

Timber (wood species) identification within EUTR and quality assurance

The laboratory of wood anatomy at IHD offers the identification of timber (wood) species for round and sawn timber, planed timber, wood-based materials and wood products. The investigation can be carried out even at very small samples, like veneers, particles and fibers.

Long-time experience in macro- and microscopic wood identification, combined with a comprehensive collection of reference wood samples, thin cross-section samples, and specialist literature, is the basis. The Xylotheque (wood collection) of IHD is one of the largest in Germany and includes about 2100 wood species. The lab has a modern infrastructure with incident and transmitted light microscopes including digital image processing and software tools.

As a result, the botanical tree/timber/wood species (taxonomic family, genus, species), common trade name and code according to EN 13556 „Round and sawn timber - Nomenclature of timbers used in Europe“ are provided. If wood species or samples are difficult to identify, in some cases only the genus can be determined.

The offer is addressed to wood industry, wood trade as well as to public authorities, nature and environment protecting organizations and customers.

European Timber Regulation (EUTR)

The EU Timber Regulation applies since 2013 and is implemented in the EU member states by national laws.

Operators according to the EUTR definition are obliged to establish and operate a so called due diligence system, DDS. One of its essential elements is the timber identification, since all used timber (wood) species are to be specified. If the declaration of wood species, e.g. by common/trade name, is not clear, the botanical name and code according to EN 13556 are to be specified. This applies not only for round and sawn or planed timber, but as well for various wood products, like profiles, furniture, particle boards, fiber boards, plywood, veneers and pulp and paper.

If there is any suspicion, the timber identification is compulsory. Nevertheless, it is recommended for regular control measures within the due diligence system.

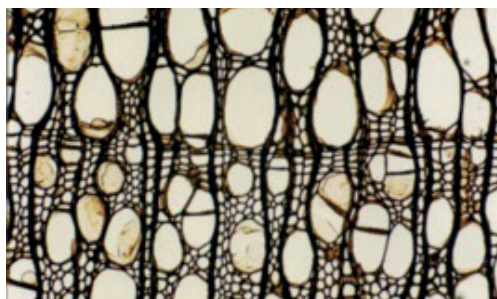
Traders according to the EUTR definition are not obliged to run a due diligence system, but here as well timber identification can be necessary or useful.

NOTE: The Entwicklungs- und Prüflabor Holztechnologie (EPH) offers further consulting and support for implementing and operating a DDS.

Quality assurance

Independently from EUTR, timber identification is recommended as a part of any quality assurance – either for regular inspection of goods or in case of suspicion of false declaration or false delivery.

NOTE: Proper shipping documents and a clear specification of goods and products should always include the correct and clear specification of timber/wood species.



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