

Frequently asked questions about CertiSource

A guide for sawmills and manufacturers

Paul Wilson
Programme Development Manager

Office +62 (0)881 463 8608
Mobile +62 (0)812 368 66484
paul@certisource.co.uk

Table of Contents

What is CertiSource?	3
What sort of market access does CertiSource provide?	3
Where is CertiSource timber accepted?	4
Why do buyers trust CertiSource?	4
What's the difference between CertiSource and other legality verification schemes?	5
How is CertiSource different from the Indonesian Timber Legality Assurance System (SVLK)?	5
How does CertiSource work?	5
If I am already certified, what benefit does CertiSource bring?	6
How much does it cost?	6
How long does it take?	6
What documentation is provided to show that timber is CertiSource Verified Legal?	7
What sort of labelling is allowed?	7
Who are DoubleHelix?	8
How does DNA verification of the Chain-of-Custody work?	8

What is CertiSource?

CertiSource is a legality verification system for Indonesian timber products.

CertiSource has been in operation in Indonesia since 2007. As of August 2011, over 40,000 m³ of timber products have been verified under the system. Six concessions covering an area of 1.2 million hectares are Verified Legal under the system and nine sawmills produce CertiSource Verified Legal products that are exported to ten countries world-wide.

CertiSource only works with ISO accredited Certification Bodies. The Certification Bodies assess the legality of forest sources and the supply chain against the CertiSource standard for Verified Legal Timber.

The standard and policies are publically available at **www.certisource.co.uk/the-standard**.

What sort of market access does CertiSource provide?

CertiSource Verified Legal Timber provides access to key consumer markets.

Evidence of timber product legality is a requirement in many countries. Since 2008, the United States Lacey Act bans the trade of illegally harvested timber products. Similar legislation will come into force in the European Union from March 2013.

Most consumer country governments also have public procurement policies that restrict the timber products they can buy to certified or verified legal timber. A number of timber trade associations have introduced procurement policies that advise members to procure only certified or verified legal timber products.

Where is CertiSource timber accepted?

CertiSource has been assessed by a number of international governments, trade associations and NGOs. This has led to official recognition and market acceptance in a number of important countries.

Market	Assessment/Recognition	For further information
UK	Central Point of Expertise for Timber Procurement (CPET), ProForest	www.cpet.org.uk/files/legality%20verification%20systems.pdf
The Netherlands	Keurhout	www.keurhout.nl/en/content/certisource-indonesia-admitted-keurhout-legal
European Union	EUTR Final Report ¹	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/EUTR-Final_Report.pdf
Australia	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	www.daff.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1872574/URS_-_A_framework_for_differentiating_legality_verification_and_chain_of_custody_schemes.pdf
New Zealand	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)	www.certisource.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/brochure-what-are-you-buying-into-3.pdf
	New Zealand Imported Tropical Timber Group (NZITTG)	http://nzittg.org.nz/criteria.html

CertiSource Verified Legal Timber products are regularly exported to Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Belgium and the United States.

Why do buyers trust CertiSource?

Besides its credibility and recognition in many of the major timber markets, CertiSource only operates by the highest international standards.

CertiSource policy is to only allow Certification Bodies that are accredited to ISO/IEC Guide 65 to audit against the CertiSource standard. This means that Certification Bodies must follow strict policies and procedures to conduct thorough audits and ensure impartial, fair and transparent decision-making.

¹ European Union Timber Regulation

What's the difference between CertiSource and other legality verification schemes?

CertiSource is the only system that verifies the legality of every batch of timber. The batch-based system gives sawmills unrivalled flexibility at low cost whilst maintaining high levels of security and assurance for buyers.

- Pricing is offered per cubic metre of product exported.
- You only pay for timber you need verified at any given time.
- It is affordable at low volumes of exports.
- Each pallet of timber product is traceable back to specific batches of logs harvested from CertiSource Verified Legal forest sources.

How is CertiSource different from the Indonesian Timber Legality Assurance System (SVLK)?

CertiSource incorporates the legality criteria of the SVLK in order to ensure full legal compliance of CertiSource Verified Legal Timber.

Over the next few years, it will be mandatory for all Indonesian sawmills to achieve SVLK certification, but as SVLK is still in its infancy, it is not yet recognised or approved in most consumer markets.

This means that, even with SVLK certification, many buyers will demand the additional assurance and confidence that CertiSource brings.

How does CertiSource work?

A CertiSource Certification Body will assess the source of timber (the forest concession) against the CertiSource standard. If the forest concession meets the requirements of the CertiSource standard, the timber harvested from this concession can be considered Verified Legal.

A Chain-of-Custody system is implemented in all manufacturers/sawmills in the supply chain to ensure that CertiSource timber is not mixed with unverified, possibly illegal timber at any stage.

