

UK Guidelines for the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations – Ramin (*Gonystylus* species)



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Ramin – What is it and why is it controlled?

WHAT IS RAMIN?

Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is a light tropical hardwood tree species – There are 20 species of ramin all of which are native to the swamp forests of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia (Kalimantan and Sumatra), Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak), Singapore, Solomon Islands and The Philippines.

WHY IS IT CONTROLLED?

Endangered by trade - The Indonesian government was concerned about the over-exploitation of ramin. NGO interest in this timber is due to the logging of ramin from prime orang-utan habitats and Protected Reserves, and illegal logging issues in Asia.

WHICH COUNTRY LISTED RAMIN UNDER CITES?

Indonesia - On 18th May 2001, Notification No. 2001/026 informed the Parties that the Government of Indonesia requested all species of *Gonystylus* be included in Appendix III (**Annex C**) following the establishment of a **zero export quota** from 12 April 2001. On the 6th August 2001 the Annex C (Appendix III) listing came into effect.

UPDATE: Indonesia has now set a quota of 8,000 cubic metres for 2003.

WHO ARE THE MAJOR IMPORTERS OF RAMIN?

The European Union is a major importer of ramin, as is the USA. Within the EU, Italy imports the largest portion of ramin as it is popular for picture frame mouldings, of which Italy is the major producer and exporter within Europe. Other major importers include the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Spain. **Check with the CITES Team, Heathrow Airport to make sure there are no new or existing restrictions for exporting countries, such as bans on trade or issuance/validation of permits.**

Ramin – Products traded and relevant legislation

WHAT TYPE OF PRODUCTS ARE TRADED?

Imports have shifted from sawn timber to semi-processed timber products - The main ramin products traded are dowels, decorative mouldings and beads for household and hobbyist wood markets, slatted wooden blinds, picture frames, slatted wooden doors, window shutters, furniture components, flooring, curtain rods, umbrella poles, futons, snooker and pool cues, tool handles, technical drawing implements including set squares, and veneers.

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS TO THE ZERO EXPORT QUOTA?

YES - Indonesia has allowed two exemptions to this general export ban:
Stockpiles: The deadline for stockpiles to be exported without CITES documents was 5 August 2001 inclusive (i.e. until the entry into effect of the Appendix III listing), but this was extended to 31st December after which export permits were issued for specimens remaining in the stockpiles.
Exempt companies: Indonesia will issue export permits for timber and products if they have been proven to originate from one firm, PT. Diamond Raya Timber and its associated processing company PT. Uniseraya (i.e. they are exempted from the zero quota). **No other companies claiming affiliation with the Uniseraya Group are authorised to export ramin from Indonesia.**

ARE THERE ANY RESERVATIONS FOR RAMIN?

YES -The Malaysian government has entered a Reservation for ramin. This came into force on 1st August 2001. This means that recognisable parts and derivatives, such as mouldings, from Malaysia are covered under the Reservation and comparable documents are issued. Sawn logs and timber require an export permit as they are not covered under the Reservation.

Ramin – Trade information

**ARE THERE
OTHER TRADE
NAMES FOR
GONYSTYLUS?**

YES - The following names may be used for *Gonystylus* species - ramin melawis, melawis (Malaysia), ramin telur (Sarawak), lanutan-bagyo, bagio (Philippines), ai nunura, ahmin garu buaja (Indonesia)


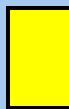
**ARE THERE
OTHER ASIAN
TIMBER
SPECIES IN
TRADE?**



YES - Other Asian timber species are popular in trade. Some traders may use trade names for these species to hide the fact that they are importing ramin. They include pulai (*Alstonia* spp.), kelempayan (*Athrocephalus* spp.), meranti or seraya (*Shorea* spp.), jelutong (*Dyera* spp.), merbau (*Intsia* spp.). None of these species are controlled under the EU Regulations.



**Map 1 -
Harvesting
areas and
trade routes
in Asia**



 Malaysia
 Indonesia

 Routes taken by ramin timber
 Ramin from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia enters trade routes to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, USA and Europe (Italy, UK, Spain, Germany)

Tariff Codes and Ports of Entry

**TARIFF
HEADING
FOR
WOOD &
ARTICLES
OF WOOD =
CHAPTER 44**

**THE
FOLLOWING
TARIFF
CODES ARE
USED FOR
RAMIN**

Rough Wood	44034100 to 44034995
Rough trimmed poles	44042000
Sawn wood >6mm in thickness	44072415 to 44072995/44079910 to 44079997
Veneers <6mm in thickness	44083111 to 44089095
Parquet flooring	44092011 to 44092098
Plywood	44121390 to 4412998090
Densified wood	44130000
Picture frames	44140010 to 44140090
French Windows	44181010 to 44181090
Doors	44182010 to 44182080
Mosaic floors	44183010 to 44183099
Table & kitchenware	44201011 to 44190090
Wood marquetry	44201011 to 44209099
Clothes hangers	44211000

**PORTS OF
ENTRY (2000-
2001)**

EPU Port Code	Location	EPU Port Code	Location
515	Belfast	290	Southampton
071	Felixstowe	660 (airport)	Birmingham
241	Immingham	120 (airport)	Gatwick/Heathrow
065	Medway	191 (airport)	Manchester
150	Tilbury	080	Hull
110	Liverpool	219	Teesport
048	Swansea	033	Bristol & Avonmouth

STEP 1 - Determine that ramin is being imported

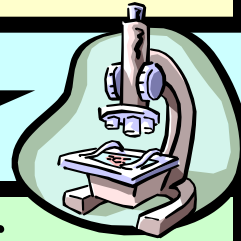
Confirm that the importation is of ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.)

Check the shipping documents and verify the scientific name on the permit. Timber trade or common names can vary widely from country to country and it is more reliable to use the scientific (Latin) name when verifying whether a timber product is controlled or not. The scientific name for all ramin species is *Gonystylus*.



Identifying the timber

Please remember that identifying tree species by eye can be difficult and is often unreliable. All wood samples are ideally identified in a laboratory using anatomical features to ensure that the species is as stated on the permits.



Caution

Traders may use other timber trade names to disguise the fact that ramin is being imported. These might be legitimate trade names used for other timber species. Please contact the CITES Team, Heathrow Airport or Lance Cruse (Felixstowe) for guidance.

STEP 2 - Confirm that the parts & derivatives being imported are controlled under the EU Regulations

Country of Origin	Parts & Derivatives controlled	Export with appropriate permit(s)
Indonesia (range country)	All worked and sawn timbers, logs, veneer sheets finished or semi-finished products, except seeds, micropropagated plants and cut flowers from artificially propagated plants	Yes, but only from P.T. UNISERAYA
Malaysia (range country)	Sawn logs and timber, All other recognisable parts and derivatives	Yes Covered by the Malaysian Reservation
Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea The Philippines (range countries)	All worked and sawn timbers, logs, veneer sheets finished or semi-finished products, except seeds, micropropagated plants and cut flowers from artificially propagated plants	Yes
Non-range countries e.g People's Republic of China	All worked and sawn timbers, logs, veneer sheets, finished or semi-finished products, except seeds, micropropagated plants and cut flowers from artificially propagated plants	Yes. Re-exports only should be seen for non-range countries

STEP 3 - What documents are required?

Country of Origin	Permits required at time of entry (these must be presented prior to or together with the Import Entry)
<p>Brunei Darussalam, Singapore. Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines (range countries)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Certificate of Origin issued and signed by the competent CITES Management Authority • EU Import Notification form
<p>Indonesia (range country)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Export permit issued and signed by a designated Indonesian Management Authority • EU Import Notification form
<p>Malaysia (range country) REMINDER: •Malaysia has entered a Reservation meaning the permit requirements from Malaysia differ for different products •Malaysia has banned import of timber from Indonesia into Malaysia</p>	<p>For sawn wood and timber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Export permit • EU Import Notification form <p>For all other recognisable parts and derivatives OTHER than sawn logs and timber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparable CITES document issued by a designated CITES Management Authority • EU Import Notification form
<p>Non-range countries that are party to CITES e.g. the People’s Republic of China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES (Re)-export permits • EU Import Notification form
<p>Non-range countries that are not party to CITES e.g. Taiwan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparable CITES documents issued by a designated Management Authority • EU Import Notification form

STEP 4 - Check the documents

**CHECK
THE
FOLLOWING**

Documents are originals and not photocopies or faxes.

- Importer/Exporter details on bill of lading and invoice match those on the CITES documents
- Is the description of goods consistent on ALL documents?
- Check any excess quantities in the shipment that are not invoiced
- Check that the quantities on the invoice are equal to or less than those shown on the CITES documents
- If the quantities shown exceed those on the CITES documents initiate seizure procedures (see Steps 7 & 8 -Seizures & Restoration).

- Documents are still valid (in date).

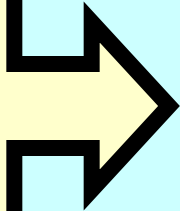
Documents have been authorised by a designated issuing authority (Contact CITES Team, Heathrow Airport for a list of CITES Management Authorities).

Documents are correct for the shipment i.e. it has not been re-exported from another country as permit requirements differ from country to country (see next slide for re-export information).

STEP 4 (cont.) – Re-exports of ramin

Example

Ramin dowel from Indonesia are re-exported from the People's Republic of China



Ramin dowels are exported from Indonesia with an Indonesian CITES Export Permit issued by the Indonesian Management Authority

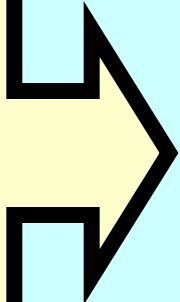
Imported into China (CITES Party)

Re-exported from China with a Chinese CITES Re-export Permit

Imported into the UK with a Chinese Re-export Permit and EU Import Notification

Example

Ramin dowels from Malaysia are re-exported from Taiwan as paintbrushes



Ramin dowels are exported from Malaysia with comparable CITES documents issued by the Malaysian Management Authority

Imported into Taiwan (non-CITES Party)

Re-exported from Taiwan with comparable CITES documentation issued by Taiwanese Management Authority

Imported into the UK with Taiwanese comparable CITES documents and EU Import Notification

REMEMBER

The Malaysian Reservation means only sawn logs and timber require a CITES Export Permit. All other recognisable parts & derivatives require comparable CITES documents. All non-CITES countries require comparable CITES documents. Re-export permits should show the original exporting country's CITES export permit number and date of issue.

STEP 5 - Entry Procedure

Types of Entry

CHIEF Entry Acceptance Advice (E2), Plain Paper Entry, Invoice CITES documents

CITES Export/Re-export - Input the required details at the bottom of the original CITES permit including full entry details with a signature and date stamp (import entry number?)

Endorsing the Documents

CITES Certificate of Origin - Date stamp, signature and full entry details on the Certificate. DO NOT return the original CITES documents to the importer. If required, give them an endorsed photocopy

EU Import Notification Form - Date, stamp, signature, and entry details to be inserted in Box 14

Document Distribution

- **CITES Export/Re-export Permits** - keep and return to DEFRA (Bristol), photocopied copies to importer if requested
- **CITES Certificate of Origin** - Keep and return to DEFRA
- **EU Import Notification Form** – White copy to DEFRA, yellow copy return to importer
- Note Import Entry with CITES document number and Import Notification number

Remember - Never return original CITES Export documents to the importer

STEP 6 - Inspect the shipment

Take the following into account when inspecting the shipment

Health and Safety - Check the HS Series on the Intranet for full guidance



Pests and Diseases – if an infestation is present call your local Forestry Commission officer/sub-contractor



What sort of examination is required? Partial turnout, X-ray, doorside, high-risk (call in relevant anti-smuggling team)



Taking wood samples – Wood samples can be analysed at the Jodrell Laboratory at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Please consult the CITES Team, Heathrow before taking any samples



STEP 7 - Seizure Procedures

What are the grounds for seizure?

The wood has been identified as ramin and the agent has confirmed there are no CITES documents (if the importer has presented the CITES export documents, but no EU Import Notification form, the goods are liable for seizure).

The wood has been identified as ramin and the CITES documents with the entry are not valid e.g. out of date permit, wood quantity exceeds permit.

Seizure Procedures

Seizure to be noted on Chief using code ADTE (talk to EPU Freight Team for assistance).

ACS 99 – Roll back UCN so that the agent can reuse by splitting and present new documentation (talk to freight Team for assistance).

Notice of Seizure (and explanatory Seizure letter, if necessary) + copy of Notice 12 to be sent to importer. Inform agent of seizure.

If necessary, talk to QW concerning the storage of seized goods.

DCIS to be updated and seizure file to be initiated.

STEP 8 - Restoration Procedures

Restoration Procedures

It is Customs policy not to restore seized items unless valid retrospective CITES documents have been presented

Any restoration charges must be calculated using the published departmental scales. Minimum charge is £50

When correct documentation is produced restoration may be allowed

Please contact the CITES Team's Senior Officer for advice on Departmental restoration policy

A full explanation of the procedure can be found in Notice 12 'Compounding, seizure and restoration'



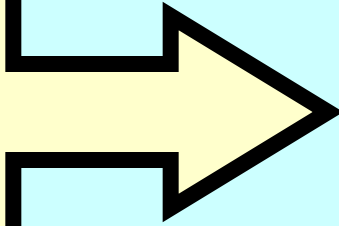
Conversion Tables

Because timber can come in different forms i.e. logs, veneer sheets and finished or semi-finished products, the following formulas will help with conversion problems.

CONVERT

Board feet (usually expressed as pie tablares (PT)) to cubic metres (m³)

There are 424 PT per cubic metre



EXAMPLE

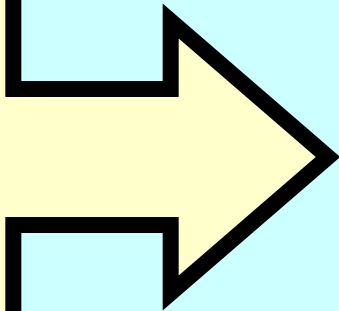
1,000 board feet of timber arrives at your port:

1,000 board feet of timber divided by 424 = 2.36 cubic metres of timber

CONVERT

Kilograms (kgms) of timber to cubic metres

There are 450-700 kgms of timber per cubic metre of timber. Use the guide figure of 600 kgms



EXAMPLE

1,000 kgms of timber arrives at your port:

1,000 kgms divided by 600 = 1.67 cubic metres

Continued on next page

Conversion Tables

CONVERT

Cubic feet of timber to cubic metres

Square feet x thickness in feet x 0.02832 = cubic metres (1 cubic foot = 0.02332 cubic metres)

EXAMPLE

10,000 sq. feet (approx. 1 inch thick arrives at your port:

10,000 sq.feet x 1/12 (12 inches in a foot) x 0.0283 = 23.6 cubic metres of timber

CONVERT

Square feet of veneer to cubic metres

Step 1

Convert square feet of veneer to square metres of veneer

Square feet of veneer = length of veneer in feet x width of veneer in feet. Therefore square feet of veneer x 0.0929 = square metres (1 square foot = 0.0929 square metres)

EXAMPLE

25,000 square feet of veneer arrives at your port:

25,000 feet of veneer x 0.0929 = 2322.5 square metres

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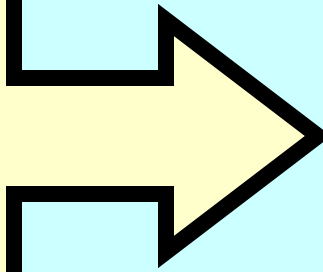
Conversion Tables

CONVERT

**Square metres of veneer to
cubic metres of veneer**

Step 2

Square metres of veneer x veneer
thickness = cubic metres



EXAMPLE

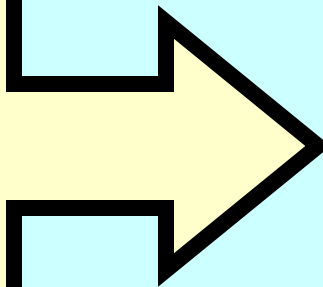
**25,000 square metres of veneer (0.6
millimetres thick) arrives at your port:**

25,000 square metres of veneer x 0.0006 metre =
15 cubic metres of veneer

CONVERT

**Cubic feet of veneer to
cubic metres**

Square feet x veneer thickness in
feet x 0.02832 = cubic metres
(1 cubic foot = 0.02832 cubic
metres)



EXAMPLE

**25,000 square feet of veneer (1/16 of an
inch thick) arrives at your port:**

25,000 sq. feet of veneer x (1/16 of an
inch thick x 1/12) x 0.02832 =
3.688 cubic metres

Ask the agent to convert the timber products into cubic metres (unit of measure on invoice is the same as on the CITES permit)

Appendices

- **Contact Details**
- **Copies of CITES Documents**

Contact details

HM Customs and Excise

CITES Team

Custom House

Tel: 020 8910 3830

Nettleton Road

Fax: 020 89103833

Heathrow Airport

Mobile out of hours: 07802 614670

TW6 2LA

Email: CITESTeam.LHR@hmce.gsi.gov.uk

UK CITES Scientific Authority for Plants

Madeleine Groves (CITES Implementation Officer)

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Tel: 020 8332 5723

Fax: 020 8332 5757

Email: m.groves@kew.org



Copies of CITES Documents

The following scanned documents cover the countries of export or re-export. Please consult the CITES Team, Heathrow Airport if you have any further questions