

Implementation of the FLEGT Licencing Scheme

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1. INTRODUCTION

[Council Regulation\(EU\)2173/2005](#) lays down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market .Illegal logging is a global problem with significant negative economic ,environmental and social impact.

Based on the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan the EU has established a FLEGT licencing system for imports of timber into the EU, where consignments of these products come from countries that have concluded a Voluntary Partnership Agreement(VPA) .These consignments must be accompanied by a FLEGT licence. Revenue's Customs Service assists in the implementation of these controls by referring relevant consignments to DAFM for control.

2. PROHIBITION/RESTRICTION

Consignments of timber and timber products from countries that have concluded a Voluntary Partnership Agreement must be accompanied by a valid FLEGT licence issued at the Partner Country assuring the legality of the timber .When FLEGT timber is declared for release for free circulation ,Customs must ensure that the FLEGT licence has been approved by the Competent Authority ,

3. ACTION REQUIRED

Consignments cannot be cleared for importation by Customs until DAFM issues a FLEGT clearance certificate. validating the FLEGT licence .

4. RISK INFORMATION FORM

The RIF(Risk Information Form),which is part of CRMS (Customs Risk Management System)should be used by staff to inform Customs authorities of other Member States of any significant irregularities which have come to light in respect of the importation of timber and timber products.For further information on CRMS/RIF staff should contact.

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