



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**Advancing Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity**

## APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

### Timber legality guidance template for New Zealand

Version: January 2026

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*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 New Zealand. 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.*

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# Introduction

## Purpose

This document has been prepared by the Ministry for Primary Industries of New Zealand to support the production and trade of legally sourced wood products. It is intended to assist importers to carry out due diligence on the legality of New Zealand-grown wood products, through understanding the operating environment and regulatory framework governing the production and trade of New Zealand's wood products.

The structure and information follows that agreed for APEC Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Trade's Timber Legality Guidance Templates.

## Scope

This document refers to New Zealand wood products only. Importers should contact their supplier for information about wood products grown or manufactured in another economy.

## Forests and forestry in New Zealand

New Zealand has a total of 10.1 million hectares of forests, covering 38% of the land. The importance of forests to New Zealand goes well beyond commercial timber production. New Zealand's forests have spiritual, social, cultural, environmental, and economic importance.

There are two main classes of forest which have different biology, management, and values to New Zealanders:

- 8 million hectares are indigenous natural forest, which are the source of 0.02% of the annual harvest volume; and
- 2.1 million hectares are planted forest, which are the source of more than 99.9% of New Zealand's annual harvest volume. The productive forest area (net stocked area and area awaiting regeneration) was an estimated 1.82 million hectares at December 2025. The remainder is in reserves and unplanted areas near water bodies or infrastructure.

Māori have enduring connections to forests and forest land that are cultural, spiritual, and economic. These connections are rooted in whakapapa, with forests seen as taonga that carry mauri and mana. Forestry is not only a commercial activity but also a way to uphold kaitiakitanga, the responsibility to protect and sustain the environment for future generations. Māori landowners increasingly view plantation forestry as a strategic option to safeguard whenua, restore native ecosystems, and generate long-term benefits. This includes employment, skills development, and revenue streams that strengthen iwi and hapū economies.

Māori interests in forestry are significant and growing. Treaty settlements have returned large areas of land, enabling Māori collectives to invest in forestry ventures and influence land-use decisions. These interests extend beyond plantations to indigenous forests, where cultural values guide harvest practices and conservation priorities. Aligning forestry

operations with tikanga ensures that legal frameworks respect Māori authority and aspirations. Māori participation in forestry is not peripheral; it is central to sustainable land management and to the future of New Zealand's timber sector.

### **Exotic planted forests**

96% of plantation forests are privately owned and used for commercial timber production. The species are radiata pine (91%), with Douglas fir (5%), other softwoods<sup>1</sup> (2%) and eucalypts and other hardwoods (2%) making up the remainder. The average age of harvest for radiata pine was 28.0 years for the year ended 31 March 2024.<sup>2</sup>

Exotic plantation forests are fast growing and intensively managed. The level of harvesting broadly reflects historical rates of new planting, among other factors. The estimated roundwood removals in the year to September 2025 was 33.6 million cubic metres. The long-term sustainable yield is approximately 32 million cubic metres per annum. Most of the area that is harvested is replanted.<sup>3</sup>

About 36 percent of the annual harvest is processed domestically onshore in New Zealand. There is a significant wood processing sector producing sawn timber, chemical and mechanical pulps, plywood, veneer, medium density fibreboard and wood chips.

New Zealand has an efficient and thriving forestry export industry. The main export categories by value for the year to 30 June 2025 were logs (53%), sawn timber (18%), pulp (11%), paper and paperboard (7%), panels (6%), chip and other (5%).

The top export destinations by value for the same year were China (53%), Australia (9%), United States (7%), Republic of Korea (6%), Japan (5%), India (2%), Viet Nam (2%), Thailand (2%), Indonesia (2%), EU (excl UK) (2%), and all other (9%)<sup>4</sup>.

### **Native (natural) forests**

Native (indigenous) natural forests cover 8.0 million hectares, or approximately 30% of New Zealand's land area. Of this, 5.2 million ha is protected under legislation in national parks, scenic reserves, and other conservation areas and land managed by the Department of Conservation.

#### *Forest types*

New Zealand's native forests are diverse, having been shaped by geography, climate, and long isolation. As a result, New Zealand has a wealth of biodiversity, with one of the world's highest rates of endemic flora and fauna species.

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<sup>1</sup> Other softwoods can include cypresses, pines, firs, larches, redwood, cedar; and other hardwoods can include poplar, willow, acacia, walnut, oak, birch, alder and elm.

<sup>2</sup> *National Exotic Forest Description as at 1 April 2024* Ministry for Primary Industries, April 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Quarterly roundwood removals and production December 2025

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/16588-Quarter-production-Roundwood-removals-from-NZ-forests>

<sup>4</sup> *Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries*, Ministry for Primary Industries, December 2025

[\(https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/70984-Situation-and-Outlook-for-Primary-Industries-SOPI-December-2025/\)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/70984-Situation-and-Outlook-for-Primary-Industries-SOPI-December-2025/). Does not add to 100% due to rounding error.

In the warmer, wetter North Island and lowland areas of the South Island, lush podocarp-broadleaf forests dominate, featuring tall conifers like rimu, tōtara, and kahikatea, alongside broadleaf species such as māhoe and tawa.

In cooler, drier, and higher-altitude regions, especially in the South Island, southern beech forests (*Nothofagus* species) predominate, forming dense, often monospecific stands.

Coastal and montane forests also support distinct forest types, including specific tree species such as pohutukawa, tree ferns, kānuka, and mānuka.

#### *Historical logging*

Much of the lowland native forest area has been logged historically for timber. Large-scale commercial logging started with European arrival in the late 18th century and intensified throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. Logging peaked between the 1840s and 1920s, with native timber becoming a major export and source of building material. Concerns in the early 1900s about long term timber supply led to the establishment of plantations of rapidly growing exotic species, and a gradual shift to sustainable management of native forests. Logging of native forests on Crown land was largely phased out by the 1990s due to environmental advocacy and policy changes.

#### *Planted native forests*

The area of planted native forest is small, and there is no commercial production currently. It includes:

- restoration and rehabilitation plantings, such as waterway riparian and buffer zones, which are typically community or conservation initiatives and may be partially government funded;
- forests planted on land registered to earn carbon credits in New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme;
- private plantings of mānuka targeting honey production; and
- small-scale historical trials.

There is not expected to be volumes harvested or exported from these forests in the foreseeable future.

Figure 1: Distribution of forest types in New Zealand



Source: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/36633-forest-map-TUR2.pdf>

## **New Zealand's legislative framework**

New Zealand has established property rights legislation which provides for appropriate land tenure arrangements, recognises the customary and traditional rights of the indigenous people, provides the means for resolving property disputes by due process and has a record for upholding these rights. Also, the State grants title to land through registration and guarantees the accuracy of that title.

