

Trader Notice FLEGT/1/2016

Importing timber or timber products from Indonesia

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Commencement of Indonesian FLEGT Licensing

To: Importers, Operators and Traders of Timber and Timber Products from Indonesia

Background to the new legal requirements

Illegal logging has a devastating impact on some of the world's most valuable remaining forests, and on the people who live in them and who rely on the resources those forests provide. The Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan of the EU was adopted in 2003. It aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally produced wood.

FLEGT is regulated under Council Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 as amended. Where a regulated timber or timber product consignment is identified as requiring a FLEGT licence, it will be released for free circulation only when the licence has been accepted, on some occasions following physical inspection, by the Competent Authority which in Ireland's case is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (**DAFM**).

On 15th September 2016, the European Union and Indonesia agreed that Indonesia can issue FLEGT licences for verified legal timber and timber product exports to the EU from 15th November 2016. A Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) has been agreed between Indonesia and the EU.

In addition to timber and timber products the Indonesian FLEGT licensing scheme also covers furniture, fuel wood, wooden tools, wooden packing material, builders' joinery, wood pulp, paper and paper products and kitchen/tableware. Exception such as CITES products are provided for. The products coming within the scope of the FLEGT Licensing Scheme are set out in the amended Annexes I and III to Council Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005. Please see link below:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.223.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2016:223:TOC

Procedures have been put in place in close co-operation with Customs for DAFM to recognise and approve valid Indonesian FLEGT licences.

Procedures for importers from Indonesia into Ireland

1. **Obtain the FLEGT Licence from Indonesia.** Indonesia began issuing FLEGT licences in respect of the verified legal timber and timber products which it exports to the EU after 15 November 2016, your supplier or commercial partner in Indonesia should provide you with a valid FLEGT licence issued by an approved Licensing Authority in Indonesia, if the products are included in the product scope of the Voluntary Partnership Arrangement (VPA).
2. **Submit Licence to DAFM.** Irish importers of affected Indonesian timber and timber products exported from Indonesia after 15 November 2016 will be required to provide and submit a valid FLEGT licence issued by an approved Licensing Authority in Indonesia, to DAFM in respect of each shipment being imported on or before first point of entry into the EU.

Importer or agent must submit a copy of FLEGT Licence issued by an approved Licensing Authority in Indonesia for clearance to flegt@agriculture.gov.ie

FLEGT Licenses may instead be submitted in paper form to: FLEGT Licensing, Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Post Code D02WK12. Tel: 00 353 1 6072651

3. **Copy of Licence to be associated with SAD.** At the same time a copy of the licence should be associated with the Single Administrative Document (SAD) for presentation to Customs and Box 44 of the SAD should include the licence number of the FLEGT licence issued by the Indonesian Licensing Authority. The “Copy for Customs” should be presented to Customs at the same time as of presentation of the original licence to the DAFM for verifying FLEGT licences. This is important as until such time as the DAFM notifies Customs that the FLEGT licence has been approved the goods cannot be released “into free circulation”.

For more information on Indonesian FLEGT licenced timber and timber products please see links below:

<http://www.flegtlicence.org/home>

<http://www.flegt.org/>

For further information or advice contact;

International Forestry Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2. Tel 00 353 1 6072515

30th November 2016