PRESENTATION ON



VRIKSH-INDIAN TIMBER LEGALITY ASSESSMENT AND VERIFICATION SCHEME AT

TIMBER REGULATION ENFORCEMENT EXCHANGE
OCTOBER 23RD – 25TH, 2017
VALENCIA, SPAIN

PRESENTED BY:

RAJESH RAWAT

JOINT DIRECTOR

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS(EPCH)

www.epch.in



INDIAN HANDICRAFTS - HIGHLIGHTS

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)

- Set up in 1986 under section 25 of companies act 1956
- To develop and promote the exports of handicrafts from India
- 10204 member exporters as on September, 2017

Exports of handicrafts

- Handicrafts exports US\$ 3639.05 million 2016-17
- Wooden handicrafts US\$ 584.09 million 2016-17



Exports of Woodwares

Destinations	2015-16 (US\$ million)	2016-17 (US\$ million)
European Union	198.18	205.61
U.S.A	243.18	258.82
Rest of the World	155.65	119.66
Total	597.01	584.09

EMPLOYMENT IN HANDICRAFTS SECTOR

- > 7 million artisans
- Wooden handicrafts provides livelihood to around 1.1 million artisans



WOODEN HANDICRAFTS IN INDIA

- ➤ The major importers of Indian wooden handicrafts are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, UAE, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, USA and UK
- ➤ The demand for wood products is increasing in both domestic and international markets
- Major places of India producing wooden handicrafts:
 Jaipur, Jodhpur, Saharanpur, Nagina, Rajkot, Barmer, Hoshiarpur,
 Srinagar, Amritsar, Jagdalpur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Kerala,
 Berhampur, Chennapatna and Mysore
- Types of Wood in India Sheesham, Acacia, Ebony, Neem, Salwood, Khair, Mango, Poplar, Kikar, Chirpine, Sandal wood, Rosewood, Sagwan etc

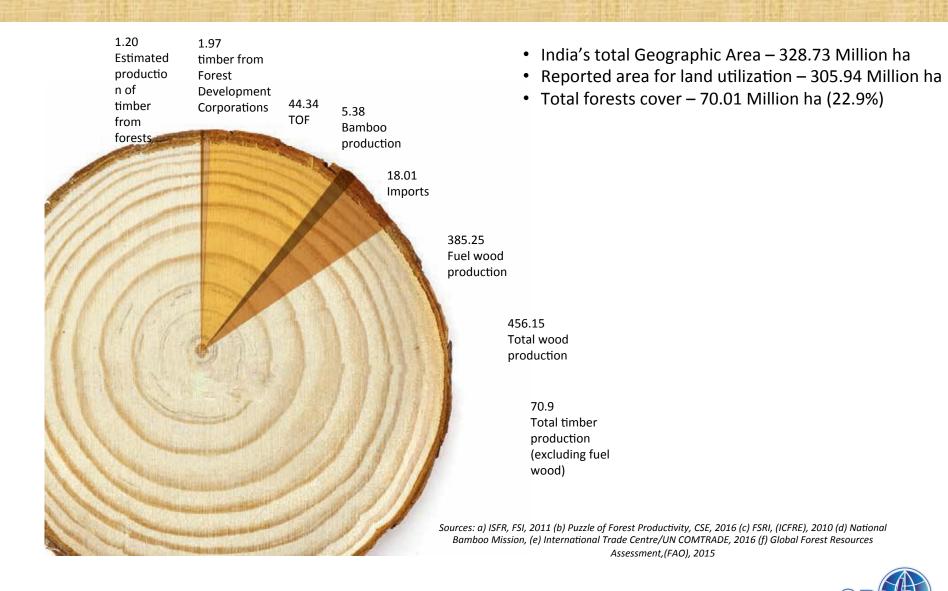


WOODEN HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER HUB/ EXPORTER HUB

