

The EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT VPAs -the regulation

The new EU Timber Regulation will, as of 3 March 2013, make it illegal to place illegally harvested timber and timber products on the EU market.

The legislation will require that:

Due diligence is applied to all timber and timber products produced in and imported to EU and

Traceability of timber through the EU supply chains

The legislation will be enforced via checks at national level, penalties and monitoring organisations.

The EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT VPAs -Due diligence requirements

A due diligence system to be implemented by all importers in the EU will require access to:

- **Information** on: species, volume, country (and where applicable concession of harvest), name and address of supplier and **evidence of legality**.
- The system also require **application of a risk assessment** and, where high risk is identified, **mitigation** to eliminate any potentially illegal timber.

The EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT VPAs

- FLEGT licensed timber and timber products shall be considered to have been legally harvested for the purposes of the Regulation.
- Private voluntary forest certification schemes will not automatically be accepted.
- Only if timber and timber products¹ are FLEGT licensed will they automatically be accepted as proof of due diligence and legality in compliance with the new regulation.

¹ Or covered under a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit

Legality in UK

- Only where no Sustainable or FLEGT-licensed or alternative timber is available, will evidence ensuring legality only be accepted
- Preference will here be given to timber from sources that are demonstrably in an active programme to improve and certify forest management

Legal sources

UK Government definition

The organisation that fells the trees shall:

1. Have legal use right to the forest
2. Comply with all local and national laws relevant to forest operation, environment, labour, health and safety and tenure rights
3. Pay all relevant royalties and taxes
4. Respect CITES requirements



Legality verification systems

There are several verification schemes that may provide adequate assurance of legality for example:

- OLB (Origine et Légalité des Bois)
- SmartWood VLC
- SGS TLTV

See the Proforest overview of legality verification systems

