



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Notice to Industry
01 September 2014

82/2014

**New illegal logging laws to apply to timber importers from 30
November 2014**

This notice updates the notice published on 19 August 2014 as 79/2014 and provides some additional information on the measures being undertaken by the department to help businesses adjust to the new requirements.

Who does this notice affect?

The illegal logging laws affect businesses who import certain regulated timber and timber products into Australia.

What has changed?

Under the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012*, it is a criminal offence to import illegally logged timber and timber products into Australia.

A new element of the laws, as outlined in the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013* (the Regulation), will come into effect on 30 November 2014.

From this date, importers of regulated timber or timber products (as defined in Schedule 1 of the Regulation) will need to assess and manage the risk that the timber has been illegally logged before importing that product. This is known as carrying out 'due diligence'.

The regulated timber products are identified using Customs tariff codes and fit within Chapters 44, 47, 48 and 94 of the tariff codes. This includes most timber and wood-based products such as sawn timber, veneer, mouldings, wood panels, plywood, pulp, paper and wooden furniture.

Importers will also need to answer a simple declaration question about their compliance with their due diligence obligations. This will be via a community protection question as part of their full import declaration to Customs. Regardless

of whether an importer answers yes or no to the declaration question, their goods will not be held up at the border.

Importers should be aware that the new due diligence requirements apply to all imports of timber arriving in Australia from 30 November 2014. This is irrespective of whether the order was placed before or after that date.

The department recognises it may take time for some businesses to transition to the new requirements. For this reason, for the 18 months following the Regulation's commencement, the department's focus will be on helping importers and processors to comply with the Regulation requirements.

During this period, the department will not be seeking to 'catch out' businesses who are trying to do the right thing. Instead its focus will be on working with businesses to ensure they have sufficient information to understand and comply with the due diligence requirements.

Further information?

The department's website contains a range of information to help importers understand and comply with the illegal logging laws.

The department will also be undertaking a series of outreach and education activities in the lead up to and following the Regulation's commencement on **30 November 2014**.

The department has established a mailing list to keep businesses up to date on new developments with the illegal logging laws, including new guidance materials, information events and other outreach activities.