



This quick reference guide supports the **Country Specific Guideline** for **Canada**. These documents may be used by businesses importing regulated timber products from Canada into Australia to carry out their due diligence in accordance with the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*.

General information

Canada has nearly 348 million hectares of forested land. This represents 38 per cent of Canada's total land surface. Most of Canada's forests (nearly 90 per cent) are on public lands, owned and managed on behalf of Canadians by the provincial and territorial governments. Almost two per cent of forest land is under federal jurisdiction and two per cent is owned and managed by Aboriginal peoples. The remaining six per cent of forest land is on private property.

*For more information on the state of Canada's forests, see
cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/stateoftheforest.*

Canada's ten provinces and three territories have legislative authority over the conservation and management of forest resources on provincial/territorial public lands. This authority affords the provincial and territorial governments the ability to regulate and enforce how Canada's forests are managed.

In addition to the provinces and territories having jurisdiction over the management of most forested lands, forestry operations are also bound by national legislation. The federal government has legislative authority over forest resources where those resources affect, or are affected by, matters related to: the national economy, trade and international relations; federal lands and parks; and the government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities for Aboriginal peoples.

*Detailed information on laws, licenses, permits and enforcement systems in place in each of Canada's provinces and territories can be found at Sustainable Forest Management in Canada, a website hosted by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers.
See sfmcanada.org.*

Identifying legal product from Canada

There is information in the Country Specific Guideline for Canada on Canadian forest management in a Question & Answer format for businesses importing Canadian timber and timber products into Australia. A selection of Q&As is provided here:

What evidence of compliance with Canadian laws and associated documentation can importers expect from Canadian suppliers of timber and timber products?

There is no single document that demonstrates legality of timber or timber products sourced from Canada. However, Canada's legislative framework provides assurances that timber products from Canadian forests are of low risk of being illegally harvested.

What is the risk of sourcing timber that has been illegally harvested in Canada?

The probability of illegally logged timber products entering the supply chain throughout Canada is negligible. Comprehensive legislative supervision in Canada provides assurance that Canadian timber products are made from timber originating from legal sources.

Independent evidence from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Resources Institute has reported that Canada has the lowest occurrence of suspicious log supply and corruption of any country (see sustainableforestproducts.org/Legality).

What is the risk of sourcing timber that has been illegally harvested in Canada when there are many suppliers and/or many components involved?

Supply chains involving a large number of companies do not have a higher risk of incorporating illegally supplied components when all the timber utilized throughout the supply chain was harvested in Canada. Even if there are many suppliers or inputs involved, the probability of sourcing timber that has been illegally harvested remains negligible. It is unnecessary to assess the risk for each component or species since all Canadian commercial tree species and timber products in trade are of negligible risk.

What is the risk of sourcing a mix of timber or timber products from Canada and the United States that includes illegally harvested content?

The forest products sector in Canada and the United States (US) is highly integrated, with logs and other timber products crossing the border to supply mills in both countries. Though Canadian timber products may contain US inputs, the risks of it containing illegally harvested content remains negligible: the US' Lacey Act prohibits the trade in illegally sourced timber products and Canada's Wild Animal Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act prohibits the import of all plant and plant products (including timber) which were taken, possessed, distributed or transported in contravention of any foreign laws.

Are any commercial tree species harvested in Canada prohibited?

No Canadian commercial tree species are listed in national or international legislation that protects endangered species. While some provincial or territorial governments have legislation which protects certain commercial species that are indigenous but rare to their region, government approved forest management plans would not allow for their harvest.

Where is harvesting prohibited in Canada?

Areas have been put off-limits to timber harvest, either as legislated protected areas with defined boundaries or as areas set aside as "non-harvestable" within timber-producing forests.

More than 24 million hectares (7 per cent) of forest land in Canada are within protected areas. Within this, more than 75 per cent of Canada's protected forest land is considered strictly protected, with no resource extraction permitted, while the rest is managed primarily for habitat and species protection.

For further information on timber legality in Canada, refer to the **Country Specific Guideline for Canada**.

Who should I contact for further information?

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