Quick reference guide: identifying legal timber from Italy

This Quick Reference Guide supports the Country Specific Guideline for Italy. These documents may be used by importers of regulated timber products from Italy to carry out their due diligence in accordance with the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013.

How is timber harvesting regulated in Italy?

Italy’s forest sector is regulated by national and regional laws. The European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), which came into force on 3 March 2013, also applies to Italy as it does to all European Union member states. EUTR obliges operators to have a due diligence system in place to ensure the legality of the timber they source.

Obtaining authorisation for wood removal is mandatory across Italy. This authorisation is granted by regional offices. In Italy there are 19 regions and two autonomous provinces; each is responsible for authorising timber removal within its territory.

Sixty-five per cent of Italian forests are privately-owned. The remaining component is publicly managed by states, regions or municipalities.

Identifying legal product from Italy

With the exception of protected timber in ‘naturalistic core areas’, all types of timber may be legally harvested in Italy. That is, there are no restrictions on harvesting particular timber species.

Australian importers should ask the relevant Italian exporter for evidence of the regional authorisation to harvest timber to ensure that local requirements have been complied with. Documents vary between the regions; subsequently, there is no standard authorisation form.

Please see overleaf a sample Authorisation to Harvest form from the Toscana region, as one example.

Legality of timber products manufactured in Italy

With few exceptions, there is no duty on timber operators to trace timber supply chains for either domestic or imported timber in Italy. There are increasing requests for certified domestic or imported timber under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) international forest certification scheme, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management certification, or other verified third-party schemes.

For further information, please refer to the Country Specific Guideline for Italy.
Authorisation to harvest form (sample) – Toscana region

Who should I contact for further information?

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