Australian Government

# Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

 **Narrator:**

We all rely on forests. They give us clean air, fresh water, shelter and food, and we enjoy them for recreation and their natural beauty.

Forests also provide wood for construction and furniture, fuel for our heating and cooking and fibre for our paper.

But many of the world’s forests are in danger. The use of illegally logged timber is a massive global problem, and the theft and trade of illegal timber is happening all over the world.

Every two seconds an area the size of a football field is illegally logged.

And by the time you finish watching this video, more than 250,000 trees will be taken by illegal loggers. This is having wide reaching effects on our environment, economy and society.

It’s causing deforestation and destroying animal habitats. It’s accelerating the impact of climate change, and it’s providing revenue to organised criminal networks.

Illegal logging reduces tax revenue collected by governments, often in the most vulnerable nations, and it undercuts Australia’s own sustainably managed forest industry.

That’s why Australia has strict laws to combat illegal logging and promote the trade in legally harvested timber products.

And we’re not alone. We are part of a global effort tackling this problem. Through laws and education we are working to stop illegal timber from reaching our market.

If you import timber or wood-based products into Australia, you now need to know what timber is in your product and where it comes from. You need to use this information to assess and minimise the risk that your timber was illegally harvested. This is called due diligence, and it is a legal requirement. The due diligence requirements cover a wide range of wood, pulp, paper and furniture products.

If you’re not sure of the origins of the wood in your products or are worried it might come from illegal sources, you shouldn’t import it.

Businesses processing Australian logs have similar responsibilities. There are significant penalties for failing to properly assess the risk or deliberately dealing in illegal timber.

[*agriculture.gov.au/illegallogging*]

But don’t worry. We are here to help. We have a range of resources to help you to better understand your obligations under Australia’s illegal logging laws.

Go to the illegal logging page on our website at agriculture.gov.au. You are part of the solution. Play your role in giving illegal logging the chop.

[*Australian Government, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources*]

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