



# Laws to combat illegal logging – Information for importers

FACTSHEET 1.1



Australia has laws in place to combat illegal logging and support the purchase and sale of legally harvested timber.

The trade in illegally logged timber disadvantages legitimate businesses, has negative social and environmental consequences, undercuts market prices and threatens local investment, profitability and jobs.

## How will the laws affect me?

Australia's illegal logging laws prohibit you from importing illegally logged timber and timber products, as well as prohibiting the processing of Australian grown raw logs that have been illegally logged.

From 30 November 2014, you will be required to undertake due diligence before importing a regulated timber product into Australia.

Put simply, due diligence requires you to gather information, assess the risk that the timber product you are importing has been illegally logged and, if the risk is not low, undertake reasonable steps to mitigate any risk.

You will also be asked to make a declaration to Customs about your compliance with these requirements.

Due diligence can help guide your purchasing decisions. The requirements have been designed to be as flexible as possible and not too onerous. You may be able to use existing commercial practices to meet your responsibilities. This could include using the information you obtain through invoices or purchasing contracts to assess if a product is likely to be a risk.

If you are making purchasing decisions now about products that will be imported after 30 November 2014, you should be considering and managing the risk of those products containing illegally logged timber.

Country specific guidelines are being prepared with a number of countries to help you understand the legal frameworks for harvesting timber from these countries. The guidelines can assist you in undertaking your due diligence.

## What is a 'regulated timber product'?

- Regulated timber products are listed in the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*. They include a variety of products in the following tariff codes: Chapter 44, Chapter 47, Chapter 48 and Chapter 94.
- This includes most timber and wood based products, such as sawn timber, veneer, mouldings, wood panels, plywood, pulp, paper and wooden furniture.
- For more information see *Factsheet 2.4 – What timber products are regulated?*

## Where do I go for more information?

- The department's illegal logging website is a source of up-to-date information and guidance materials, including answers to frequently asked questions.
- Please visit [daff.gov.au/illegallogging](http://daff.gov.au/illegallogging)
- To receive regular updates on this issue, please join our subscription list using the "Subscribe" link on the website.
- You can also email: [illegallogging@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:illegallogging@agriculture.gov.au), or call 1800 657 313.

# THE DUE DILIGENCE PROCESS



Keep a written record of your due diligence process

## What is due diligence?

Before importing a regulated timber product into Australia, an importer must have a due diligence system and retain a written record of the due diligence process.

Due diligence is a four step process:

1. An importer must obtain information about the timber or timber product they intend to import;
2. Optional – An importer can identify and assess risk against a Timber Legality Framework or a Country Specific Guideline (if available);
3. Where an importer has not used Step 2, or where they have used the Step 2 process but they have identified a risk that the timber is illegally logged and the risk is other than low, an importer must undertake a risk assessment; and
4. Where an importer has, during Step 3, identified that there is a risk that the timber was illegally logged and the risk was not low, an importer must mitigate the risk in accordance with the Regulation.