New Zealand has a well-established legal framework for the identification and protection of property rights, particularly through the Property Law Act 1952 and Crimes Act 1961<sup>5</sup>.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is the primary legislation promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, including the land, air and water. The RMA is not specific to the forestry sector. It is administered by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) but is largely implemented by local government (regional, unitary and local councils) through regional and district plans, regional policy statements, national standards, and domestic policy statements.

The forestry sector is included in New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme under legislation (Climate Change Response Act 2002<sup>6</sup>). Participation by owners of forest land is mandatory when deforesting pre-1990 forest land with exotic species, or voluntary for owners of post-1989 forest land. Voluntary participation to earn carbon credits for carbon sequestered, also imposes obligations to surrender carbon credits if the carbon stocks decrease.<sup>7</sup>

Laws in New Zealand are actively enforced. Legislation and regulations that control forestry, resource management and biosecurity are enforced by specialist staff from central and local government, as well as by honorary rangers in the case of the conservation forest estate.

## **Māori and forestry**

The foundation legal document that recognises the rights of Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand, is the Treaty of Waitangi which was signed in 1840. The principles of the Treaty are provided for in many pieces of domestic legislation. The Waitangi Tribunal established in 1975 is a permanent commission of inquiry charged with making recommendations on claims by Māori relating to actions or omissions of the Government that breach promises made in the Treaty. Land subject to a claim has its title annotated accordingly so that the claim is not affected should the land be sold.

Significant areas of forests have been returned to Māori through the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process. Government forestry leases of Māori land are also being shortened, and the land is being returned to Māori control.

Māori are major forest and landowners in New Zealand, and the value of Māori forestry assets is estimated at \$4.5 billion. Māori forest ownership is estimated as 785,700 hectares

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<sup>5</sup> See: <http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/DLM327382.html>

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0040/latest/dlm158584.html>

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-the-emissions-trading-scheme/>



of native forests, and 190,200 ha (or approximately 10%) of exotic forest.<sup>8</sup> Around 30% of New Zealand's 1.7 million hectares of plantation forestry is estimated to be on Māori land, and this is expected to grow to 40% when Te Tiriti settlements are completed. In addition to forest ownership, Māori are involved in forestry in other ways, such as forestry rights and joint ventures on Māori land, and approximately 10,390 Māori are employed in forestry and wood processing, making up 22 percent of the workforce.<sup>9</sup>

### **Negligible risk of illegal wood products**

There is negligible risk of New Zealand wood products being illegally harvested. Many factors contribute to this, including:

- strong and clear land tenure system, including the preservation of the natural and regenerating Crown conservation forest estate to prohibit deforestation;
- exotic planted forests were planted for the purpose of being harvested, with them predominately being placed on less productive agricultural land;
- exotic planted forests are primarily privately owned and operated, and companies have strong incentives and mechanisms to protect their property and assets;
- native planted forests for the purposes of carbon sequestration, with minimal harvest permitted;
- indigenous private forests sustainably managed with strict conditions for harvest and export;
- New Zealand is a net exporter of forestry products;
- strong rule of law and active enforcement;
- no historical culture of informal payments or bribery;
- government officials are relatively well paid, and do not rely on secondary sources of income;
- freedom of the press, which allows cases of corruption to be readily identified;
- there are ongoing legal processes to address historical grievances and claims of Māori, and many claims have been settled (see <https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/en>);
- voluntary compliance efforts by forestry industry organisations, including codes of practice and accords covering a range of matters such as labour, legality, fire, transport<sup>10</sup>;
- good industry-government relations;
- strong and active civil society including non-government organisations (NGOs), local communities and interest groups;
- the plantation species used in New Zealand are low value compared to most tropical hardwoods, and are unlikely to be the target of illegal trade;
- New Zealand is consistently ranked as one of the least corrupt economies in the world.

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<sup>8</sup> See: [https://www.nzfoa.org.nz/images/FOA\\_Facts\\_and\\_Figures\\_2023-2024\\_-\\_Web\\_file.pdf](https://www.nzfoa.org.nz/images/FOA_Facts_and_Figures_2023-2024_-_Web_file.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.workforceinsights.govt.nz/>

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/agreements-accords> and <https://nzittg.org.nz/charter-criteria/>.

# Overview of timber legality in New Zealand

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*This section provides information on:*

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

## Exotic planted forests

### Ownership

A spectrum of tree crop and land ownership arrangements exist, including freehold (land and trees), forestry rights and licences, land leasing, forestry partnerships and stumpage share arrangements.

Since 1987, government-owned exotic planted forests have been either:

- sold to private companies and investment funds; or
- progressively returned to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process, meaning Māori are becoming important players in the forestry sector.

Crown Forestry holds residual government assets for the purpose of disposal.

Now just under ninety-five percent of New Zealand's exotic planted forests are privately owned, with the remainder owned by central government, local government and state-owned enterprises (at April 2024).

Approximately 70% of production forests by area are owned by 20 companies, and approximately 20% is owned by private owners with less than 1,000 hectares. Foreign-owned companies have just over half the production forest area<sup>11</sup>.

### Management

Exotic plantation forests are largely managed on a sustainable yield basis for operational and commercial reasons, including to provide continuity of income, log supply and work.

Forests are typically managed on a 28 year rotation for radiata pine, with thinning to waste at about age 6. Approximately 16% of radiata pine stands are production thinned, and 38% are pruned to produce higher value and quality clear wood. The timing of clearfell harvesting can vary with log prices and markets. Replanting is typically within 1-2 years. Regimes are longer for Douglas fir (40 years), and shorter for eucalypts (22 years).

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<sup>11</sup> National Exotic Forest Description, Ministry for Primary Industries, April 2024 (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/66273-National-Exotic-Forest-Description-2024-report>), and TUR-NZFS Service Portfolio Briefing 2023 (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/60145-2023-Portfolio-Briefing-Te-Uru-Rakau-New-Zealand-Forest-Service>).

## **Protection and production forests**

Nearly all of the 1.82 million hectares of exotic forests are production forests. There may be very small areas protected in private reserves.

## **Institutions and regulation**

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), and its forestry business unit NZ Forest Service - Te Uru Rākau, is responsible for:

- policy advice to government on exotic planted forests and the forestry sector,
- administration of a commodity levy on all harvested wood products,
- administration of the Forests Act 1949 for the upcoming legal harvest assurance system,
- administration of environmental regulations for plantation forestry activities under Resource Management Act 1991, and
- administration of forestry in the New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme.

