization or heat pasteurization) is known to be an effective method to control non-native pathogens that threaten forest health throughout the world. As such, HT certification is needed to meet the import requirements of the European Union (EU) and to obtain phytosanitary certificates from the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for lumber exports to other countries.

GET CERTIFIED

The Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau's (PLIB) HT program certifies mills, wood packaging facilities, and other operations with dry kilns or heating chambers to use HT stamps or issue HT Certificates on wood that has been heat-treated to recognized standards. This service is essential for lumber and wood packaging material (WPM) that is shipped to foreign destinations.

The program includes:

- Ready-to-use generic HT schedules
- Licensing agreement for HT stamps and HT or KD/HT certificates (meeting both USDA/APHIS and CFIA requirements)
- Monthly Quality Control Supervision
- Kiln/heat chamber certification, including development of custom HT schedules

PLIB is approved by the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to issue "Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility" documents.

Kiln certification is another key element of the PLIB HT program. Through this service, PLIB helps mills and heat treating facilities develop custom kiln schedules to heat treat unique or unusual sizes or to optimize kiln efficiency and contain operating costs.

Reasons to consider a kiln certification include:

- Treatment of solid pack units (no stickers or lath)
- Lower than normal operating temperatures
- Unusual sizes
- Develop a more efficient schedule

PLIB has the technical staff, expertise and equipment to conduct full kiln testing, calibration and certification analysis to meet the special needs of the HT market. The PLIB staff will work hand in hand with your crew to develop an HT program that meets the regulatory requirements and is efficient and cost effective to operate.

