

Sustainable Food Laboratory

Keep it Legal - Best Practices for Keeping Illegally Harvested Timber Out of Your Supply Chain

Tags and keywords: Tool, forest certification, forest standards, forest certification, responsible purchasing

Context: A guide for organizations wishing to extend a program of responsible purchasing to further address difficulties arising from possible trade in “illegal” forest products developed by WWF’s Global Forest & Trade Network.

Description:

This manual has been developed by WWF’s Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) for use by organizations wishing to extend a program of responsible purchasing to further address difficulties arising from possible trade in “illegal” forest products. The manual has been developed to add detail to legality issues encountered by companies adopting a responsible purchasing program.

WWF has produced this manual with the intention that it should become the first point of reference for all parts of the timber supply chain seeking to establish what represents current best practice with respect to buying, processing, and selling legal timber and timber products. It consolidates the efforts of many different parties, including those companies at the forefront of efforts to avoid use of illegally harvested timber.

The manual is aimed at any medium-size or large enterprise that purchases forest products, including processors, importers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers. It may also be useful to smaller enterprises.

The manual outlines the various ways in which purchasing organizations can demonstrate compliance with best practice and ultimately their own purchasing policies. It combines tried and tested mechanisms and new approaches and definitions, based upon on GFTN’s extensive experience in the development of responsible purchasing programs. These approaches are designed to make the process of “keeping it legal” easier.

Example of Application:

The relationship between the *Responsible Purchasing guide* and the *Keep it Legal* manual.

The WWF-GFTN *Keep it Legal* manual deals specifically with legal compliance aspects of the trade in forest products. The manual is directly linked to this guide and can be used by purchasing companies to tackle illegal issues before, or as a part of, the stepwise approach described in this guide. The *Keep it Legal* manual’s systematic approach has been developed for companies with little knowledge of their supply chains and also for those companies wanting to investigate legality in more detail, such as companies that source primarily from countries that have an acknowledged high level of illegal logging activity and in which a significant volume of illegally sourced timber is known to be entering the upstream end of the supply chain.

It is recommended that a purchasing organization familiarize itself with this guide before beginning to use the *Keep it Legal* manual. The two documents are highly compatible, and where the issues to be managed are complex, the organization should adopt recommendations for best practice from both sources.

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http://assets.panda.org/downloads/keep_it_legal_final_no_fsc.pdf

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