



February 2025

# Information Sheet: Improvements to the Export Control (Wood and Woodchips) Rules 2021

## Introduction

Australia's agricultural export legislation comprises the *Export Control Act 2020* (the Act) and the export control rules made under the Act for various commodities (the Rules). The Rules set out the more specific and operational requirements that must be met to export specific goods from Australia.

The Export Control (Wood and Woodchips) Rules 2021 (the Wood Rules) specify how the export of wood and woodchips is regulated.

On 13 February 2025, amendments to the Wood Rules came into effect to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose. The amendments to the [Wood Rules](#) are summarised below and must be read in conjunction with the [Act](#) and the [Rules](#).

## Fit and Proper Person Test

### Background

Under the Wood Rules, to export prescribed wood and woodchips an exporter must hold a wood export licence. From 1 May 2025, the Act and the Wood Rules require an applicant for a wood export licence and the holder of a wood export licence to be a fit and proper person (FPP). This is done by satisfying the FPP test in section 372 of the Act.

The FPP test allows our Secretary (or delegate) of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) to decide whether a person or company is of a trustworthy nature and demonstrates the personal integrity to uphold Australia's trading reputation.

### Requirements

Individuals will be required to complete an FPP test in order to be granted a wood export licence for goods prescribed under the Wood Rules. It is also an ongoing requirement for holders of a wood export licence to be a FPP.

In relation to applicants for a wood export licence, a FPP Questionnaire should be completed which we will assess as part of the application process. We strongly recommend that this be submitted at least 60 days prior to lodging an application for a wood export licence, to allow sufficient time for the information provided in the questionnaire to be assessed. The questionnaire will need to be completed annually.

It is essential that when you are submitting your questionnaire you ensure that all the information you supply is up-to-date, correct and complete. You must also notify us of key business or personnel changes.

It is an offence to make a false statement, and this can impact your eligibility as a FPP.

An FPP Questionnaire (Modification to persons in control) must be lodged if any details have changed. This includes addition of new staff or removal of anyone no longer employed by the company.

The Secretary (or delegate) of the department may refuse to grant a wood export licence or revoke a wood export licence if it is found the person does not meet the FPP Test.

Further information on the FPP test can be found on the [Understanding the Fit and Proper Person Test webpage](#).

## Regulation of wood and woodchips from overseas and in transit

The purpose of the Wood Rules is to regulate the export of prescribed wood and woodchips sourced from Australian territory, not those sourced from outside Australian territory. Amendments were made to exclude wood and woodchips derived from trees harvested outside of Australia from being prescribed goods, including wood and woodchips from other countries transiting through Australia.

## Plantation Codes

The amendment to the Wood Rules also has the effect that the department no longer needs to publish an up-to-date copy of a state's approved 'Code of Practice' on our website, because the relevant state agencies publish these.

Instead, we are required to publish the findings of the most recent scientific assessment report of an approved Code of Practice. These assessment reports set out the effectiveness of a Code of Practice in managing forestry operations in the relevant state and meeting the National Principles related to wood production in plantations.

## More information

Learn more about any of the above at the [Wood Export FAQ](#).

Email [wood.export@aff.gov.au](mailto:wood.export@aff.gov.au)

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.