



## Quick reference guide: identifying legal timber from Italy

This Quick Reference Guide supports the Country Specific Guideline (CSG) for Italy. Both documents may be used by importers of regulated timber products from Italy to carry out their due diligence in accordance with the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*.

### How is timber harvesting regulated in Italy?

Italy's forest sector is regulated by national and regional laws. The European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), which came into force on 3 March 2013, also applies to Italy as it does to all European Union member states. EUTR obliges operators to have a due diligence system in place to ensure the legality of the timber they source.

Obtaining authorisation for wood removal (harvesting) is mandatory across Italy with some exceptions provided for by regional / provincial laws. This authorisation is granted by regional and provincial offices. In Italy there are 20 regions and two autonomous provinces; each is responsible for authorising timber removal within its territory.

Sixty-six per cent of Italian forests are privately-owned. The remaining component is publicly managed by states, regions or municipalities.

### Identifying legal product from Italy

Except for protected timber in 'naturalistic core areas', all types of timber may be legally harvested in Italy. That is, there are no restrictions on harvesting particular timber species.

Australian importers should ask the relevant Italian exporter for evidence of the regional authorisation to harvest timber, where applicable, to ensure that local requirements have been complied with. Please see **Annexes 1 and 2** of the CSG for examples of these documents and note that these documents vary between the regions; subsequently, there is no standard authorisation form.

### Legality of timber products manufactured in Italy

Pursuant to the EUTR, for timber harvested in Italy, the operator is the entity that distributes or uses the timber in its own business once it has been harvested, and they must comply with the prohibition on placing illegally harvested timber on the market and the obligation to exercise due diligence. On the contrary, Italian timber processors who use timber or timber products already placed on the EU market and purchased from other suppliers, have the only obligation to guarantee the traceability of their sellers and their buyers. There are increasing requests for certified domestic or imported timber under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) international forest certification scheme, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management certification, or other verified third-party schemes.

### Who should I contact for further information?

**Australian Government Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry**

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