Sl. No.	State/District/Cluster	Crafts	
1	Srinagar -Jammu & Kashmir	Walnut & Deodar Wood Craft	
2	Saharanpur -Uttar Pradesh	Wood Carving Furniture, Screens	
3	Nagina- Uttar Pradesh	Wood Carving Boxes	
4	Jodhpur- Rajasthan	Wooden Handicrafts, Furniture Antique Finish	
5	Kolkata - West Bengal	Wooden Furniture & Giftwares	
6	Kondapalli- Andhra Pradesh	Wood (Turning And Lacquer Ware)	
7	Chennapatna - Karnataka	Wood Inlay Articles	
8	Chennai - Tamil Nadu	Wooden Handicrafts Antique Finish	
9	Quilandy - Kerala	Coconut Wood/Coconut Shell Gift Articles	
10	Trivandram - Kerala	Rose Wood Carving Gift Wares	
11	North East Region	Cane & Bamboo- Furniture and other Home Utility Products	



WOOD PRODUCTION (Million cum)



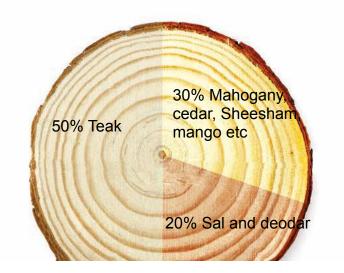
FURNITURE MARKET IN INDIA BY TYPE OF MATERIAL

FURNITURE MATERIAL	2010-2011 US\$ MILLION	2014-2015 US \$ MILLION	2019-2020 US \$ MILLION	CAGR (PROJECTED)2014- 2020 (%)
WOOD	6139.43	7604.37	14540.19	13.84
PLASTIC	721.00	1056.16	2112.68	14.88
CANE AND BAMBOO	284.03	471.21	1413.63	24.59
METAL	1573.09	1982.33	4225.35	16.34
OTHERS*	458.82	584.95	1165.08	14.77
TOTAL	9176.38	11699.02	23456.93	14.93

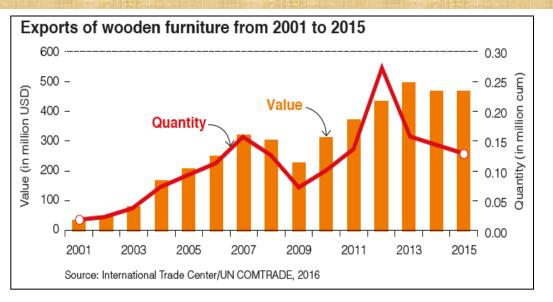
- ➤ Wood-based furniture dominates the market with a 65 per cent share worth USD 7604.37 million; teakwood being the most popular raw material, particularly in western and southern regions.
- Indian Furniture Market is spread all over India but Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh have the largest number of Furniture Manufacturer.
- India Consumes around 402 Million cum of wood (including fuel wood) and 69 Million cum of raw wood annually for housing, furniture, paper, pulp, logs and agricultural implements out of which approximately 4 Million cum of Finished Goods is being exported and rest is in domestic market.

Source: MCG estimate, 2016

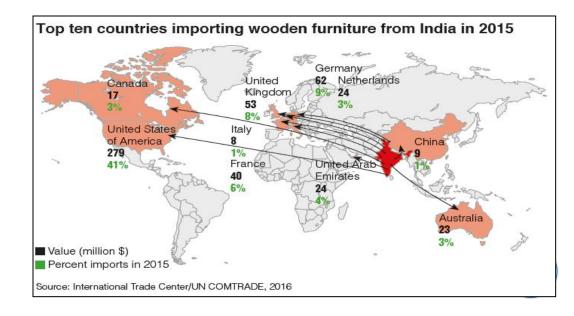
Timber species used in Indian Furniture Industry



EXPORTS OF WOODEN FURNITURE FROM INDIA

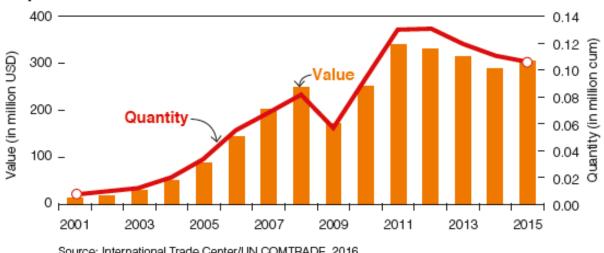


Major export destinations for Indian wooden furniture are USA, Germany, France and UK.



