

UK Timber Regulation

Due Diligence checklist for timber grown in Great Britain

This document is intended to help meet the obligations placed on "operators" to undertake a risk assessment when placing timber or timber products on the market, as defined under UK legislation governing timber legality. It outlines the risk factors associated with timber grown in Great Britain (see overleaf).

The details of the timber species, timber volume etc. are listed on the Felling Permission or Forest Plan.

Evidence of Lawful Harvesting

1. Felling Permission Ref No(s) or Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) number	Date Approved

(If the recipient of the felling permission, or SPHN is felling the timber but not directly placing it on the market then the due diligence form must be passed to the agent or company who are doing so).

OR

2. Forest Management Plan Ref No (s)	Date Approved

Name of Approving Officer
Scottish Forestry

Dated:

OR

3. In absence of felling permission, or SPHN or forest plan:
Where the timber came from : Name & Address of Supplier/Land Owner:
Reason the timber does not derive from an approved felling permission or a forest plan:

Certification: If the timber is independently certified enter the certificate number below:

Additional Risk Factors: If there are any factors (not covered overleaf) that indicate a risk that the timber could be illegally harvested, enter these below with an explanation of how that risk has been mitigated.

Factor	Means of Mitigation

Declaration by the operator: I declare that the timber referred to above is grown in Great Britain. I have identified any additional risk factors and the action taken to mitigate that risk, and I have no reason to believe that there are further risks of the timber being illegal.

Signed:

Dated:

Further guidance on timber regulations can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-timber-imports-and-exports-from-1-january-2021>

UK Timber Regulation: Due Diligence for UK Grown Timber

The timber described overleaf was produced from forests in Scotland, part of Great Britain, where the following risk factors apply.

1. **Illegality** - Forests in Scotland are regulated by Scottish Forestry, an executive agency of the Scottish Government. The incidence of illegal felling in Scotland is low, estimated at much less than 1% of the timber volume harvested.
2. **Governance** - Great Britain is ranked highly for good governance in independent assessments, such as The Worldwide Governance Indicators project (funded by The World Bank). Moreover forestry proposals in Great Britain are available for comment and Great Britain is well served by bodies from civil-society that contribute specialist knowledge and opinion to the assessment of forestry proposals.
3. **International Perspective** - There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from Great Britain and Great Britain is not associated with or designated as a source of 'conflict timber', both of which are key international indicators of illegality.
4. **Forest Regulation** - Scotland has specific forest laws (principally, The Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018) which convey powers to regulate forestry activities, control felling, administer woodland grants and to manage state forests. The Forestry Commission issued a revised UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) in 2017 which provides a benchmark against which forestry is regulated and is explicit in terms of legal requirements and the assurances of legality and sustainability that can be given by the process of forest regulation. Scottish Forestry are the competent authority with respect to Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. The Forestry Commission reports on behalf of the United Kingdom the sustainability of UK/Great Britain forests in the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Forest Europe indicators and compiles annual statistical information. Scottish Forestry contributes to this reporting. These various sources of information indicate that forests in Scotland, part of Great Britain/UK, are managed on a sustainable basis.
5. **Endangered Timber Species** - There are no endangered timber species present in Great Britain.
6. **Assessment of UK grown timber by the certification schemes** - The two major international certification schemes, FSC and PEFC, have assessed Great Britain as being of low risk in terms of their "Controlled Wood" and "Avoidance of Controversial Sources" respectively. This allows up to 30% of non-certified home grown timber to enter supply chains. Approximately 80% of timber coming to the market in Great Britain has been independently certified as coming from well managed forests. This is in addition to the regulatory processes outlined above.

Notes for completion of form

The person who first places timber / timber products on the market or uses them is defined as an 'Operator' under the Regulation:

If you are a landowner, harvesting and selling the trees, then complete this form and keep it with the felling permission/forest plan or other details (as appropriate) together with details of the contract for sale of the timber.

If you are buying the timber 'standing' and harvesting the trees, then complete this form, ask for a copy of the felling permission or forest plan approval from the owner and keep this form together with details of the contract for purchase of the timber.

It is important to keep a record for at least 5 years, as required by the legislation, of timber sales and purchases.