



Due diligence – Use of country specific guidelines (importers)

FACTSHEET 2.2



If you are an importer, once you have gathered information (as the first step of your due diligence) on the timber or timber products you are importing, you may choose to use a Country Specific Guideline or a Timber Legality Framework in Step 2 to identify and assess risk.

Country Specific Guidelines are covered in this factsheet. See *Factsheet 2.3 Due diligence – Use of Timber Legality Frameworks (importers)* for more information about Timber Legality Frameworks.

The Australian Government included this optional step to give you a pre-tested process to quickly assess the risk as to the timber or timber product having been illegally logged.

The Australian Government is developing Country Specific Guidelines in collaboration with relevant government officials to provide information on the laws in force in the place of harvest to assist importers to carry out due diligence obligations. This is an ongoing process, with an initial focus on Australia's major trading partners. The guidelines will be made available on the department's website as they are finalised and will be listed in the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013* (the Regulation).

The guidelines allow you to identify the information you can obtain in order to be confident that the timber or timber product you import presents a low risk of having been illegally logged.

If you elect to use this optional process you must:

- confirm that you have gathered the information described in the guideline
- consider any other information that may indicate whether the timber is illegally logged
- make a written record of the process (this could be as simple as a file note).

If you can satisfy these requirements and have assessed the risk of illegal timber is low, you may continue without carrying out further steps of the due diligence process.

Frequently asked questions

Q: What if I cannot get all of the information recommended by the guideline?

A: The guidelines have been designed to identify the key documents you could utilise to assure yourself that the timber is low risk of being illegally logged. Not having access to key pieces of information would not allow a full risk assessment to be completed and to make a conclusion of low risk. In this instance, you may need to take further steps to assess and mitigate the risk (i.e. undertake steps 3 and 4 of the due diligence process) to be able to satisfy yourself that the timber is low risk and/or suitably mitigated.

Q: How will I know when guidelines are available?

A: The Department of Agriculture's website will be updated to include new guidelines. To stay up to date you can join our subscription list by visiting our website at daff.gov.au/illegallogging.

Questions?

Visit the department's website at daff.gov.au/illegallogging.

You can also contact us by emailing: illegallogging@agriculture.gov.au or calling us on 1800 657 313

THE DUE DILIGENCE PROCESS



If you choose to use a Country Specific Guideline (Step 2) and you assess the risk of illegally logged timber is low, you can move directly to importing.

