

APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)

Timber legality guidance template

for **<Economy>**

The purpose of this guidance template document is to provide APEC member economies with guidance on compiling the appropriate information for businesses and governments within the APEC region regarding timber legality laws and regulations in place in <Economy>. It follows from multiple discussions at EGILAT meetings in which it was recognised that it would be beneficial to compile the laws or regulations of APEC economies governing timber production and trade with a goal of supporting legal timber trade between APEC members.

*[Note: This document should reflect the laws or regulations that are in place within each APEC economy. Where a particular element of this document is not relevant to an economy, it does not need to be completed.]*

# Overview of Timber Legality in <Economy>

NOTE: This section should provide general information on forestry and the timber industry in <Economy>.

This section may include information that answers the following questions:

* Who owns forests in <Economy> (public, private, indigenous)?
* Are there forests in <Economy> with different statuses (protected, production)?
* Are there multiple jurisdictions for managing forests in <Economy>?
* Which bodies or institutions are responsible for managing and regulating forests in <Economy>?

# Which laws regulate timber harvesting and exportation in <Economy>?

NOTE: This section should provide a simple list of laws or regulations that regulate timber harvesting and exportation in <Economy>. These laws may include laws that:

* Authorise or regulate the harvesting or exportation of timber;
* Prohibit or regulate timber harvesting in specified locations, such as in parks, reserves, or protected areas;
* Prohibit or regulate harvesting or exportation of specific tree species;
* Require any type of payment, such as royalties, stumpage, or other fees, for the right to harvest timber;
* Grant legal rights of use and tenure in relation to the place in which timber is harvested to people or groups of people, such as indigenous peoples;
* Prohibit or regulate the transportation, export, import, or transhipment of timber or wood products;
* Regulate the possession, purchase, sale, or processing of timber or wood products; and
* Otherwise must be complied with for timber or wood products to be considered legally harvested or exported.

Please list and provide links to these laws and regulations.

# How do timber harvesting laws operate in <Economy>?

NOTE: This section should provide information describing how <Economy>’s laws in the previous section operate, including the institutions in <Economy> that are responsible for managing and enforcing timber harvesting laws and regulations. This information will be important to inform trading partners about legal timber in <Economy>.

This section may include general information that answers the following questions:

* What are the requirements of legislation in <Economy> that authorises or regulates the harvesting or exportation of timber?
* What are the requirements of the laws or regulations that prohibit or restrict timber harvesting in specified locations, such as in parks, reserves, or protected areas;
* What are the requirements of the laws that prohibit or regulate harvesting or exportation of specific tree species;
* What are the requirements of the laws that require any type of payment, such as royalties, stumpage, or other fees, for the right to harvest timber;
* What are the requirements of the laws grant legal rights of use and tenure in relation to the place in which timber is harvested to people or groups of people, such as indigenous peoples;
* What are the requirements of the laws that prohibit or regulate the transportation, export, import, or transhipment of timber or wood products;
* What are the requirements of the laws regulate the possession, purchase, sale, or processing of timber or wood products; and
* What are the requirements of any other laws that must be complied with for timber or wood products to be considered legally harvested or exported.

Please describe the requirements of these laws in such a way as to narrate the path that legal timber takes from harvest to export, including the agencies and authorities responsible for the relevant steps.

# Licences, Permits and Certification Schemes

NOTE: This section should provide general information on any requirements for timber or wood products from <Economy> to have licenses, permits, or certifications. APEC member economies will want access to information that can be used to reduce the risk that timber harvested in <Economy> has come from illegal sources.

There may be a variety of requirements for timber harvested in <Economy> to be considered legal. These may include:

* An authority or permit to harvest or felling licence
* An authority or permit to transport, process or trade
* An export permit, issued by the relevant government authority
* A certification or an in-country legality verification system
* A non-government certification (harvest or Chain of Custody) scheme recognised by <Economy>

Please list the ways that someone purchasing timber from <Economy> could reduce the risk that the timber products have come from illegal sources, including the agencies responsible for issuing any documentation. Suitable examples of documentation should be included at Appendix A.

# Legality of timber products manufactured in <Economy>

NOTE: This section recognises that timber products from <Economy> may use timber inputs from numerous jurisdictions in manufactured products. APEC member economies will want access to information that can be used to assess and reduce the risk that timber in the manufactured products from <Economy> has come from illegal sources.

In preparing this section, please indicate:

* whether there are any arrangements, formal or otherwise, to trace timber supply chains in <Economy>;
* whether <Economy> has any legality assurance systems for domestic timber used in manufactured or complex products[[1]](#footnote-1);
* whether <Economy> has any legality assurance systems for imported timber used in manufactured or complex products.

Please list the ways that someone purchasing products with multiple timber inputs from <Economy> could reduce the risk that the timber products have come from illegal sources, including the agencies responsible for issuing any documentation. Suitable examples of documentation should be included at Appendix A.

# Other relevant non-government resources

NOTE: Please include in this section: any initiatives or government endorsed or supported entities or resources that assist in the identification of timber legality. Sources may include in-country organisations, civil society groups or multilateral forums.

# Who should I contact for further information?

NOTE: This section should provide details of the relevant government contacts for information on timber legality in <Economy>.

# Attachments

NOTE: This section is for any additional information, including copies of relevant sample documents or link to sites containing further information. Sample documents could include copies of a felling license, permit to harvest, license to harvest, export permit or government endorsed legality certification. Including copies of sample documents will allow APEC member economies, the private sector, and civil society to be aware of what they should look like.

1. For the purposes of this document, a ‘complex product’ is taken to mean a product that includes wood that has been significantly transformed and potentially sourced from a range of timber species or harvest locations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)