IMPORTS OF WOODEN FURNITURE FROM INDIA

Imports of wooden furniture from 2001 to 2015

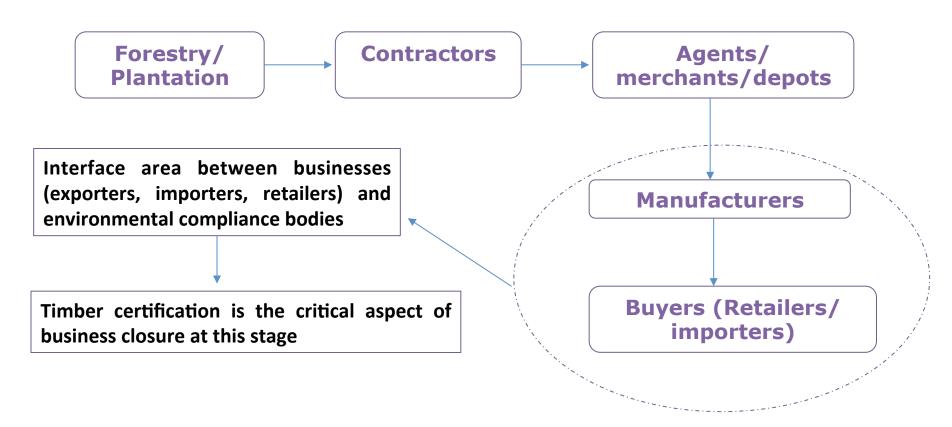


Source: International Trade Center/UN COMTRADE, 2016

- > China and Malaysia are the major exporters of low cost wooden furniture to India
- ➤ Around 58% importerd furniture is from China



VALUE CHAIN OF WOOD INDUSTRY IN INDIA



Timber certification is a process which results in a written statement (a certificate) attesting to the origin of wood raw material and its status and/or qualifications, often following validation by an independent third party.



INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TRADE

Certificate	Description
Lacey Act	 □ As per the ACT, any wood that is harvested illegally in its native country comes under domestic law and "anyone who imported, exported, transported, sold, received, acquired or purchased the wood products made from that illegal timber, who knew or should have known that the wood was illegal, may be prosecuted for violation of the Lacey Act □ The Lacey Act has been amended several times since its inception in 1900. □ The Lacey Act covers CITES species and in 2008 it was amended to include products made from illegally logged woods
EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan	 □ The EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) is the European Union's response to the global problem of illegal logging and the international trade in illegally-harvested timber. □ Adopted in 2003 by EU, FLEGT Action Plan focusses on fighting illegal harvesting, particularly in tropical countries, through FLEGT voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs). India is not party to the VPA □ VPAs are legally binding trade agreements between the EU and a timber-producing country outside the EU



INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TRADE

Certificate	Description
CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	 Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The species covered by CITES are listed in 3 Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need: Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled Appendix III is a list of species included at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation
Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (Australian Government 2012)	☐ This Act prohibits the importation and processing of illegally logged timbers, with importers and processors required to make a declaration to customs at time of import to show compliance with the due diligence requirements under the Act

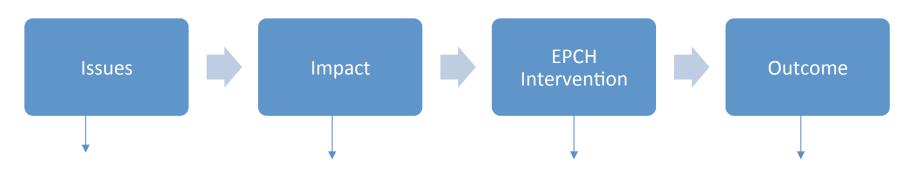


INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS TRADE

Certificate	Description
EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)	 Came into effect in March 2013, with the aim of preventing sales of illegal timber and timber products in the EU market. Comprises three main obligations: Timber accompanied by a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) or Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) licence will be accepted as legal. EUTR prohibits the placing of illegally harvested timber, and products made from illegally harvested timber, on the EU market, whether the timber is of domestic or imported origin. Traders (those after the operators in the supply chain) need to keep records of their suppliers and customers (except end consumers). In this way, the operators can always be traced.



