The amfori BEPI
Timber Due Diligence Programme
Illegal deforestation

The timber industry represents one of the oldest and most established industries in the world and demand for forest-derived products is steadily increasing, leading to illegal deforestation. Governments around the world are putting in place regulations and laws to protect forests and stop illegal deforestation.

The European Union expects companies of all sizes, whether importing timber products or sourcing wood locally, to prove that the timber has not come from illegal sources.

EU timber regulation

The European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) has been in force since March 2013. It lays out the requirements for actors who place timber, or timber-based products, on the European market.

The EUTR places considerable responsibility on the importer. From wood product verification to diligent record keeping, buying practices cannot be separated from the EUTR requirements. It is critical for timber importers and others in the supply chain to maintain an effective due diligence system.

The EUTR in brief:

• Prohibits placing illegally harvested timber, and products derived from illegally harvested timber, on the EU market
• Requires traders to keep a register of who they buy from and who they sell to
• Requires the operator (actor who first places the timber products on the EU market) to exercise due diligence
• The due diligence system must contain specific information on the timber used in the product, a risk assessment and risk mitigation

Importers, or 'operators', are responsible for having a due diligence system in place to prove timber placed on the EU market has not come from illegal sources.

Similar legislation around the world

The USA and Australia also go to great lengths to limit the impact of national consumption on deforestation. The Lacey Act in the US bans the trafficking of illegal wildlife, including timber and paper products. This landmark legislation entered into force in May 2008 as the world’s first ban on trading illegally sourced wood products. Four years later, Australia introduced its Illegal Logging Prohibition Act. Detailed regulations on the Australian due diligence approach followed in 2014.

31% of all land area is covered by forests

18.7 million acres of forest are lost to deforestation every year

15% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the world are a result of deforestation

< 10% of the Earth’s surface is covered by tropical forests, but they support at least two-thirds of the world’s biodiversity

1.6 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods, including food, fresh water, clothing, traditional medicine and shelter
Our solution

The Timber Due Diligence Programme supports members to conduct due diligence in their supply chains and helps ensure that their wooden products are not contributing to illegal deforestation. The programme offers guidance and tools to help companies map their supply chain, gather necessary documentation, understand potential risks and work to mitigate them.

Key risks areas when importing timber products

- Understanding the issue
- Supply chain visibility
- Gathering and reviewing all the necessary documentation
- Assessing the risk

Use the programme to:

- Access an online, ready-to-use due diligence process that will record your document gathering, risk assessment and mitigation measures
- Benefit from a risk assessment report, per product, to help compile documentation and check key risk areas
- Use the data and reports in conversations with customers and other stakeholders
- Access training material and workshops for your staff and supply chain partners
- Receive guidance and support for further due diligence and mitigation measures by working with recognised, third-party organisations
- Become more efficient by working collaboratively with other supply chain actors

Our partner NEPCon

We have been working with NEPCon on the Timber Due Diligence Programme to build the tools and services that are now available for our members. NEPCon has substantial expertise in timber due diligence and EUTR compliance. They also support us with capacity building efforts for members and producers.

NEPCon is a non-profit organisation that works for sustainable land use and climate-friendly solutions in 100+ countries around the world.

Access the Timber Due Diligence Programme on the amfori BEPI Platform or contact info@amfori.org for more information about how to get involved
Join us.

Be part of the open and sustainable trade community. amfori BEPI is just one of the products our members can benefit from.

Go to amfori.org or contact us at info@amfori.org