Once set up, the Certification Body conducts regular audits of the supply chain to verify that the concession continues to meet the requirements of the Standard, and the Chain-of-Custody is working correctly.

If I am already certified, what benefit does CertiSource bring?

CertiSource is widely recognised and will give you increased market access to buyers who prefer CertiSource over other certification schemes.

By offering CertiSource Verified Legal products alongside other certification you can:

- Offer buyers alternative, cheaper and equally recognised legal timber products.
- Sell verified legal timber products to both members and non-members of other certification schemes.

How much does it cost?

CertiSource pricing is simple and transparent.

There are no membership fees or hidden costs. Set up fees consist of the cost of concession assessment and Chain-of-Custody set up.

After set up, verification fees are applied based on product output. This gives you the flexibility to choose the volumes of timber to be certified according to demand. Further audit charges are only incurred if additional audits are necessary to correct problems in the Chain-of-Custody.

Item	Estimated cost*	Unit
Concession assessment	USD 4,000	per concession
Manufacturer/sawmill Chain-of-Custody setup	USD 500	per site
Ongoing verification	USD 25	per m ³ of product

*Estimated costs include all expenses and are based on assessing a concession in Papua and manufacturers/sawmills located in east or central Java.

If the forest concession is already certified by another comparable scheme, the costs for concession assessment can be waived. A manufacturer/sawmill can be set up to supply CertiSource timber for just USD 500.

How long does it take?

Once an agreement is signed, a concession assessment and Chain-of-Custody set up can normally take place within four weeks. A mill can start processing CertiSource Verified Legal Timber within about six weeks.

What documentation is provided to show that timber is CertiSource Verified Legal?

Assessment reports

Once a forest concession has been assessed, you will receive a Concession Due Diligence assessment report that details the findings of the field assessment and highlights any issues to be resolved before the concession can be considered Verified Legal.

Once a mill has implemented Chain-of-Custody procedures and this has been verified by the Certification Body, the mill is issued a Chain-of-Custody certificate.

Individual shipment and batch certificates

Each container of timber is issued a CertiSource shipment certificate that describes the contents of the container and certifies that the product within the container has been processed following agreed Chain-of-Custody procedures.

Following the shipment of all containers in a batch a CertiSource certificate of legality is issued along with a comprehensive audit report.

The list of approved concessions, mills and Verified Legal shipments are publically available at www.certisource.co.uk.

What sort of labelling is allowed?

CertiSource conducted an extensive stakeholder consultation process to formulate its labeling policy. An important consideration was the support and approval of major environmental NGOs and buyers.

As a result CertiSource permits off-product labeling and the controlled use of CertiSource trademarks through a licensing agreement. This includes brochures, leaflets, advertising, promotions, websites, company stationery, prospectuses and reports for the promotion of products. There are clear guidelines on the use of CertiSource trademarks and claims which can be found at www.certisource.co.uk/the-standard.

In respect of the prevailing opinion from stakeholders (including those from the NGO community), CertiSource does not permit the use of its logo on products unless removed before point of sale. As CertiSource has been admitted to the Dutch Keurhout Legal System, Keurhout participant companies are able to brand CertiSource Verified Legal product with the Keurhout-Legal label.

Who are DoubleHelix?

Double Helix Tracking Technologies is a Certification Body accredited to ISO/IEC Guide 65 by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand. As an accredited Certification Body, DoubleHelix is qualified to audit against the CertiSource standard.

DoubleHelix's accreditation number is Z4460410SS.

DoubleHelix's accreditation can be verified at www.jas-anz.org/register.

DoubleHelix is also the leader in applied genetics for forest conservation and sustainable timber trade – bridging the gap between cutting edge genetic research and its practical application to forest management and timber supply chain issues.

DoubleHelix applies unique DNA fingerprinting technology to validate Chain-of-Custody documentation used in the CertiSource system. Scientific validation minimises the need for physical audit checks and reduces the overall cost of certification. DNA fingerprinting is offered as an option to CertiSource buyers and at no additional charge.

More information on DoubleHelix can be found at www.doublehelixtracking.com or by calling **+65 6227 9706**.

How does DNA verification of the Chain-of-Custody work?

Wood samples are taken from Verified Legal logs at the point of harvest and again at other control points in the supply chain. The wood samples are physically matched by referring to Chain-of-Custody documentation.

A number of paired samples are randomly selected for DNA fingerprinting. This method is equivalent to a human DNA paternity test. If the genetic profile of the paired samples matches, the Chain-of-Custody documentation is validated. If the genetic profiles do not match, a breakdown in the Chain-of-Custody has occurred and auditors will make a targeted investigation.

This system acts as an additional tool to detect document fraud, deterring illegal practices, increasing the credibility of the supply chain and lowering the overall cost of timber certification.