

1. Adoption of agenda

2. Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire activities and process in 2023

- a) Number and quality of replies
- b) Successes/problems
- c) Data dissemination
- d) Data validation - discrepancies identified:
 - Apparent consumption
 - Annual changes
 - Unit price
 - Global checks
- e) Data exchanges among partner organizations
- f) Ancillary statistical activities by individual organizations
- g) Results of the 2022 JFSQ revision
- h) Pending issues

3. The JFSQ cycle in 2024

- a) Possible future improvements to the questionnaire:
 - Wood charcoal: inclusion of HS2022 code 4402.20 in wood charcoal aggregate.
 - In the verification table for JQ3 sheet, is the formula in the cell for checking the figure of Product Code 14.5 is incorrect since 14.5 could not be equal to the total of 14.5.1, 14.5.2 and 14.5.3. According to the description on correspondences to HS2022 in JQ3 sheet, 14.5 includes 48.14/16/17/20/21/22/23, though 14.5.1, 14.5.2 and 14.5.3 only includes ex4823.90, 4823.70, 4823.20 respectively.
 - Change the current 15, 15.1, 15.2 and 16 codes for EWPs (just numbering), options to discuss:
 - 13.4 BUILDER'S JOINERY AND CARPENTRY OF WOOD
 - 13.4.1
 - 13.4.2
 - 13.4.3
 - 13.4.4 Other
 - or
 - 13.4.1 Engineered wood products
 - of which Glulam
 - of which CLT
 - of which I-beams
 - 13.4.2 Other (actually redundant if we have total 13.4)
 - Add CPC Ver.3 codes to JQ Suppl.1 sheet (the classification will be approved by UNSC in early March)
 - Proposal to rename "Other agglomerates" with "Wood briquettes and other agglomerates"
 - reformat cells for take out =ISNUMBER(D16)

- should Laminate flooring be mentioned in definitions? Currently, export/import data for fibreboard include laminate flooring.
- Wood biochar is increasing visible, should we mention it in our definitions?
- JQ Annex 4 needs updating?
- LVL definitions.
 - The definition of Laminated Veneer Lumber in the HS2022 explanatory notes, compared to the JFSQ definition, was presented to the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics (ToS FPWES) in May 2023, noting a question about whether LVL is design to support structural loads. The Team was asked for guidance on whether the definition should be revised. The Team agreed this topic deserves more attention and expressed interest in organizing a dedicated webinar with industry to discuss in more detail.
- Non tropical timber exported from tropical countries:
 - ITTO provided the following information on non-coniferous, non-tropical imports from Tropical countries (as defined by ITTO) to the 2023 ToS FPWES:
 - Industrial Roundwood: 215,000 m³
 - Sawnwood: 80,000 m³
 - Veneer Sheets: 10,000
 - Plywood: 1,473,000 m³
 - The JFSQ footnote on non-coniferous, non-tropical species was presented to the Team. It reads: *“Please include the non-coniferous non-tropical species exported by tropical countries or imported from tropical countries.”* This footnote applies to the items: 1.2.NC.T Tropical Non-Coniferous Industrial Roundwood and 6.NC.T Tropical Non-Coniferous Sawnwood. The Secretariat of the ToS, on behalf of the IWG, then asked the Team for guidance on whether this footnote should be applied to tropical non-coniferous codes under items 7 (Veneer Sheets) and 8 (Wood Based Panels).

The Team suggested that the footnote should be worded: *“correspondents are requested to check bilateral trade and include non-coniferous non-tropical species exported by tropical countries or imported from tropical countries if the wood is credibly sourced from the tropical country”* as a best practice guidance to correspondents, rather than a definitional requirement. As a “requested check”, national correspondents would be in a position to determine whether or not to report flows as tropical, after considering potential issues such as re-exports. In this case, the Team agreed the revised footnote could be applied to tropical non-coniferous codes under items 7 and 8 as well.

