



New requirements for legality documents for wood products exports to Korea from 1 October 2018 – information from MPI

From 1 October 2018, the Republic of Korea will require importers of specified wood products to submit documentation to Korea's Customs agency to verify the legality of forestry products. The documents are to demonstrate that the wood products are produced in accordance with either the harvest-related laws of Korea, or the relevant laws of the country of origin.

The requirements apply to wood pellets (4401.31), logs (4403), sawn timber (4407) and plywood (4412).

FSC and PEFC certificates are acceptable documents that meet the new Korean requirements.

The following applies for exporters and products that do not have FSC or PEFC certification.

A new levy statement

Korean authorities have agreed to the use of a new 'levy statement' to meet their requirements for legality documents for exotic wood products from New Zealand. This approach will use existing information in the forest growers harvested wood levy information system.

Existing MPI Director General information statements will not be accepted.

Once the system is ready, levy statements can be requested from Levy Systems Limited (LSL). LSL are contracted by the Forest Growers Levy Trust to administer the harvested wood commodity levy.

Statements will cost NZD\$65, and will be valid for one year. If you currently receive an invoice from LSL for the levy, you can request a LSL statement.

Who is affected?

- All exporters of the specified wood products to the Korea.
- All forest owners/managers who are harvesting and have logs exported to Korea.
- All forest owners/managers who are harvesting and send logs to mills which export sawn timber, wood pellets or plywood to Korea.

What will you need to do?

Exporters will need to request levy statements from all the forest/commodity owners who supply them logs which are exported to Korea. Levy statements must be provided for each sales lot or order.

Forest owners/managers will need to request a levy statement from Levy Systems Ltd, and provide these to their exporters.

Sawmills will need to request levy statements from all their log suppliers whose logs can be expected to go to Korea as sawn timber. Levy statements must be provided for each sales lot or order.

Indigenous forest products

Exporters of indigenous forest products can use the existing Intention to Export (ITE1 and ITE2) forms issued by MPI for indigenous forest products to comply with Korea's requirements.

More information

More information will be provided, including on MPI's website, over the coming weeks, and once the new levy statement is available.

FOA

27 August 2018