



Timber Legality Verification

DEMONSTRATING DUE CARE

SCS Global Services (SCS) provides third-party verification of the legality of forest product sources under its LegalHarvest™ Verification program. Our goal is to reduce your risk of trading in illegal timber products. Verification is available to forest managers, sawmills, pulp mills, secondary manufacturers, distributors and retailers. It can also be applied to supply chains worldwide.

- **Timber buyers:** Ask for SCS LegalHarvest Verified timber to help protect your company from inadvertent violation of the US Lacey Act or the EU Timber Regulation.
- **Forests and timber suppliers:** Demonstrate that your products are in conformance with a rigorous standard for legal harvesting and trade. LegalHarvest Verification will help you sell your products into the US and EU markets by reducing due diligence costs for your buyers and differentiating your products.



THE VALUE OF CERTIFICATION

SCS LegalHarvest Verification standards verify the legal right to harvest, process and transport wood. Our program surpasses Verified Legal Origin (VLO) standards by requiring that any mandatory social and environmental assessments have been performed, and that mitigation measures have been implemented.

In addition to reducing risk, certified companies earn a seal of approval confirming that your wood products were legally sourced. SCS also recognizes forestry operations that want to gradually move to higher levels of environmental and social performance through a tiered, stepwise approach toward full Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

CHOOSE SCS

With auditors located throughout the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, SCS has certified more than 3,000 wood product companies across the globe. We are focused on customer service, with an emphasis on timely, professional deployment of auditors to the field and completion of the certification process.

for information about becoming certified or locating certified products:

[SCSglobalServices.com/timber-legality-verification](https://www.SCSglobalServices.com/timber-legality-verification)

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ILLEGAL LOGGING INITIATIVES: US LACEY ACT AND EU TIMBER REGULATION

To combat illegal logging, the United States amended the Lacey Act in 2008 to prohibit trade in illegally harvested plants and plant products (lumber, paper, furniture, etc.). The Lacey Act pertains to interstate domestic trade as well as the import of internationally sourced goods. It establishes penalties for violations, including fines and the forfeiture of goods based on the level of “due care” employed by the trading company.

Similarly, the European Union passed the EU Timber Regulation (Due Diligence Regulation) in late 2010 as part of a package of laws under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The Timber Regulation will require full implementation of due diligence obligations for all companies placing timber products on the European market by March 3, 2013.

SCS LegalHarvest Verification is recognized by leading wood product associations, timber trade federations, environmental groups and government procurement experts as a credible due diligence mechanism for facilitating international trade in wood products.

COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES

In addition to LegalHarvest Verification, SCS provides certification to FSC standards, the NWWA’s Responsible Procurement Program, and Carbon Footprint and Offset Verification. Wood products may also qualify for SCS’s recycled content, Indoor Advantage indoor air quality or CalCompliant (CARB ATCM) certification.

THE VERIFICATION PROCESS

- 1. Application.** Upon receipt of your application, SCS prepares a proposal for your approval. Returning the signed work order starts the process. There are separate applications for forest management and chain-of-custody operations (downstream manufacturers/distributors).
- 2. Self-Assessment.** Your organization conducts an internal evaluation against the applicable standard and addresses any gaps prior to the SCS assessment. (SCS Pre-Assessments are also available.)
- 3. Desk Review.** The SCS assessment team reviews all submitted documentation, which may include: self/pre-assessment, management plans, licenses, tax receipts, operating procedures, and transport records to ensure that all parties are prepared for the assessment.
- 4. On-Site Audit.** An SCS auditor reviews quality procedures, documentation, and records, tours harvesting areas and processing facilities, and conducts interviews with staff and regulatory authorities.
- 5. Report and Verification Decision.** SCS provides a complete report, detailing observations and findings for each requirement of the standard. Once the report is finalized, SCS makes a verification decision.
- 6. Verification Statement.** Successful clients are issued a Verification Statement, and are issued guidelines for communicating your verified status.
- 7. Maintenance.** Annual on-site audits are required to maintain certification.