



"Vriksh"

Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Standard

Illegal logging is a pervasive problem of major international concern, posing a significant threat to forests around the world. Illegal logging contributes to the process of deforestation and forest degradation, which is responsible for about 20% of global CO₂ emissions. It also threatens biodiversity, and undermines sustainable forest management and development including the commercial viability of operators acting in accordance with applicable legislation. Regulatory and market requirements place increasing demands on companies to avoid illegally sourced forest products.

"Vriksh" Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Standard has been designed to allow organizations to avoid trading in illegally harvested Wood.

Compliance with this standard allows organizations to demonstrate that they are implementing best efforts to avoid the trade in illegally harvested timber, in support of the international Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) program, the European Union Timber Regulations (EUTR), The US Lacey Act Amendment 2008, The Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and other such Global Timber Legality Verification Programs. It allows companies to start implementing their own responsible sourcing policies.

Four aspects of legality to be covered under the ambit of this standard are,

- Legal right to harvest and trade within legally gazetted boundaries
- Compliance with legislation related to forest management, environment, labour and welfare, health and safety
- Compliance with legislation related to taxes and royalties
- Compliance with requirements for trade and export procedures.

Major areas of assessment will resolve to address the following issues viz.

- Information about raw material origin and sourcing including supply chain and status in transit
- Risk Assessment for probability of illegally harvested or transported wood fibre entering the supply chain
- Risk Mitigation: Devising steps to ensure that Illegal material does not enter the supply chain even inadvertently and sufficient checks and balances are developed to enable proper identification of non – conforming material and subsequent segregation.
- Risk Mitigation would include the principles of supply chain control, principally:
- Effective mechanisms for tracing timber throughout the supply chain from harvesting to the point of export
- Effective mechanisms for measuring and recording the quantities of timber or timber products at each stage of the supply chain

Organizations seeking advice on compliance with this law, regulation or requirement can contact **Catalyst Corporate Consulting** at geetcat@gmail.com./ 09529645789. Pradipta Narayan Mishra.