Contact details are:

Ministry for Primary Industries  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
Phone: +64 4 894 0100  
Website: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/contact-us/>  
Email: [info@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpi.govt.nz)

The Ministry for Environment is responsible for administering the Resource Management Act 1991, which addresses the environmental impacts of forestry activities.

## **Native natural forests**

### **Ownership**

The majority of New Zealand's native forests are held by the government and managed under specific legislation. The Department of Conservation (DOC) owns and manages about 5.2 million hectares or about 65% of New Zealand's tall native forests. Harvesting is not permitted in these forests.

Categories of government conservation land include Conservation Parks, Wilderness Areas, Ecological Areas, Sanctuary Areas, and Amenity Areas.

The remainder of the native forest area is largely privately-owned, with some area held by other government agencies and local government bodies.

### **Management**

DOC's over-arching objectives are protecting and restoring biodiversity, ecosystems, and cultural heritage. Current key objectives include:

- protecting native species and ecosystems, especially those under threat;
- maintaining and enhancing public access to conservation land;
- strengthening partnerships with iwi and hapū, honouring Treaty of Waitangi obligations.
- supporting recreation and tourism in a sustainable way;
- generating revenue to support conservation through mechanisms like visitor levies and concessions.

DOC management activities include:

- biodiversity management, such as pest control, habitat restoration, and species recovery programs;
- administration of the concessions system, which regulates commercial activities (e.g., tourism, infrastructure) on conservation land through permits;
- public engagement: to encourage community involvement in conservation through volunteering and education;
- monitoring and research, using science to inform adaptive management strategies;
- land-use planning guided by conservation management strategies and plans tailored to specific regions and ecosystems.

DOC is also the designated management authority for Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the global treaty on the international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants to protect them from over-exploitation. It is responsible for issuing permits for the trade of CITES-listed species, and works with NZ Customs and other agencies on enforcement. New Zealand has no CITES-listed native timber species.

### **Protection forests**

The DOC conservation estate has an implicit but critical protection function: by safeguarding steep upland forests, water quality and supply, habitats and infrastructure is protected downstream. Small areas are held by some local government bodies explicitly to protect municipal water supplies.

## Production forests

Only a small proportion of the native forest area has been approved for harvesting under legislation which includes strict conditions of sustainable yield. This area is all on private land, and totals 74 000 hectares (or approximately 1% of the native forest area).

Commonly harvested species include southern beeches, rimu, totara, miro and matai (podocarps) and tawa (hardwood). For some years the actual area harvested has been significantly below the allowable cut.

The production from New Zealand's native forests is a very small proportion of total annual timber harvest (0.02%), and even smaller quantities of native timber are exported. There is a small-scale industry salvaging and exporting swamp kauri (*Agathis australis*) logs and stumps which have been buried in swamps on farmland.

## Institutions and regulation

Central conservation government forests are managed by the Department of Conservation<sup>12</sup> under specific legislation (Conservation Act 1987, National Parks Act 1980, and Reserves Act 1977). DOC also manages CITES (Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989).

Contact details are:

Department of Conservation

PO Box 10420

Wellington 6143

Website: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us/>

Email: [enquiries@doc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@doc.govt.nz)

The Ministry for Primary Industries administers the Forests Act 1949, which regulates the sustainable harvesting of privately owned native forests, and the milling and export of forest products from those forests.

The Ministry for Environment is responsible for administering the Resource Management Act 1991, which addresses the environmental impacts of forestry activities.

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<sup>12</sup> Information on the Department of Conservation is available at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

## List of laws regulating the harvesting, processing and exporting of wood products in New Zealand

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*This section provides a simple list of laws or regulations that regulate timber harvesting and exportation in New Zealand. These laws should 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 transshipment 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.*
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### **Forests Act 1949**

Requires any harvesting for sale and trade from indigenous natural forests on private land to be conducted under sustainable forest management permits or plans, or other approvals. Regulates aspects of the milling and export of the indigenous timber.

See: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1949/0019/latest/DLM255626.html>

Further information: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-producing/forestry/indigenous-forestry/>

### **Commodity Levies Act 1990 and Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2025**

The Commodity Levies Act 1990 enables primary industries sector bodies to impose a levy for industry good activities. The Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2025 applies all harvested wood material from planted forests in New Zealand, and is payable by forest owner. While the levy is charged at the point of entry to sawmills and ports, the product owner or agent can recover the levy from the forest owner.

See the Act: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0127/latest/DLM226674.html>

See the Order: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2025/0198/latest/whole.html>

More information: <http://fglt.org.nz/>

## **Resource Management Act 1991, and Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2023**

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is the primary law for the sustainable management of all natural resources including land, water and soil. The RMA sets out the rules for productive activities on private land using National Direction Instruments. These include Environmental Standards or Policy Statements which detail the rules that must be followed for these activities. This includes commercial forestry activities such as afforestation and harvesting.

See the Act: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html>

At publication (Jan 2026), the New Zealand government is proposing changes to the RMA and national direction instruments. These changes aim to streamline processes, better enable infrastructure and development, and better address natural hazard risks. The replacement legislation is two proposed Bills that have been introduced to parliament. The Planning Bill is focused on enabling development and regulating how land is used. The Natural Environment Bill is focused on managing the impacts from the use of natural resources and protecting the natural environment from harm.

See the Bills:

- <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/0235/latest/LMS1035807.html>
- <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/0234/latest/LMS1520775.html>

The National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry is a national regulation created under the Resource Management Act 1991, to manage the environmental effects of forestry. The regulations aim to provide a consistent domestic framework for managing the environmental effects of commercial forestry, ensuring better environmental outcomes, and providing clarity and efficiency for foresters. Changes to these standards are also proposed as part of the Resource Management Act reforms.

See the regulation:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0277/latest/LMS912695.html>

Further information: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/national-environmental-standards-commercial-forestry/>

## **Forestry Rights Registration Act 1983**

The Forestry Rights Registration Act 1983 provides for the creation of forestry rights by the proprietor of land to establish, maintain and harvest a crop of trees on the land. Forestry rights are commonly used in joint-venture situations where a forestry investor establishes a forest on land owned by another party.

See the legislation: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0042/latest/DLM72449.html>

## **Conservation Act 1987, National Parks Act 1980, and Reserves Act 1977**

The Conservation Act 1987 promotes the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources. It provides the legal foundation for protecting biodiversity, ecosystems, and cultural heritage. It establishes the Department of Conservation (DOC) which manages land and resources held under the Act for conservation purposes, amongst other functions. DOC must give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, ensuring Māori values and rights

are respected in conservation management. The Act establishes conservation areas where native flora is protected from exploitation or destruction.

