

<input type="checkbox"/>	SGS NRMS Main page
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Forestry programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use Control and Forest Surveillance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Timber Flow Control
<input type="checkbox"/>	Log Tracking Systems
<input type="checkbox"/>	Log Tracking Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest Management Auditing and Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest Certification
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project references
<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Change Programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Fisheries Programme

Timber Flow Control

Introduction

Timber Flow Control is a service offered by SGS to help governments to impose legal compliance on timber producers and traders, at a national scale. The service addresses the problem of deforestation and loss of government revenue due to illegal or misdeclared logging, timber processing and trade, by tracking timber products from production to sale.

Advanced tracking technology and physical inspections are combined in a modular programme to identify, inspect and monitor the flows of forest products, whether domestic, import/transit and/or export flows, as required. Forest products may include logs, primary wood products, pulp, firewood and non-timber forest products. The nature and details of the system deployed will depend on the local administrative environment, such as the regulations involved. The tracking function will apply to the timber products, containers, vehicles and/or transport documents.

This service aims to:

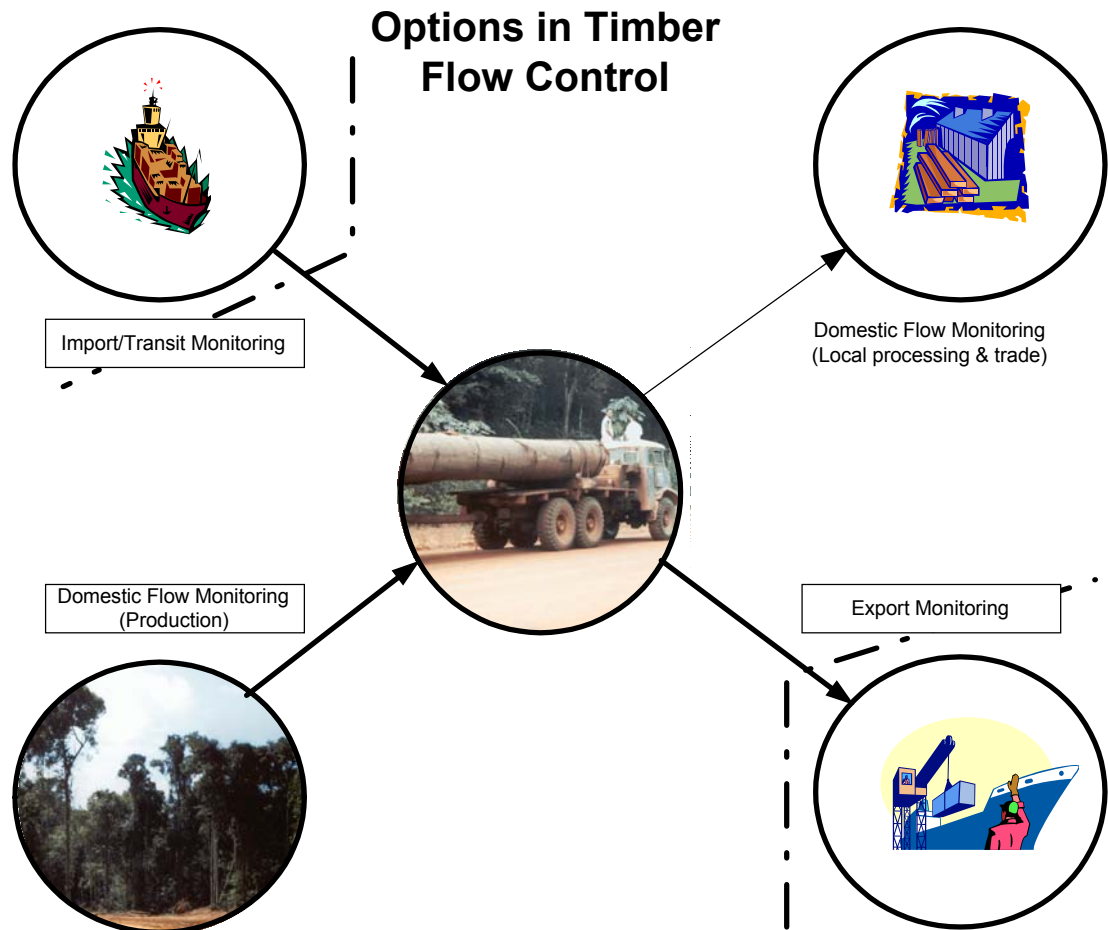
- establish the genuine origin and destination of legal product flows and thereby detect illegal production and trade
- check species, dimensions and quality of products for compliance with relevant regulations
- reconcile timber volumes produced against harvest plans or processing/export quotas
- verify companies' data to ensure effective and fair collection of duties, taxes and fees, and improve the management of foreign exchange
- provide documented "chain-of-custody" assurance in order to trace eco-labelled timber back to certified sources and/or to achieve CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) goals.

Bar-coding is recommended to ensure unique identification of the logs - and to allow inspection and tallying to be carried out reliably and cost-effectively using handheld computers and barcode readers. The barcode tags also provide a reliable numbering system for companies' declarations of log production and movements, or for internal stock control. These tools are described in the document [Log Tracking Systems](#). [Log Tracking Technology](#) describes the components of a typical system in more detail.

The **Log Export Monitoring** programme inspects and monitors all exports of logs from the country and determines the amounts of tax payable by exporters. All relevant shipping and commercial documentation is checked. The process includes physical checks (such as species identification, log measurement and grading), market value verification and a tally of what is loaded in each shipment. Vessel cargo details are reported independently to the government. Information is entered into a database from which monthly reports are provided to the relevant authorities.

The Log Import/Transit Monitoring programme is similar in concept. It is particularly beneficial in countries where logging is banned or restricted, or where domestic production tends to be diluted with foreign inputs. The focus is on distinguishing legitimate imports or goods in transit from illegal products, and tracking them from the border through to processing mills or re-export.

Domestic Flow Monitoring is designed to track domestic logs and wood products from source to final destination, more securely and efficiently than any conventional paper-based system. Bar-coded tags are allocated to legitimate producers according to the volume of timber they are authorised to cut. Producers declare all the logs they produce and transport. Programme officers use hand-held computers with scanners to record the results of log inspections. State-of-the-art communication devices transfer data to the central database for processing. Physical inspections may be reduced from 100% recording of items at fixed checkpoints for example, to a random sample basis at critical control points, with consequent savings of time and resources, and increased efficiency.



Note: all systems and services described for logs above can also be applied to bundles of processed products..

How to contact SGS NRMS

SGS NRMS is based in Geneva, Switzerland.
See the [SGS NRMS Main page](#) for contact details.

Telephone: +41 22 739 91 11; Fax: +41 22 739 98 39; E-mail: solutions@sgs.com