

[Press release: National product safety office carries out first enforcement action](#)

British timber operator Hardwood Dimensions (Holdings) Ltd today (2 March) was fined £4,000 for breaching regulations prohibiting the importing and sale of illegally harvested timber.

The fine marked the first enforcement action carried out by the Government's new [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) since its establishment earlier this year.

Hardwood's failed to check the legality of a batch of timber from Cameroon when placing it on the market, breaching regulations requiring businesses trading in timber and timber products in the UK to ensure that their products originate from legal sources.

At Manchester Magistrates Court, the company was convicted and fined £4,000 plus costs after pleading guilty at the first hearing.

Business Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

The new Office for Product Safety and Standards strengthens the UK's already tough product safety and enforcement rules and today's decision by the court sends a powerful message to companies that they need to ensure any products they sell originate from legitimate sources.

Mike Kearney, Head of Enforcement at the Office for Product Safety and Standards, said:

This conviction shows just how serious we are about compliance issues and how we will take rapid action when rules have been broken to protect consumers, businesses and the environment.

Taking into account their mitigation and credit for an early guilty plea, Hardwood's was fined £4,000 plus a victim surcharge of £170 and prosecution costs of £3,273. The total of £7,443 was ordered to be paid within 28 days.

[How the Office for Product Safety and Standards contributes to the national regulatory landscape.](#)

Promotional material: Mid Tier events 2018: Countryside Stewardship

Updated: Details for Middleton-in-Teesdale on 10 May added.

The events consist of a presentation about Mid Tier followed by a question and answer session.

Use the timetable to find an event near you.

You'll need to book the event you want to attend. Contact the regional organiser shown on the timetable.

Notice: ME16 9NT, Gallagher Aggregates Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Gallagher Aggregates Limited
- Installation name: Hermitage Quarry Waste Treatment Facility
- Permit number: EPR/LP3134YU/A001

Notice: M22 4SZ, Vita Liquid Polymers Limited: environmental permit application advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

Research and analysis: Assessment of sediment phosphorus capping to control nutrient concentrations in English lakes

This project investigated the effectiveness of a technique for stopping the release of phosphorus from lake sediments. If successful, this could accelerate the ecological recovery of lakes with excessive nutrients (eutrophication) and help to restore fish and wildlife populations.

The project has delivered detailed evidence on a method to control internal lake phosphorus loading to reverse eutrophication and has furthered our understanding of the factors likely to affect the success of sediment capping techniques.

The results of the study will be useful to staff in the Environment Agency and other bodies concerned with lake restoration projects across the UK.