This APEC common understanding document is non-binding and provides a general understanding of the APEC economies of the scope of illegal logging and associated trade. It recognizes that in practice some economies’ laws or regulations regarding illegal logging may differ.

The mandate of the APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) is to enhance the efforts of APEC economies to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legal wood products. Discussions in EGILAT meetings to date have focused on sharing information regarding what constitutes illegal logging and associated trade under each economy´s legal framework. This document is intended to provide further clarity on the primary categories of laws or regulations that APEC economies consider relevant to identify illegal logging and associated trade. Through this document, EGILAT seeks to provide greater transparency and clarity to members of the private sector and civil society that are engaged in efforts to promote legal wood production and trade.

APEC economies have developed this document to identify the types of activities that would constitute illegal logging and associated trade:

1. Illegal logging and associated trade is understood to refer to the harvesting, processing, transporting or trading of timber or wood products in contravention of the relevant domestic laws or regulations of the economy of harvest, where applicable.

2. For purposes of paragraph 1, relevant domestic laws or regulations are those related to the protection, conservation, or management of forests and timber, for example, those that:

1. Prohibit or regulate the harvesting of timber in specified areas;
2. Regulate the harvesting of timber, including the granting of permits, licenses, or other authorizations to harvest;
3. Require payments in connection with the harvesting of timber; or
4. Prohibit or regulate the transportation, exportation or transshipment of timber or wood products.

3. Any economy may have additional categories of laws or regulations that identify which activities constitute illegal logging and associated trade under its domestic legal system.

To further enhance transparency, APEC economies will provide information on their respective domestic laws or regulations in line with the APEC EGILAT Timber Legality Guidance Template. This information will be made publicly available on the EGILAT webpage on the APEC website.