



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

FLEGT and Government Procurement

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Government procurement

- The government is committed to buying timber and wood products only from legal and sustainable sources.
- The UK government developed a policy to procure only timber and timber products that are both legal and sustainable. The policy is known as the Timber Procurement Policy (TPP).
- The policy goes further than the requirements of the EU Timber Regulations (EUTR).
- This policy is well embedded within the key systems governing public procurement, specifically the relevant government buying standards and the centralised procurement frameworks; it is for each department to implement the policy in their procurement.

Government procurement

- Evidence of sustainability is most commonly provided by FSC or PEFC certification (known as “Category A”).
- The system allows for the possibility of other equivalent documentation to be used to demonstrate sustainability (known as “Category B”), though less common and harder to assess.
- When FLEGT VPA arrangements are established and countries are able to issue FLEGT licences, FLEGT licensed timber products will meet the requirements.

Government procurement

- We believe the policy is broadly effective based on reporting under the Greening Government Commitments
- The requirement for sustainable timber is typically a standard contract condition in government contracts. The onus is on the supplier to comply with contract conditions and the buying department to be satisfied that this is the case.
- The TPP is mandatory for central government departments and related organisations. It is encouraged for wider public sector, but does not apply to the wider UK market.
- Further guidance is available on gov.uk

FLEGT, EUTR and EU Exit

- Our ambition to leave the environment in a better state than we found it requires joint action on a global scale. We will continue to lead international work on the environment and will remain active partners in international fora.
- We have set out our vision for a Green Brexit in which environmental standards are not only maintained but enhanced, and our 25 Year Environment Plan outlines steps to achieve this ambition.

FLEGT, EUTR and EU Exit

- Leaving the EU gives us the opportunity to put the environment at the heart of policy making, while ensuring vital protections for our landscapes, wildlife and natural assets are enhanced.
- The EU (Withdrawal) Bill will ensure that existing EU environmental law continues to have effect in UK law after exit.
- This includes the EU Timber Regulation and the FLEGT Regulation.
- We are working with partner countries to ensure minimum disruption as a result of the UK leaving the EU.



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Thank you