



New Process for the Collection of Assessments on Imported Softwood Lumber Covered under the Softwood Lumber Checkoff

Beginning July 1, 2020, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will collect assessments on imported softwood lumber covered under the Softwood Lumber Checkoff.¹ To date, companies have been required to report and pay assessments directly to the Softwood Lumber Board (SLB).

What is the Softwood Lumber Checkoff?

- The Checkoff is a mandatory program authorized under U.S. law² that took effect in 2012.
- It is administered by the SLB with oversight by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- The SLB is composed of industry members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Under the Checkoff, assessments are collected from importers of record and U.S. manufacturers of softwood lumber.
- Assessments are used by the SLB for projects that promote market growth for softwood lumber products used in single and multi-family dwellings as well as commercial construction. Please see our 2019 Annual Report: <https://softwoodlumberboard.org/news/the-slbs-2019-annual-report-generating-demand-on-every-level/>.

What products are covered under the Checkoff?

- Products covered can be found in section 1217.52(h) at [Products Covered](#)

What is the current assessment rate?

- \$0.35/thousand board feet. Assessments will be collected at Ports of Entry into the U.S.

Exemptions

- All companies are exempt from paying assessments on their first 15 million board feet shipped to, or within the U.S.

Refunds

- **Large importers of record** (those shipping 15 mmbf or more annually to the U.S.) will receive a refund from the SLB on assessments paid on their first 15 mmbf shipped.
- **Small importers of record** (those shipping less than 15 mmbf annually to the U.S.) will receive a refund from the SLB on all their assessments collected by Customs.
- Refunds will be issued to importers of record based on company names and addresses in Customs data. Please ensure your company information with Customs is up to date or contact the SLB at info@softwoodlumberboard.org to verify your company information.

¹ Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order (7 CFR Part 1217).

² Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1997 (7 U.S.C. 7411-7425).

- Small importers of record may apply to the SLB for a Certificate of Exemption. The SLB will review the applications and issue Certificates of Exemption as appropriate. This process will help the SLB ensure the accuracy of your contact information. Details on the application process may be found at <https://softwoodlumberboard.org/about-slb/how-it-works/exemption-procedures/>.

Changes in Reporting Requirements

- Large importers of record will no longer have to submit quarterly reports to the SLB.

Who can I contact?

- For more information, please contact Maureen Pello with the Softwood Lumber Board at 971-339-4934, or via email at info@softwoodlumberboard.org.