Quick reference guide: identifying legal timber from New Zealand

This quick reference guide supports the Country Specific Guideline for New Zealand. These may be used by businesses importing regulated timber products from New Zealand to Australia to carry out their due diligence in accordance with the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013.

How does New Zealand assure legality in its forests?

New Zealand operates a robust regulatory framework that ensures a low risk of illegal logging within New Zealand forests. This regulatory framework is backed up by a strong judiciary, a low level of corruption, and a highly professional forestry industry.

Things for you to consider when importing timber from New Zealand:

- Was the product harvested in New Zealand?
- Is the species what you would expect? (e.g. exotic species from planted forests, indigenous species from natural forests).
- Do you know the exporter? Do you have an existing business relationship?
- Is there anything unusual about the product? (e.g. low price, unusual volume).

What are the tree species I can expect to import from New Zealand?

The majority of the timber harvested in New Zealand comes from exotic planted forests. Common species from these forests include pine, fir, cypress and eucalyptus.

The majority of New Zealand’s indigenous natural forests are held by the government under the conservation estate. Harvesting is generally not permitted in these forests.

There may be some products that contain timber which was harvested in a third country, before it was imported into New Zealand and then exported to Australia. In this case you should contact your New Zealand exporter to gather further information about this product as New Zealand’s regulatory framework does not cover timber products harvested overseas.

An example of a Resource Consent Certificate granted by a local council for the purposes of harvesting timber can be found overleaf.

For further information please refer to the Country Specific Guideline for New Zealand.
Who should I contact for further information?

**Australian Government Department of Agriculture**
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