

Awareness seminar on  
**“VRIKSH – Indian Timber Legality assessment and verification scheme”**

held on 30<sup>st</sup> November, 2018  
at Bengaluru

**VRIKSH- India’s timber legality assessment and verification standard** is for verification of legality and legal origin of wood and wooden and wooden products is intended for those entities who want to accurately track and make claims about the legal origin and transport of their products.

Time to time the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) introduced requirement of documents towards shipment of articles made from Seesham wood especially Dalbergia - Sishu and Latifolia . The members while applying for Vriksh Certificate / Shipment Certificate, unable to submit required documentation due to lack of information or change in required documentation which leads to delay in getting certificates.

In view of the above and frequent queries received from member-exporters and organisation involved directly and indirectly in wooden industry from the southern region. The Council organised a seminar to provide solution to the stakeholders towards their issues and to provide guidelines on the required documentation. Accordingly, the Council approached o/o Additional Principal Chief conservator of Forest, Resource management, Govt of Karnataka to interact with the exporters/ associations and artisans those who are facing problem in procuring required documents /legal Procurement Certificate through seminar.

A seminar was organised on **VRIKSH – Indian Timber Legality assessment and verification scheme** on 30th November, 2018 at Bengaluru. Mr. Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Addl Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Resource Management, Govt. of Karnataka, Mr. P Sashidhar, Sr. Assistant Director, O/o Dev. Commissioner (Handicrafts), Bengaluru and Ms. Abhilasha, Manager, GICIA were present during the seminar.



**L to R :-** Mr. P Sashidhar, Sr. Assistant Director, O/o Dev. Commissioner (Handicrafts), Bengaluru, Mr. Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Addl Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Resource Management, Govt. of Karnataka, Mr. Naveen Gaur, Asstt. Director and Regional Incharge-SR-EPCH and Ms. Abhilasha, Manager, GICIA

Mr. Naveen Gaur, Assistant Director and Regional In-charge-SR-EPCH, welcomed the participants and informed about the importance of today's seminar. He also informed participants, that how important is to understand the international market scenario and accordingly how they can make the strategy to work in the international market.



Mr. Deepesh Sharma, JEPO-EPCH made his presentation on the VRIKSH certification. In his presentation he briefed about how the theme of Vriksh has been conceptualised and its importance in the international standards of certifications required to export of wooden handicrafts products from India. He further elaborated step by step procedures on how to get the Vriksh Verification certificate and shipment certificate.



Ms. Abhilasha, Manager, GICIA a Technical and assessment agency to issue Vriksh Certificate after onsite inspection and verification of document to the stakeholder. Ms. Abhilasha in her presentation briefed about the documentation required as per the regulations of CITES. She further added that Legal Procurement Certificate is one of main document for issuance of Shipment Certificate. She also shared the common queries received from the stakeholders for procurement of LPC.





Mr. P Sashidhar, Sr. Assistant Director, O/o Dev. Commissioner (Handicrafts), Bengaluru addressing the participants.

Mr. P Sashidhar, Sr. Assistant Director, O/o Dev. Commissioner (Handicrafts), Bengaluru also shared some of the issues which were brought by the artisans who are directly and indirectly working / supplying seesham wood articles to the various organisation and facing problem in producing the said documents.

Later the house was open for the questions and answers, the members took advantage of the session and asked their question with the authorities present.



Shri. Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Resource Management, Department of Forests, Government of Karnataka addressing the participants and replies to their queries.

Shri. Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Resource Management, Department of Forests, Government of Karnataka, while interacting with the participants, informed that there are some of the format which are necessary to produce while they are applying for the LPC.

Forest department is the custodian of rosewood like any other forest produces. Without valid permission, one cannot cut the tree even if it is grown in the private land. The trees after cutting, will be stored in the forest depots of the concerned area. The forest department will be auctioning the timber from their respective depots frequently and the bidder can bid for the same and purchase the required wood. The forest department will issue the Form No.27 (transit permit) for those who purchases the wood from forest timber depots. Form No. 27 is the basic and valid permit and the measurement of the wooden logs will be entered into the Log book of forest department as per the measurement entered in the Form No.27. The purchaser those who got the Form No.27, can sell the wood to any number of persons and issue Form No.29 ( Exchange permit) to re-sale of wood purchased

under FORM-27, until the existing measurement of the wood he purchased from the department as per Form No.27 of the respective entry. Without Form No.27, it cannot be considered as legal procurement and hence, Legal Procurement Certificate cannot issued by the department.



Representative from Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation and Central cottage Industries Corporation Ltd. raised their queries about the how to get the LPC on the old stock of products made out of *Delbergia latifolia*, which are the products prior to the notification issued by the CITES on dated 28th March,2018.



M/s Karnataka Handicrafts Manufacturers Association, Mysuru also raised the concern about the wood procured by them prior to the above notification. Mr. Ramu, President of the association informed that inspite of their repeated request to the Forest Department for the issuance of LPC for their old stock, the forest department shown their inability about the matter concerned. The association assure that they have all relevant documents which are required for issuance of LPC. He further added that due to non issuance of LPC on their old stock, the artisans and manufacturer will face a heavy loss.

In reply to the queries raised by the participants regarding how to account the old stocked wood in the absence of Form No.29 prior to Notification issued by CITES, Mr. Dikshit informed the participants that in case of persons who procured the wooden logs from the Saw Mill should have the Form No.31 from the Saw Mill owner. If the saw mill owner purchased the logs from the Forest Depot, they must have the stock register and should have the Form No.42 & 43. In case the buyer has the old stock for having purchased the same from the Saw mills, he can insist the saw mill owner to share the copy of the Form No.42 & 43 or the old GST bill of purchase of wood (GST number will also be sufficient) which can be considered as valid proof of purchase and Legal Procurement Certificate can be issued based on the same.

In reply to issuance of LPC by the Forest Department, Mr. Dikshit added that only Designated officer like DFO or ACF can issue the LPC and not below this rank officials.

The seminar was attended by 32 participants from the trade. The participants satisfied with the reply to their queries from the concerned department and extended their thanks to the Council in organising such a informative and important seminar for the members.