**PERCEPTION OF IMPACTS AND PROBLEMS RELATED WITH TIMBER LEGALITY REGULATIONS AMONG WOOD PRODUCT COMPANIES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

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*Abstract:* The emergence of strict international market requirements for timber legality verification has challenged the Malaysian Timber Industry from reaching its full potential. This study examines the Malaysian wood-based companies’ knowledge and perception of impacts and problems associated with timber legality regulations. Data were collected using self-administered questionnaires distributed to wood-based companies in Peninsular Malaysia with the assistance of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB). A total of 100 companies have responded to the questionnaire. It was found that wood-based companies that export to the international market and hold a chain-of-custody (CoC) certificate had better knowledge of timber regulations than the companies that did not hold CoC certificates and focused only on the local market. Most companies perceived image improvement as the main impact associated with timber legality. Lack of knowledge on timber legality was found as the main problem related to timber legality requirements while the provision of technical support by authorities was identified to promote timber legality verification. It was apparent that appropriate strategies and action plans that involve inputs from various stakeholders are needed to assist the industry to comply with the timber legality regulation and hence improve the competitiveness of the Malaysian wood-based industry.

*Keywords: Timber regulation, wood companies, Peninsular, Malaysia*