



End of transition will mean major change for trading timber

The Government has announced a series of changes to how timber will be traded between Great Britain and Northern Ireland following the end of transition on 31 December 2020.

From 1 January 2021:

- Due diligence checks will take place on timber flowing from Great Britain to Northern Ireland;
- Due diligence checks will take place on timber flowing from the European Union (EU) to GB and GB to EU;
- No new due diligence checks will take place on timber flowing from NI to GB;
- No new due diligence checks will take place on timber flowing from the EU to NI.

There are to be no changes to the current process for businesses importing from outside of the EU and UK producers first placing timber on the internal market will still need to carry out due diligence as before.

Timber traders will be required to tell the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS):

- who they bought the timber from;
- who they sold it to (regardless of species, product or country of origin), through evidence such as an invoice; and,
- both traders and operators (importers) will be required to keep records for five years.

Operators will be required to exercise due diligence to ensure that timber and timber products have not been illegally harvested.

More information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/news/businesses-trading-timber-urged-to-prepare-for-change