

The marine leisure industry meets the legal obligations that apply to timber and timber products on the European market

The European Union Timber Regulation EUTR (also known as Rules For Timber Certification to Halt Deforestation, Regulation EU – 995/2010) sets the framework for due diligence of legally harvested timber and products derived from such timber placed on the EU market and in force since March 2013.

The EUTR, together with implementing the Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT AP) are the EU policy instruments to combat illegal logging in the world forests both from the demand and supply side

Current issues

The FLEGT/EUTR – Expert group is a forum gathering the European Commission, Member States and the EU Timber Industry represented by ETTF, to discuss sample documentation used for the import of teak from Myanmar and deemed in compliance with the EUTR/FLEGT AP, as well as if there are subsequent changes required in interpreting the legal framework and to whether measures need to be taken to ensure harmonized implementation between EU MS. We believe this discussion occurs at a crucial time of industry and consumer confusion notably due to:

- Recent high-profile court cases flagging non-compliant import of teak
- Increased press attention reporting (substantially mis-)perceived negligence of industry duties in declaring origin of imported or processed tropic wood.

We predict a substantial decrease in competitiveness of the EU leisure marine industry should current developments lead to disproportionately onerous requirements in trading compliant timber (notably Teak in our industry). This may potentially impact the Marine manufacturing and maintenance industry (32,000 companies consisting mainly of SMEs), 280,000 direct employees at an annual turnover of €20 billion, as well as the leisure industry benefitting from boaters using the fleet of 6 million recreational boats kept in 4500 marinas and an additional number of clubs and publicly administered moorings, notwithstanding the potentially reduced tax income to authorities where these businesses reside.

Our industry condones any approach by individuals to avoid the law. We see our role as association to raise awareness on the applicable legal requirements to the sector and how companies can meet these responsibilities.



ICOMIA position:

Proof of Due Diligence is by submission of third party verified documentation that provides a full trace back to the point of origin. ICOMIA mirrors the position of the ETTF: "The illegal timber trade is a trade that benefits no one", it will risk jobs, it risks the timber industry and it risks the environment. Therefore **"If you don't know the origin of timber don't buy it"** Members of ICOMIA meet the legal obligations that apply to timber and timber products on all markets!

About ICOMIA:

On a global level ICOMIA brings together 100,000 direct companies and 25,000 marinas which generate more than €45 billion turnover annually in direct manufacturing and generates more than 1 million direct jobs. The association represents close to 100% of the European Yacht industry, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of yachts including the Large Yacht Industry.

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