

Forest Traffic Company Response

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:52 AM

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, we were unable to review it until your call this morning, as it was mistakenly identified as spam and therefore sent to the deleted items folder.

Allow me to extend our congratulations on your publication and your environmental protection research, a cause to which our company is fully committed.

Regarding your communication, it has left us both surprised and concerned. Forest Traffic has been engaged in international plywood purchasing worldwide (Russia, China, Vietnam, Brazil, India, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, etc.) for the past 25 years, the most recent under the standards of the independent FSC organization, which, as you may know, regulates issues such as the one mentioned in your email, establishing wood management processes based on ethical and sustainability criteria, all of which are further reinforced by the annual audits of these processes to which we submit.

While we do not question your research, we do not share your impressions regarding the alleged laxity of our procedures and our Due Diligence System. In fact, our Due Diligence System has been reviewed and endorsed by the competent Spanish authorities. What is true is that we do not reach the level of journalistic analysis that you use. We trust that the supporting documentation, validated by international organizations, is sufficient to ensure the legality of the imported goods.

As part of our aforementioned Due Diligence System, we increase controls on goods received from countries classified as "high risk," and therefore increase the documentary requirements for such goods.

In the case of the supplier you mentioned, TIANMA, we maintain strict control of the documents provided to us, certifying the logging of birch veneer (*Betula pendula*) in EU countries. These documents are compared, order by order, with our own consumption records to ensure that we are not sold more material than is documented.

This information provided by the supplier is not only audited annually by organizations such as FSC but also by highly reputable control bodies such as Bureau Veritas.

Furthermore, we have been able to verify in situ the existence of the presses and production facilities for manufacturing the panels. During our visit, we found no trace of merchandise (veneer) labeled as Russian.

Please consider this email and the attached documents as evidence that Forest Traffic operates in accordance with good practices and complies with our Due Diligence System. That said, this does not rule out the possibility that the supplier could be committing fraud by either concealing or misrepresenting the documentation they provide, as your research seems to suggest.

In light of the information you have provided, we fully intend to request additional clarification from TIANMA regarding your investigation. Should they fail to adequately refute these findings, we will proceed to terminate our commercial relationship with them.

Finally, given the information I have shared with you, we kindly request that you exclude Forest Traffic from this investigation, as our practices do not align with those described in your communication.

You are welcome to visit our facilities, review our documents, and examine our procedures to verify this information firsthand. This would help prevent the reputational damage and economic harm that the publication of our company's name in this context would undoubtedly cause—harm that would unjustly position us as victims of this supplier (TIANMA) and, in no way, as collaborators.

I remain at your disposal for any further clarification.

Best regards,

Forest Traffic

PS: Likewise, I would like to let you know that, although our English is not the best, we would be happy to hold a Teams meeting to answer any questions you may have on this matter.