Korea’s New Legislation against Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

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Status of Forest

01 Forest

6.34 million ha

National and public forest land 33%

Private forest land 67%

11m³ → 142m³ per ha

1973 → 2015
Korea Imports 83% of Domestic Wood demands
Legal Basis

✓ Forest Resources Creation and Management Act (1962)
  - Permission for cutting standing timber

✓ Act on the sustainable use of timbers (2012)
  - The State and local governments shall establish and implement measures to prevent distribution or use of illegally cut timber inside or outside the Republic of Korea
The revised Act on Sustainable Use of Timbers *(Promulgation 21 Mar, 2017)*

√ shall file an import declaration to Forestry Minister

√ shall require an inspection agency to inspect the documents *before customs clearance*

√ shall retain a document verifying timber legality *(for five years)*
Timber Legality Requirements

✓ A permit for felling issued pursuant to the statutes of the country of origin

✓ Documents internationally recognized to certify legally felled timber or timber products
  - FSC, PEFC, Certification system endorsed by PEFC
  - Third party certification under ISO 17065
✓ A document mutually recognized through bilateral consultations between the Republic of Korea and the country of origin

✓ Any other document which verifies that the relevant timber or timber product has been legally felled

- FLEGT Licences, Export permits that verify timber legality

* Detailed Standards for Determining the Legality of Imported Timber and Timber Products (Public Notice, Aug 2018)
Sanction system in the Act

✓ Suspension of sales · return or destruction of imported products
  · when importers fail to verify the legality of imported timber

✓ Revocation of timber production registration or business suspension
  · when business producers fails to keep documents

✓ Penal provision
  · fines up to $30,000 or imprisonment of up to three years
Products Covered by the Act

- Log
- Sawn Timber
- Laminated wood
- Wood Pellets
- Anti-decay wood
- Fire-retardant-treated wood
- Plywood

* HS Code: 4403, 4407, 4412, 4401.31
Each Authority’s Role

**Korea Forestry Promotion Institute**
- Timber legality inspection
- Result report

**Korea Forest Service**
- Issuance of a Certificate
- Import declaration
- CSG development
- Monitoring & Evaluation

**Korea Customs**
- Requisite confirmation
- Tax

**Regional offices Under KFS**
- On site verification
- Administrative action
  - Suspension of sales, return or destruction

**Local governments**
- Guidance & Supervision
- Administrative action
  - Revocation of timber business registration or business suspension

**National Institute of Forest Science**
- Study on impact on domestic timber market, etc.
## 목재자원관리시스템 (Korea Forestry Product Management System)

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소비자량 감소 가능합니다.
√ Trial operation period (1 Oct 2018 – 30 Sep 2019)

√ Development of Country Specific Guideline through intergovernmental consultation
  * To date, 42 CSG have been developed

√ Communication with international organizations and other regulated countries
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