The National Parks Act 1980 ensures that areas designated as national parks are preserved in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public. Section 5 mandates the preservation of indigenous plants and animals within national parks and prohibits the introduction of non-native species that could threaten native plant ecosystems. The Act allows for the creation of specially protected areas and wilderness zones where public access may be restricted to protect sensitive environments. National parks have stronger legal protection than other conservation designations.

The Reserves Act 1977 provides the legal framework for the acquisition, management, and protection of public reserves for various values including conservation, recreation, education, and cultural heritage. It is an offence to remove or wilfully damage any wood, tree, shrub, fern or plant on any designated reserve.

See the legislation, respectively:

- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0065/latest/DLM103610.html>
- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1980/0066/latest/DLM36963.html>
- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1977/0066/latest/DLM444305.html>

### **Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989**

New Zealand is a signatory to the international Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which regulates and monitors imports and exports of endangered species to ensure that their long-term survival in the wild is not threatened. The Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989 gives effect to NZ's CITES obligations.

There are no New Zealand indigenous timber species which are CITES-listed. New Zealand plants listed under Appendix II include some tree ferns (*Cyathea* species).

See the legislation: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0018/latest/DLM145966.html>

Further information: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/international-agreements/endangered-species/>

### **Property Law Act 2007**

The Property Law Act 2007 sets out a general basis for property rights in New Zealand, and provides clear rules for property transactions, leases, and disputes. Key features and provisions include: rules for general property transactions, leases and tenancies, and dispute resolution.

See the legislation: [www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2007/0091/latest/DLM968962.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2007/0091/latest/DLM968962.html)

### **Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (Māori Land Act)**

Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 recognises Māori land as tāonga tuku iho (treasures passed down from ancestors) of special significance to Māori. Its core principles are to:

- promote the retention of Māori land in the hands of its owners, their whānau, and hapū;
- protect wāhi tapu (sacred sites);
- facilitate the occupation, development, and use of Māori land for the benefit of its owners.

The Act empowers the Māori Land Court, which has jurisdiction to:



- determine the legal status of land (e.g., Māori customary land, Māori freehold land).
- resolve disputes and make orders related to land ownership, use, and succession
- establish and oversee various forms of land trusts and incorporations.

See the legislation: [www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2007/0004/latest/DLM404796.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2007/0004/latest/DLM404796.html)

### **Overseas Investment Act 2005 and Overseas Investment Regulations 2005**

An overseas person (which includes individuals not ordinarily resident in New Zealand or entities with more than 25% overseas ownership or control) must obtain consent before acquiring sensitive New Zealand assets, which include:

- sensitive land – including farmland, land over 5 hectares (including leases over 10 years), and land adjacent to conservation areas or other sensitive sites;
- shares in entities owning sensitive assets;
- significant business assets – defined as investments where the value exceeds NZD 100 million.

Forest land is considered sensitive land (over 5 hectares) and forestry rights (even without land ownership) are treated as a form of sensitive land investment. Consent is required if acquiring more than 1,000 hectares of forestry rights in a calendar year.

See the legislation: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2005/0082/latest/DLM356881.html>

At publication (Jan 2026), the Government is advancing changes through the Overseas Investment (National Interest Test and Other Matters) Amendment Bill to streamline the investment process while safeguarding national interests. Changes are planned to be implemented by early 2026.

For more information: <https://www.linz.govt.nz/our-work/overseas-investment-regulation/reform-overseas-investment-act>

## Laws regulating timber harvesting and export in New Zealand

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*This section should provide information describing how the laws in the previous section operate, including the institutions that are responsible for managing and enforcing timber harvesting laws and regulations. This section may include general information that answers the following questions:*

- *What are the requirements of legislation 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 that 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 transshipment 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?*
- 

## Exotic planted forests

### Environmental legislation

Under the *National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry*, forest owners can harvest forests and conduct associated activities, such as afforestation and earthworks, without a resource consent (permit) if they meet certain conditions to manage the environmental effects of the activity. This is called a permitted activity.

If the conditions for a permitted activity cannot be met, forest owners can apply to their local council for a resource consent. Resource consents may put specific conditions on the activities.

A harvest plan is required to be prepared for all harvesting. A forestry earthworks management plan must be prepared for all earthworks that involve more than 500 m<sup>2</sup> of soil disturbance in any 3-month period, and for harvesting activity where the land has a high or very high risk of erosion.

Local government bodies<sup>13</sup> track and monitor the compliance of forestry activities with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991, National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry, and any resource consents.

### **Other laws and regulations**

New Zealand does not have specific requirements for timber or wood products from exotic forest to be considered legally harvested or exported. For exotic planted forests and associated products:

- there are no forestry-specific laws or requirements on the sale, purchase, possession, harvest, transport, processing, export, import or trans-shipment of timber or wood products;
- stumpage or other fees for the right to harvest timber are commercial arrangements between the seller and buyer; and
- there are no forestry-specific export duties or tariffs.

A commodity levy for industry good activities applies to all harvested wood<sup>14</sup>, which is chargeable to the forest owner.

New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi<sup>15</sup>, and laws relating to tenure and land use are noted in previous sections.

Other laws which are not specific to forestry apply, such as customs and excise law; commercial and tax law; labour, employment and safety laws. Biosecurity requirements apply to imported wood products.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/councils-in-aotearoa/council-websites-and-maps/>

<sup>14</sup> Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2025

<sup>15</sup> See <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/treaty/read-the-treaty/english-text>

## Native forests and wood products

### Environmental legislation

A resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1994 (described above) may be required to fell or clear native trees and plants, or to undertake other activities such as roading in native forest.

The National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry do not apply to native forests.

### Harvesting

Controls apply to the harvesting of native forests, milling and export of wood products from those forests, under the Forests Act 1949.<sup>16</sup>

#### Sustainable Forest Management Plans and Permits

Harvesting timber from native natural forests on private land for sale or trade requires a Sustainable Forest Management Plan or Permit issued by Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

Sustainable Forest Management Plans generally have at least a 50-year term and provide for the long-term management of a forest area. Plans include details of the landowner, legal title, the forest's resources, the annual allowable timber harvest, and any required forest management or protection actions<sup>17</sup>.

Sustainable Forest Management Permits have a 10-year term and include the same information but specify a maximum harvest volume for each species group.

Approved permits and plans are registered against the land titles and are binding on the current and future landowners until the term expires.

An annual logging plan is required to be submitted to MPI for each year that harvesting is proposed, and landowners must keep records of all timber harvested.

