



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

COUNTRY OVERVIEW TO AID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUTR



LAND AREA:	5.12 million hectares ¹
FORESTED AREA:	2.19 million hectares (2015) ² [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH): 1.5 million hectares (2017) ³ Republika Srpska: 1.01 million hectares (2013) ⁴ Brčko District: 11 thousand hectares (2006) ⁵]
FOREST TYPE:	0.1% primary ² 54.2% naturally regenerated ² 45.7% planted ²
FOREST OWNERSHIP:	79% publicly owned in 2010 ² 21% privately owned in 2010 ²
PROTECTED AREAS:	100.5 thousand hectares official protected (2016) – mainly forest ecosystems ^{6,7}
VPA STATUS:	No VPA currently ⁸

ECONOMIC VALUE OF FOREST SECTOR:

USD 254 million in 2011⁹
1.6% of the GDP in 2011⁹
39th highest exporter of EUTR products globally in 2018 by weight (kg)¹⁰
52nd highest exporter of EUTR products globally in 2018 by value (USD)¹⁰

TREE COVER CHANGE:

2670 hectares of tree cover loss in 2018¹¹
Average of 1738 hectares per year 2014 - 2018¹¹ [noting that 'tree cover' may be natural forests or plantations and that 'loss' can be due to a variety of factors].
26500 hectare of tree cover gain 2001–2012¹¹

CERTIFIED FORESTS:

FSC certification: 1.79 million hectares (2019)¹²
PEFC certification: none (2019)¹³
FBiH: 640 822 ha of certified forests (Canton 10: 284 277 ha, Una-Sana Canton: 179 410 ha, Tuzla Canton: 71 512 ha, Sarajevo Canton: 68 750 ha, Central Bosnia Canton: 36 873 ha)¹⁴. Other cantons are in preparation for certification¹⁴.
Republika Srpska: the total area of 1 011 218 ha of state forests has been certified; the certificate has been renewed until 2023⁴.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION:

FSC certification: 311 CoC certificates (2019)¹²
PEFC certification: 4 CoC certificates (2019)¹³

MAIN TIMBER SPECIES IN TRADE:

European fir (*Abies alba*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), European spruce (*Picea abies*)¹⁵, European black pine (*Pinus nigra*), Scots pine (*P. silvestris*), and various oak species (*Quercus* spp.)^{16,17}

CITES-LISTED TIMBER SPECIES:

None¹⁸

RANKINGS IN GLOBAL FREEDOM AND STABILITY INDICES:

Rule of Law Index¹⁹ 2 nd quarter 64/128 in 2020 (score: 0.52/1)	Corruption perceptions index²⁰ 3 rd quarter 101/180 in 2019 (score: 36/100)	Fragile states index²¹ 2 nd quarter score: 71.3 in 2020 (rank: 90/172)	Freedom in the world index²² 3 rd quarter 117/195 in 2020 (score: 53/100)
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LEGAL TRADE FLOWS

In 2018, exports of EUTR-regulated products (timber and timber products to which the EUTR applies) from Bosnia and Herzegovina totalled USD 826 million, of which 75% was exported to the EU-28, according to data from the UN Comtrade Database¹⁰. Bosnia and Herzegovina exported EUTR products to 87 different countries and territories. The **main global markets for Bosnia and Herzegovina's EUTR products in 2018** by value were Germany, Croatia and Italy (Figure 1 a). The main EUTR products exported from Bosnia and Herzegovina by HS code according to value in 2018 were sawn wood (HS 4407), fuel wood (HS 4401) and wooden furniture other than a kind used in the office, kitchen or bedroom (HS 940360) (Figure 1 b).