IMPACT OF ACTION PLANS/ INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS ON INDIAN WOOD BASED HANDICRAFTS SECTOR



- Lack of an acceptable standard system puts a question mark in the international market on the wood origin, authenticity of documentation and validity and veracity of timber legality documents presently in acceptance.
- ☐ Market Access issues in EU markets owed to India not being signatory to VPA of FLEGT or amendments made in existing regulations rendering Indian exporters to have special permits (CITES amendment)

- ☐ Impact on wood handicraft industry , especially the MSMEs, who are not well versed with international certifications and procedures
- ☐ Small artisans may lose their livelihood if clarity not brought about regarding wood legality issues which are beyond their capabilities.
- ☐ Indian exporters losing their competitive advantage in export markets

☐ Worked towards timber legality assessment scheme to address these concerns of industry, artisans, buyers and international market



- ☐ Development of VRIKSH Standards
- ☐ EPCH authorised by DGFT as nodal agency to issse certification
- ☐ Vriksh is internationally accepted
- ☐ Till date 394 exporters in India are VRISKH Certified



Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has been nominated as the nodal agency for issuing certificate on due diligence adopted by the exporters in procuring wood from legal sources for manufacture of Handicraft articles'

(To be Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section - 3, Sub-Section (ii))

Government of India Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department of Commerce Udyog Bhawan

Notification No 13 (RE - 2013)/2009-2014 New Delhi, Dated : 14 May, 2013

Subject: Nomination of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) as nodal agency for certificate on due diligence adopted by the exporters in procuring wood from legal sources for manufacture of Handicraft articles.

S.O.(E) In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (No.22 of 1992) read with Para 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014 (as amended from time to time), the Central Government hereby adds, with immediate effect, a new Note 3 in Chapter 44 of Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export & Import Items for nominating Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) as nodal agency for certificate on due diligence adopted by the exporters in procuring wood from legal sources for manufacture of Handicraft articles.

2. Accordingly, Note 3 of Chapter 44 of Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export & Import Items will read as under:

"Note 3

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is authorized to issue certificate, on demand, on the due diligence adopted by the exporters in procurement of wood from legal sources".

3. Effect of this notification:

In case of request by the foreign buyer or any other agency on showing due diligence in procurement of wood from legal sources for manufacture of handicraft articles, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) will be authorized agency to issue such certificate.

(Anup K. Pujari) Director General of Foreign Trade E-mail: dgft[at]nic[dot]in

(Issued from F.No.01/91/180/510/AM12/Export Cell)





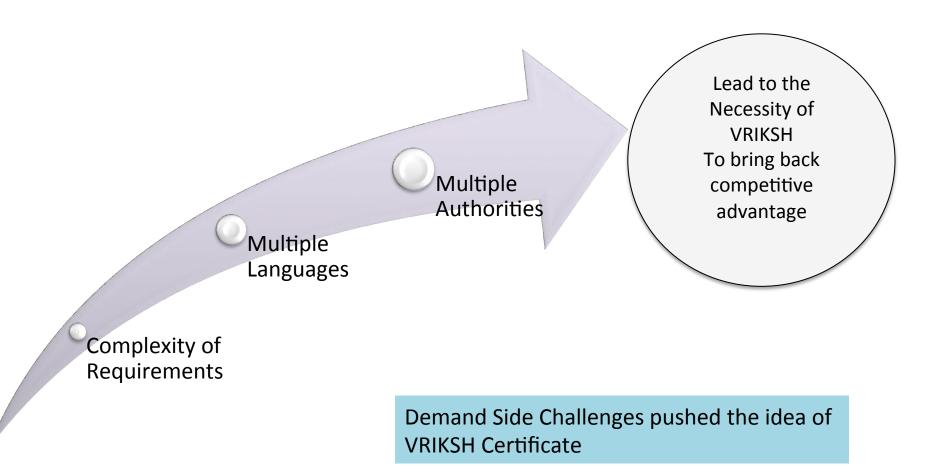
GENESIS OF VRIKSH-TAKING INDUSTRY ON BOARD

VRIKSH objective is to provide a viable solution to help the handicrafts exporters maintain their source of livelihood, through standard development and verification programme to effectively deal with international timber regulation requirements
EPCH decided to initiate VRIKSH in 2013 to promote the responsible and legal use of wood in the handicrafts and home décor industry, keeping in mind the social and environmental obligations as well
Industry heads asked EPCH for guidance and help – necessity to meet new timber legality requirements to meet customer obligations
Industry put forth problems faced by exporters — sudden drop in export orders, hesitance in fulfilling export commitments, lack of clarity regarding compliance
EPCH discussed the issue with industry representatives, subject matter experts and other stakeholders in detail





