**EU Timber Regulation:**

**Due Diligence for UK Grown Timber**

This document is intended to help meet the obligations placed on "operators", as defined under EU Timber Regulation (No 995/2010), to undertake a risk assessment. It outlines the risk factors associated with timber grown in the UK (see overleaf) for the timber detailed below. Notes on completing the form are also located overleaf.

**Evidence of Lawful Harvesting**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.Felling licence Ref No (s) | Date approved |
|  |  |

(If the recipient of the felling licence 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 placing it on the market).

|  |
| --- |
| 2.In the absence of felling licence |
| Where the timber came from:  Name & address of supplier/land owner:  Reason the timber does not derive from an approved felling licence: |

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

|  |
| --- |
| 3. |

**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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4. Factor | Means of mitigation |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Declaration by the operator:** I declare that the timber referred to above is grown in the UK. 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 :

Information on EU timber regulations can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm> **The timber described overleaf was produced from UK forests where the following risk factors apply.**

**1 Illegality -** Forests in Great Britain are regulated by the Forestry Commission or Natural Resources Wales and in Northern Ireland by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)- Forest Service. The incidence of illegal felling is low, estimated at much less than 1% of the timber volume harvested.

**2 Governance -** The UK 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 the UK are available for comment and the UK 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 the UK and the UK is not associated with or designated as a source of ‘conflict timber’, both of which are key international indicators of illegality.

**4 Forest Regulation –** The UK has specific forest laws (principally, The Forestry Act 1967 and the Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010) 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. The Forestry Commission/Natural Resources Wales/ DAERA Forest Service are the competent authorities with respect to Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations. The Forestry Commission reports on behalf of the UK the sustainability of UK forests in the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Forest Europe indicators and compiles annual statistical information. These various sources of information indicate that forests in the UK are managed on a sustainable basis.

**5 Endangered Timber Species -** There are no endangered timber species present in the UK.

**6 Assessment of UK grown timber by the certification schemes -** The two major international certification schemes, FSC and PEFC, have assessed the UK 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 grown timber to enter supply chains. Approximately 80% of timber coming to the market in the UK has been independently certified as coming from well managed forests. This is in addition to the regulatory processes outlined above.

**Notes on completing the form**

1. The person who first places timber and/or timber products on the market or uses them in his/her business is defined as an "operator" under the Regulation.
2. If you are a landowner, harvesting and selling the trees, then complete this form and keep it with the felling licence together with a copy of the contract for sale of the timber.
3. If you are buying the timber ‘standing’ and harvesting the trees, then complete this form, ask for a copy of the felling licence from the owner and keep this form together with details of the contract for purchase of the timber.
4. It is important to keep a record for at least 5 years, as required by the legislation, of timber sales and purchases.