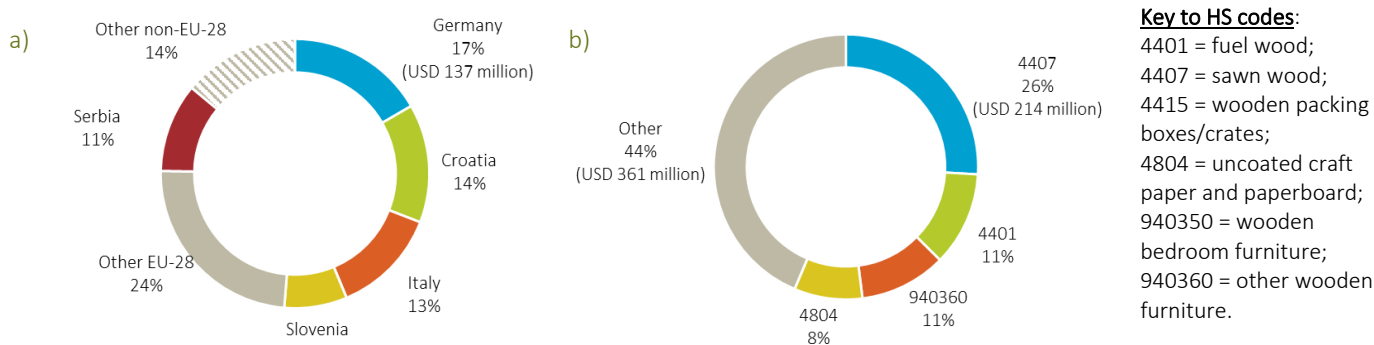


Figure 1: a) Main global markets for EUTR products from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 in USD; b) Main EUTR products exported from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 by HS code according to value in USD. Produced using data from the UN Comtrade Database¹⁰.

The EU imported 490 million Euros of EUTR-regulated products from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018, according to data from the Eurostat Comext database²³. The **main EUTR products imported into the EU from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018** by value (Figure 2) and weight (Figure 4) were fuel wood (HS 4401) and sawn wood (HS 4407), with furniture also of importance by value. The main importers of EUTR products in 2018 were (in order of most imports) Croatia and Italy by value and Italy and Slovenia by weight.

Over the ten year period 2009–2018, there has been an increase in the **total value of EU imports of EUTR-regulated products from Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Figure 3).

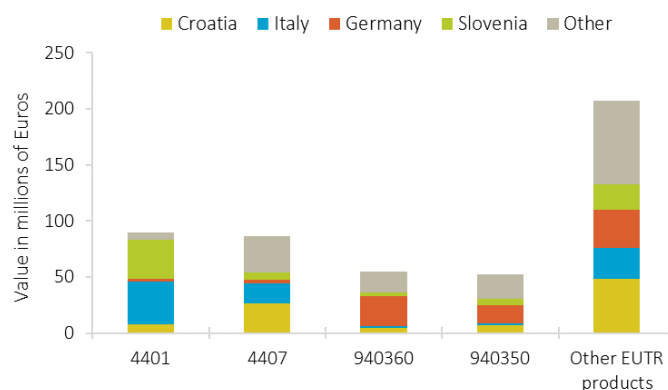


Figure 2: Main EUTR products by value in EUR imported into the EU from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018. Produced using data from Eurostat²³.

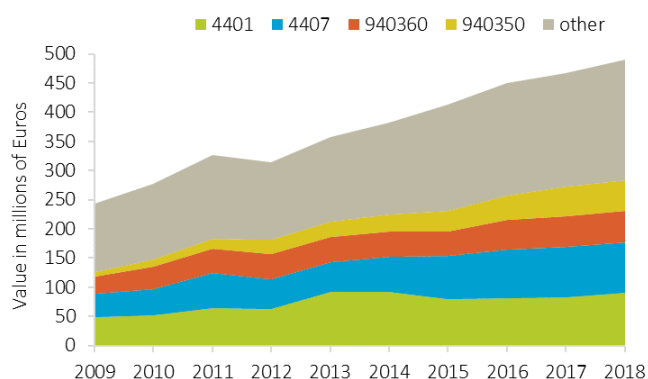


Figure 3: Value of total imports of EUTR products in EUR imported into the EU from Bosnia and Herzegovina 2009-2018. Produced using data from Eurostat²³.

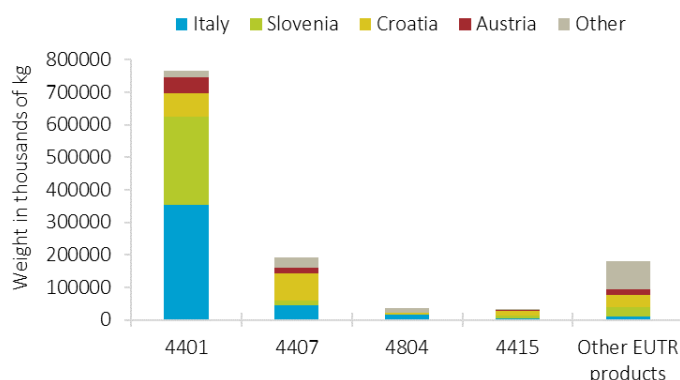


Figure 4: Main EUTR products by weight imported into the EU from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018. Produced using data from Eurostat²³.

