



for information about becoming verified  
or locating verified products:

[SCScertified.com/legalharvest](https://www.scs-certified.com/legalharvest)

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## LegalHarvest™ Verification

### Demonstrating Due Care

The SCS LegalHarvest™ Verification provides independent, third-party confirmation of forest product sources, reducing your risk of trading in illegally harvested wood. Verification is available to individual organizations (forest managers, sawmills, pulp mills, secondary manufacturers, distributors and retailers) or entire supply chains worldwide.



Compliance to the LegalHarvest™ Verification Standard will help protect your company from inadvertent violation of the US Lacey Act or the EU Timber Regulation. Assessments to the SCS LegalHarvest™ Verification (LHV) forest and chain of custody standards verify the legal right to harvest, process and transport wood. LHV goes further than other standards by ensuring any mandatory social and environmental assessments have been performed.

SCS LegalHarvest Verification is not only a program of risk reduction, but also provides a seal of approval that your wood products were sourced responsibly, and it comes from one of the most respected certification bodies in the business. SCS also provides recognition to forestry operations who want to gradually move to higher levels of environmental and social performance through a tiered, stepwise approach to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

### Why Choose SCS?

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) is a leading third-party certification body with more than 25 years of experience certifying environmental and sustainability claims. SCS's forestry certifications pre-date the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). As one of the FSC's original 3 certifiers, SCS is one of the most respected certification bodies throughout the world for integrity, scientific rigor and true independence.

With auditors throughout the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, SCS has certified more than 3000 wood product companies across the globe.

SCS is focused on customer service and is able to contract with companies, deploy auditors to the field and make certification decisions faster than the competition.



**SCIENTIFIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS** | *Setting the standard for sustainability™*

Providing global leadership in independent, third-party certification, auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years.



## Illegal Logging Initiatives: US Lacey Act and EU Timber Regulation

To combat illegal logging, the United States amended the Lacey Act in 2008 to prohibit trade in illegally harvested plants and plant products (lumber, paper, furniture, etc.). The Lacey Act pertains to interstate domestic trade as well as the import of internationally sourced goods and establishes penalties for violations including fines and the forfeiture of goods based on the level of “due care” employed by the trading company.

Similarly, the European Union passed the EU Timber Regulation (Due Diligence Regulation) in late 2010 which is the latest part of a package of laws under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The Timber Regulation will require full implementation of due diligence obligations for all companies placing timber products on the European market by March 3rd 2013.

SCS LegalHarvest™ Verification is recognized by leading wood product associations, timber trade federations, environmental groups and government procurement experts as a credible due diligence mechanism for facilitating international trade in wood products.

## Complementary Services

In addition to LegalHarvest Verification, SCS provides certification to the NWFAs Responsible Procurement Program, the Forest Stewardship Council standards and Carbon Footprint and Offset Verification. Wood products may also qualify for SCS Recycled Content, SCS Indoor Advantage indoor air quality certification and/or SCS calCOMpliant (CARB ATCM) certification.

## Get Started with LHV: the Verification Process

- 1. Application:** The first step in the process is to fill out an application, available here: <http://www.scs-certified.com/nrc/legalharvest.php>. There are separate applications for forest management and chain of custody operations (downstream manufacturers/distributors).
- 2. Self-Assessment:** Your organization conducts an internal evaluation against the applicable standard and addresses any gaps prior to the SCS assessment. (SCS Pre-Assessments are also available)
- 3. Desk Review:** The SCS assessment team will review all submitted documentation which may include: self/pre-assessment, management plans, licenses, tax receipts, operating procedures, transport records, etc. to ensure the applicant and the audit team are prepared for the assessment.
- 4. On Site Assessment:** At the site visit, an auditor will review quality procedures, documentation, and records, tour harvesting areas and processing facilities, and conduct interviews with staff and regulatory authorities.
- 5. Report & Verification Decision:** Following the assessment, SCS will provide a complete report, detailing all observations and findings for each requirement of the standard. Once the report is finalized, SCS will make a verification decision and successful clients will be issued a Verification Statement.
- 6. Maintenance:** Once verified, your organization will be registered on the SCS website as a program participant and will be required to undergo annual surveillance to maintain registration. You'll also receive information about communicating your achievement and using SCS verification marks.



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