

► Project *brief*

Thünen Institute of International Forestry and Forest Economics

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Implementation of the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) by German importers

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- Empirical market operator survey
- Low level of knowledge and implementation among operators but high coverage of import quantities
- Unequal information availability is detrimental to small importers outside the timber-related sector
- Large enterprises comply more often with the EUTR than smaller ones

Background EUTR

The European Timber Regulation (EUTR) prohibits the import of timber and timber products from illegal sources from third parties to the EU since 2013. European market operators are obliged to install a due diligence system, consisting of the three steps: documentation, risk assessment and risk mitigation.

Central Questions

To what extent are prerequisites for a behaviour change of operators fulfilled in Germany? Are the operators aware of being operators subject to the EUTR? Do they know the EUTR? Have they installed a due diligence system? Are there any inequalities among operators with regard to implementation?

Operator Survey

Written operator survey 2018: Random sample (N = 5,100) from 17,130 operators in the 1st half 2017. The return (N = 540) covers operators from all enterprise sizes and various branches.

Findings

Awareness: A total of 36 % of 540 respondents were not aware of having imported timber or timber products, and therefore did not feel addressed as operators subject to the EUTR (see Fig. 1).

Knowledge: Another 22 % of operators did not know the EUTR. Thus, 42 % of respondents met the prerequisites of awareness and knowledge. These operators together cover about 91 % of the total import value of all imported EUTR-products. Large enterprises, operators from the timber-related sector, importers from risk countries and of semi-finished products were significantly more likely to know the EUTR than others.

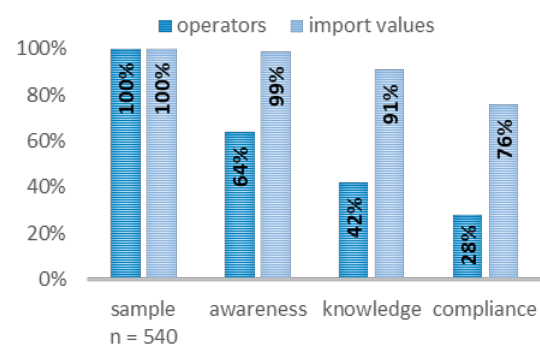
Compliance: 28 % of operators had installed a due diligence system. Together they cover about 76 % of the total import value of all EUTR-products. Large enterprises and importers from risk countries had a due diligence system significantly more frequently.

Conclusions

Only one-third of operators complies with the EUTR, mainly driven by a lack of information. However, legally compliant operators cover the majority of the imported timber to Germany.

To increase the level of implementation, access to information for small enterprises outside the timber-related sector would have to be guaranteed.

Figure 1: Implementation status of importing operators in Germany - Coverage of prerequisites for behaviour change



Source: Own illustration.

Further Information

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