

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** October 22, 2024

**Report Number:** VM2024-0036

**Report Name:** Vietnam Issues Decree Revising and Amending Regulation of Timber Legality Assurance System

**Country:** Vietnam

**Post:** Hanoi

**Report Category:** Wood Products, Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides an unofficial translation of Vietnam's Government Decree 120/2024, issued on September 30, 2024. This decree revises and amends certain articles in Decree 102/2020, which regulates the Vietnam Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS). Decree 120/2024 establishes regulations for importing and exporting timber based on a risk-based approach and will take effect on November 15, 2024.

On September 30, 2024, the Government of Vietnam issued Decree 120/2024, which revises and amends certain articles of Decree 102/2020, dated September 1, 2020, regulating the Vietnam Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS). For more information on the VNTLAS, please refer to GAIN report: [VM2020-0097](#).

This report highlights the changes in Vietnam's definition of legal timber and discusses Chapter 2 of the Decree regarding the management of imported and exported timber. An unofficial translation of Decree 120/2024 is attached to this report.

### **Vietnam's Definition of Legal Timber**

Confiscated timber is no longer considered legal timber. Legal timber refers to timber and timber products that are harvested, imported, transported, purchased, sold, processed, and exported in accordance with Vietnamese laws, relevant provisions of international treaties to which Vietnam is a party, and the applicable laws of the country or territory where the timber is harvested or transited before being exported to Vietnam.

### **Management of Imported Timber**

The management of imported timber relies on risk management measures designed to prevent, detect, and promptly address violations, ensuring that timber is imported legally while encouraging compliance with the law among organizations and individuals. Imported timber is categorized based on the classification of countries and territories into positive or non-positive geographic regions.

The Decree also outlines the criteria for identifying timber species that are considered high-risk for import.

The list of countries and territories classified as being in the positive geographic region will be updated and published annually, before December 31, in accordance with the international treaties to which Vietnam is a party. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will lead this effort, collaborating with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and other relevant ministries. This list will be available on MARD's website and at [www.kiemlam.org.vn](http://www.kiemlam.org.vn).

The list of timber species already imported into Vietnam, including their scientific names and commercial names in English and Vietnamese, is identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. This list is published annually, before December 31, on MARD's website and at [www.kiemlam.org.vn](http://www.kiemlam.org.vn).

## **Required Import Documentation**

In addition to the documents required by customs law, importers must submit an original list of imported timber for customs clearance. This list must be declared by the importer using Form 01 from Annex 1 of Decree 120/2024. This form replaces the three types of forms previously used in Decree 102/2020.

## **Enforcement of the Decree**

Decree 120/2024 will take effect on November 15, 2024.

## **Attachments:**

[Unofficial Translation Decree 120 Amending Vietnam Timber Legality Assurance System.doc](#)