

Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013 Summary Guidance

The UK Timber Regulations (UKTR) were established to ensure that only legally harvested timber and timber products are placed on the market in Great Britain. These regulations are designed to promote sustainable forestry practices and compliance with global forest governance laws.

Initially introduced in 2013, the UKTR were amended in January 2021 to reflect changes brought about by the UK's exit from the European Union. The regulations align with the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) framework to maintain stringent standards for legality and sustainability in the timber trade.

Key Principles of UKTR

The primary objective of the UKTR is to prevent the trade of illegally harvested timber and timber products. These regulations apply to all operators and traders within the timber supply chain across England, Scotland, and Wales. Businesses involved in the trade of timber must understand and adhere to the legal requirements outlined in these regulations to ensure the integrity of the supply chain and the legality of their products.

Industry Obligations

For Operators

Operators are defined as businesses that place timber or timber products on the market in Great Britain for the first time. Their obligations under UKTR include implementing and maintaining a robust Due Diligence System (DDS) (see pages 15-21 in the full guidance). This system must consist of three key components:

- 1. Information Gathering:** Collect details about the product, such as species, country of harvest, and quantity, as well as supplier and buyer information.
- 2. Risk Assessment:** Evaluate the risk of illegality based on factors like compliance with applicable legislation and the prevalence of illegal logging in the source region.
- 3. Risk Mitigation:** Take action to reduce any identified risks to negligible levels before placing timber on the market.

Operators must retain records of their due diligence checks for a minimum of five years and are strictly prohibited from placing illegally harvested timber or products derived from such timber on the market.



For Traders

Traders are businesses that buy or sell timber or timber products already placed on the GB market. Their primary obligation is to maintain traceability by keeping records of their suppliers and customers for at least five years. Traders must ensure that documentation supporting the traceability of their timber products is readily available for inspection upon request by regulatory authorities.

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Key Roles and Responsibilities

Operators bear the responsibility for ensuring that the timber they place on the market is legally harvested and compliant with UKTR requirements. Traders must focus on maintaining traceability within the supply chain. Oversight and enforcement of the regulations are carried out by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), which conducts inspections and can impose penalties for non-compliance.

Penalties for Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with UKTR can result in significant penalties, including fines, market bans, and legal action. Non-compliance with due diligence requirements or failure to maintain traceability records may lead to serious consequences, both financial and reputational.

Exemptions and Special Considerations

Certain products are exempt from UKTR requirements, including:

- **Recycled Timber:** Timber that has reached the end of its lifecycle and would otherwise be considered waste, such as reclaimed wood from demolished buildings.
- **Packaging Materials:** Items used exclusively to protect or transport other products.
- **Other Items:** Tool bodies, tool handles, broom or brush bodies, handles of wood, seats and musical instruments.

Businesses in Northern Ireland must continue to comply with the **EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)**.

To ensure compliance with UKTR, businesses can:

- Work with certified suppliers or use products with certifications like FSC or PEFC.
- Train staff regularly on UKTR compliance requirements.
- Develop a thorough DDS tailored to the business's supply chain.
- Leverage resources from industry bodies like the BWF and regulatory guidance provided by OPSS.



Resources and Support

For comprehensive information, you can refer to the full guidance document [here](#).

Businesses seeking specific guidance or support on UKTR compliance can contact us at technical@bwf.org.uk or via telephone **020 3870 5020**.