Quick reference guide: identifying legal timber from Finland

This quick reference guide supports the Country Specific Guideline for Finland. These may be used by businesses importing regulated timber products from Finland 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.

What does legal timber ‘look like’ in Finland?
Information you can gather to demonstrate timber and timber products imported from Finland have been legally harvested include:

- Forest Use Declaration – valid in paper or electronic form (example overleaf)
- Certificate of Measurement on Delivery – has no standard format.

Timber harvesting is predominantly regulated by the Finnish Forest Act (1093/1996) and related amendments.

Under the Forest Act, the landowner (or holder of the right of possession or other special right) must make a Forest Use Declaration about their intention to carry out felling.

As a member of the European Union (EU), the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) (995/2010) applies in Finland. This means that operators who place timber and timber products on the EU market must have a due diligence system for timber legality.

For operators who place Finnish timber or timber products on the EU market for the first time, the core of the control system is the Forest Use Declaration. The declaration, together with a Certificate of Measurement on Delivery, constitutes the operator’s due diligence system to demonstrate timber legality.

The Certificate of Measurement on Delivery is usually a form provided by the purchasing company. While the certificates have no standard format, the law requires some standard information including: the parties (the seller and buyer); tree species and timber assortment (logs, pulp, energy wood, damaged trees); volume (by cubic metre); unit price per assortment; and the price and approval of the parties.

These documents must be stored for at least five years. This due diligence documentation may be useful in completing your due diligence under Australia’s illegal logging laws.

The EUTR also specifies that Finnish importers of timber from outside the EU shall exercise due diligence when placing timber or timber products on the market. Based on the information they have compiled, importers must assess the risks of any illegal activity in the entire preceding supply chain. This information may assist you to complete your due diligence requirements under Australia’s illegal logging laws.

Other relevant information
Specific legislation in relation to timber and timber product transport, possession or processing does not exist, but these activities are conducted in compliance with general rules and regulations. Imports and exports of timber and timber products are also regulated by the European Community customs law.

The Sámi are the only recognised indigenous people within Finland and the EU. Specific agreements have been concluded with the reindeer herding cooperatives of the Sámi region on the use of forestry areas and on the exclusion of the most important pasturelands from forestry operations.
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Forest Use Declaration form (sample)

For further information on timber legality in Finland, refer to the Country Specific Guideline for Finland.

Who should I contact for further information?

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