- HS code assignment of “ex” codes in annex – see changes proposed for 3.2/4, and tropical on annex 2, JQ2 correspondence. Some items with ex codes (plywood, wooden furniture) were not commented previously, but have changed with HS2022. See ECE cover letter and analysis of current ex-codes in JQ and what to do about them (annex 2). 2023 IWG concluded not much can be done.
- At least two correspondents (Sweden and Netherlands) wanted to see “stemwood” as an item on JQ removals. This may be too hard for many countries but a special questionnaire might be useful, perhaps as part of a larger exercise on removals data practices in countries.
 - The ToS FPWES (May 2023) noted that national profiles of removals statistics definitions, based on the findings of the Survey on Removals (https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/ECE_TIM_2023_Inf.6-FAO_EFC_2023_Inf.6_0.pdf) could be useful, and noted that the continued work

of the ToS FPWES Ad Hoc Task Group on Removals Statistics may help facilitate comparability of removals statistics across countries.

- Future developments of the JFSQ: merging JQ2 and JQ3 but no mirror with JQ1.

b) Deadlines and data exchanges

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Eurostat</i>	<i>UNECE</i>	<i>ITTO</i>	<i>FAO</i>
Send out JFSQ to countries				
Deadline for countries responses				
Internal deadline (last day for new data additions)				
Basic validation				
Analytical validation (last day for data changes)				
Dispatch to ECE				
Dispatch to FAO (for checking and final)				
Dispatch JQ to ITTO				
Database upload				

c) Future: Ideas for “big bang”.

The Working Party in 2006 summarized the following for including new items in JFSQ (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2007/3, para 14)

The views of the Working Party were conveyed to the IWG basic principles for the inclusion of new products:

1. a clear definition, including HS codes;
 2. potential to collect data;
 3. interest shown in having data;
 4. avoidance of duplication;
 5. continuity of data series over time; and
 6. changes are long lasting.
- **LVL** classification: "The ToS FPWES discussed (May 2023) how to include Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) and recommended that it should not be an “of which” category." This could be solved by including categories for “Blockboard, laminboard and battenboard” and “Other” under plywood. However, Team members indicated that they currently would prefer not to include LVL as a subheading under Plywood at all. An alternative would be to move it under an aggregate category for “Engineered Wood Products” together with Glulam and Cross-Laminated Timber, despite the fact that this could represent a break-in-series for Plywood trade statistics based on HS correspondence codes. This approach could also include I-Beams under an aggregate category for “Engineered Wood Products,” even though this would require reporting I-Beams in m³. However, some team members expressed a strong preference to maintain I-Beam reporting in metric tonnes. It was proposed that the Secretariat may consult with members of the Team about the best approach ahead of the next meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group.

4. Global classifications:

- a) HS2022 updates
- b) HS2028 round.
 - Current progress and next steps (FAO)
 - **Wooden Pallets:** ToS FPWES was asked for guidance on the proposal to create a new subheading for wooden pallets under 4415.20 (HS2027), noting that there is an existing code in the combined nomenclature (CN) that combines pallets with pallet collars. The team expressed a preference to have a dedicated code for pallets, without include pallet collars, and proposed further consultations with industry.
- c) Combined Nomenclature
 - **Wood Waste:** The ToS FPWES was presented current challenges with misclassification between JFSQ items 3.2 and 4, and the introduction of item 3.2.1 to reduce overlap. It was asked for guidance on whether it would be worthwhile to include more detailed codes in the Combined Nomenclature covering wood waste, to further reduce overlap between item 3.2 and item 4. This would make it possible to gather trade data that could be used to develop a proposed code to include in the HS2032 revision. The team supported this proposal.
 - Updates on code for post-consumer recovered wood in CN. Definitions of post-consumer recovered wood.
- d) Conversion factors in ITTO/COMTRADE: Update from FAO
- e) Annex to chapter 44 “Appellation of certain tropical woods:” update from ITTO, FAO
- f) Standard international energy product classification (SIEC) revision: Updates from FAO, ECE
 - 2023 IWG: The revision started and is ongoing. FAO provided initial feedback and expressed interest in working on the revision. UNECE provided inputs via the InterEnerStat group on wood fuel.
- g) Update from CPC ver.3 and ISIC 5 (FAO)
- h) UNCTAD Informal Working Group on Trade and Biodiversity Statistics (ECE)