The production and trade flows of wood products in 2015 (Table 1) show that Bosnia and Herzegovina consumed the majority of wood materials produced and imported in 2015, with the exception of sawnwood (Table 1).

Table 1: Production and trade flows of main wood products in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2015 (based on FAOSTAT data)²⁴.

	Production (m ³)	Imports (m ³)	Domestic consumption (m ³) <i>Calculated from reported data</i>	Exports (m ³)
Logs (Ind. Roundwood)	3 122 100	44 070	2 935 090	68 420
Sawn wood	1 060 000	110 810	234 720	936 090
Wood-based panels	58 440	224 080	539 160	25 880
Fibreboard	2000	75 470	76 870	600

KEY RISKS FOR ILLEGALITY

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION:

Illegal logging is thought to be driven by socio-economic factors, such as the need for firewood^{3,17}, as well as being related to issues of corruption^{25,26}. Decentralised forestry management means there is no state-level forest policy. FBiH is further centralised to canton level^{5,25}. Along with administrative shortcomings, decentralisation is considered to hinder effective forest management^{5,25,27}.

PREVALENCE OF ILLEGAL HARVESTING OF TIMBER:

In 2003, illegal logging volumes in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina were reported to equate to 2.2% of the legal timber supply²⁸. Approximately 1.2 million m³ (RWE) of illegal or suspicious timber were reported to be imported annually from Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU in 2006²⁹. A large proportion of these imports were firewood (36% of illegal exports) with most illegal timber exported to Italy (42%) and Slovenia (25%)^{30,29}. Illegal logging for both subsistence needs and organised illegal logging has reduced since the war in the late 20th century⁵. Recent estimates of illegal logging could not be located.

ILLEGAL HARVESTING OF SPECIFIC TREE SPECIES:

No reports of specifically targeted species at the time of writing. However, in 2015, European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) was the source of large quantities of fuel wood¹⁵; as it has been estimated that demand for fuelwood exceeds official supply (at least in The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)^{28,17}, this and other fuelwood species are potentially targets for illegal harvesting.

COMPLEXITY OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN

In 2015, it was reported that Bosnia and Herzegovina had “numerous sawmills and furniture production capacities”, albeit in excess of domestic requirements¹⁵. Three companies covered the majority of the pulp and paper markets in 2015, with one company operating as a fibreboard manufacturer¹⁷.

RESTRICTIONS ON TIMBER TRADE

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) issued a temporary ban on the export of logs on the 14 December 2017, that was in force until 4 April 2018³¹. Harvesting of endangered species is prohibited in FBiH under Article 10 of the 2002 Law on Forests, unless for breeding or sanitary purposes³². Endangered species are specified as Serbian spruce (*Picea omorika*), English yew (*Taxus baccata*), Turkish hazel (*Corylus colurna*), Balkan maple (*Acer heldreichii*), dwarf mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*), *Alnus viridis*, Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*) and Dalmatian laburnum (*Petteria ramentacea*). An additional 14 species are likely to be added to the list based on the 2016 draft Law on Forests³³.

Republika Srpska enacted a ban on the export of logs from the territory on 14 September 2017, that was in force for six months^{31,34}. Harvest of 21 species is prohibited in Republika Srpska under the 2008 Forest law, including Serbian spruce (*Picea omorika*), dwarf mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*), holly, downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), grey poplar (*Populus x canescens*) and Macedonian oak (*Quercus trojana*)³⁵. The sale of wood from forests owned by Republika Srpska is done according to “The decision on establishing the criteria for the distribution of forest wood assortments for wood harvesters” (Official Gazette RS 103/16)⁴.

Harvest of five species is prohibited in Brčko District under the 2010 Forest Law: Balkan maple (*Acer heldreichii*), *Alnus viridis*, Turkish hazel (*Corylus colurna*), Dalmatian laburnum (*Petteria ramentacea*) and elm (*Ulmus* spp.)³⁶. Harvest of other species may be prohibited by the Head of the Department³⁶.

In 2019 a state-level task force led by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, with the support of the governments of Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was formed to consider the possibility of banning the export of logs from the whole country³⁷.

