



317 W. High Ave., 10th Floor
P.O. Box HP-7
High Point, NC 27261
Phone 336.884.5000
Fax 336-884-5303

Questions to Ask of Suppliers When Importing Plant Products

Questions about the Type of Import

- What are the common names for these plants or plant products included in your product? What are the genus and species of the plants harvested?
- How did you determine what plants were used to produce your product?

Questions About the Region from Which the Import Came

- From what area/country did you harvest this plant product?

It should be noted that the following areas should be considered “high-risk” areas. Importers receiving supplies from one of these countries should approach each transaction with extra scrutiny. High Risk countries are: China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Peru, Honduras, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo Basin, Eastern Russia, Ghana, Laos, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The following areas should be considered “low-risk” areas (though due care must still be shown): Western Europe, North America, Chile, Australia, and Japan.

- Are you aware of the degree of illegal activity associated with timber supply in that forest or region? Do you have any actual knowledge of illegal activity taking place in that region related to timber?

Questions About Supply Chain

- Please describe your supply chains all the way back to the forest?
- If they're reluctant to give you details, ensure that they can trace the supply chains all the way back to the forest. If not, why not?
- Do you require your suppliers to provide a statement of compliance regarding legality of wood products? If yes, please list some of the documentation collected and the governing agencies.
- What percentage of your wood is derived from your own concessions/forests?
- Does your company have a system for the traceability of wood sources? If so, are records maintained?
- Have your supplier exhibited any of the following traits?

- Goods significantly below going market rate
 - Cash only/lower price for goods without paperwork
 - Paperwork facially invalid or otherwise suspect
 - Unusual sales methods or practices
 - Transactions fit the description of illegal transactions discussed in trade/industry publications
 - Inability of suppliers to provide rational answers to routine questions
- What sort of due diligence have you exercised in the sourcing of these products to ensure that they are not the product of illegal logging?

Questions about Legality

- Is there any reason for you to suspect that this may have been illegally logged?
- Have you complied with all local laws regarding harvesting this product, including but not limited to paying any taxes or surcharges associated with it?
- Do you have any certifications indicating that your supply is in accordance with all local laws and regulations?
- Have any of your suppliers ever been alleged or convicted of any crime associated with illegal timber harvesting?

Sincerely,



Bill Perdue
VP ESH – Standards