5. Other Business

- a) Inclusion of engineered wood products as a JQ4 in the future. To be discussed at next IWG.
- b) Understanding and managing negative consumption (not discussed 2023)
- c) Wood construction survey request.
 - At the 2023 ToS meeting a representative presented a proposal to work with the team to develop statistics to track the market share of wood-based buildings in the ECE region. The Team agreed that the ToS Leadership would consider this request and potential steps in further detail.
- d) Organizational and staff changes
 - **UNECE:** Undergoing Structural staff changes. Ms. Subashini Narasimhan completed her time with the section at the end of Dec 2023.
 - UNECE Database
- e) National correspondents
- f) Place and date of 38th IWG meeting (2025) (or in-between)

6. Meetings of Interest to IWG

- *Eurostat Working Group on Forestry Statistics and Accounts 14–15 March 2024, Luxembourg*

- *ITTO–FAO Meso-American workshop on Forest Products Statistics 19–21 March 2024, Zapopan, Mexico.*
- *20 - 21 May, 2024: [3rd Meeting of the Joint ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics](#), Geneva Switzerland*
- *22 - 24 May, 2024: [45th session of the joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management](#), Geneva Switzerland*
- *13 - 15 November, 2024: [Eighty-second session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry](#), Geneva Switzerland*

ANNEX 1 - PENDING ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

	Pending issue/action point	Status
	ITTO is currently (2023 IWG) in communication with the WCO for the revision of the annex and explore the possibility to replace the Annex by the most recent ATIBT nomenclature (7 th edition).	TBC
	Conversion factors in ITTO/COMTRADE: Code estimated in COMTRADE are: 0-2-4-6. 0 is no estimation, 2 is weight estimated, 4 is volume estimated and 6 is weight and volume estimated. Value is never estimated. 2023 IWG:	FAO to follow up with COMTRADE to know if they have updated the conversion factors to the latest ones. Room for improvement for these conversion factors as their scope seems limited.
	Code for post-consumer recovered wood in CN. Definitions of post-consumer recovered wood. IWG 2023 agreed it will be submitted in 2024.	TBC
	ECE will send questionnaire and data from 2018 EWP.	
	Future developments of the JFSQ: merging JQ2 and JQ3 but no mirror with JQ1. <u>Geneva to discuss with ToS meeting for feedback.</u>	Was not discussed at 2023 ToS meeting
	<u>ITTO to check the non-coniferous non tropical timber exported from tropical countries.</u> To be reported in the future to the IWG 2024 and, also to the Team of Specialist in 29-30 May 2023. This would give an idea about how much non-coniferous non-tropical timber is exported from tropical countries for sawnwood, veneer and plywood. <u>ITTO to come with an example to be included in the footnotes of JQ2.</u>	Resolved. ITTO provided example for 2023 ToS FPWES
	Added definitions of LVL and engineered wood products. 2023 IWG agreed to discuss LVL definitions with the ToS.	2023 ToS meeting requested further discussion
	<u>ITTO to find a list of what is considered tropical countries</u> so that non-coniferous material traded with tropical countries can be identified across agencies and for transparency with data users.	TBC
	ECE will continue to work on improving the definition of chips and particles.	Transferred to Team of Specialists for further discussions. At 2023 meeting, team proposed a dedicated webinar. Date TBD
	[Canada chip production] Should be revised backward or fixed from 1998 onwards and wood residues production from 1993 onwards. Postponed to 2024.	Not done in 2023.

