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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 overleaf 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 for any updates.

Chapter 44

4403	Wood in rough	4412	Plywood
4407	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise	4413	Densified wood
4408	Sheets of veneering	4414	Wooden frames
4409	Continuously shaped wood	4416	Casks, barrels
4410	Particleboard	4418	Builders' joinery, doors
4411	Fibreboard of wood		

Chapter 47

4701	Mechanical wood pulp	4704	Chemical wood pulp, sulphite
4702	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades	4705	Mechanical or chemical wood pulp
4703	Chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate		

Chapter 48

4801	Newsprint	4811	Paper products coated/surfaced
4802	Uncoated writing paper	4813	Cigarette paper
4803	Toilet or facial tissue	4816	Carbon and self-copy paper (other than 48.09)
4804	Uncoated kraft paper and paperboard	4817	Envelopes, letter cards
4805	Other uncoated paper and paperboard	4818	Toilet paper, tissues, serviettes
4806	Glazed/translucent papers	4819	Cartons, boxes made of paper
4807	Composite paper and paperboard	4820	Paper booklets
4808	Corrugated paper and paperboard	4821	Paper labels
4809	Carbon and self-copy paper	4823	Other paper
4810	Coated paper and paperboard		

Chapter 94

9401	Seats	9406	Prefabricated buildings
9403	Other furniture		



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