



**American  
Forest & Paper  
Association**

# Combating Illegal Logging Through Lacey Act

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The 2008 Lacey Act amendments are the most important U.S. policy initiative to reduce global illegal logging and its associated trade. They make it illegal to trade plants and plant products — including wood, pulp and paper — harvested or traded in violation of the laws of a foreign country. The Lacey Act amendments also require importers to file a declaration naming the country of harvest and the genus and species of plants contained in the products. The declaration requirement has yet to be phased-in for composite wood products or for pulp and paper until a solution is developed for the identification of plant genus and species that does not impose undue economic cost on legitimate trade.

AF&PA is a strong proponent of international efforts to suppress illegal logging, because trade in illegally-sourced fiber is a serious detriment to the industry's sustainability, the environment and the global economy. An AF&PA-commissioned study estimated that illegal logging costs the U.S. forest products industry some \$1 billion annually in lost export opportunities and depressed U.S. wood prices.

AF&PA participates in a broad consensus coalition of businesses, conservation groups and labor organizations that are calling on federal agencies to ensure full implementation of the law. AF&PA supports adequate funding for the implementation of the Lacey Act and the appropriate phase-in of the declaration requirement to imports of composite wood products and pulp and paper.

To achieve this, AF&PA supports efforts by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to develop a *de minimis* exemption for species identification for composite wood, pulp and paper since U.S. mills might not be able to fully certify the mix of fiber species in their import declaration.

## Policy Recommendations:

- AF&PA opposes legislative changes to the Lacey Act that would undermine the intent and effectiveness of the 2008 amendments by:
  - Limiting the application of the import declaration requirement to “solid wood,” excluding pulp, paper and composite wood imports from the key requirement of the Lacey Act; and
  - Eliminating the Lacey Act's application to imports of forest products that were harvested, processed or traded in violation of foreign laws.

AF&PA continues to play a constructive role in the process, exploring with member companies and coalition partners potential areas for discussion with policymakers.

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*The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, tissue and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. AF&PA member companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative — Better Practices, Better Planet 2020. The forest products industry accounts for approximately four percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures nearly \$300 billion in products annually and employs approximately 950,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$55 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states. Visit AF&PA online at [afandpa.org](http://afandpa.org) or follow us on Twitter [@ForestandPaper](https://twitter.com/ForestandPaper).*