	ECE will be trying to fix this [IRW data 1964-1989] and will share the correction file with FAO. In progress.	Continued.
	Ex-codes problems in item 3.2 and 4 cause problems for countries. Since this will not be fixed in HS2022 we should consider other solutions at next IWG meeting	ECE proposed that we include a specific solution (50/50 split) in JFSQ annex and cover letter. Also plywood C/NC could split along ratio of known C/NC. Continuing discussion, possibility of a special study. Ongoing. Check Eurostat information. 2023 ToS FPWES proposed a CN code.
	FAO is discussing internally with FAOSTAT and will provide updated flags to partners.	Under internal discussion at FAO. Ongoing discussions at IWG and implication for missing values. ToS is interested (May 2023) in a webinar to discuss current status.
	Stemwood, roundwood, removals and wood fuel: broad definitions. ECE will pursue this in a Team of Specialist sub-group.	The ToS prioritized a review of Removals definitions. In 2023, it proposed fact sheets with an overview of national definitions. No proposal for updated standard definition.

Annex 2- Ex-codes and what to do with them

The most important point with the ex-codes is that we don't undercount data (by not including it) and we don't double count it (by including in each parent JQ item).

Tropical items (1.2.NC.T, 6.NC.T, 8.1.NC.T)

We managed, in HS2017, to put ALL the tropical items into single HS groups for each product. Before that they were in an "other" category that combined with non-tropical non-coniferous.

The codes that are left for 1.2.NC.T and 6.NC.T are pretty minor (4403.12, 4406.12)

For plywood it can still be significant. However this should be fixed in HS2022.

In any case, the "recommended" procedure for all tropical items is to look at the imports from tropical countries for the total non-coniferous category and not to rely on assuming the goods have been correctly classified as tropical/non-tropical. The countries should be those ITTO classifies as tropical producers (https://www.itto.int/about_itto/members/). This does imply pretty significant work.

Wood residues and recovered post-consumer wood (3.2 / 4)

This code can't be easily split. We tried to get recovered wood into HS2022 and were rejected because we could not provide a good enough distinction.

Ideally a country will have some study or analysis which would give a level for the amount of traded recovered wood. Also, if there is no sawmilling industry we could assume almost all the exports would be recovered wood.

Countries give data sometimes for only 1 item (typically 3.2). In this case we can just leave item 4 empty (not zero).

The secretariat could analyze data that seems correct and calculate a standard split. This can be tricky because the data from countries that are "correctly" reporting may not be typical of all countries with different industry structure.

Failing all else, we can just divide the data for 4401.40 equally across both JQ items. As we have different units (m3 /mt) the source data should be converted correctly.

Plywood coniferous and non-coniferous (8.1.C, 8.1.NC)

We can leave this alone for time being, the HS2022 codes will include a more comprehensive split of coniferous and non-coniferous.

Fibreboard (8.3.2, 8.3.3)

We assigned, in 2017, code 4411.14 to both of these items and asked countries to make the split as they could (see note on annex sheet in JFSQ). We don't need to change the note now and should review it in HS2022.

If the country has data (more detailed trade classification or perhaps on production), it can make its own expert judgement.

Failing all else, if we have to make a decision on splitting 4411.14, we currently say to put it all into 8.3.2 (MDF).

Wooden furniture (13.5)

We can leave this alone for time being, the HS2022 codes will include a split of these items into wooden and non-wooden furniture parts.

Printing and writing paper, ready for use (14.5.1)

This is quite unclear as to how much actual printing and writing paper winds up here. We don't have enough knowledge to propose anything.

ECE cover letter comments on handling “ex” codes

Changes to the HS classification introduce a number of “ex” codes, codes that only partially apply to a specific JFSQ item. The IWG suggests that HS “ex” codes be divided amongst JFSQ items by one of the following procedures (listed in order of preference):

- The preferred solution is to use a more-detailed national classification system (where this exists) to assign subcodes of the “ex” codes into the correct JFSQ item;
- Use expert judgement to assign the volume and value of trade in the “ex” codes to the correct JFSQ item;
- Divide the data for volume and value of trade of the “ex” codes amongst the JFSQ items to which they apply.
- Correspondents are requested, when completing JQ2, to cross-check the data classified by HS code in national trade statistics as "tropical" with the data classified by actual country of origin.