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Forensic Timber Testing in relation to the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR)

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has introduced timber testing into its range of EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) enforcement activities.

During 2019, a number of timber product samples were collected by the Department. These samples were analysed by laboratories in various European countries using advanced timber testing techniques such as stable isotope analysis and microscopic identification.

The tests allowed the Department to more thoroughly assess the accuracy of EUTR Due Diligence *species* and *country of origin* declarations. Further timber testing is foreseen in 2020 as Ireland continues to address global illegal logging through enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation

The EUTR is supported by national implementation legislation, the European Union (Timber and Timber Products) (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 316 of 2014) which provides for a range of measures aimed at ensuring compliance with the requirements of the EUTR. These include *inter alia* penalties for failure of Operators to have a Due Diligence System in place and for the first placement of illegal timber on the market by operators.

Further useful information is available on the European Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm

The Department's Forest Sector Development division can be reached at the following email address: EUTR@agriculture.gov.ie.