

# VERIFICATION SYSTEM ON TIMBER LEGALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

# Overview of the Verification System on Timber Legality

## Title

- ▶ The verification system on timber legality in Korea

## Relevant Law

- ▶ Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers

## Regulated parties

- ▶ Individuals or businesses intending to import timber products for commercial use or sale

## Objectives

- ▶ To combat illegal logging and promote the trade of legally harvested timber
- ▶ To facilitate sustainable forest management and timber use
- ▶ To address climate change and contribute to the protection of biodiversity through forest conservation

## Import Declaration Items

			
Logs (HS 4403)	Sawn wood (HS 4407)	Preservative treated wood (HS 4407)	Retardant wood (HS 4407)
			
Laminated Wood (HS 4407)	Plywood (HS 4412)	Wood pellets (HS 4401.31)	Wood sheet (HS 4408)
			
Shaped wood (HS 4409)	Particle Board (HS 4410)	Fibreboard (HS 4411)	Wood Pulp (HS 4701~5)

# Background of the System

- ▶ Illegal logging is one of the most serious threats to forests worldwide. Approximately 30% of all timber trade is estimated to be from illegal logging. Illegal logging not only causes serious consequences such as carbon emission and biodiversity loss, but also damages fair trade and government revenues.
- ▶ Accordingly, countries including the EU, United States, and Australia have strengthened systems to promote legal timber trade, and Korea is actively participating in these efforts.
- ▶ The Republic of Korea has amended the Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers (March 21, 2017.), and has been implementing the Verification system on timber legality since October 1, 2018.
- ▶ This system, as part of responsible cooperation with the international community, contributes to forest protection as well as to the establishment of a fair and sustainable supply chain by verifying the legality of imported timber through documentation.

## RELATED SYSTEMS BY COUNTRY

Country	Timber regulation (effective year)
South Korea	Verification system on Timber Legality (2018)
European Union	EUDR (2023)
United States	Lacey Act (2008)
United Kingdom	UKTR (2013)
Australia	ILPA (2014)
Indonesia	SVLK (2016)
Japan	Clean Wood act (2017)
New Zealand	LHAS (2023)

# Required Documents for Import Declaration of Timber and Timber Products

Individuals or businesses intending to import timber or timber products for commercial use or sale must submit a commercial invoice, along with documents demonstrating the legality of the timber as outlined below, to the Korea Forest Service when filing an import declaration.

- 1 A permit for felling issued pursuant to the statutes of the country of origin
- 2 Documents internationally recognized to certify legally harvested timber and products
  - (a) Forest Management Certification or Chain of Custody certificates issued by FSC or PEFC
  - (b) Certificates issued in accordance with mutual recognition between countries and PEFC
  - (c) Certificates issued in accordance with the international verification system for sustainable use of biomass (including a third party certificates under ISO 17065)
- 3 Documents mutually recognized through bilateral consultation between the Republic of Korea and the country of origin
- 4 Any other documents that assure the relevant timber and products have been legally harvested and traded

## Sample FSC Certificate



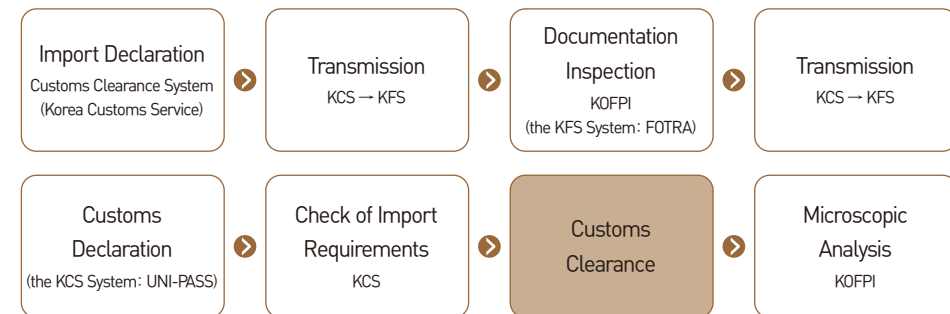
## Sample PEFC Certificate



# Import Declaration Process

- 1 For timber import clearance, the following documents are required to submit via UNI-PASS, the Korea Customs Service's electronic clearance system: a legality verification certificate, a commercial invoice, and import declaration form
- 2 The Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI) will review all submitted documents through Forest Product Trade System (FOTRA) operated by Korea Forest Service:
  - If the result is 'conditionally accepted', supplementary documents should be submitted through FOTRA within 30 business days.
  - In case of 'rejection', resubmission of the required additional documents should be preceded by a review of the reason for non-compliance.
- 3 Upon approval, the Korea Forest Service (KFS) will issue an import declaration confirmation.
- 4 Customs clearance completed.

## Import Inspection Operation







Legal timber trade is not an option; it is a global responsibility.

To pursue transparent and responsible supply chains demanded by the international community, the Republic of Korea implements a timber legality verification system that is credible and reliable in the global market.

We will work closely with the international community to ensure the global adoption of sustainable forest management and timber use.

### **For More Information**

Provided by | Korea Forest Service

Website | <https://english.forest.go.kr>

Visit KFS website

