



Traceability of Logs and Timber Products

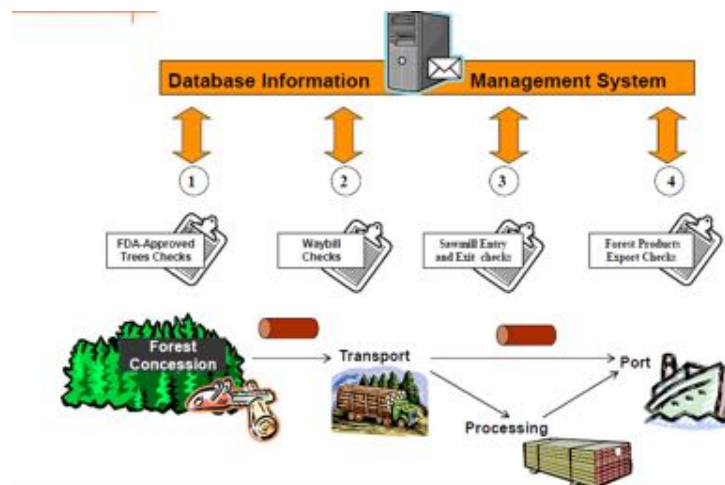
INTRODUCTION

The Chain of Custody (COC) or Traceability of legally harvested logs or legally manufactured timber products involves the following processes:

- Confirmation that the logging company has FDA-approved forest concession(s) (e.g. Forest Management/Service Contract (FMC, TSC) and Permit (PUP) areas) and that the timber products exporting company has manufactured the goods from logs from FDA-approved forest concessions
- Confirmation of the minimum sizes, the type of species, the total number and volume of trees that have been approved for felling by the FDA
- The allocation of a **unique set of tags** each with specific barcodes for each FDA-approved forest concession area (to minimise their use to harvest logs from other forest concession areas or unapproved forest areas)

- that the numbers, Species/Class and sizes of the harvested trees are in agreement with those approved by the FDA
- the Species/Class, lengths and diameters of the **long logs** at the stumps of a felled trees are related/linked to the those of the **cross-cut logs** at the port(s) of export or domestic market(s) (including wood processing mills) and that the:
 - diameters of the thick and thin ends of the following are comparable:
 - ✓ standing tree and felled tree
 - ✓ felled tree and the long log produced from it
 - ✓ the long log and cross-cut logs produced from it
 - the sum of the lengths and volumes of the cross-cut logs are comparable to the length and volumes of the parent long logs
- the volumes of the converted wood products at the port(s) of export or the domestic market(s) are comparable to the input legal logs

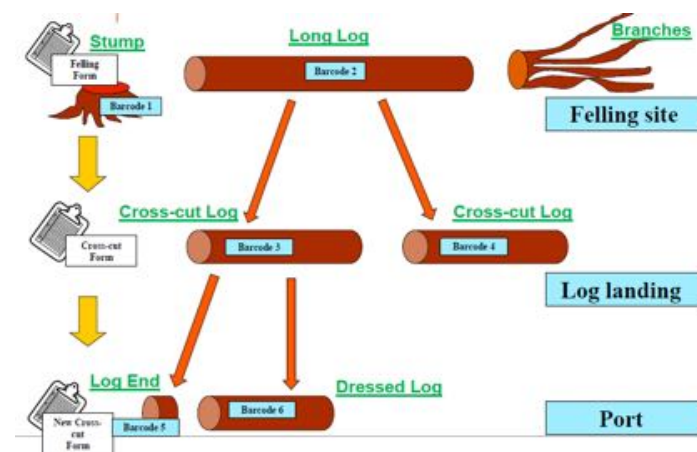
Figure 1: Overview of the Chain of Custody



- The monitoring of the following using: (a) the allocated bar-coded tags to link the timber products at the different stages of conversion in a “family tree” type of relationship (see Fig. 2); (b) field level controls at key points in the supply chain; and (c) a computerised database information management system (see Figure 1):

Figure 2: Chain of Custody System

(Linkage of Logs to Tree Stumps in the Forest with Barcoded Tags)



The following process is followed to enable the export/sale of parcels of logs and manufactured timber products after they have passed traceability as described above.

- a. The invoicing of the logging and/or timber products exporting companies for the appropriate forest fees and charges related to the trading of the log parcels and timber products
- b. Payments of the invoices into the appropriate Government accounts at the Central Bank of Liberia by the logging and timber products exporting companies.
- c. **Current Situation.** The issue of a **Certificates of Origin (Cos)** and an **Export Permits (EPs)** to the exporters that are signed by the FDA and SGS after confirmation of payment of the invoices at the Central Bank of Liberia
- d. **With VPA Implementation.** Compliance with Traceability together with fulfilment of the requirements of the Legality Matrix is necessary for the issue of **FLEGT Export License** that will eventually replace the Export Permit.
- e. **Shipment inspection.** Physical checks of each export parcel are made against the approved Export Permit specifications

For further information, please contact the FDA Legality Verification Department:

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