# Australia’s illegal logging laws

# Your responsibilities as an importer

### Illegal logging, the law and you

Australia has laws to combat illegal logging and promote the trade in legally sourced timber products.

Illegal logging is harvesting timber in contravention of the laws of the country where the timber is grown.

This includes:

* logging protected areas and tree species
* using illegal harvesting methods
* logging without a permit or licence
* overcutting
* avoiding taxes and royalties.

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.

### Managing your risk

The *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* sets out the steps you must take to manage the risk of importing illegally logged timber. This is known as due diligence.

You must:

1. Establish a due diligence system—document the steps you will take to ensure you aren’t dealing in illegal timber.
2. Gather relevant information and evidence—know the origin and legality of the timber contained in the product you intend to import.
3. Assess the risk—determine whether there is a risk that the product has been illegally logged.
4. Mitigate the risk—take steps to reduce the risk of importing illegally logged products.
5. Maintain written records—document the steps you have taken.

### Your responsibilities

If you import wood, pulp or paper products into Australia, you need to comply with the laws.

You must:

* **Not import** products that include illegally logged timber. It is a criminal offence to import illegally logged timber and wood-based products into Australia.
* **Do due diligence** on all regulated timber products by actively managing the risk that they could include illegally logged timber.

Regulated timber products include most timber and wood-based products. (See below for an overview of the regulated timber products).

### Confirming your due diligence

When you import a regulated timber product, you must declare your compliance with the due diligence requirements by answering a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ community protection question.

You will be asked the community protection question as part of the import declaration process.

### Regulated timber products

Schedule 1 of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* lists the products which are regulated under the laws. They are identified by their customs tariff codes.

Not all wood, pulp and paper products fall within these tariff codes.

Some goods, such as musical instruments, sporting goods and printed materials, are not regulated.

The tariff codes list below are correct as of June 2018. Visit [agriculture.gov.au/illegallogging](https://agriculture.gov.au/illegallogging) for any updates.

#### Chapter 44

4403 Wood in rough

4407 Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise

4408 Sheets of veneering

4409 Continuously shaped wood

4410 Particle board

4411 Fibreboard of wood

4412 Plywood

4413 Densified wood

4414 Wooden frames

4416 Casks, barrels

4418 Builders’ joinery, doors

#### Chapter 47

4701 Mechanical wood pulp

4702 Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades

4703 Chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate

4704 Chemical wood pulp, sulphite

4705 Mechanical or chemical wood pulp

#### Chapter 48

4801 Newsprint

4802 Uncoated writing paper

4803 Toilet or facial tissue

4804 Uncoated kraft paper and paperboard

4805 Other uncoated paper and paperboard

4806 Glazed/translucent papers

4807 Composite paper and paperboard

4808 Corrugated paper and paperboard

4809 Carbon and self-copy paper

4810 Coated paper and paperboard

4811 Paper products coated/surfaced

4813 Cigarette paper

4816 Carbon and self-copy paper (other than 48.09)

4817 Envelopes, letter cards

4818 Toilet paper, tissues, serviettes

4819 Cartons, boxes made of paper

4820 Paper booklets

4821 Paper labels

4823 Other paper

#### Chapter 94

9401 Seats

9403 Other furniture

9406 Prefabricated buildings