

International Council of Marine Industry Associations



ICOMIA
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
MARINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

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“The illegal timber trade is a trade that benefits no one. It risks jobs, it risks the timber industry and it risks the environment. Therefore, if you don’t know the origin of timber – don’t buy it”

The European Union Timber Regulation – EUTR – (also known as Rules for Timber Certification to Halt Deforestation, Regulation EU 995/2010) sets the framework for due diligence of legally harvested timber and products derived from such timber placed on the EU market – has been in force since March 2013.

The EUTR, together with the Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT AP), are EU policy instruments to combat illegal logging in the world forests both from the demand and supply side.

Current issues

The EUTR/FLEGT AP expert group is made up of representatives from the European Commission, Member States and the EU timber industry represented by the European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF).

The Group discusses sample documentation used for the import of teak from Myanmar, which has been deemed compliant with the EUTR/FLEGT AP. In addition, they interpret the legal framework, noting subsequent changes required and considering whether measures need to be taken to ensure harmonized implementation between EU Member States.

These discussions are occurring at a crucial time; as there is significant industry and consumer confusion – which is most notably due to:

- Recent high-profile court cases flagging non-compliant import of teak
- Increased press attention reporting (substantially mis-) perceived negligence of industry duties in declaring origin of imported or processed tropic wood

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“the voice of the boating industry worldwide”

It is predicted there will be a substantial decrease in competitiveness of the EU leisure marine industry should current developments lead to disproportionately difficult requirements in trading compliant timber (notably teak in the leisure marine industry). This may potentially impact the recreational marine manufacturing and maintenance sectors, which consist of approximately:

- 32,000 companies (consisting mainly of SMEs)
- 280,000 direct employees
- **Annual turnover of €20 billion**
- 6 million recreational boats in Europe
- 4500 marinas and an additional number of clubs and publicly administered moorings, notwithstanding the potentially reduced economic benefit and tax income to authorities where these businesses reside

ICOMIA Position:

The International Council of Marine Industry Associations – ICOMIA – is the international trade association representing the global marine industry since 1966.

ICOMIA brings together national marine industry associations in one global organisation and represents them at an international level, presenting a strong and united voice when dealing with issues challenging the industry.

ICOMIA represents close to 100% of the European leisure marine industry, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of yachts including the Large Yacht sector.

ICOMIA's advice to stakeholders in the timber supply chain mirrors the position of the ETTF:

**The illegal timber trade is a trade that benefits no one.
It risks jobs, it risks the timber industry and it risks the environment.
Therefore, if you don't know the origin of timber – don't buy it.**

It is important operators undertake risk management, ideally via third party verified documentation providing a full trace back to the point of origin. This is in order to minimise the chance of placing illegally harvested timber, or timber products containing illegally harvested timber, on the EU market. The EUTR regulations do not apply to any other aspects of the supply chain.

About ICOMIA:

No less than 35 national associations across the world are full members of ICOMIA today. Our members include the vast majority of the industrialised countries from North America across to Japan and China and from Finland down to New Zealand.

ICOMIA's working committees predominantly consist of our member associations and provide forums where the national associations can share their experiences and most importantly plan collectively to address issues of the industry worldwide.

With the support of our members throughout the world and in conjunction with the appropriate associations, ICOMIA lobbies international authorities and major organisations, publishes documents and guidelines and produces tools to facilitate the growth of the industry.

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