



Due Diligence Support

Service information

If you are importing or selling wood products into the EU, the US or Australia, you may need to exercise due diligence in order to exclude illegally harvested material from your products. Our due diligence support services are designed to put you firmly on track to meeting those obligations based on a robust approach to legal timber sourcing.

The NEPCon LegalSource™ due diligence framework

NEPCon has published due diligence tools and guidance that supports you in developing, improving and implementing systems and procedures that minimise your risk of sourcing illegal forest products and help you meet legal requirements for due diligence. They help you ask the right questions at the right time and to make well-considered and prioritised decisions.

We support your process based on our LegalSourceTM Standard, which is used as a framework for evaluating and benchmarking your system and performance and to pinpoint areas that need your attention. It is aligned with the EUTR, the US Lacey Act and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, and can be used for evaluating your system against any of these legislations.

The standard forms the backbone of the LegalSource[™] Due Diligence System, which has been tested by leading industries, globally. Comprehensive guidelines on how to implement the system are complemented by a wideranging set of tools and templates.

How we support your due diligence process

NEPCon provides support and advice in several ways related to the development, implementation and maintenance of an effective due diligence system. The figure below illustrates four main activities required to assure a functioning DDS and lists some of the specific services that NEPCon can provide at each stage.

- Templates
- Guidance
- System documents

- Advisory services
- Evaluations
- Training
- Timber testing

- **1** Quality system
- 2 Manage supply chain
- Risk assessment
- 4 Risk Mitigation

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Due Diligence system: Building Capacity:

- Provision of fully developed DD procedures
- Provision of templates and information
 Training for staff and suppliers
- **DDS implementation:** Tools and templates
- Performance evaluation
- Continued education

- Due Diligence guidelines and tools
- Supplier training
- Supplier verification

- Support to implementing risk mitigating actions
- Evaluation of risk mitigation effectiveness





Service choices

Our range of services allows for a customised approach where your current situation forms the starting point. For each of the main options described below, we can tailor the service to meet your specific needs.

Evaluation (gap analysis) of your due diligence system and performance	We evaluate your systems and their implementation using our LegalSource™ Standard as the benchmark. This process identifies potential gaps or weaknesses in your current systems compared to timber market regulations and your own policies. We deliver the results in clear language and accessible format including a set of recommendations for actions that strengthen your system.	A
Due diligence training	Our LegalSource Kickstarter Course is tailored towards companies wishing to implement the free LegalSource Due Diligence System or adapt and use the LegalSource tools within their own system. Our comprehensive LegalSource Expert course equips participants with a higher level of knowledge and build skills for conducting legality verification audits. In addition, we can provide tailored training for your staff or suppliers.	В
Supplier evaluation services	As part of our DDS implementation support, we can assist you directly in mitigating risks in your supply chains. For example, we offer to verify the readiness of your suppliers to provide the necessary access to information, or evaluate the effectiveness of risk mitigation actions carried out by your suppliers. This can be complemented by supplier verification services or training for your suppliers and in-house staff.	С
On-going support	We offer advisory services and regular evaluations where we identify strengths and weaknesses of your practices and provide our recommendations for appropriate actions to address any weaknesses. Our structured feedback helps you assure consistent and effective implementation of your due diligence system across your company and supply chains.	D
Timber testing	As part of our services NEPCon collaborates with laboratories that can provide a range of timber testing services, such as DNA testing, microscopic fibre analysis and stable isotope testing. These methods may be used in different cases, e.g. to identify species, or origin of material samples.	E

LegalSource certification

Our DDS evaluation services form an excellent basis for becoming LegalSource certified. The evaluation service is usually provided as a non-certification service with the option of moving on to certification. However, the evaluation may also be used directly as part of an actual certification assessment.

EUTR monitoring services

NEPCon is an EU-recognised Monitoring Organisation (MO), and EU operators certified against the LegalSource Standard can use NEPCon as their MO for providing a due diligence system and regular evaluations under the EU Timber Regulation. Our monitoring services are exclusively provided to LegalSource certification clients, since certification is our way of providing rigorous assurance for our clients' EUTR compliance.

Costs

The costs involved in LegalSource due diligence facilitation are specified in our budget and will vary depending on the scope and extent of services that are agreed and delivered. Costs typically cover onsite visits, provision of advice and guidance, training, and in some cases supplier audits.