At January 2026, the issued Sustainable Forest Management Permits and Plans were:

Consent type	Count	Annual volume (cubic m)	Area (ha)
Sustainable Forest Management Plans	56	83,129	44,140
Sustainable Forest Management Permits	29	7,588	6,729

The annual approved volumes does not necessarily reflect actual harvest volumes, which historically have been lower.

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<sup>16</sup> While the Forests Act 1949 uses the term "indigenous" forests, the term "native" forests is intended to be equivalent.

<sup>17</sup> For example, the protection of rare or endangered species or the control of introduced weeds and pests.

### Milling statements

MPI can issue milling statements for other specified cases of native timber felling not covered by Sustainable Forest Management Plans or Permits. These include salvage of naturally dead or wind-thrown trees, native timber from some Māori land, and public works and mining. Approximately 100 are issued per year.

This timber can only be sold on the domestic market. A Sustainable Forest Management Permit or Plan is required to export timber.

### Personal use

MPI may approve the harvest and milling of up to 50 cubic metres of native timber (roundwood) for personal use, but this timber must not be sold or traded.

### Monitoring activities

Monitoring activities include site inspections by MPI before, during and after harvesting, and reconciliation of harvest plans by source, species and volume.

### **Sawmilling controls**

All sawmills that mill native timber must be registered with MPI. A registered sawmill may mill any native timber for which harvesting or milling approval has been granted by MPI. Registered sawmills must submit three-monthly returns to MPI of the timber milled in the period.

It is a serious offence to mill native timber at an unregistered sawmill or to mill without approval under the Forests Act 1949. Penalties include fines of up to \$200 000 on conviction for breaching these requirements. A number of successful prosecutions for breaches have been undertaken.

### **Export controls**

#### Unfinished native forest products

For the purposes of exporting, the categories of unfinished timber include<sup>18</sup>:

- any grade of sawn beech or rimu from a forest subject to a sustainable forest management (SFM) plan or permit with a cross-sectional area of no more than 30 000 square millimetres per piece;
- salvaged stumps or roots of any species, either whole or sawn, from non-indigenous forest land;
- timber sourced from a planted native forest.

Exporters of all unfinished native forest products are required to submit a notice of Intention to Export (ITE1) form (see Attachment 1). The form requires exporters to identify the source of the timber, which is checked by MPI. All export consignments must be made available to a Forestry Officer for inspection.

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<sup>18</sup>Indigenous logs or timber from a planted indigenous forest or from a forest covered by a Permanent Forests Sink Covenant can also be exported, but no volume is expected to be exported in the foreseeable future.

A single use non-transferable clearance (or permit) number is required to clear the goods through the Customs' system. The non-transferable permit number is provided by MPI on the completed approved Intention to export (ITE) form.

Exporters of swamp kauri *voluntarily* submit a notice of intention to export or ITE2 form (see Attachment 2).

Importers can request completed ITE forms from their exporters. The critical detail is the “Indigenous timber clearance number” completed by the assurance body or MPI once checks have been completed.

#### Finished or manufactured timber products

There are no restrictions on the export of *finished or manufactured* native timber products including personal effects, and no ITE form is required.

For more information, email [indigenous.forestry@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:indigenous.forestry@mpi.govt.nz).

## Licences, Permits and Certification Schemes

*This section provides general information on any requirements for timber or wood products to have licences, permits, or certifications. APEC member economies will want access to information that can be used to reduce the risk that timber harvested in New Zealand has come from illegal sources. There may be a variety of requirements for timber harvested 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 a domestic legality verification system*
- *A non-government certification (harvest or chain of custody) scheme recognised by New Zealand.*

*List the ways that someone purchasing timber from New Zealand 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 in an appendix.*

### Overview

Requirements for licences, permits and certification are summarised below. The relevant legislation and administering agency or body are also noted.

Licences, Permits or Certification Schemes	Products from native forests	Products from exotic plantation forests
Authority or permit to harvest, or felling licence	Sustainable Forest Management Plans or Permits to harvest under Forests Act 1949, administered by Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	Required in some cases and locations; may specify conditions. Issued under Resource Management Act 1991 by local government bodies <sup>19</sup> )
Authority or permit to transport, process or trade	Permit required for milling timber under Forests Act 1949 (MPI)	Not required.  Some processing plants may require resource consents which manage environmental impacts such as discharges. Issued under the RMA.

<sup>19</sup> New Zealand's local government bodies include Regional Councils, Unitary Authorities, and Territorial Authorities. Regional Councils focus on environmental management and regional planning, while Territorial Authorities (City and District Councils) handle local resource management et al. within their specific boundaries. Unitary Authorities combine the functions of both Regional and Territorial Authorities. See <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/councils-in-aotearoa/council-websites-and-maps/>.

Licences, Permits or Certification Schemes	Products from native forests	Products from exotic plantation forests
Export permit, issued by the relevant government authority	For export of specified products under Forests Act 1949 (MPI)	Not required
Certification or a domestic legality verification system	Covered by the Forests Act 1949 requirements noted above	Legislated legal harvest system due to commence 2027
Non-government certification (SFM harvest or chain of custody; or industry scheme)	Voluntary: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) <sup>20</sup>	Voluntary: FSC; Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification; NZ/AS:4708)

### Third Party Certification

This section covers voluntary third party (non-government) sustainable forest management certification. Certification is recognised as providing assurances of timber legality and that products come from well managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

The two main global sustainable forest management schemes operating in NZ are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). They provide for the recognition of economy level standards that meet the schemes' global standards and criteria for sustainable forest management. Both schemes include national standards, which require periodic reviews (such as 5-yearly).

The majority of New Zealand's commercial forest area is third party certified, and some is certified under both schemes. You should check with your supplier to confirm whether they and the products being supplied are certified, and that the certification is current. The company should provide the customer with a copy of or access to their current certificate.

Many small forest owners in NZ choose not to certify their forests.

Chain of custody certifications verify that certified material has been identified and separated from ineligible and unacceptable material as it makes its way along the supply chain from the forest to the market.

#### Forest Stewardship Council Certification

FSC® Australia & New Zealand manages the FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for New Zealand (SC-STD-NZL-02.1-2023 Plantations)<sup>21</sup>. There are other complementary standards for aspects including chain of custody, group certification and controlled wood sourcing.<sup>22</sup> FSC allows businesses to source controlled wood to make up a limited percentage (30 per cent) of the total manufactured product as supply of certified wood is often not sufficiently available to meet demand.

