

Members undertake to make their staff aware of the preceding principles and to train staff adequately in this respect.

Members commit to purchase only wood that is legally logged.

Members will have and implement procedures concerning wood procurement and compliance with law that correspond to the underlying principles of the Environmental Management System.

Documents concerning wood procurement shall be properly maintained and made available upon request to any entitled authority with a mandate to control legality.

Members shall make sure that the legality of the logging of purchased wood is correctly documented.

Members commit to conduct logging operations in full compliance with any law that is applicable to their activity and location.

Legal Logging Code of Conduct for the Paper Industry

Background

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) represents the interests of the European pulp, paper and board industry to the EU Institutions. CEPI and its members are committed to the sustainable management and use of forest resources, and the implementation of practices and measures to combat the illegal logging and trade of illegally harvested wood.

The European pulp and paper industry firmly condemned illegal logging and regretted its negative impact on the sustainability of forests, on the image of the forest-related sector and on the competitiveness of the forest industries, in its position released in August 2002. In the same position, CEPI advocated clarifying the definition of illegal logging.

In line with the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan of May 2003¹ which provides for “encouraging the private sector in the EU to work with the private sector in timber-producing countries according to voluntary codes of practice for timber harvesting and procurement”, CEPI and its members have been progressively and actively addressing the issue of illegal logging and its combat. This approach builds upon the proactive steps that CEPI and its members have taken for several years now, towards greater sustainability along the paper eco-cycle: from forestry and the pulp and paper production process through to recycling, energy recovery and waste management.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) – Proposal for an EU Action Plan, Com (2003) 251 final.

CEPI Statement

Demonstrating their willingness to contribute to the measures necessary to combat illegal logging, and believing that the primary solutions should be found where such practices take place, CEPI’s members have made clear, in a position dated 2002, that they:

- Firmly condemn illegal logging and related corruption and criminal activities, as they tarnish forestry and forest-based activities.
- Commit themselves to support and cooperate with Governments in their action to halt illegal logging and secure good governance and law enforcement within the existing legal and institutional framework.
- Encourage sustainable forest management according to internationally agreed principles. In this context, voluntary and market-driven certification systems might constitute one, but not the only instrument towards greater sustainability.

Definitions of illegal logging

Any measure taken to counter illegal activities should be based on a sound and commonly accepted definition. Numerous definitions of illegal logging are in use, giving rise to concepts such as “illegal timber” or “unauthorised harvesting” that create legal uncertainty for decision-makers, investors, entrepreneurs, forest owners and managers, industry representatives and the like. CEPI and its members agree with the following definition:

“Illegal logging takes place when timber is harvested in violation of relevant national laws”,

as it refers to logging operations carried out in infraction of law without inclusion of infringements of those areas already covered by penal, fiscal and other types of legislation (such as tax evasion, moonlighting, transport infractions, etc).

Enforcement & reporting

CEPI Member Associations undersigning the current Code of Conduct are requested to implement it nationally by inviting member companies to endorse it and by putting in place credible enforcement mechanisms.

They are invited to report on a regular basis on the implementation and level of compliance to the Code of Conduct. CEPI will report about the level of endorsement of this Framework Code of Conduct in its Sustainability Report.

Code of Conduct principles

1

Members commit to conduct logging operations in full compliance with any law that is applicable to their activity and location.

Moreover, Members shall encourage all parties involved in the wood chain to operate in full compliance with the current Code of Conduct.

2

Members commit to purchase only wood that is legally logged.

Moreover, they commit to sustainable forest management and to increasing the use of certified wood.

3

Members will have and implement procedures concerning wood procurement and compliance with law that correspond to the underlying principles of the Environmental Management System.

Moreover, Members are invited to certify their EMS on the basis of recognised International Standards (ISO, EMAS, etc.).

4

Members shall make sure that the legality of the logging of purchased wood is correctly documented (e.g. logging license, intermediaries registration, harvesting documents, contracts, job cards, batch records).

Whenever possible and in accordance with their specific conditions, Members commit to set up and use reliable verification/tracking systems and apply for third-party certification of the chain of custody in order to document the wood flow.

5

Documents concerning wood procurement shall be properly maintained and made available upon request to any entitled authority (e.g. police and custom authorities) with a mandate to control legality.

Moreover, Members are invited to publicise and make available as much information as possible with respect to the origin of the wood they purchase. Members will respond in an appropriate and positive manner to any request and/or inquiry from custom services, governmental authorities or any other authority entitled to make such request and/or to carry out such inquiry.

6

Members undertake to make their staff aware of the preceding principles and to train staff adequately in this respect.

Moreover, Members commit to deliver continuous training with an aim to go beyond the principles of the current Code of Conduct.