1. As you are aware, the export of DRM PHND timber produced from Meranti Bukit (Shorea platyclados) has encountered difficulties in recent months in the Netherlands, where the presence of brown streaks, sometimes in association with pin holes, has raised the possibility that these brown streaks were indication of decay or would eventually lead to decay. This fear of the possibility of decay led to the rejection of DRM PHND containing such brown streaks by Stichting Keuringsbureau Hout (SKH), the Government inspection bureau in the Netherlands.

2. A meeting on this matter was held on 18 January 1988 in the Netherlands between the relevant organisations in the Netherlands, (Centrum Hout, the Netherlands Timber Trade Federation Hardwood Section, Netherlands Federation of Joinery Manufacturers and SKH) MTIB and PRIM. MTIB's Technical Committee has subsequently met on 11 February 1988 and 12 March 1988 to discuss this problem. Resulting from these meetings, the following rules will be implemented for the export of all DRM PHND, with effect from 1st April 1988. It should be noted that these rules apply for all export of DRM PHND parcels and not just DRM Bukit PHND only.

   (i) All DRM PHND timber must be exported as kiln dried timber.

   (ii) DRM PHND timber must be kiln dried as soon as possible after being sawn and must be given priority in kiln drying.

   (iii) Kiln drying of DRM PHND must be by means of conventional kilns i.e. kilns using the steam-heated forced-air drying system. The recommended kiln schedule for DRM PHND is schedule F. The schedule used shall ensure that
the timber is subjected to a temperature exceeding 65°C for a period of more than 2 1/2 hours in order to kill any fungi which may be present. The kiln-drying certificate issued by the plant shall include the following statement:

"The schedule used subjects the timber to a temperature exceeding 65°C for a period of more than 2 1/2 hours."

3. The implementation of these rules must be accompanied by strict adherence to the M.G.R. when grading DRM PHND. Brown streaks which, when tested with a knife, show signs of dot or decay must be rejected. Pieces containing prominent streaks which also appear as prominent brown patches on the cross-section must also be rejected even if the streaks may appear to be sound. Whenever necessary, the timber shall be cross-cut to determine this.

4. Air-dry or shipping dry DRM PHND will be allowed for export after 1st April 1988 to fulfil existing contracts only if copies of the overseas contracts are received in MTIB not later than 2 weeks from the date of this Bulletin.

[Signature]

BAHABUDDIN BIN HAJI GHAZALI
Director-General
MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD