

# UK Guidelines for the implementation of the EU Regulations for big-leafed mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)



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# *Swietenia macrophylla* (big-leafed mahogany) – Trade Information

**WHAT IS  
SWIETENIA  
MACROPHYLLA?**

*Swietenia macrophylla* is a tropical hardwood tree species – there are three species in the genus *Swietenia* (*Swietenia humilis*, *S. mahagoni* and *S. macrophylla*) all from the Americas. *Swietenia macrophylla* is distributed throughout Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

*Swietenia humilis* and *S. mahagoni* are both listed on Annex B and are practically non-existent in trade due to over-exploitation.

**WHICH EU  
ANNEX IS  
SWIETENIA  
MACROPHYLLA  
LISTED  
UNDER?**

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2003** – From this date logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets and plywood from all neotropical populations (neotropics = New Tropics i.e. Central and South America and the Caribbean) will be controlled under EU Annex B (CITES Appendix II).

**Prior to this date** - populations from a number of range countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Costa Rica (all populations of the Americas) - were listed on Annex C (Appendix III).

# *Swietenia macrophylla* (big-leafed mahogany) – Trade Information

**ARE THERE ANY QUOTAS FOR *SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA*?**

Nicaragua has an export quota for 16,000 cubic metres of wood which came into force in 1997.

**WHO ARE THE MAJOR EXPORTERS OF *SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA*?**

The primary producer and exporter of *Swietenia macrophylla* has been South America, with Brazil traditionally being the leading exporter. However, other South American countries are also large producers and exporters, especially Peru and Bolivia. **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.**

**WHO ARE THE MAJOR IMPORTERS OF *SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA*?**

Outside of Latin America, the USA is the largest consumer of *Swietenia macrophylla*. Other major importers include the Dominican Republic, Canada and the European Union. Within the EU, France, the UK, Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands are the largest importers.

# *Swietenia macrophylla* (big-leafed mahogany) – Trade Information

**ARE THERE OTHER NAMES USED FOR SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA?**

**YES** – the following common or trade names may be used for *Swietenia macrophylla* – big-leafed mahogany, Brazilian or Honduran mahogany, genuine mahogany, caoba, mara (Spanish); águano; araputangá; cedroaraná; cedroi, mogno (Portuguese); mahogani grands feuilles (French); Amerikaans mahonie (Dutch); bredbladet mahogni (Danish).

**ARE THERE OTHER TIMBER SPECIES IN TRADE CALLED MAHOGANY?**

**YES** – the name ‘mahogany’ applies to many different species in trade. They include the African mahoganies (*Khaya* and *Entandrophragma* spp.), the Asian mahoganies (*Shorea*, *Qualea* spp.), Australian mahogany (*Eucalyptus marginatus*), Bastard mahogany (*Batonia apetela*), Indian mahogany (*Cedrela toona*) & Madiera mahogany (*Persea indica*). None of these species are listed under the EU Annexes.



Map 1 –  
Trade in  
*Swietenia  
macrophylla*  
(big-leafed  
mahogany)



Exporting Country

Trade within South, Central and North America

Trade with Europe and Asia

# Tariff Codes & Ports of Entry

## TARIFF HEADING FOR PLYWOOD

**4412.13** - Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of tropical wood specified in subheading note 1 \*

**4412.14** - Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood

**4412.22** - Other (meaning one ply, or more, that is greater than 6 mm in thickness), with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood, and with at least one ply of tropical wood specified in subheading note 1 \*

## \*SUBHEADING NOTE 1 RELATING TO TARIFF HEADING FOR PLYWOOD

\* Subheading Note 1: For the purposes of subheadings 4403.41 to 4403.49, 4407.24 to 4407.29, 4408.31 to 4408.39, and 4412.13 to 4412.99, the expression 'tropical wood' means one of the following types of wood:

Abura, Acajou d'Afrique, Afrormosia, Ako, Alan, Andiroba, Aningré, Avodiré, Azobé, Balau, Balsa, Bossé clair, Bossé foncé, Cativo, Cedro, Dabema, Dark Red Meranti, Dibétou, Doussié, Framiré, Freijo, Fromager, Fuma, Geronggang, Ilomba, Imbuia, Ipé, Iroko, Jaboty, Jelutong, Jequitiba, Jongkong, Kapur, Kempas, Keruing, Kosipo, Kotibé, Koto, Light Red Meranti, Limba, Louro, Maçaranduba, Mahogany, Makoré, Mandioqueira, Mansonia, Mengkulang, Meranti Bakau, Merawan, Merbau, Merpauh, Mersawa, Moabi, Niangon, Nyatoh, Obeche, Okoumé, Onzabili, Orey, Ovengkol, Ozigo, Padauk, Paldao, Palissandre de Guatemala, Palissandre de Para, Palissandre de Rio, Palissandre de Rose, Pau Amarelo, Pau Marfim, Pulai, Puna, Quaruba, Ramin, Sapelli, Saqui-Saqui, Sepetir, Sipo, Sucupira, *Swietenia* spp., Suren, Teak, Tauari, Tiama, Tola, Virola, White Lauan, White Meranti, White Seraya, Yellow Meranti.

# Tariff Codes & Ports of Entry

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

**THE FOLLOWING  
TARIFF CODES ARE  
USED FOR  
SWIETENIA  
MACROPHYLLA**

**Rough Wood.....44034100 to 44034995**  
**Sawn wood >6mm in thickness.....44072415 to 44072995**  
 44079910 to 44079997  
**Veneers <6mm in thickness..... 44083111 to 44089095**

**PORTS OF  
ENTRY  
(2003)**

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

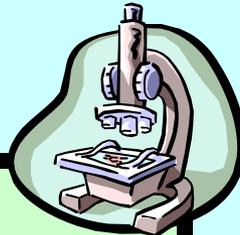
# STEP 1 – Determine that *Swietenia macrophylla* is being imported

## Confirm that the importation is of *Swietenia macrophylla*

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 big-leafed mahogany is *Swietenia macrophylla*.



## 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 big-leafed mahogany 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 being imported after  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2003 are  
controlled under the EU Regulations**

Source of timber	Parts & derivatives controlled (unless otherwise stated in a Reservation)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Populations of the Neotropics</li> </ul>	<p>Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets and plywood</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Countries outside the Neotropics whether a Party or Non-Party to CITES</li> </ul>	<p>Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets and plywood</p>

## STEP 3 - Which documents are required upon entry to the UK from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2003?

Source of timber	Permits required at time of entry (these must be presented prior to or together with the Import Entry)
•Populations of the Neotropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CITES Export permit issued and signed by designated CITES Management Authority of the exporting country</li> <li>•CITES Import permit issued and signed by the UK CITES Management Authority (defra)</li> </ul>
•Countries outside the Neotropics that are a Party to CITES - e.g. Canada, Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CITES (Re)-export permit issued and signed by designated CITES Management Authority of the re-exporting country</li> <li>•CITES Import permit issued and signed by the UK CITES Management Authority (defra)</li> </ul>
•Countries outside the Neotropics that are not Party to CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Comparable CITES documents issued by a designated Management Authority</li> <li>•CITES Import permit issued and signed by the UK CITES Management Authority (defra)</li> </ul>

### REMEMBER

You can expect to see shipments accompanied by Annex C permits arriving into the UK after the Annex B listing comes into force on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2003. Please contact the CITES Team for more information on permit requirements for pre- and post 15<sup>th</sup> November 2003 shipments.

## STEP 4 – Check the documents

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 forfeiture 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 list of Management Authorities).

Documents are correct for the shipment i.e. it has not been exported from another country.

**Check  
the  
following**

# STEP 5 – Entry Procedure

## The Entry

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

## Endorsing the documents

- **CITES Export/Re-export permit** - Input the required details at the bottom of the original CITES permit including full entry details (import entry number, port and date) with a signature and date stamp.
- **CITES Import permit** - Input the required details at the bottom of the original CITES permit including full entry details (import entry number, port and date) with a signature and date stamp (box 26 & 27).

## Document distribution

**CITES Export/Re-export Permits** - keep and return to defra (Bristol), photocopied copies to importer if requested.

**CITES Import Permits** - keep white & green copies and return to defra (Bristol). Yellow copy returned to importer.

**Remember - Never return original Export CITES 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, 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 *Swietenia macrophylla* and the agent has confirmed there are no CITES documents, the goods are liable for seizure.

The wood has been identified as *Sweitenia macrophylla* and the CITES documents with the entry are not valid.  
e.g. out of date permit, wrong species, 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 12A to be sent to importer. Inform agent of seizure. DCIS completed

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 12A 'Compounding, seizure and restoration'



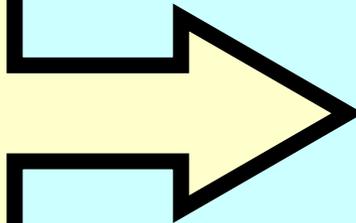
# Conversion Tables

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

## CONVERT

**Board feet (usually expressed as pie tablares (PT)) to cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>)**

There are 424 PT per cubic metre



## EXAMPLE

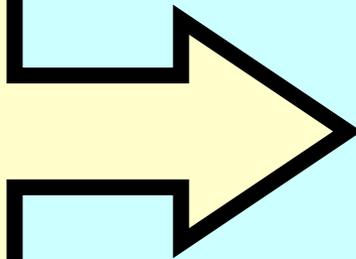
**1,000 board feet of timber arrives at your port:**

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:**

$$10,000 \text{ sq. feet} \times \frac{1}{12} \text{ (12 inches in a foot)} \times 0.02832 = 23.6 \text{ cubic metres of timber}$$

## 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:**

$$25,000 \text{ feet of veneer} \times 0.0929 = 2322.5 \text{ square metres}$$

Continued on next page

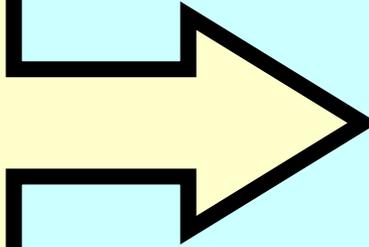
# Conversion Tables

## CONVERT

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

Step 2

Square metres of veneer x veneer  
thickness = cubic metres



## EXAMPLE

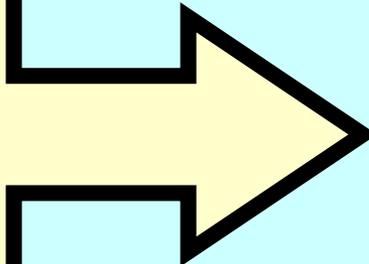
**25,000 square metres of veneer  
(0.6 millimetres thick) arrives at  
your port:**

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](mailto:CITESTeam.LHR@hmce.gsi.gov.uk)

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