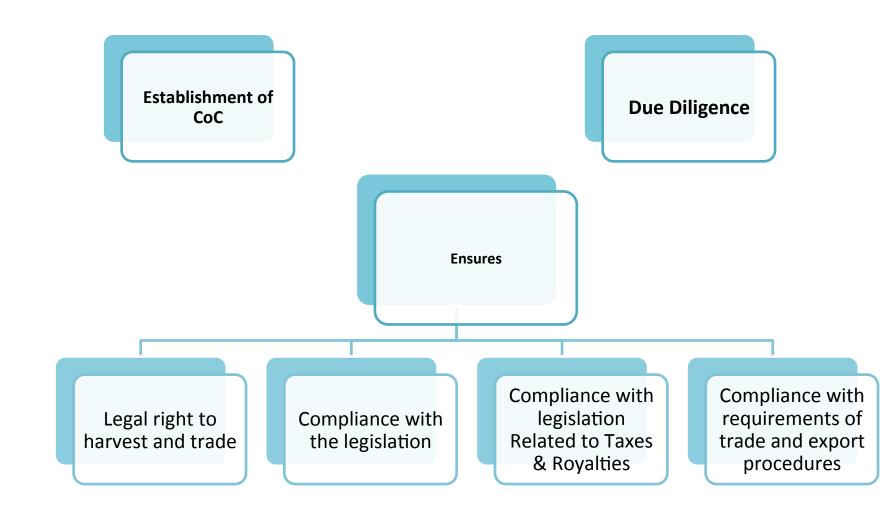
GENESIS OF VRIKSH- WHAT WERE THE DRIVERS







VRIKSH SCOPE







UNIQUE FEATURES OF VRIKSH

Specifically designed to Indian Handicraft Industry Risk Assessment and Verification Program **Supply Chain Verification** Traceability through Batch Accounting Covering all aspects of legality Legality Verification of all sources Government Forests Private lands Farm Forestry **Complaint Mechanism** Mutual Recognition of other schemes World wide presence through web based registry

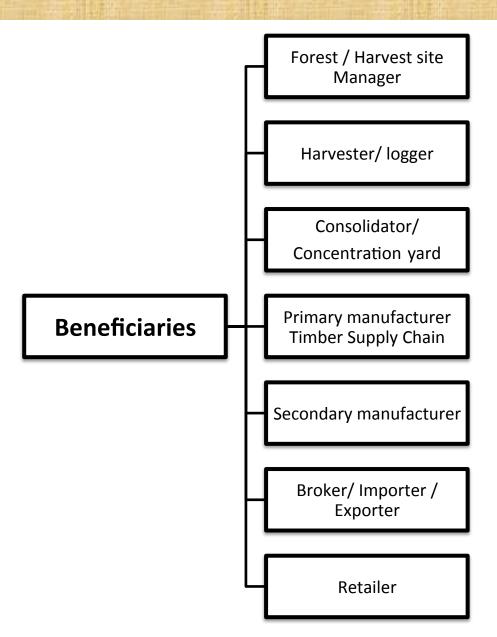
STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

- Governing Body/ Secretariat
- Establishment of Clear and Documented Standard Operating Procedures.
- Registry of 'Vriksh" verified companies.
- Maintenance of Data base
- Standards updation and revision protocols
- Complaints/ disputes handling and Redressal mechanism
- Promotion of scheme and achieving Global acceptance in markets and international regulatory bodies





SCOPE OF VRIKSH







EPCH AUTHORISED TO ISSUE VRIKSH SHIPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR DALBERGIA SPECIES BY MOEFCC



Achievement

□ Acceptance of Vriksh Shipment certificate as the comparable document in lieu of CITES permit

Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), called for moving all the species of Dalbergia including Dalbergia latifolia (Rosewood) and Dalberia sissoo (Sheesham) to Appendix II of CITES, resulting in Indian exporters of wooden handicrafts using the said species to necessarily obtain CITES permit for exporting the finished products to global markets.

