



မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသစ်တောထွက်ပစ္စည်းနှင့် သစ်လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်း

Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association

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Ref.-No။ ။ 1773/ MFPTMA /EU-2021 ။
Date ။ ။ 3rd February, 2021

To.

Dear Sir, Madam

Subject: **Issuing a Statement for Legal and official Export of Teak from Myanmar to (EU) European Union Countries.**

We are very glad to inform your goodself that the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association (MFPTMA, Private Sector), of The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, issued a statement Dated 1st January 2021 for legal and official Export of Myanmar Teak Wood to the European Union Countries. The Statement is already attached.

In this connection, we would like to give some important messages that were, Exporter from Myanmar and direct Buyer from EU countries are trading legally and officially according to the existing forest law, rules , regulations and procedures under the Strictly Management of Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Forest Department and Myanma Timber Enterprise.

Both the rules and regulations adopted by EU Commission dated 20th December 2005, reference No 2173/2005 and also the European Union, Regulation No 995/2010 Dated 20th October 2010, we have to follow up as much as possible.

It will be of interest to you to know that we (MFPTMA's members) are deeply and energetically participated in FAO/FLEGT programme since years back in accordance with EUTR.

In this regards, we (MFPTMA) would also like to seek your support to distribute this information to the companies and also to NGO in your countries for their update information.

Thanking you very much in advance for your kind assistances and cooperation.

With Kind Regard,

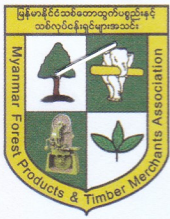
(Soe Maw)
President

Copy to-

- U Thein Che,

President, Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association, Yangon, Myanmar

- Office Copy



ပြန်ဟနိုင်ငံသစ်တောထွက်ပစ္စည်းနှင့် သစ်လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်း

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Dated-1st, January 2021

Statement by Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association on the legal and official export of teak from Myanmar to the European Union

Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association Perspectives on EUTR

1. We confirm that Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association (MFPTMA) have welcomed the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) since 2013, As for MFPTMA, we believed that deforestation and ecosystem damage can be prevented simply by following Due Diligence as part of EUTR. MFPTMA welcome EUTR due to prevent illegal timber trade from our neighbors and encourages the direct trade from Myanmar for legal teak wood.

Status of Producers/Exporters and buyers

2. As our exporters rely solely on raw materials from Myanmar Timber Enterprise(MTE). They only purchase timber that can be verified in accordance with the COC Dossier, which is explicitly declared in accordance with the FLEGT process as the current Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System-MTLAS in Myanmar. In addition, we purchase and export only the raw materials that can be verified by third-party, and avoid any other illegal raw material substitution during the production process at each of the following stages:

- * Systematic inspection by third party along the every production stage of process and transportation from tree stumps to factory.
- * Systematic inspection by third party upon raw material arrival at the factory.
- * Systematically inspected and under controlled producing by Forest Department and third parties.
- * Exporting only timber that has been systematically inspected during the whole production and exporting process by Forest Department and a third party.

3. The importers from EU will only be able to develop a more legal trade by importing directly from Myanmar legal timber exporters and constantly monitoring their trading partners for compliance with EUTR.

4. Only if both the exporter and the importer follow the system, procedures, rules and regulation such as EUTR, COC Dossier, MTLAS, etc., and there is no risk in regular timber trade to EU member states, workers who depend on their factories, their families will be able to run a good business without losing their job opportunity, and importers from EU will be able to stand as dignified legal importers of teak.

Progress of EUTR Compliance in Myanmar

5. The following are some of the reforms that the Government, MONREC and MTE must recognize:

- * Implementing the FLEGT-VPA process in Myanmar and the Multi Stakeholder Groups have already been formed National Level and State and Region level.
- * Targeting the harvest timber has been changed to only 50% of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) since the fiscal year 2017-2018.
- * Practicing of timber sales can only be applied open tender system as a transparency.
- * Providing together the buyer with the relevant documents for traceability of the timber which is sold out.
- * Implementing the QR Code system to make it easy to trace back to the stump for all the teak produced.

EU's perspective on Myanmar

6. EU's view on Myanmar is mainly based on CAs reports. When European Commissions (EC) accepting submissions from CAs, we noticed that the CAs always refer to writing (especially one-sided writing) from INGO reporters as they don't have sufficient knowledge on Myanmar's on ground situation and are not well versed with forest management.

7. For example, although the imported data from Myanmar to Sweden had expressed in the FOREST TRENDS BLOG that is equivalent with 1800 cubic meters of Round Wood in September 2020, the actual export data of sawn timber from Myanmar to Sweden during 2019-2020 fiscal year till 30 September 2020 was only Sawn Timber 407.6924 tons according to the Forest Department's export data. Those data from 2 sources are quite different. This also highlights the fact that moreover Myanmar efforts to combat of illegal logging and illegal timber trade in TROPICAL TIMBER MARKET REPORT issued by ITTO(October 2020) was neglected.

8. In contrast, the speedy reform relating to extraction manufacturing and exports of timber should not be ignored. The allegations that the teak from Myanmar is illegal are completely unjust and hinder the legal trade in accordance with the existing laws of Myanmar and international law. By doing so, there are negative impacts on the economies of exporters and importers who comply with EUTR, Due Diligence, MTLAS, COC Dossier and third party inspections as described above and this may lead their workers to lose their jobs and to be more struggle for survival of their families life.

9. In particular, Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association (MFPTMA) have called for justice to prevent the negative impact of the unjust allegations on economies of legal exporters from Myanmar and EU importers as well as unemployment of our labours.



(Executive Committee)

Myanmar Forest Products & Timber Merchants Association