UK Timber Regulation *due diligence*

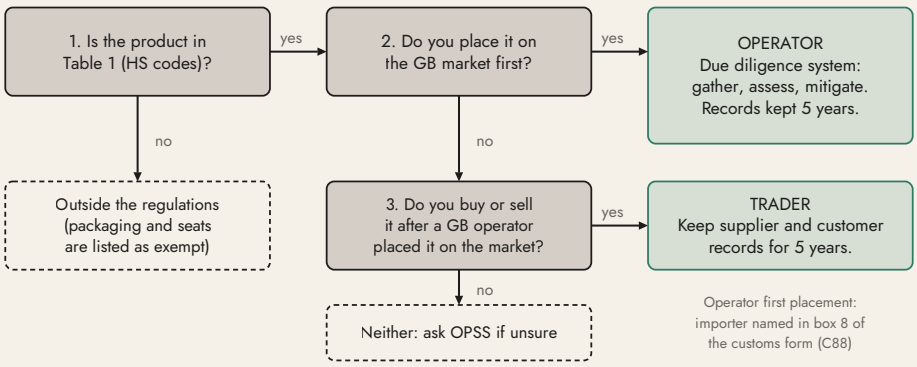
UK Timber Regulation due diligence for furniture and joinery: who is the operator or trader, and the evidence file to keep for five years.

Compliance guidance. Read on 7 November 2026 from the OPSS Guidance on the UK Timber Regulations (January 2021 text), gov.uk pages and SI 2013/233. Guidance and law may have changed since: confirm with OPSS or a timber-legality adviser. This is not legal advice; confirm your position with your contract adviser or the relevant authority. Nothing here says who the operator is on any order, or that Make Bespoke Studio or any partner workshop has done or holds anything: ask each supplier in writing.

AT A GLANCE

Evidence	What to keep	Guidance ref	Usually comes from
1 Product description	Trade name, type of product, and the common name (and scientific name where applicable) of every species.	Table 2 (para 4.17)	Invoice, supplier data
2 Country of harvest	Country; where applicable the sub-national region and concession; marked on a map for the record.	Table 2	Supplier, origin papers
3 Quantity	Volume, weight or number of units.	Table 2	Invoice, bill of lading
4 Supplier and customers	Name and address of the supplier and of any trader supplied (not needed for sales to the public).	Table 2	Your own records
5 Legality documents	Evidence the timber was harvested legally: for example concession licences, management plans, proof of taxes, extraction quotas, transport documents, harvest permits.	Table 2	Supplier, sawmill, forest owner
5 Risk assessment	A record of the level of risk and the reasons for the decision, taking every item above into account.	Paras 4.15, 4.18	The operator
5 Mitigation	What was done where risk was not negligible, and the new assessment after it.	Paras 4.21, 4.22, 5.3, 5.6	The operator
5 Licences and certificates relied on	A copy, with what it covers: FLEGT licence (Indonesia), CITES permit, or a certification scheme certificate.	Paras 4.5, Table 3	Supplier, issuing body
5 Who cleared customs	The entity in box 8 of the customs form (C88) is the operator for imports.	Para 2.7	Customs entry, agent
5 How long	Records kept at least 5 years and given to OPSS on request (operators and traders).	Paras 3.2, 4.4	Whoever holds the duty

References are to the OPSS Guidance on the UK Timber Regulations, January 2021 text (PDF created 12 Feb 2025). The operator keeps all ten; a trader keeps the supplier and customer records (item 4) for 5 years.



Who is an operator or a trader, after paragraphs 2.6, 2.7, 2.13 and 3.1 of the OPSS guidance. A simplification: read the guidance for edge cases. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

OPERATOR STATEMENT

Before order, the Supplier states in writing, for each item in [HS code / item list] within the scope of the UK Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013 (as amended), who the operator is for that item, and where goods are imported names the entity identified in box 8 of the customs declaration.

DUE DILIGENCE STATEMENT

The Supplier confirms that the operator has exercised due diligence for all timber and timber products supplied and that no illegally harvested timber is supplied. On request for [each consignment / each item] the Supplier provides: the common and scientific names of every species; country (and where relevant region) of harvest; quantity; supplier name and address; a summary of the legality evidence; and the outcome of the risk assessment, including any mitigation. The Supplier keeps the records for at least [5] years, in a form that can be shown to the Office for Product Safety and Standards on request, and makes them available to [the Designer / Client] on [reasonable] notice.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES

Where reliance is placed on [FSC / PEFC / FLEGT / CITES], the Supplier provides a copy, the certificate or licence number and what it covers, and states that, in its assessment, the scheme covers the applicable legislation.

CHANGES

A change of species, country of harvest, supplier or importer requires written notice and updated records before the item is ordered.

TERMS USED

UKTR operator

Under the UK Timber Regulation, the person or company that first places timber or timber products on the GB market, who must carry out due diligence on legality. Those who then buy or sell it on are traders and must keep supplier and customer records.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- OPSS Guidance on the UK Timber Regulations (January 2021 text): Jan 2021 text.
- gov.uk: Regulations: timber and FLEGT licences: Updated 20 Aug 2025.
- The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013, SI 2013/233: Regs 4 and 13.
- gov.uk: The UK's approach to deforestation regulations: Updated 2 Sep 2026; proposals.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/uk-timber-regulation-due-diligence. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.