

# LegalSource™ Timber Testing

## Service information

Do you wish to verify the species and origin of your forest product supply chains, enhance your due diligence system and avoid sourcing illegal timber?

LegalSource Timber Testing supports you in checking claims and assists you to source only legal timber. Timber testing techniques may help you verify claims made by suppliers. They can also provide evidence to corroborate supply chain documentation and even identify timber of unknown species and origin.

### Enhancing your due diligence

Having access to robust and credible supply chain information is a key aspect of due diligence. Identifying or verifying the species and origin of forest in a laboratory can help you assess and mitigate risk in supply chains.

### When to test timber?

- ✓ When new product lines are introduced
- ✓ When there are concerns about supplier claims
- ✓ When products contain different components or species
- ✓ When a company in the supply chain is changed
- ✓ When testing by third parties has shown timber species/ origin differs from your claims

### Tap into our expertise

At NEPCon, we are leading the way in using innovative due diligence tools. We partner with world-renowned scientific laboratories around the globe to offer a variety of testing methods which aid companies in their mission to meet legality requirements and achieve their goal of sourcing sustainable forest products.

NEPCon offers both basic and full testing services. Our basic service offering helps you identify the appropriate type of test to answer your due diligence questions and the relevant laboratory to use. Our full service includes enhanced support to collect suitable

samples, coordination of the testing with our network of laboratories and interpretation of the test results within your wider due diligence system. In addition, we provide advice on relevant next steps.

### Testing for species and origin

Scientific techniques can be used to provide valuable information on both the species of wood in your forest products and the origin of that wood.

A number of high profile projects have been conducted over the past few years by NGOs and Competent Authorities in which timber companies' claims, regarding the species and origin of the wood in their products, have been put to the test. In a number of cases, the claims made by organisations have been proved correct. However, in many cases the testing showed that timber companies were misled by supply chain information and laboratory test results showed that products were not what sellers thought they were.

Knowing the correct species contained in products can be particularly problematic for composite materials such as paper and plywood, where many species are mixed together during manufacturing.

Similarly, some species may be at higher risk of illegality if sourced from certain areas where corruption is rife. Testing has been used to show that timber from high-risk areas is sometimes incorrectly declared as originating from a lower risk region.

Timber suppliers may tackle these problems by testing their own products using a qualified third party laboratory



With NGOs using lab techniques to verify legality claims, companies will find it imperative to use these tests themselves, as part of their day-to-day due diligence.

**Christian Sloth, Forest Legality Programme Manager**



### Types of timber testing

A number of laboratory techniques are designed to authenticate the species and origin of timber products:

## Wood Anatomy



Wood anatomy is used to identify species or groups of species. However, DNA testing can often distinguish even between very closely related timber species. Whilst stable isotope testing serves to identify the origin of timber, it does not offer any information regarding timber species.

### Experience counts

NEPCon is an international non-profit organisation working to build capacity and commitment for mainstreaming sustainability. We do this by supporting other organisations to take responsible approaches such as sourcing only legal timber.

With 20 years' experience, we certify around 1,500 timber supply chain clients. Our customers include traders, printing and publishing houses, paper merchants, DIY stores and wood industries.

NEPCon is recognised by the EU as a Monitoring Organisation under the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).

## DNA



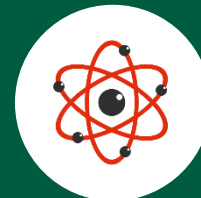
### Take the next step

Contact us to learn more or arrange LegalSource Timber Testing:



**Christian Sloth**  
Forest Legality Programme Manager  
cs@nepcon.org | +45 31 58 79 81

## Stable Isotope



Each technique provides different information about supply chains and each differs in its level of precision.

The type of technique used depends on the due diligence question which needs to be answered and the availability of reference data for the species or origin.