No relevant EU³⁸ or UN sanctions³⁹ on timber exports or imports.

The state of Bosnia and Herzegovina comprises two autonomous entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska²⁵. A third administrative unit exists in the form of the Brčko District in the north east of the country, which functions as a local self-government area²⁵. FBiH is divided into 10 cantons²⁶.

Illegal trade

Estimates of illegal logging in Bosnia and Herzegovina vary: in 2006, approximately 1.2 million m³ (RWE) of illegal or “suspicious” timber was reported to be imported annually from Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU²⁹. For the **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH)**, illegally logged timber was estimated to equate to 2.2% of the legal timber supply in 2003 for the four cantons for which there was data, with an estimated value of USD 19 million²⁸. However, official figures for FBiH from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry (FMPVŠ) reported lower estimates of illegally logged wood¹⁷; the most recent annual report on forest management in FBiH reported 28 995 m³ of wood to have been illegally logged in 2016, worth BAM 2 438 482 (EUR 1 246 776), lower than the average of 29 356 m³ annually for the period 2012-2016³. FMPVŠ note that estimates of illegal logging are not reliable from all cantons³. The report published by FMPVŠ also noted a lack of a federal level law on forests, lack of personnel and poor equipment as contributing factors to issues with canton level forestry management³. A 2010 report on illegal logging in South Eastern Europe noted that the decentralisation of forestry management responsibilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina made forestry regulation complex²⁷. It was reported that this has been exploited by illegal loggers, particularly in border areas where it is difficult to determine which authority is responsible²⁷. The report found that low levels of accountability, minimal discretionary powers and weak sanctions drive illegal logging²⁷. Levels of detection, reporting and sanctioning for illegal logging were also considered low in a 2017 analysis in Sarajevo Canton³⁰.

In a 2010 audit of forestry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, issues with illegal logging in **Republika Srpska** were reported to occur through harvesting without an appropriate licence²⁶, with police corruption in relation to forestry crimes also reported as an issue²⁶. The 2011-2021 Forest Development Strategy of Republika Srpska noted that the exact extent of illegal activities in the forestry sector was not precisely known⁴⁰; however, it noted, *inter alia*, illegal logging of trees, theft of timber from storage units, logging in private deserted forests and illegal export of timber as the most significant illegal activities in the forestry sector⁴⁰. By regulating the timber trade in Republika Srpska, only registered woodworkers can register as buyers⁴.

A 2011 assessment of sawmills in Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that of the 1500-1700 sawmills in the country, it was likely that more than 50% did not have state licences for operation⁴¹. It was also reported in 2010 that Bosnia and Herzegovina was the main source of timber illegally imported into Serbia, with the imports facilitated by gaps in legislation between administrative regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁷.

There is likely to be a demand for illegally logged firewood in Bosnia and Herzegovina itself due to the still limited access to other energy sources^{27,42}. Demand for fuelwood is estimated to exceed official supply (at least in The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)^{28,17}. It is thought that 50 - 80% of rural people depend on fuelwood as a principal source of energy⁴³. A further study in 2017 found that 74% of households used solid fuels (firewood and/or coal)⁴². A 2008 study estimated that approximately a third of illegal wood exported from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union was firewood²⁹. It has been reported that demand for wood as a source of fuel is rising in several national markets, including Italy and Slovenia⁴². This demand for Bosnian wood fuel exports, along with an increasing demand on the internal market from an expansion of wood fuel systems in plants and factories, is placing additional pressure on the forest sector⁴².

Forestry management and legislation

Bosnia and Herzegovina was reported to have the largest share of forest and greatest diversity of forest types in the Western Balkans, with forests being one of the most important natural resources in the country^{17,44}. Although there is some dispute over the percentage of forest cover in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is general consensus that it is one of the most heavily forested countries in Europe^{17,45}. According to the 2015 ‘*State of Europe’s Forests*’ report⁴⁶, Bosnia and Herzegovina has a forest cover of 2.115 million hectares, with a growing stock of 392.3 million m³. The domestic wood processing industry is considered one of the most important sectors of the economy⁴⁷. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a net exporter of primary and secondary forest products, with forest stocks recognised as a key resource for further economic

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development of the country⁴⁷. The level of protection of forests is considered low, with only 1% of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina covered by legally protected forests³⁰.

