

Implementation of the FLEGT Licencing Scheme

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1. Introduction

Illegal logging is a global problem with significant negative economic, environmental and social impacts. The illegal harvesting of timber and products derived from such timber is prohibited under the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) and [Council Regulation\(EU\)2173/2005](#) lays down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market.

Based on the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan, the EU has established a FLEGT licencing system for imports of timber into the EU where consignments of these products come from countries that have concluded a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). These consignments must be accompanied by a FLEGT licence.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is Ireland's designated Competent Authority for implementation and enforcement of the EUTR. As Competent Authority the Department is charged with ensuring that the EUTR is effectively implemented in Ireland by operators and traders who place timber/timber products on the market in the course of a commercial activity. Revenue's Customs Service assists in the implementation of these controls by referring relevant consignments to DAFM for control.

2. Prohibition/Restriction

Consignments of timber and timber products from countries that have concluded a Voluntary Partnership Agreement must be accompanied by a valid FLEGT licence issued by the Partner Country assuring the legality of the timber. When FLEGT timber is declared for release for free circulation, Customs must ensure that the FLEGT licence has been approved by the Competent Authority.

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