An organisation's FSC Chain of Custody or FSC Controlled Wood code should be included in sales and delivery documents issued for products sold with FSC claims. Also, a clear

<sup>20</sup> <https://anz.fsc.org/fsc-forest-stewardship-standard-for-new-zealand-nz-fss>

<sup>21</sup> <https://anz.fsc.org/fsc-forest-stewardship-standard-for-new-zealand-nz-fss>

<sup>22</sup> <https://anz.fsc.org/chain-of-custody-certification>



indication of the FSC claim applicable for each product item according to the FSC claim categories i.e. whether FSC 100%, FSC Mix x%, FSC Recycled x%, FSC Controlled Wood etc. More information is available at: <https://anz.fsc.org/new-zealand-forest-management>.

Twenty-seven New Zealand forest owners, including all large forest owners, are independently certified as being environmentally and socially ethical under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). At 1 December 2025 the certified areas were:

- 1.307 million hectares of exotic plantation forest (or approximately 71%); and
- 12,188 hectares of indigenous forest.

FSC certificates are searchable online at: <https://connect.fsc.org/fsc-public-certificate-search>.

#### Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

The joint Australia/New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (NZS/AS4708 2021<sup>23</sup>) is issued by the national standards bodies Standards NZ and Standards Australia. The standard has been endorsed by the global voluntary standard scheme Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Responsible Wood Australia<sup>24</sup> is the member for NZ of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), and oversees the administration of the scheme for NZ and Australia.

A total of 0.597 million hectares of plantation forest (or approximately ~32%) is certified under Programme for the Endorsement as at 1 December 2025. All this area is also certified under FSC.

The following documentation should be included for each product with a certification claim:

- the formal claim on the material category (percentage of certified material) specifically for each claimed product covered by the documentation, as applicable;
- the identifier of the supplier's chain of custody or forest management certification or other document confirming the supplier's certified status.

More information is available at:

- <https://www.responsiblewood.org.au/standard-implementation/standards/new-zealand/>
- <https://www.pefc.org/find-certified/certified-certificates/>

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.responsiblewood.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/AS-NZS-4708-2021-Sustainable-Forest-Management.pdf>. In 2025/26 the standard will be updated.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.responsiblewood.org.au>

## Legality of timber products manufactured in New Zealand

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*This section recognises that timber products 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 New Zealand 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 New Zealand;*
- whether New Zealand has any legality assurance systems for domestic timber used in manufactured or complex products<sup>25</sup>;*
- whether New Zealand has any legality assurance systems for imported timber used in manufactured or complex products.*

*List the ways that someone purchasing products with multiple timber inputs from New Zealand 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 in an appendix.*

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### Legal harvest assurance system

As there is a negligible risk of illegal harvesting of New Zealand's exotic planted forests, there is not currently a specific system designed for the legality of harvested timber. A legal harvest assurance system is in development and planned to come into effect in 1 August 2027.

A published summary of submissions on the proposed operational details for the legal harvest assurance system is available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forest-industry-and-workforce/legal-harvest-assurance/>. Whilst submissions were generally supportive of a legal harvest assurance system, they requested a simpler, low compliance cost model be considered. Final decisions on the legal harvest assurance system are expected to be made in the first half of 2026.

### Chain of custody in New Zealand supply chains

The commercial processes outlined below provide a high degree of transparency in domestic supply chains.

New Zealand supply chains are relatively short, with most of the harvested wood being delivered directly from the harvest site to a domestic sawmill or a port for export. Some is delivered to a rail yard for transport by train to ports.

Deliveries of logs by trucks or rail wagons are accompanied by load delivery dockets. The same system is used universally, and provides a high level of trace back in the supply chain from forests to mills or ports. Load delivery dockets are similar to commercial delivery

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<sup>25</sup> 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.

notes, and provide documentation that the stated product was delivered. Information on the dockets can include:

- forest or log owner, forest/block/stand or compartment name,
- harvesting company and crew, loader,
- third party purchaser or manager (if applicable)
- customer, which can be a sawmill, other wood processing site, or a port,
- transport company, and truck or trailer number
- species, grade and length,
- log count, gross weight, tare weight, and net weight of the load.

The data from each docket is the basis for the commercial billing of the parties involved (both receivable and payable), and there are strong incentives to ensure the information is accurate. Some companies may provide shape files for the harvest area with electronic delivery and/or invoicing information.

### **Export markets**

At the ports, a small number of marshalling companies process all the logs for export from New Zealand. They apply very similar procedures to track and reconcile log exports.

Logs are individually bar-coded (paper based or QR code tag)<sup>26</sup> on receipt into the port and the load delivery docket information is linked to the bar-code. The logs are assigned to a customer lot, before being loaded onto a ship. A bar code on a log can be used to trace the log back to a supplier and, in most cases, the forest owner and forest in New Zealand. Up to three reconciliations of individual logs may occur at the ports, including as logs are finally loaded on ships.

Wood processors in New Zealand using domestically harvested timber as feedstock to manufacture wood products receive the log loading docket information<sup>27</sup> attached to the consignment. This information is available, if required, for export markets as evidence of legality. This provides increased transparency across the supply chain, particularly when multiple feedstock sources are used by wood processors for either first processing and export or finished goods for export.

Also, MPI has transparency and handling requirements for products to maintain phytosanitary certification once they have been treated.

### **Exporter Information Statements**

Exporter Information Statements (EIS) state that any exports from New Zealand forests must be compliant with the Resource Management Act 1991. An EIS can be requested from MPI by an exporter if the receiving importing business requires one.

The EIS template is provided in Attachment 3.

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<sup>26</sup> The recorded information typically includes where the log came from; who logged and transported it; log dimensions, grade, and weight; whether it came from a certified forest.

<sup>27</sup> This docket contains all relevant information for the consignment, for example, forest, harvest, load volume, species.

## **Harvested wood commodity levy statements**

New Zealand has a specific arrangement for documentation for wood exports to Republic of Korea. Statements generated from the harvested wood commodity levy administration system<sup>28</sup> are used to demonstrate that supply is from New Zealand plantation forests that have been planted for the purpose of future harvesting.

The harvested wood levy statement template is provided in Attachment 4.

## **Native wood products**

The rigorous controls on native forests and associated products under the Forests Act 1949 can be considered a timber legality assurance system. Completed and authorised Intention to Export forms (ITE1 and ITE2) confirm that the requirements of the Forests Act 1949 relating to unfinished native forest products have been met.

Finished products do not require ITE forms.

## **Imported wood products**

New Zealand is a small market for imported wood products, importing less than 0.5% by value of global forestry product imports. Imported forestry products are very unlikely to be included in forestry products exported from New Zealand due to the following factors:

- New Zealand's exports are primarily locally grown radiata pine logs and manufactured radiata pine products;
- New Zealand's relatively small volumes of imported sawn timber and logs are primarily for domestic consumption in a narrow range of uses, such as hardwoods for outdoor decking, and North American cedar for cladding.