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not currently have a state level forest policy or legislation framework, due to the decentralised administration of the country^{25,47}. Fines for illegal forestry activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been noted to be low in comparison with neighbouring countries²⁷.

The **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH)** has devolved management of forest resources to the local canton level^{25,26}. A “Law on Forests” was introduced in FBiH in 2002⁴⁸, although this was proclaimed invalid in 2008 after the law was found to have discrepancies with the European Charter of Local Self-Government²⁵. A new draft “Law on Forests”³³ was adopted by the Parliament of FBiH in 2016, which, *inter alia*, provided for greater penalties for non-compliance and prescribed the FBiH Forestry Program as the main strategic planning document³². The law had not been passed at the time of writing due to political deadlock in the entity⁴⁹. As the Law on Forests of the FBiH did not exist, cantonal assemblies of certain cantons adopted laws in cantons where forestry activities are carried out (see table on ‘Relevant legislation and policy’)¹⁴. This legislation regulates the management, transport, preservation and protection of forests¹⁴.

At the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina level the Forestry Department, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, has a unit responsible for all aspects relating to forest law and related legislation, and a Forest Office which deals with forestry development and support and has an overall monitoring role¹⁷. There is also an FBiH Forestry Inspection unit which performs overall inspection services relating to the Law on forests within FBiH¹⁷. In the absence of a dedicated law, the inspection unit operates under the Law on Inspection¹⁷. FBiH delegates its management competencies to the cantonal governments with each canton having oversight of the forest resources within its administrative boundaries¹⁷. At the cantonal level, responsibility for forestry rests with the relevant ministry, within which there is a Cantonal Forest Office whose main function is to control the activities of the cantonal forest management company and provide advice and support to private forest owners¹⁷.

Surveys of forestry professionals in FBiH in 2012 identified a lack of sound policies and institutional capacities necessary for sustainable forest management, including a lack of coordination and cooperation between the different policy actors and lack of implementation of measures to address corruption²⁵. A more recent survey in FBiH in 2014 also indicated that awareness and understanding of the requirements of EUTR was low among forestry professionals⁵⁰. The ability of authorities to effectively manage the forests within FBiH is also hampered by land mines, which are located in approximately 10% of forested land^{3,25}.

Corruption in the forest sector is being tackled through internal programmes at the cantonal level in FBiH³⁰. They are primarily focussed on formal company commitments and the development of internal structures within companies to prevent and combat corruption, the design of tools to assist in this, and continued efforts to educate and disseminate information on the importance of tackling corruption³⁰. An example of this is the canton of Sarajevo that established the ‘Operational Plan for the Protection of Forests from Illegal Activities in the Sarajevo Canton’ in 2012 to fight illegal activities in the forestry sector and further protect forest resources³⁰.

The **Republika Srpska** enacted a “Forest Law” in 2008³⁵, with further amendments adopted in 2013⁵¹, which regulates, *inter alia*, forestry related policy, planning and management, as well as a forestry information system. It is supported by 32 regulations on timber sales and technical norms adopted 2009-2010¹⁷. Supervision of the use of forests and forest land owned by the Republic is performed by the public forest company “Šume Republika Srpske” (Forests of Republic of Srpska)^{26,52}. However, reports on illegality submitted by staff of this public company cannot be processed by the courts²⁶; the number of official forest inspectors was noted to be low in 2010²⁶.

In Republika Srpska, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, there is a Department for Forestry and Hunting which is competent for: monitoring of the situation in the field of forestry and hunting; proposing and establishing policies and adopting regulations and general acts in the field of forestry and hunting; overseeing the proper management of forests, especially regarding the protection, conservation and exploitation of forests; and ensuring the implementation of laws and other regulations and general acts in the field of forestry and hunting^{4,17}. The Forest and

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Hunting Inspection unit is within the general Inspection Service and has six territorial divisions, it is competent for forest control measures for both public and privately owned forests based on annual and ten year forest management plans¹⁷.

Brčko District adopted a “Forest Law” in 2010³⁶, with further amendments adopted in 2016⁵³. The law prescribes, *inter alia*, forest management and control over law enforcement. Annual management plans are prepared and adopted by the Government of the District, which include measures on harvesting, silviculture, forest protection and guarding¹⁷. In Brčko District the majority of forests are privately owned and as such there is no public forest company¹⁷. Public forests are managed by the Sub-Department for Forestry and Water Management, within the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Brčko District¹⁷. In Brčko District, which is mainly lowland and agriculture area, forestry plays a subordinated role due to the small area covered by forests and small amount of harvesting operations¹⁷.