EPCH efforts

- EPCH pro-actively on-boarded the Secretary (Ministry of Textiles) with the issue by advocating the fact that the survival of said species is not endangered in India and large number of exporters and artisans shall stand adversely affected by the modalities of new CITES notification
- Secretary, Ministry of Textiles in concerted effort with Secretary MoEFCC initiated a dialogue with Govt. of Swiss Federation (Depository Govt. of CITES), requesting for a reservation in the matter and proposed for a comparable document to be issued EPCH in lieu of CITES permit.

EPCH AUTHORISED TO ISSUE VRIKSH SHIPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR DALBERGIA SPECIES BY MoEFCC



- A two-member delegation team of EPCH camped at Geneva and worked closely with the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) at Geneva in December 2016 to field the case of India with Govt. of Swiss Federation (Depository Govt. of CITES), seeking reservation wherein India is no longer party to CITES convention w.r.t. two Dalbergia species namely Dalbergia latifolia and Dalbergia sissoo.
- The Government of Swiss Confederation (Depository Government for CITES) has accepted India's reservation and has issued a notification dated 24th January 2017 notifying the Indian reservation and declaration as follows:-

"With note received on 27 December 2016, the Republic of India enters a reservation with reference to the inclusion of Dalbergia spp. in Appendix II of the Convention. India declared at the same time that its Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is the competent authority of the Republic of India to issue comparable certificates according to Article X of the CITES".

- MoEFCC (Indian CITES management authority) has authorized EPCH as the designated authority to issue the comparable document i.e Vriksh Shipment Certificate in lieu of CITES permit for export of handicrafts made from Dalbergia sissoo and Dalbergia latifolia. The contact details of EPCH as a designated authority has also been placed on the website of CITES, Geneva (https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/IN).
 - First shipment certificate was issued on 27th February 2017 and 4504 Vriksh
 Shipment Certificates have been issued till date



PROCESS TO OBTAIN VRIKSH CERTIFICATE

Certification Process

- Receipt of expression of interest/ Vriksh Application by EPCH from applicant.
- > The application is sent to Inspection agency
- Inspection agency sends the Agreements, Standards & preparation documents to the applicant
- ➤ As soon as the organization is ready with the documentation, they intimate Inspection agency & audit is scheduled.
- Inspection agency conducts on site audit of the site.
- > After audit, the auditor prepares a detailed audit report & submit it to Inspection agency
- ➤ Based upon the audit findings, the Inspection agency takes a final decision on either Vriksh certificate is issued/ rejected. Then complete details are sent to EPCH.

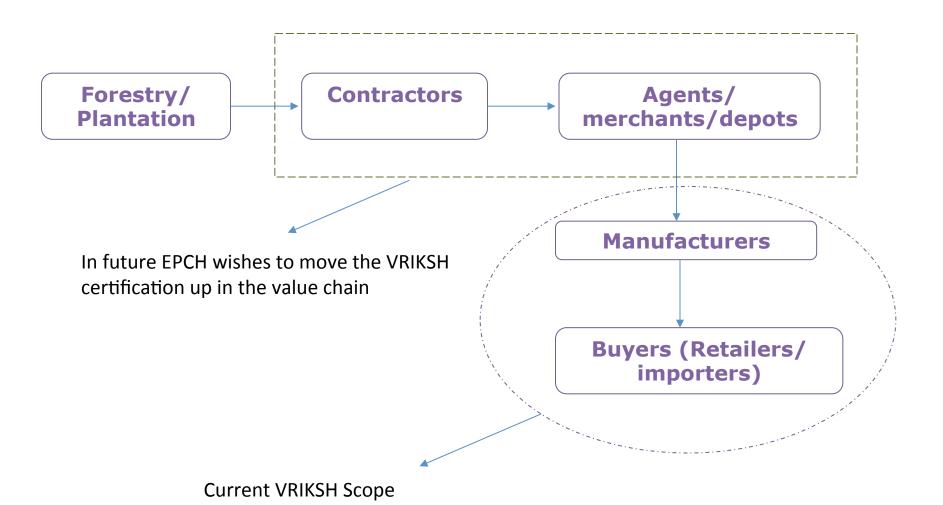


EPCH issues the certificate to the organization if Certification is approved.

AUDITING AND VERIFICATION PROCESS

- Opening Meeting (introduction, description about the company, introduction about the Vriksh standard against which the audit has to be conducted, briefing the company about the audit agenda)
- Onsite review of documentation (backtracking of supplier documentation to verify the source of origin of the material procured by the company) & interview of the company personnel to check the awareness in regard to the requirements of the Vriksh standards at different stages of procurement & processing within the company.
- Physical verification of the raw material stores to check the material traceability (Batch Accounting), verify material balance records, conversion factors against the documentary evidences submitted by the company.
- > Summarizing all the findings
- ➤ Closing meeting (Briefing the company regarding the different types of Non- Compliances and time duration for clearing the non compliances, disclose the NCs.)
- End of Audit
- Note: The Vriksh certificate is only awarded after confirming that during the Audit (Documentation + Physical verification) the company was found to be in mpliance with all the requirements of the Vriksh Standards.

FUTURE TARGETS UNDER VRIKSH









Certificate



according to the

VRIKSH Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Scheme-India

(as per the notification no. 13(RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated on 14 May 2013 issued by DGFT to EPCH)

On behalf of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

Scientific Certification Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.

approves that

Company Name

Company Address

complies with the requirements of the VRIKSH Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Standard

VRIKSH-STD-01-01 V1.4 EN

Certificate Code: XXXX

This certificate is valid from Date of Certification to Date of Expiry

This certificate covers:

Production of: *Product name*Manufactured from: *Species name*Originating from: *District of Origin*

R.K.Verma , Director

Sachin Raj Jain , Director

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

Scientific Certification Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.

#Plot No. 1, Pocket 6&7, Sector C, L.S.C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070

This certificate itself does not constitute evidence that a particular product supplied by the certificate when the 'VRIKSH' daim is clearly stated on sales and delivery documents, anothe validity of the certificate and its of products included in scope canbe found and verified on Vrikshindiain. The certificate shall return the property of Scientific Certification Systems (India)PvLtd and Export Promotion Council for Nanodicrafts this certificate and all copies or reproductions of this certificate shall be returned to Scientific Certification Systems(India)PvLtd and Export Promotion Council for Nanodicrafts this certificate and all copies or reproductions of this certificate shall be returned to Scientific Certification Systems(India)PvLtd and Export Promotion Council for Nanodicrafts this certificate and its open or request.





Date of Issue: Export Permit no:

Vriksh Shipment Certificate (Comparable document in lieu of CITES permit for Appendix II species)

according to

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(Article X: Trade with States Not Party to the Convention and CITES Resolution Conf. 9.5 (Rev. CoP16): Trade with States not party to the Convention)

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<NAME, STAMP, SIGNATURE> Director, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) Competent Issuing Authority

EPCH House, Pocket 6&7, Sector C, Local Shopping Complex, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Delhi 110070, India Contact us at - vriksh@epch.com; Telephone: +91 11 26135256; http://www.epch.in, http://vrikshindia.in/





1.	Name of Importer	
2.	Address	
3.	Phone number	
4.	E-Mail	
5.	Contact Person	ALLYPA

Export endorsement		Bill of lading/way	ybill
			34 72
Port of Export:	Date:	Signature:	Official Stamp and Title



EPCH House, Pocket 6&7, Sector C, Local Shopping Complex, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Delhi 110070, India Contact us at - vriksh@epch.com; Telephone: +91 11 26135256; http://www.epch.in, http://vrikshindia.in/

^{*}In case the invoice contains products containing both Daibergia sissoo and Daibergia latifolia, then the list of items, weight in kgs and total weight of the individual items shall be submitted species wise.



Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Wildlife Division)

6th Floor, Vayu Wing Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Ali Ganj, Jor Bagh Road New Delhi-110003 Dated: 03rd March 2017

F. No. 4-07/2017/WL

Mr. David H.W. Morgan Chief, Governing Bodies and Meeting Services CITES Secretariat 11-13 Chemin des Anemones 1219 Chatelaine – Geneva

Sub: CITES: India Competent Authorities issuing CITES Certificates/Permits in view of reservation obtained for *Dalbergia* spp by India – reg.

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your email dated 27th February 2017 on the above subject.

2. In this regard, I would like to inform that the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has been authorized as designated authority to issue the comparable document in lieu of CITES permit, i.e. Vriksh Shipment Certificate for export of handicraft products made from Dalbergia sissoo and Dalbergia latifolia from India. The contact details of EPCH are as below:

The Director

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

EPCH House, Pocket 6 & 7, LSC

Sector C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110 070

Tel: +91-11-26135256/57/58; Fax: +91-11-26135518

Email: vriksh@epch.com Website: vrikshindia.in

 Above mentioned Vriksh Shipment Certificate would be the CITES comparable certificate as per Conf. 9.5 (Rev. CoP16) of CITES for export of handicraft products made of *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Dalbergia latifolia* only. The copy of the Vriksh Shipment Certificate is enclosed. The same would be duly uploaded on the security section of CITES Secretariat website also.

Cont., pg. 2

:2:

- 3. The CITES Assistant Management Authorities, India would be issuing CITES permits in accordance with Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) for export, re-export of all non-handicraft products made from *Dalbergia spp* and handicraft products of *Dalbergia spp* other than handicraft products made from *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Dalbergia latifolia*.
- This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

...

(Roy P Thomas) Joint Director (WL) Telfax: 011-24695379 Email: jd-wl@nic.in

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

- The Secretary General, CITES Secretariat, Geneva with a request to notify to all Parties to the CITES;
- 2. The Secretary, Ministry of Textiles
- 3. The Director General, DGFT, New Delhi
- 4. The Member (Customs and legal), CBEC, New Delhi
- The Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Handicrafts, New Delhi
- 6. The Joint Secretary (Customs), CBEC, New Delhi
- 7. The Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi
- 8. The Director, EPCH, New Delhi

N

(Roy P Thomas) Joint Director (WL)





Headquarters

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

EPCH House, Pocket-6 & 7, Sector C, L.S.C.,

Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070

Tel: +91-11-26135256/57/58; Fax: +91-11-26135518/19

E-mail: mails@epch.com; Website: www.epch.in

Regional / Representative Offices

Bengaluru

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) 302, 3rd Floor, Cears Plaza, No. 136, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560001

Tel: +91-80-22107367

Telefax: +91-80-22107369

Email: bangalore@epch.com

Moradabad

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)

12A, C-86, New Moradabad Yojana, Delhi Road

Moradabad-244001

Tel: +91-591-2480075

Fax: +91-591-2480076

Email: moradabad@epch.com

Kolkata

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) 53/1, Sambhunath Pandit Street, First Floor, (Opp. Bangur Institute of Nueroscience & Psychiatry) Kolkata-700025
Tel: +91-33-24191744; Fax: +91-33-24191745

Mumbai

E-mail: kolkata@epch.com

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)
3rd Floor, Y. B. Chavan Centre,
Gen. J. Bhosale Marg, Mumbai-400021
Tel: +91-22-22814796
E-mail: mumbai@epch.com

Guwahati

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)
IIE, Basistha Chariali, N.H. 37 By-lane,
Near Game Village, Lalmati,
Guwahati-781029
Mobile: +91-8130025841
E-mail: ner@epch.com

Narsapur

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)
International Lace Trade Centre (ILTC),
Rustumbada, Narsapur-534275,
West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh
Tel: +91-8814-275828/29, +91-9891469898
E-mail: narsapur@epch.com

Jodhpur

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) SPL-1, Basni Industrial Area, Jodhpur Tel.: +91-291-2720373; Mob: +91-8766006937 E-mail: jodhpur@epch.com

Agra

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)
1/129, Bagichi Tulsiram, Shahganj Parchkuiyan Road, Agra-282010
Tel: +91-562-2210246; Mob: +91-9837067762
E-mail: agra@epch.com

Saharanpur

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Wood Seasoning Plant
National Centre for Photo and Picture Framing Technology
Mandi Samiti Road, Saharanpur-247001
Tel: +91-132-2613093; Mob: +91-9027463858
E-mail: saharanpur@epch.com

Jaipur

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)
Plot No. A-1, Sheel Mohar Plaza,
2nd Floor, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Mob: +91-9983321833
E-mail: jaipur@epch.com



Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Tel: 91-11-26135256 Fax:91-11-26135518/19

E-MAIL: vriksh@epch.com

Website: www.vrikshindia.in