



Czech University of Life Sciences Prague  
**Faculty of Forestry  
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# The possibilities of using C-o-C certifications in the Czech Republic

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Mlini, October 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2015



# Introduction

- How to prevent the merchandise of illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber?
- Here we should point out that an internationally recognized definition of illegal timber harvesting does not exist.
- It is generally estimated that up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the tropical timber and up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the timber for industrial purposes have to do with at least one illegal activity.



# Introduction

- The whole issue resolving the placement of timber and timber products on the market stems from the European Union concept, which is projected in the following three principal regulations:
  - **Regulation (EU) No 995/2010** of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market – hereinafter „Timber Regulation“.
  - **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 363/2012** on the procedural rules for the recognition and withdrawal of recognition of monitoring organizations.
  - **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 607/2012** on the detailed rules concerning the due diligence system and the frequency and nature of the checks on monitoring organizations.



# Material and methods

- The aim of the work is to survey the situation regarding the risk of placing illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber on the Czech market.
- The work brings an analysis of obligations following out for the forest owners and import companies from the above-mentioned European EUTR legislation in connection with the implementation and maintenance of due diligence systems.
- Requirements of certification systems are analysed, in relation to the certified organizations and to the EUTR generally.
- The comparison of the surveyed requirements clarifies the role of forest certification systems in the EUTR.



# Material and methods

- One of basic questions remains to be asked however, "what" is considered the timber and timber products to which the Timber Regulation applies.
- Pursuant to the Timber Regulation, the concerned forest owner is for the purpose of this paper a person, who is a so-called "**operator**", i.e. any natural or legal person placing timber or timber products on the internal EU market for the first time for distribution or use in the course of a commercial activity, whether in return for payment or free of charge.