New Zealand has a number of measures addressing the trade in illegal wood products. Core Government agencies (listed in the Public Service Act 1994) are required to follow the New Zealand Timber and Wood Products Policy, which requires wood products to be verified as legal, and preferably from sustainably managed sources.<sup>29</sup>

New Zealand Imported Timber Trade Group (NZITTG), a voluntary group of major importers and retailers of tropical timber and wood products, seeks to source legal, and preferably sustainable wood products. Also, a popular local web-based trading platform, TradeMe, requires kwila (merbau) offered for sale to be certified by either the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

New Zealand supports action to combat illegal logging and trade and the trade of legal and sustainable wood products in international fora including the International Tropical Timber Organization, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, and United Nations' Forum on Forests.

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<sup>28</sup> Refer to the Commodity Levies Act 1990 and Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2013 section above.

<sup>29</sup> See <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/52639-New-Zealand-timber-and-wood-products-procurement-policy>

## Other relevant non-government resources

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*This section includes any initiatives or government endorsed or supported entities or resources that assist in the identification of timber legality. Sources may include domestic organisations, civil society groups or multilateral forums.*

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Inclusion in this section does not imply government endorsement or support.

### Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index

New Zealand consistently ranks as having the one of the lowest levels of corruption in the world, with its ranking commonly 1<sup>st</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> equal, and not less than 4<sup>th</sup>, since 1995 on Transparency International's Global Corruption Perceptions Index.<sup>30</sup>

New Zealand's recent ratings are:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rank</i>
2024	4 <sup>th</sup>
2023	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> =
2021	1 <sup>st</sup> =
2020	1 <sup>st</sup> =
2019	1 <sup>st</sup> =
2018	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2017	1 <sup>st</sup>
2016	1 <sup>st</sup> =
2015	4 <sup>th</sup>

### FSC's Centralised National Risk Assessment for New Zealand

FSC's publication *Centralised National Risk Assessment for NZ* (2019) assessed New Zealand across five controlled wood domain areas, for all types of forest in all regions.<sup>31</sup> These are:

1. Illegally harvested wood (21 criteria);
2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights (3 criteria);
3. Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities (7 criteria);
4. Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use (1 criterion);
5. Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted (1 criterion).

All bar one of the 33 criteria were rated as low risk or not applicable. A specified risk is noted for a criterion in the high conservation value domain.

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<sup>30</sup> See: <https://www.transparency.org/>

<sup>31</sup> [https://anz.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/FSC-CNRA-NZ%20V1-0%20EN\\_2019-08-29.pdf](https://anz.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/FSC-CNRA-NZ%20V1-0%20EN_2019-08-29.pdf)

## Voluntary industry codes and agreements

The New Zealand forestry industry promotes sustainable forest management and legality in planted forests through its own initiatives, such as best practice guides. The New Zealand forestry sector has also negotiated a number of domestic environmental forestry initiatives with environmental groups, which help to ensure sustainable and legal forestry production.

Larger-scale planted forest owners use these standards, codes of practice, principles of forest management and accords in managing their own estate and forest operations.

Most forestry companies also have in-house environmental management systems and codes of practice for environmental management and worker safety.

The *New Zealand Forest Accord*<sup>32</sup> was signed in 1991 by the New Zealand Forest Owners Association and the main conservation groups. This was reaffirmed in 2007, when partners extended the Accord to include climate change and the mitigating roles of indigenous and planted forests.

The objectives of the Accord form the basis for the *Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand*, signed by the same parties in 1995.<sup>33</sup> These principles commit the members of the Forest Owners Association to meeting standards of environmental practice and social behaviour in excess of those required by law or international treaties.

## Independent research

The view that New Zealand has a low risk for illegal logging, and that traded forestry products originating from New Zealand pose a very low risk of being illegally harvested, is supported in independent research.

Independent forestry consultants by Poyry Forest Industry Pty Ltd, in *Legal forest products assurance – a risk assessment framework for assessing the legality of timber and wood products imported into Australia (2010)* found that New Zealand was a low-risk supplier for each of the product categories assessed.

The Australian Institute of Criminology report, *The illegal trade in timber and timber products in the Asia-Pacific (2008)*<sup>34</sup>, discusses the risk associated with different stages in the supply chain. It noted for processing: “There are no reports about production or exports involving illegal timber or timber products from New Zealand”; and for consumption: “New Zealand is a major consumer of timber and timber products in the region, but ... is largely self-sufficient; domestic consumption is almost exclusively satisfied by domestic production and New Zealand is a net exporter of timber and timber products”.

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<sup>32</sup> See: <https://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/agreements-accords/10-nz-forest-accord/file>

<sup>33</sup> See: <https://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/agreements-accords/9-principles-for-commercial-plantation-forest-management-in-new-zealand/file>

<sup>34</sup> See: [http://aic.gov.au/media\\_library/publications/rpp/89/rpp089.pdf](http://aic.gov.au/media_library/publications/rpp/89/rpp089.pdf)

## Contacts for further information

This section provides details of relevant contacts for further information on forestry and wood products from New Zealand:

### Ministry for Primary Industries

PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
Freephone: 0800 00 83 33 (New Zealand only)  
Phone: +64 4 894 0100  
Email: [info@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpi.govt.nz)  
Websites: [www.mpi.govt.nz/contact-us/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/contact-us/);  
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/>

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



### New Zealand Forest Owners Association

New Zealand Forest Owners Association represents the owners of New Zealand's commercial plantation forests. The association and its members are committed to the highest standards of forest management.

Email: [nzfoa@nzfoa.org.nz](mailto:nzfoa@nzfoa.org.nz)  
Website: <http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/>



### Wood Processors & Manufacturers Association

Wood Processors & Manufacturers Association of represents companies responsible for the primary processing of between 75 to 80 percent of New Zealand's wood.

Website: <http://www.wpma.org.nz/>



### NZ Farm Forestry Association

NZ Farm Forestry Association promotes the wise integration of trees into farms and the landscape, for profit, amenity, sustainability and conservation purposes.

Website: <http://www.nzffa.org.nz>



## Attachments

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*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.*

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### List of attachments

No.	Name of Sample Document	Voluntary/Mandatory
1.	Intention to Export (ITE1) form	Mandatory for unfinished indigenous forest products
2.	Intention to Export (ITE2) form - swamp kauri	Mandatory for swamp kauri stumps Voluntary for finished products
3.	Exporter Information Statement	Voluntary
4.	Harvested Wood Levy Statement	Voluntary



## Attachment 1: Intention to Export (ITE1) form<sup>35</sup>

# Notice of Intention to Export Indigenous Timber (Form ITE1)

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



This form to be forwarded to AsureQuality New Zealand at least 10 days prior to the date of exporting.

