



European Timber Regulation (EUTR)

Important information for importers

(Compiled by Canada Wood UK, 21 February 2013 – CA link updated January 2018)

The EUTR is to address the issue of illegal logging and places obligations on timber importers, classified as ‘operators’, to put in place a ‘due diligence system’ (DDS) in order to reduce the risk of importing illegally harvested timber into the EU. ***The operator remains accountable at all times.***

Each EU Member State has designated a ‘[Competent Authority](#)’ (CA) which will be responsible for the application of the EUTR.

The EUTR is not a ‘Customs and Excise issue’. Under the EUTR there will be no inspection of consignments of timber at point of entry into the EU, no checking of documentation and no confiscations at that time. (What the national CA might do should they receive on-the-ground intelligence that a boat-load of wood is suspected of containing illegal timber is, as yet, unknown.) Formal inspections which are currently a requirement for other reasons will continue as normal.

The inspections that will be made by the CA, in the fullness of time, will be inspection of an operators DDS to ascertain that the operator has put in place appropriate ‘due diligence’ incorporating “measures and procedures providing access to the following information concerning the operator’s supply of timber or timber products placed on the market: ...”

The EUTR does not require the operator to obtain that information from the supplying company on a shipment by shipment basis. The operator has only to ensure that, in their DDS, they have put in place measures and procedures which *provide access to* that information. That statement does not relate to customary contract documents, required per consignment as always, which will also provide elements of product description required for the operator’s DDS.

The EUTR requires that the operator evaluates their due diligence system at regular intervals to ensure that those responsible are following the procedures which apply to them and their desired outcome is being achieved. Unless the operator has occasion to do so more frequently, it is envisaged that this will be on an annual basis.

Regarding timber harvesting, when the risk of illegal logging can be identified as ‘negligible’, information on timber harvesting beyond ‘country of harvest’ is not required.

NOTE – A long list of demands, issued by an operator to a supplier, for information to be supplied prior to every contract shipment together with a ‘guarantee’ of compliance is not a due diligence system!

Detailed clarification is available on the Canada Wood UK web site: <http://www.canadawooduk.org/>

The regulation, available in 23 languages, can be downloaded via: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm