



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2025/SOM3/EGILAT/DIA/007**

Agenda Item: 2

## **Verification on Timber Legality in the Republic of Korea - Promoting Transparent and Sustainable Trade**

Submitted by: Korea



**Dialogues and Mini-Exhibition on Enhancing  
Enforcement and Legal Timber Trade through  
Stakeholder Collaboration and Innovation  
Incheon, Korea  
28 July 2025**

# Verification on Timber Legality in the Republic of Korea

Promoting Transparent and Sustainable Trade



**HWANG JONGMIN**

Senior Staff, Wood Industry Division  
Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI)

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## International Illegal Wood Damage

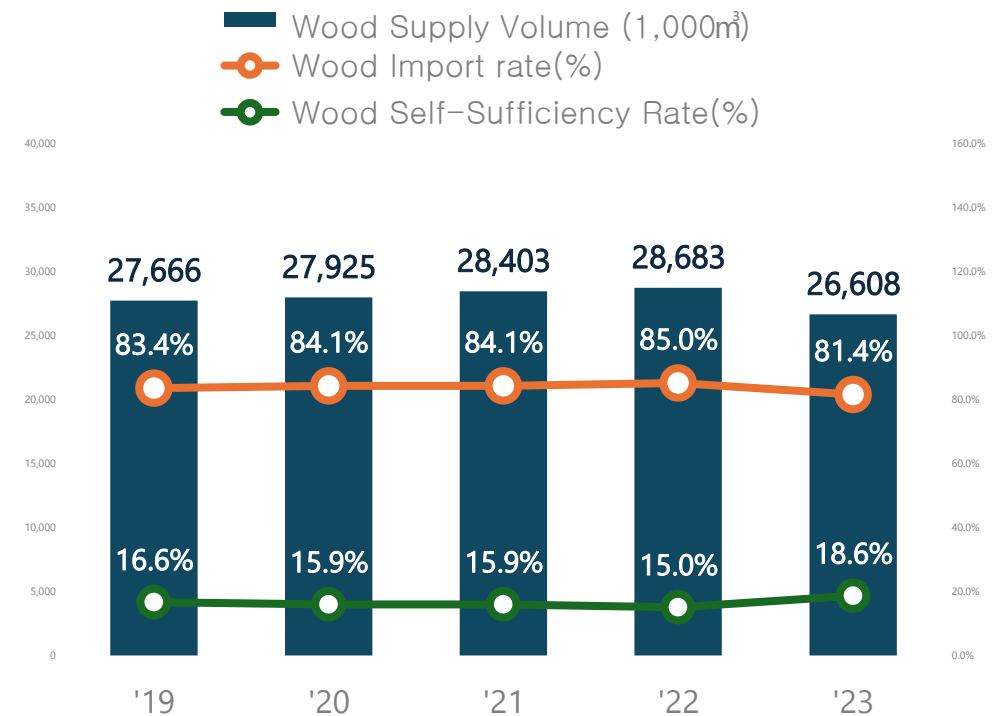
-  Such international crimes are estimated to account for **15-30 percent of all timber traded globally**.
-  The trade of illegally logged timber is estimated to be valued at **USD 51-152 billion annually**, representing a major loss in tax revenues.



※ SOURCE: INTERPOL

## Wood Imports in the Republic of Korea

-  **Over 80%** of the Republic of Korea's wood supply relies on **imports**.



※ SOURCE: KOSIS



## Institutional Economies

	United States	European Union	Australia	Indonesia	Japan	Republic of Korea	New Zealand
Enforcement year	2008	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018	2023
Legal Basis	Lacey Act	<u>EU Timber Regulation,</u> UK TR  EUDR (25.12.30~)	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act	NOMOP (No.78)	Clean Wood Act	Verification on Legality	Legal Harvest Assurance
Due Diligence System	○ (Importer)	○ (Importer)	○ (Importer)	○ (Importer)	△ (Registered Forestry Business)	- (Research in process)	○ (Importer)

## II. Verification on Timber Legality

### Republic of Korea's Act against Illegal Timber Trade

-  The “Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers” entered into force on October 1, 2018.

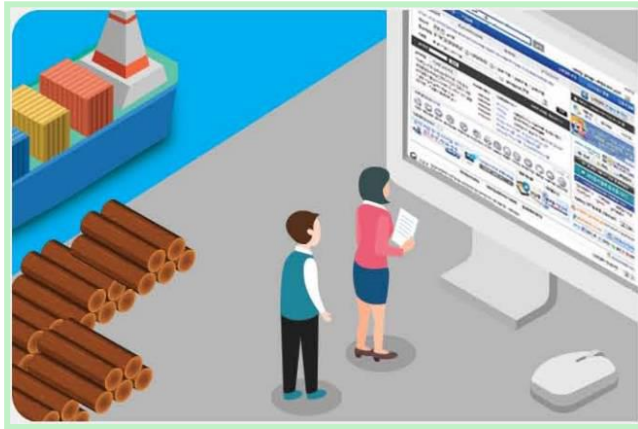
It seeks to promote legal timber trade by restricting the import and distribution of illegally harvested timber products in the Republic of Korea.

-  In accordance with the Act, **importers of timber and timber products shall file an import declaration thereof with the Minister of Korea Forest Service (KFS).**

The Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI) is the only designated professional agency for the Verification on Timber Legality.

# II. Verification on Timber Legality

## Import Declaration Process



An importer files an import declaration with the Minister of KFS through UNI-PASS (an electronic customs clearance system of the Korea Customs Service).



The submitted document is inspected by the inspection agency designated by the Minister. When the result of the document inspection is appropriate, the Minister issues a certificate of import declaration.

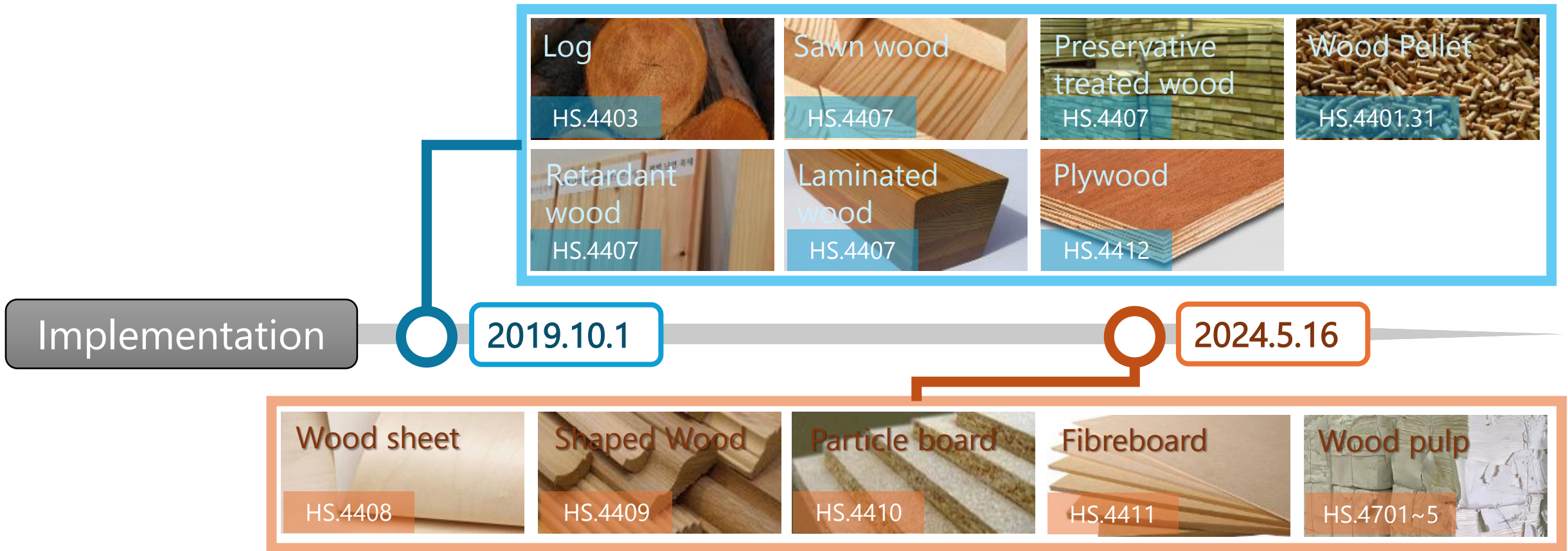


If the import declaration is accepted conditionally, the importer must submit supplementary documents within 30 days of completion of customs clearance to the inspection agency.

# II. Verification on Timber Legality



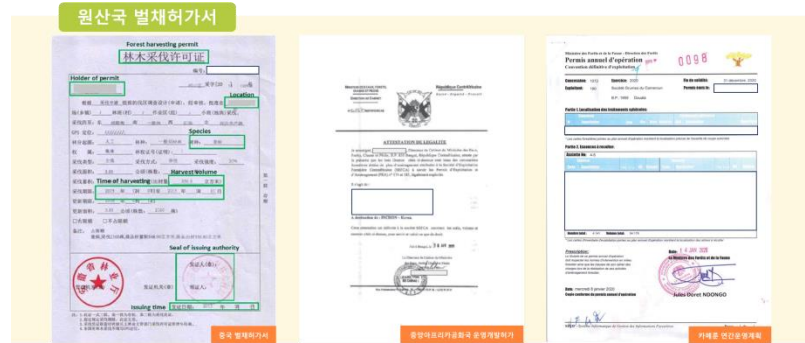
## Items for Import Declaration



# II. Verification on Timber Legality

## Standard for Legitimacy of Imported Timber

A **harvesting permit** issued in accordance with the laws and regulations of the origin



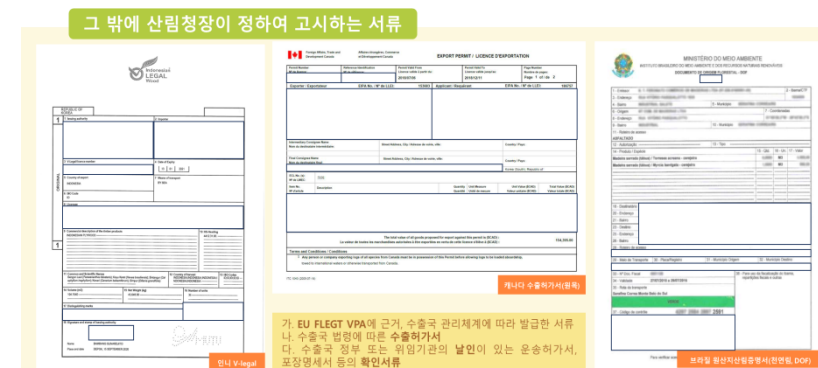
Documentation that is **internationally recognized** for certifying legally harvested timber



