



PanelSupplies

Panel Supplies Ltd and the European Timber Regulation

The European Timber Regulation (EUTR) came into force on the 3rd March 2013. This is an important consideration for all Companies that deal with Timber and Timber-based products such as Plywood and other Panel Products made of timber. The aim of the regulation is to ensure that all timber based products imported into the EU do not contain illegally sourced timber. Failure to comply with the EUTR will mean that penalties may be incurred by the importing Company which could involve confiscation of the products and/or financial penalties such as fines. Panel Supplies recognises the importance of the EUTR and agrees with the aims of its introduction. As the first hand importer for most of our stock, it is our responsibility to carry out the necessary “due diligence” to mitigate the “risk” of illegal wood being imported.

In our opinion, one of the easier ways to comply with the EUTR is to purchase “certified” products such as FSC® or PEFC™ certified as the certification bodies will have already carried out most of the “due diligence” that is required. Although “certified” goods do not automatically comply with the EUTR, the “due diligence” required is a much simpler process. Panel Supplies has both FSC® and PEFC™ chain of custody and have for many years held large stocks of “certified” products.

Panel Supplies is a member of the International Plywood Group which has been a signatory to the UK Timber Trade Federation’s (TTF) “Responsible Purchasing Policy” since 2005; this is a scheme that requires our supply chain to be audited by us on a regular basis and the information obtained is also checked by a TTF appointed auditor. We have also been working with Track Record Global Ltd, who are acknowledged experts in the field of environmental “due diligence” to ensure that our data is up-to-date and will meet the requirements of the EUTR. We already have an online database in development which will make relevant product information available for download by our customers.

All of this means that we are confident that our customers can be assured that Panel Supplies will have taken all the necessary actions to ensure that the timber products we import will be fully compliant with the EUTR regulations.

Our customers must also keep their own records for purchases and sales of all their timber products but if they have bought from Panel Supplies, they do not need to carry out the same full “due diligence” process that we will have already done.

There is a considerable amount of information available that explains the details of the EUTR. We have included some links to the relevant websites of some of the most useful sources of this information:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:295:0023:0034:EN:PDF>

Please contact us if you have any questions: sales@panelsupplies.co.uk

www.panelsupplies.co.uk