### Notice of Intention to Export – Form ITE1

(s 67C(3) Forests Act 1949; s 5(2) Forests Amendment Act 2004)

To: Director-General  
Ministry for Primary Industries

I GIVE NOTICE of my intention to export the indigenous timber produce described in this notice, and, I declare that the particulars set out in this notice were, at the date of this declaration, true and correct in every respect and in accordance with the requirements of the Forests Act 1949.

I ACKNOWLEDGE an inspection of the export consignment by a Forestry Officer is required.

Signature of Exporter:

(Print Name):

Date:

Exporter/Consignor:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Buyer/Consignee:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Container/Bill of Lading No.

Ship/Airline

(Name of vessel/Flight No.)

Date of exporting

Sea/airport of discharge

Final Destination

Description of Exports (include any marking)

Species

Volume (m<sup>3</sup>)

**Note:** Include an itemised packing list for each consignment when submitting this form.

Source:

**Note:** All applications **must** include a written statement of the source of the timber. (e.g. a **SFM Plan/permit number** or **landowner name and location**).

Address where consignment can be inspected:

Contact Name:

Contact Number:

Phytosanitary certificates required?

Y ☐ / N ☐

**Send this form with  
attachments to:**

AsureQuality-Mt Maunganui  
Email [phytocerts@asurequality.com](mailto:phytocerts@asurequality.com)

### AsureQuality/MPI Use Only

Signed:

Date:

Inspecting Forestry  
Officer Name:

EXPORT: APPROVED ☐ / NOT APPROVED ☐

Reference No:

Indigenous timber clearance number:

Provided when MPI has finished its checks under s67C of the Forests Act 1949.

**Notes:** Exporters are advised to check with [www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/forestry-icprs/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/forestry-icprs/) for any Phytosanitary requirements. Export Information is provided on the back of this form.

<sup>35</sup> See <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/37/direct>

## Attachment 2: Intention to Export (ITE2) form<sup>36</sup>

# Notice of Intention to Export Swamp Kauri (Form ITE2)

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



This form to be forwarded to AsureQuality New Zealand at least 10 days prior to the date of exporting.

### Notice of Intention to Export – Form ITE2

(s 67C(3) Forests Act 1949; s 5(2) Forests Amendment Act 2004)

To: Director-General  
Ministry for Primary Industries

I GIVE NOTICE of my intention to export the swamp kauri produce described in this notice, and, I declare that the particulars set out in this notice were, at the date of this declaration, true and correct in every respect and in accordance with the requirements of the Forests Act 1949.

I ACKNOWLEDGE an inspection of the export consignment by a Forestry Officer is required.

Signature of Exporter:

(Print Name):

Date:

Exporter/Consignor:

Phone:  Fax:

Email:

Buyer/Consignee:

Phone:  Fax:

Email:

Container/Bill of Lading No.

Ship/Airline  
(Name of vessel/Flight No.)

Date of exporting

Sea/airport of discharge

Final Destination

	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Description of Exports (include any marking)
<input type="checkbox"/> Whole stump or root:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sawn stump or root timber:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Finished or manufactured product:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Note:** Include an itemised packing list for each consignment when submitting this form.

Source:

**Note:** All applications **must** include a written statement of the source of the timber. (e.g. a **Milling Statement number** or **landowner name and location**).

Address where consignment can be inspected:

Contact Name:  Contact Number:

Phytosanitary certificates required? Y ☐ / N ☐

**Send this form with  
attachments to:**

AsureQuality-Mt Maunganui  
Email [phytocerts@asurequality.com](mailto:phytocerts@asurequality.com)

#### AsureQuality/MPI Use Only

Signed:  Date:

Inspecting Forestry  
Officer Name:

EXPORT: APPROVED ☐ / NOT APPROVED ☐

Reference No:

Indigenous timber clearance number:

Provided when MPI has finished its checks under s67C of the Forests Act 1949.

**Notes:** Exporters are advised to check with [www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/forestry-icprs/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/forestry-icprs/) for any Phytosanitary requirements. Export Information is provided on the back of this form.

<sup>36</sup> See <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/10862/direct>

### Attachment 3 Exporter Information Statement

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



*Issued to:*

*Company number:*

*Company address:*

*Valid for the period:* 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2026

*Registration number:*

#### **Information Statement**

#### **Issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries**

#### **Exports from New Zealand's Planted Forests**

Harvesting of planted forests in New Zealand is subject to the Resource Management Act 1991 which provides for the sustainable management of New Zealand's natural and physical resources.

Rosvall Sawmill Limited must comply with the Resource Management Act 1991, which includes provisions for monitoring and auditing compliance, and the enforcement (including prosecution) for non-compliance with the law when required.

Demonstration of the legality of harvesting from planted forests in New Zealand is achieved through compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991.

This information statement applies to New Zealand-sourced wood products only.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Keenan

Deputy Director-General

Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service

Ministry for Primary Industries

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Charles Fergusson Building, PO Box 2526

34-38 Bowen Street, Pipitea

Wellington, New Zealand 6140

Telephone: 0800 00 83 33

[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

## Attachment 4: Harvested Wood Levy Statement

Administered by



### SUPPLIER COMPANY

<Name>

<Address\_1>

<Address\_2>

<City> <Post\_code>

STATEMENT PRINTED: <Report\_date>

SUPPLIER CODE: <Supplier\_reference\_number>

REFERENCE: <Statement\_reference\_number>

## NEW ZEALAND HARVESTED WOOD LEVY STATEMENT

To whom it may concern,

A levy is imposed on all wood material harvested from plantation forests in New Zealand under the Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2025. All the harvested wood material supplied by <Company Name> is subject to that levy.

STATEMENT VALID FOR: <start\_date> – <end\_date>

### AUTHORISATION

This statement is issued by Levy Systems Limited, at the request of the above named entity. Levy Systems Limited are contracted to administer the levy for the Forest Growers Levy Trust.

This is a true representation of the information in the Harvested Wood Commodity Levy System.

<signature>

Andrew Taylor, Chief Executive Officer  
Levy Systems Limited  
Email: [operations@levysystems.co.nz](mailto:operations@levysystems.co.nz)  
Website: <http://levysystems.co.nz>

Levy Systems Ltd is approved by  
Ministry for Primary Industries to issue  
levy statements

<MPI\_stamp>