

EU Timber Regulation

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EU Timber Regulation

- Passed in 2010
- Come into force 3 March 2013 – no grace period
- Intended to ban the use of illegal timber/timber products in the EU
- Will work by placing legal requirements on those handling regulated products in the EU
- Regulated materials include pulp, paper & wood-fuels, including those harvested within the EU
- May be used by Green Pressure Groups to push for retailers to go further than legally required

Scheme Regulation

- Competent Authority in each MS
- Regulation by operator checks/on site visits
- 5 year requirement for record keeping
- UK penalties under criminal law
- Recycled materials excluded from regulation
- Scheme works by defining;
 - 'Operators'
 - 'Traders'

Operators

Those placing regulated product on the EU market must have an appropriate due diligence system' covering;

- Description, species, country of harvest, supplier details and proof of compliance with the appropriate legislation
- Risk assessment of the material being illegal;
 - certification, third party verification
 - Prevalence of illegal logging of the specific species
 - Prevalence of illegal logging in the country of origin
 - UN/EU sanctions
 - Supply chain complexity
 - Mitigation steps

Traders

Regulation is designed to place the main burden of compliance on Operators placing material on the market for the first time. Accordingly Traders are defined as those who commercially sell or buy regulated materials already placed on the internal market.

The information they are legally required to record and provide is limited to;

- Details of who they purchased the product from
- Who the product has been sold onto

Unresolved Issues

- The definition of “placing on the market”
- The definition of “concession”
- Composite and complex products
- Mixed raw material shipments
- Negligible risk
- The role of forest certification
- Treatment of recycled product
- Normal problems with risk assessments

PAS 2021

- Sponsors - WWF-UK Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN-UK)
 - goal is to create a new market for environmentally responsible forest products

Intended to share good practices, tools and frameworks to enable businesses to go beyond compliance in their responsible sourcing of timber and timber products.

- Any trader concerned with the environmental impact of their products can use the same guidelines as operators and will achieve;
- Security of supply by preventing risk of illegal timber being in their supply chain
- Brand protection
- Deepened understanding of suppliers
- Meeting customer requests or information

Issues of commercial confidentiality?