



This Quick Reference Guide supports the **State Specific Guideline for Victoria** (the Victorian Guideline). These documents may be used by processors of raw logs from Victoria to facilitate their due diligence process in accordance with the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*.

Timber harvesting regulation in Victoria

Different regulations apply to timber harvesting depending on whether the forest being harvested is located on public or private land. Victoria's laws regulate:

- where and when timber harvesting can occur
- appropriate standards to govern how timber harvesting is conducted.

Summary of documents to demonstrate legality of timber from Victoria

Native Forests

Public Land

- A VicForests delivery docket and Timber Release Plan or
- A Victorian Government log docket and Wood Utilisation Plan

- Where plantations occur on public land, this land is leased or licensed, and regulated as private land

Which documents are required?

Private Land (including leased and licensed Crown Land)

- Private native forest delivery docket and:
 - Copy of Timber Harvesting Plan or
 - Planning permit

- Plantation delivery docket and:
 - Copy of Timber Harvesting Plan or
 - Planning permit (where required as specified in the local planning scheme)

* No regulations for agroforestry and small plantations or woodlots of 5ha or less

Public land

Both the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and VicForests have responsibilities for managing timber harvesting on public land.

DEPI is the environmental regulator for commercial timber harvesting activities in Victoria's State forests. DEPI zones State forests to determine appropriate land use (including availability for timber harvesting) and ensures that commercial timber harvesting activities are compliant with Victoria's regulatory framework.

Timber from areas identified in an Allocation Order and associated map created under Part 3 of the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* is made available to VicForests to sustainably harvest and sell. VicForests prepares a Timber Release Plan (TRP) to identify the forest coupes it plans to harvest.

For smaller timber volumes, forest produce licences can be issued under section 52 of the *Forests Act 1958*. Coupes permitted to be harvested are recorded in a Wood Utilisation Plan (WUP).

Timber production is regulated by the Code of Practice for Timber Production (the Code), prepared under Part 5 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*. The Code sets out appropriate and responsible standards for timber production, and compliance is required under the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004*. DEPI monitors compliance with the Code, including inspections conducted by authorised officers or compliance auditing conducted under the DEPI Forest Audit Program.

Private land (including leased or licensed Crown land)

Plantation

Plantation development and harvest is regulated by the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The VPP specifies that all timber production activities must comply with the Code. These activities are regulated by the relevant local government under their local planning scheme and, if applicable, the conditions of any planning permit.

Timber harvesting must also be consistent with a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

There is no regulation covering agroforestry and small plantations or woodlots of 5 hectares or less. This means that timber can be legally harvested and sold on a small scale basis and there may be no official documentation.

Native forests

The harvesting of native forests on private land is regulated in a similar manner to plantations; that is, by local government as part of the land use planning system. Native vegetation laws and regulations apply.

A planning permit is required from local government, and a THP prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Code must also be submitted to local government. Local government may place additional requirements on the THP to meet local planning objectives.

Who should I contact for further information?

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