**Mutual recognition agreements** between the Republic of Korea and the origin



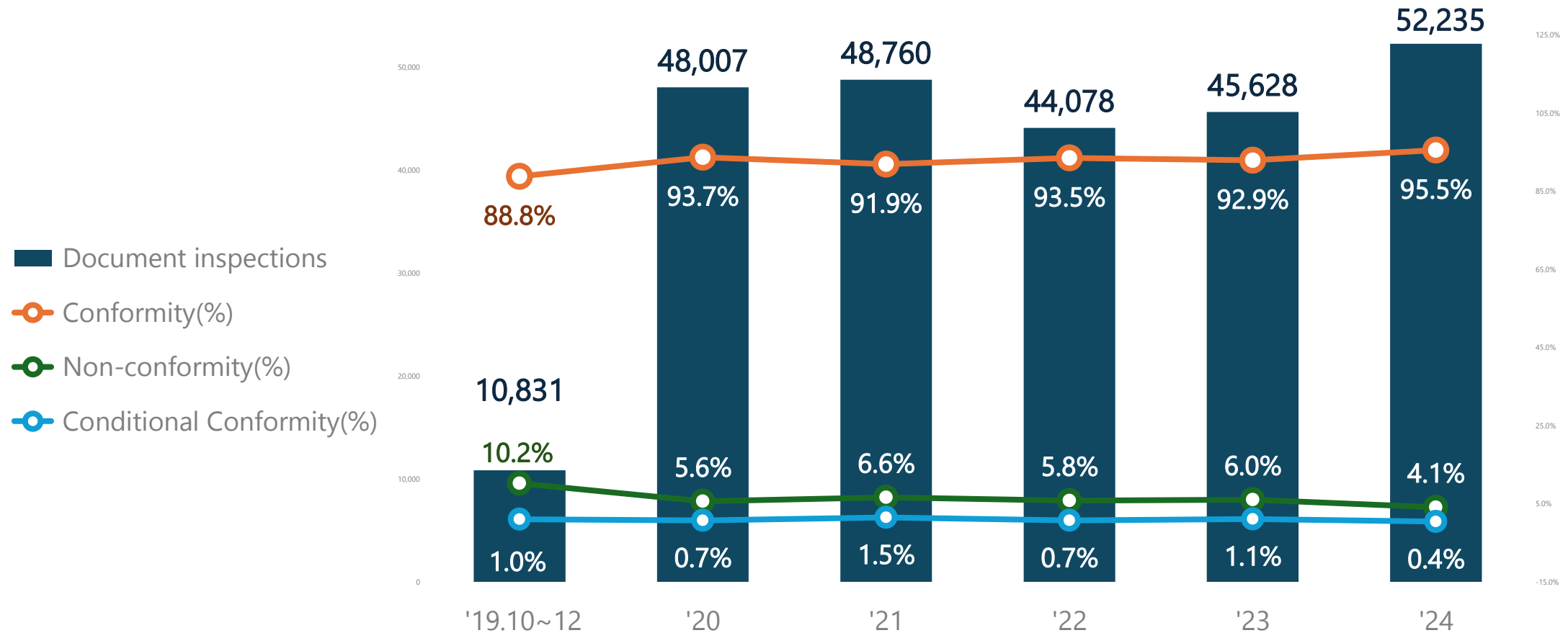
**Any other evidence** sufficiently proving that the timber was **legally harvested**



# II. Verification on Timber Legality



## Document Inspections & Legal Conformity Ratio





# III. Customer Service



## Information Service

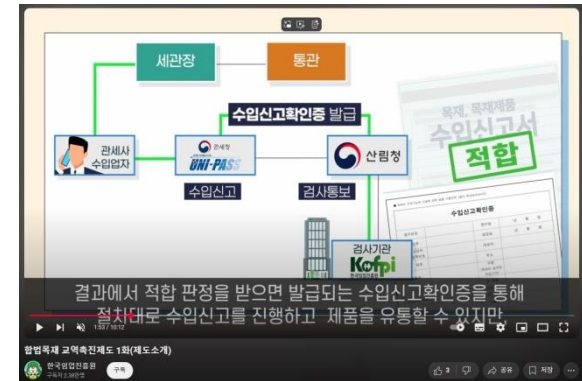
### Information Session



### Promotional Booth



### Educational Video



### Campaign Ad







### Youth Supporters



### Digital Content



## Wood Identification

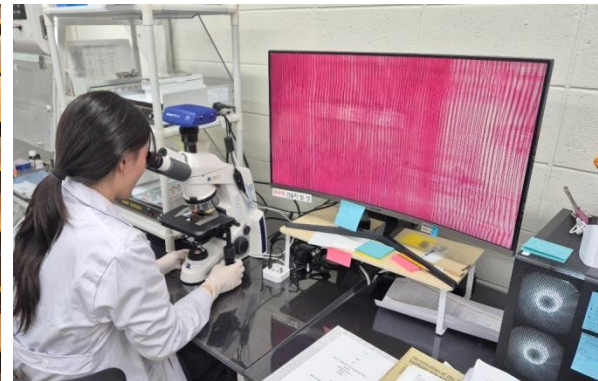
-  Establishment of Xylarium for the identification of imported wood species.
  - KOFPI has exchanged Wood specimens with other economies (Germany, Philippines, Malaysia, etc.)
-  Benchmarking of advanced economies' wood identification systems, technology development, and case studies
-  Collection of Microscopic images and creation of a database for Near-Infrared (NIR) spectroscopy application
-  Advanced technologies such as AI-based apps and NIR to be applied for timber species identification



Xylarium in KOFPI



Benchmarking of other economies



Wood Identification by Microscope



Wood Identification by Portable NIR

# IV. Wood Identification & Organization

## Business Organization





THANK YOU!