As a result of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s commitment to the St. Petersburg Declaration⁵⁴, a federal action plan to combat illegal activities in the forest and wood processing sectors was developed in 2005 with the aim of combating illegal activities in the forest sector, including theft and corruption⁵⁵. The plan established joint and individual actions for the governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska in an effort to unify approaches, through improving control of forestry operations and development of state forest enterprises⁵⁵. Parallel activities in the action plan included promotion of forest certification and formation of a National Forest Programme⁵⁵. The action plan was adopted separately in both FBiH and Republika Srpska in 2006²⁶. However, in 2015, it was reported that a number of activities in the action plan had not yet been implemented²⁵. The decentralised forestry management in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been noted to hinder the effective implementation of the 2005 action plan⁵.

In 2017, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Foreign Trade Chamber (FTC) of BiH signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming to support growth of wood industry as the strongest export oriented sector in BiH⁵⁶. In order to utilise their natural forest resources, sustain growth, and create new opportunities for wood processing companies, authorities initiated development of a country-wide “Export Growth and Development Strategy for the Wood processing industry in BiH, for the period of 2018-2022”⁵⁷. Technical assistance to the Foreign Trade Chamber is being provided under two UNDP projects - Municipal Environmental and Economic Governance (MEG) and Local Integrated Development (LID)⁵⁷.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY¹

- **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

- Legislation on forestry available from: <https://fmpvs.gov.ba/sumarstvo-i-lovstvo-propisi/>
- Legislation implementing the 2002 Law on Forests available from: <https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/forest-law-lex-faoc147767/>

Prior to the 'Law on Forests' of FBiH being passed, cantonal assemblies adopted laws in certain cantons where forestry activities are carried out:

- Law on Forests of a Una-Sana Canton, "Official Gazette of USK No: 23/12",
- Law on Forests in Tuzla Canton, "Official Gazette TK No: 09/12 and 17/13",
- Law on Forests of the Central Bosnia Canton, "Official Gazette SBK No: 05/14",
- Law on Forest of Bosnian Podrinje Canton, "Official Gazette of BPK No: 07/14",
- Law on Forest of Canton 10, "Official Gazette of HBC No: 04/14",
- Law on Forests of West Herzegovina Canton, "Official Gazette No. 08/13 and 11/17",
- Law on Forest of Sarajevo Canton, "Official Gazette KS No: 05/13",
- Law on the forests of Zenica Doboje Canton, "Official Gazette of ZDK No: 08/13 and 1/15" and
- Law on Forests of the Posavina Canton, "Official Gazette of Posavina Canton No: 09/13".

- **Brčko District:**

- Legislation on forestry available from: <https://skupstinabd.ba/ba/zakon.html?lang=ba&id=/Zakon%20o%20s--umama%20Brc--ko%20distrikta%20BiH>

- **Republika Srpska:**

- Legislation on forestry available from: <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mps/%D0%B1%D0%BE%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BD/Pages/default.aspx>
- Forestry related legal acts in preparation available from: <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mps/%D0%BC%D0%BF%D1%88%D0%B2/Pages/default.aspx>

¹ The following list may not be exhaustive and is intended as a guide only on relevant legislation.

LEGALLY REQUIRED DOCUMENTS²

A comprehensive list of documents is still required.

Otpremni iskaz (Bill of lading/dispatch note): Indicates, *inter alia*, origin, ownership, buyer, place of loading and unloading, means and time of transport and details of the wood products being shipped⁵⁸.

² The following list may not be exhaustive and is intended as a guide only on required documents.

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These EU Timber Regulation country overviews support the work of EU Competent Authorities in assessing potential legality risks of timber and timber products from source countries of importance to the EU market. They were produced following a thorough review of the publicly available literature, as well as requesting additional information from Competent Authorities and experts. To ensure their accuracy, relevance and completeness, country overviews have been subject to comprehensive peer review, including consultation with relevant national ministries/agencies and in-country experts, the European Commission and Competent Authorities. These documents are updated periodically based on available information. Specific inputs can be sent to timber@unep-wcmc.org, for potential inclusion in the next update. Published overviews are available from https://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm.