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**Resources for sourcing legal timber**

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In the context of the EUTR, illegal harvesting means that the timber has been harvested in violation of applicable national laws. The definition of applicable legislation covers more than the legal right to harvest. For example, it also includes:

- environmental regulations applying to timber harvesting  
- fees and duties  
- third parties’ legal rights  
- trade and customs laws  
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**Get to grips with the EU Timber Regulation**

A quick guide for operators and suppliers
First things first

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), which enters into force on 3 March 2013, aims to exclude illegally harvested timber from the EU market.

Enforced across all EU member states, the regulation will create a level playing field without unfair competition from illegal timber. Illegal logging is known as a key cause of deforestation and impoverishment around the world.

The regulation:

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3. Requires all EU traders of listed products to keep records of their buyers and suppliers.

Does the regulation apply to your business?

To figure this out, you need to:

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• Determine if your company is an “operator” or “trader”.

You are an “operator” if you:

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Traders: keep records

As a trader, all you are required to do is record your suppliers and buyers of products you trade that are covered by the regulation. You must keep the data for a minimum of five years.

Ensure it’s legal

...as an EU “operator”

Are you placing timber/paper products on the EU market for the first time?

If you are an operator, follow the key steps below that will help you meet your obligations.

“Operators” are obliged to set up and implement a due diligence system. The following is an outline of the key steps involved in this process:

1. Set up your due diligence system.
   This entails developing written due diligence procedures, defining responsibilities, ensuring competence.

2. Compile and collect supply chain information as a first step in assessing your risk of sourcing illegal timber. Assess whether the information is adequate and sufficient. Collect additional information if needed.

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   For each product and supplier, you need to conclude whether the risk is “negligible” or “non-negligible”. Conclusions will often be based on the picture that emerges from considering several aspects, such as certification status and the level of corruption in the country of origin. However, certain aspects may lead to immediate conclusions about the risk. Any outstanding information gap that does not permit a firm conclusion implies that there is non-negligible risk.

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   For non-negligible risk, you need to implement risk mitigating actions. The appropriateness of an action depends entirely on the type of risk and may range from acquiring further documentation to conducting on-site supplier verification or replacing suppliers.

5. Set up a system for performance monitoring.
   You need to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of your due diligence system.

...as a supplier to the EU

Do you supply timber/paper products that may ultimately be sold on the EU market?

If so, you should expect demands for information about the products and documentation for legal harvesting of the timber.

Here are some key tips for meeting those demands. Choose the tips that are relevant for you, depending on where you are placed in the supply chain and your access to certified products.

1. Actively seek information about the risk of illegal logging in the areas where your products are harvested.
   Determine what sort of additional information/documentation you need to further assess and mitigate any perceived risk.

2. Work with your own suppliers to identify and document origin and timber species.
   EU buyers must have access to reliable information about the timber species occurring in each product. For each species, the country of origin – in some cases even the forest of origin - must be known.

3. Document legal harvesting
   Work with your suppliers to provide reliable documentation for legal harvesting. Legal harvesting entails compliance with all legislation applying to timber harvesting, including e.g. logging permits, harvest regulations, environmental laws and payment of fees and taxes.

4. Implement timber tracking systems to ensure traceability.
   Use such systems to ensure your products have been harvested, processed, and transported in a way that is compliant with all legal requirements.

5. Engage in a credible timber certification or verification scheme.
   Covering legal harvesting assurance, such as FSC®.

6. Encourage your suppliers to obtain certification or verification according to a credible scheme. Or select suppliers who are already certified.

The EU Timber Regulation is part of a global development that is profoundly game-changing. The race for supplies of legal and sustainable timber is likely to intensify.

The gates to attractive markets such as the EU will be wide open for suppliers who have put their houses in order and are able to meet demands for documenting the legal and sustainable origin of their timber products.

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The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), which enters into force on 3 March 2013, aims to exclude illegally harvested timber from the EU market.

Enforced across all EU member states, the regulation will create a level playing field without unfair competition from illegal timber. Illegal logging is known as a key cause of deforestation and impoverishment around the world.

The regulation:

1. Prohibits the placing of illegally harvested timber or timber products on the EU market for the first time. The ban applies to numerous products listed in the regulation’s annex.
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**What constitutes illegal harvesting?**

In the context of the EU EUTR, illegal harvesting means that the timber has been harvested in violation of applicable national laws.

The definition of applicable legislation covers more than the legal right to harvest. For example, it also includes:

- Environmental regulations applying to timber harvesting fees and duties.
- Third parties’ legal rights.
- Trade and customs laws.
- ... and more.

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**Get to grips with the EU Timber Regulation**

A quick guide for operators and suppliers