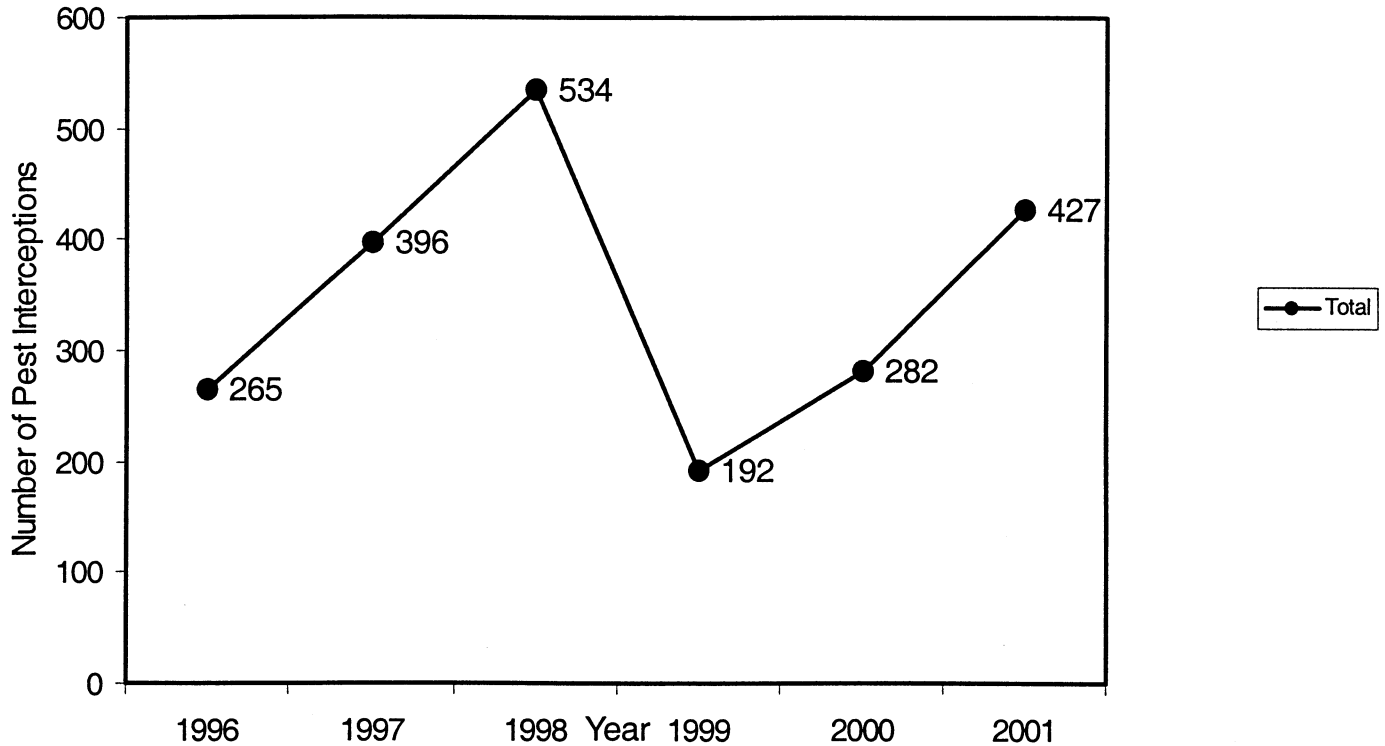


per year associated with SWPM were intercepted at U.S. ports of entry; of these, 156, or 39 percent, were from China. Starting at the end of 1998, APHIS began requiring that SWPM from

China be heat treated, fumigated, or pressure treated. This caused a marked decline in pest interceptions associated with SWPM from China, but interceptions from other countries have

increased. For 2000–2001, an average of 355 pests per year associated with SWPM were intercepted at U.S. ports of entry; of these, 24, or 7 percent, were from China.

Chart 1. Interceptions of pests associated with Solid Wood Packaging Materials (1996 - 2001) based on the PIN-309 (Pest Interception Network database, USDA / APHIS).



If we subtract the China data from the PIN-309 reports, there was an average of 246 interceptions associated with SWPM from the rest of the world (ROW) each year from 1996–1998; this has risen to an average of 331 for each year from 2000–2001. APHIS believes that

the increase in pest interceptions associated with ROW shipments is due to a real increase in pests associated with them, probably due to increased volume of trade that required increased sources of SWPM, causing shippers to use SWPM of lesser quality that is more

likely to have pests associated with it. In discussions with APHIS, other countries have also indicated concern that increased trade has lead to use of riskier SWPM, and have endorsed the IPPC Guidelines as a means to address this phenomenon.

articles imported each year. Second, usually when inspectors find the first actionable pest in a

shipment, they order treatment or re-export; they do

not inspect the remainder of the shipment for more pests, which therefore are not recorded in PIN-309.