

# **Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Legislation – FAQ**

## **What is the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Legislation?**

The legislation is comprised of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* (the Act) and the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013* (the Regulation). The laws cover, amongst other things, the following:

- A prohibition on importing illegally harvested timber and timber products made from illegally logged timber.
- A requirement for importers of 'regulated timber products', including engineered timber flooring, to implement a due diligence system to minimise the risk of importing illegally logged timber.

## **What does illegally logged actually mean?**

Illegally logged timber is defined in the Act as "timber harvested in contravention of laws in force in the place where the timber was harvested."

## **What is EFP doing in relation to the Legislation?**

Ezi Floor Products (VIC) is committed to complying with the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and, where applicable, the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation.

We only purchase products manufactured with timber supplied from legally harvested sources and seek evidence of compliance from suppliers by operating a due diligence system. We will not import timber products the supply of which is in breach of legislation in the country of harvest.

## **Is illegal logging a big problem?**

In some areas of the world, "Yes". Incidences have reduced significantly as Governments better enforce their laws but it still is a problem in some areas.

Whilst many timber products Australians consume are made in Australia (e.g. over 75% of our structural timber needs) a large proportion of some products are imported. Much of the timber is from New Zealand, Western Europe and North America where illegal logging is insignificant.

Despite this some products are made from timber from areas where the legality of harvest is not known. The legislation is designed to stop products entering Australia unless importers are sure the timber has been legally harvested.

## **Why address illegal logging?**

Products made from illegally harvested timber undercut the prices of products made from timber harvested in well regulated forests. Illegal logging also deprives communities and governments from the economic benefits, e.g. royalties and taxes, of using their forest resource. Often carried out by sophisticated criminal networks illegal logging may also contribute to environmental degradation and impede social development in countries where it is prevalent.