



3 March 2025

Australia's illegal logging laws

Your responsibilities as an importer

This factsheet provides an overview of your responsibilities under Australia's illegal logging laws. It's up to you to understand the full extent of your responsibilities as an importer of regulated timber product/s. Reliance on this document alone is unlikely to provide that full understanding.

Illegal logging, the law and you

Australia has laws in place to combat illegal logging and promote trade in legally sourced timber and timber products. These laws are set out in two pieces of legislation:

- [Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012](#) (Act)
 - Contains a general prohibition on importing illegally logged timber into Australia.
 - Sets out offences and civil penalty provisions which require importers to conduct due diligence prior to importing.
 - Allows the department to conduct assessments, audits and issue Requirement to Give Information and Produce Documents notices to assess your compliance with the due diligence requirements.
- [Illegal Logging Prohibition Rules 2024](#) (Rules)
 - Defines key terms, including 'Regulated timber products.'
 - Details the specific due diligence requirements set out in Act (see below).

If you import wood, pulp or paper products into Australia, you may have legal responsibilities and need to know your obligations.

Under Australian law, illegal logging refers to the harvesting of timber in breach of the laws of the country where the timber is harvested.

This includes a wide range of activities, such as:

- logging of protected species
- logging in protected areas
- logging with fake or illegal permits
- using illegal harvest methods

By complying with the laws, you can help combat the destructive trade in illegally logged timber. You will also be supporting local investment, profitability and jobs.

Your responsibilities as an importer

Your responsibilities

As an importer of wood, pulp or paper products, it is your responsibility to:

- **Not import** products that contain illegally logged timber. You may commit an offence and be liable for a civil penalty if you import illegally logged timber and wood-based products into Australia.
- **Do due diligence** prior to importing any regulated timber products by actively managing the risk that they could include illegally logged timber

While you are only required to conduct due diligence on regulated timber products, the prohibition against importing illegally logged timber applies to all timber products (both regulated and unregulated).

If you do import a product which is, is made from, or contains illegally logged timber, you may commit an offence and be liable to a civil penalty.

Managing your risk

Prior to importing a regulated timber product, you are required by law to assess and mitigate the risk that your product may contain illegally logged timber. This process is called 'due diligence.'

The Rules set out the steps you must take to comply with your due diligence obligations. **Prior to import, you must:**

- **Establish a due diligence system**
 - You must have a **written** due diligence system in place before importing regulated timber products. This system must:
 - include certain information relation to your business and the person responsible for maintaining the system
 - set out the due diligence process you will undertake.
- **Meet your due diligence requirements in four steps**
 - 1) Gather information and evidence
 - You must gather certain information about the timber product and your supplier, as set out in the Rules.
 - 2) Assess the risk
 - Using the information you gather, you must conduct a reasonable risk assessment to identify the risk that your product contains illegally logged timber.
 - 3) Mitigate the risk
 - If you identify a 'not low' risk that your product contains illegally logged timber, you must conduct a reasonable and proportionate risk mitigation process.
 - 4) Maintain written records
 - You must keep records of all the steps you took in the due diligence process for at least five years. This includes records of all information and evidence gathered as part of your due diligence.

Your responsibilities as an importer

Regulated timber products

The Rules define regulated timber products by their international Harmonized System (HS) tariff codes. This includes:

- Chapter 44 – for wood and articles of wood
- Chapter 47 – for pulp of wood
- Chapter 48 – for paper and paperboard
- Chapter 94 – for furniture.

Not all wood, pulp and paper products fall within the list of regulated timber products in the Rules. Some goods, such as musical instruments, sporting goods and printed materials, are not regulated.

Certain products are exempt from the due diligence requirements, as set out in s 6 of the Rules:

- Products imported into Australia where the combined customs value of the regulated timber products in the consignment does not exceed \$1000
- Products made from recycled material.

More information

More detailed [due diligence information](#) and [guidance material](#) is available on our website which will be updated on 3 March 2025.

You can also email us at IllegalLogging@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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