



National
Wood Flooring
Association



LEGAL

TRANSITIONAL

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The Legal label – what does it mean?

Wood flooring that carries the Legal label either...

...comes from a country considered to be at *low risk* for illegal logging by environmental groups and other stakeholders

or

...it comes from a country where illegal logging is a problem, but the forest of origin has been **audited by a credible and independent third party** to ensure that the forest operation meets all applicable laws.

Illegal logging occurs all over the world and is typically defined as extraction of trees in contravention of any state, foreign, or tribal law. Examples include timber theft, logging in a national park or protected area, or cutting trees without proper authorization from relevant agencies. At least 10% of annual wood imports to the U.S. are estimated to be of illegal origin. Illegal logging rates vary dramatically by exporting country; as much as 80% of some countries' wood products are estimated to be illegally harvested.

No label or system can *guarantee* that a wood product is not from illegal logging, but the Legal label and its requirements greatly reduce the likelihood that companies and consumers will inadvertently purchase illegal wood.

Transitional – to what?



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Wood flooring that bears the Legal label is made by a company that participates in the Responsible Procurement Program (RPP). The RPP commits participating companies to sourcing an ever-increasing percentage of their wood from forests that are certified according to the rigorous environmental and social standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). *The RPP is designed such that products qualifying for the Legal label will gradually give way to products bearing the FSC label.*

More about the Responsible Procurement Program and FSC

The Legal label was developed by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) as part of its Responsible Procurement Program (RPP). The RPP represents an unprecedented partnership between a major forest products industry trade association and the environmental community.

At the heart of the RPP is an alliance between NWFA and FSC US. FSC US enjoys the participation and support of major environmental groups like World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenpeace and the Sierra Club.

“FSC-US recognizes and supports the Responsible Procurement Program as a valid incremental approach toward socially and environmentally responsible forestry.” – **Corey Brinkema, President, FSC US**



FSC

FSC-US-0157

The mark of responsible forestry

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FSC is a not-for-profit organization that sets standards for environmentally and socially responsible forest management worldwide. These standards in turn guide the “green” certification of forests and forest products through a system of independent auditing.