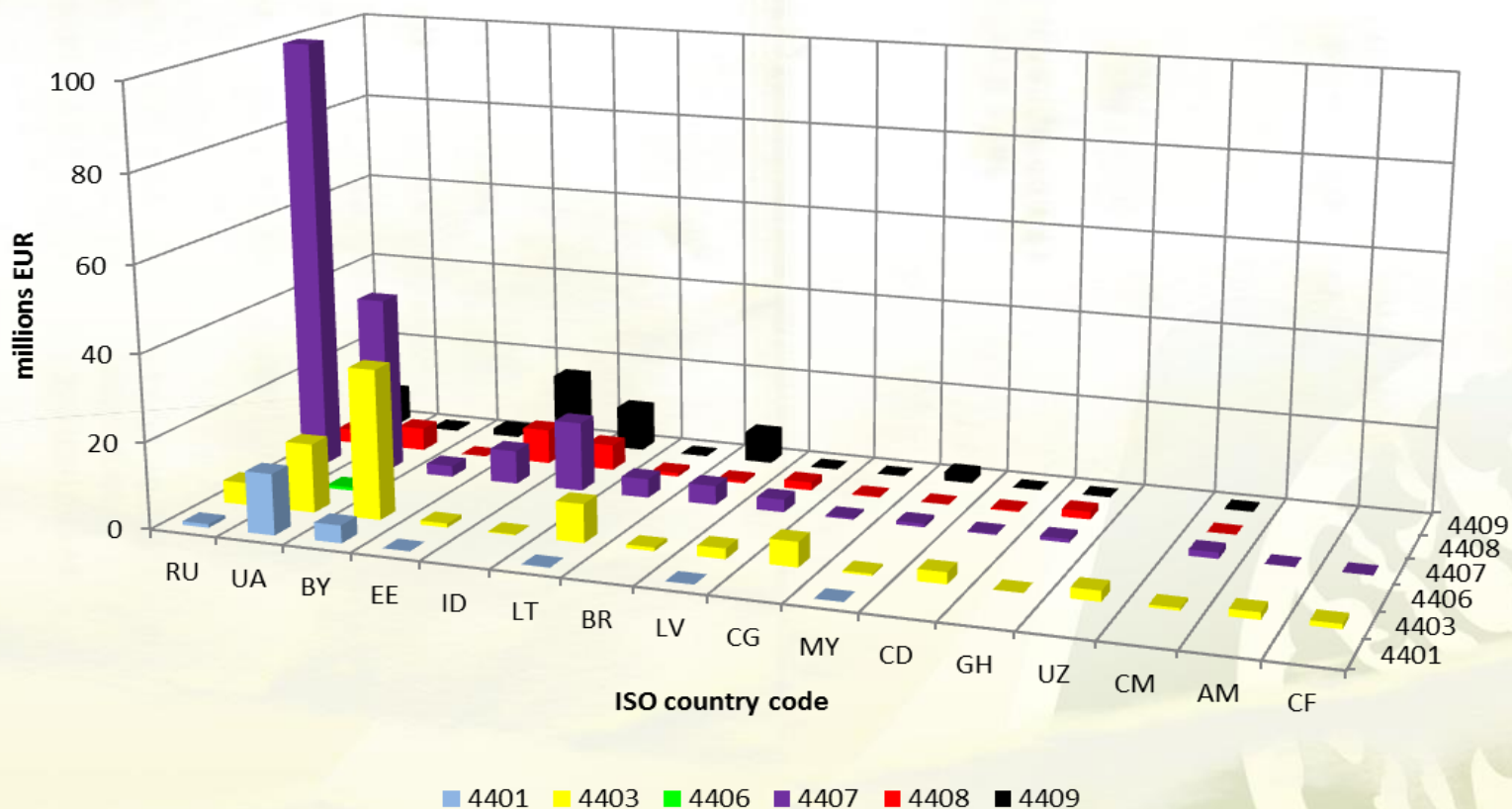


# Results

- As to wood raw material harvested in the Czech Republic, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate recorded 79 cases of illegal timber harvest in 2008 at a total volume of ca. 35,550 m<sup>3</sup> (MoA 2009).
- This was on average 450 m<sup>3</sup> of illegal timber per case.
- Regarding the fact that a total timber volume harvested in the Czech Republic in 2008 amounted to 16.187 million m<sup>3</sup>, **the share of illegal harvest was only 0.2%.**
- Taking into account other data on illegal harvesting, we can state that in terms of harvested matter, the share of illegal timber harvest in Czech forests does not exceed 1%.



## Structure of imports to the Czech Republic from selected countries in the period 2005-2013 in millions EUR – market prices



**4401** Fuel wood, in logs, in billets... **4403** Wood in the rough... **4406** Railway or tramway sleepers... **4407** Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled... **4408** Sheets for veneering... **4409** Wood continuously shaped...



# Results

If any natural or legal person identifies himself as an operator, there are three basic obligations arising for him:

- 1. The placing on the market of illegally harvested timber or timber products derived from such timber shall be prohibited.**
- 2. Operators shall exercise due diligence** when placing timber or timber products on the market. For this purpose, **they shall use a framework of procedures and measures** hereinafter referred to as DDS as set out in **Article 6 of the Timber Regulation.**
- 3. Each operator shall maintain and regularly evaluate the due diligence system,** which he uses, except where the operator makes use of a due diligence system established by a monitoring organization.





# Results

The three key elements of the due diligence system (DDS) are:

1. Information: The operator must have access to information describing the timber and timber products.
2. Risk assessment.
3. Risk mitigation.



# Results

Regulation (EU) No 607/2012 sets basic terms of use of certification in risk assessment and mitigation:

- a) they have established and made available for third-party use a **publicly available system of requirements**, which system shall at the least **include all relevant requirements of the applicable legislation**;
- b) they specify that appropriate **checks**, including field-visits, are made by a third party at regular **intervals no longer than 12 months** to verify that the applicable legislation is complied with;
- c) they **include means, verified by a third party, to trace timber harvested** in accordance with applicable legislation, and timber products derived from such timber, at any point in the supply chain before such timber or timber products are placed on the market;
- d) they include **controls**, verified by a third party, **to ensure that timber or timber products of unknown origin**, or timber or timber products which have not been harvested in accordance with applicable legislation, **do not enter the supply chain**.



# Results

Forest certification :

- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and
- Chain-of-Custody of Forest Based Product (C-o-C).

Forest certification systems applied in the Czech Republic:

- FSC – Forest Stewardship Council
- PEFC – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

Certification of the supply chain can be used as a proof that no non-controlled timber (or illegally harvested timber) enters the supply chain.



# Results

## Situation in the Czech Republic - SFM

- The PEFC SFM certification does not meet the criterion b), as every subject in the group certification usually fails to be checked upon annually.
- The FSC SFM certification is usually audited annually by a third party (certifying body).



# Results

## Situation in the Czech Republic – C-o-C

- In 2013, the PEFC International revised its international standard for C-o-C. A revised C-o-C document PEFC ST 2002:2013 resulted (CR: TD CFCS 2002:2013). This technical document contains – apart of standard demands for C-o-C – also minimum requirements for the due diligence system. Actually, if operators apply C-o-C system together with the C-o-C document, they will also, in principle, meet the due diligence system requirements.
- The FSC C-o-C system doesn't contain explicit requirements for due diligence system.



# Conclusion

- SFM certification cannot substitute the due diligence system in case of operators who place timber and timber products on the EU market. The certification can, though, simplify the implementation and maintenance of the due diligence system. The SFM certification is based on an evidential monitoring and evaluation of keeping the forest management requirements.
- In the C-o-C certification is currently more usable for operators PEFC system, which includes explicit requirements for due diligence system. In the Czech Republic we prepared methodologies certified by the Ministry of Agriculture for to set PEFC C-o-C in accordance with the requirements of EUTR legislation in the CR.



**Thank you for your attention.**



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