



## Public statement on APRIL's SVLK-PHPL certification

10 April 2012

To whom it may concern:

There have been some reports in the public domain of allegations by certain parties regarding the validity of APRIL's concession licenses and the subsequent awarding of SVLK-PHPL Timber Legality Certification.

APRIL would like to clarify the following:

1. All of APRIL's concession licenses are legal and have been issued following a rigorous multi-step process involving local, provincial and national authorities. The status of those licenses are regularly reviewed by a range of authorities and have always been found to be in order. There have been no court or legal findings to the contrary.
2. In August 2012, APRIL's pulp and paper mills in Kerinchi, Riau Province, Indonesia, successfully passed audits verifying that it met legality standards as required by Indonesian law to receive SVLK (Verification of Timber Legality) certification. APRIL's forestry operations successfully certified for SVLK-PHPL in October 2010, becoming the first plantation company in Indonesia to do so. This was publicly announced at the time via Indonesian national media.
3. On 26 October 2012, APRIL was formally awarded its SVLK certificates for its entire pulp and paper manufacturing operations in Riau Province. This was also publicly announced via Indonesian national media.
4. APRIL's certification was awarded by independent and accredited auditor PT. Mutu Agung Lestari (PT MAL) after three years of audits according to SVLK's rigorous standards for timber legality, which were jointly developed by the Ministry of Forestry Indonesia and the European Union
5. Allegations that APRIL and its related companies are sourcing illegal fibres are completely untrue. All wood entering our mill is 100% legal. In addition to the mandatory national SVLK-PHPL certification, APRIL's fiber sourcing is verified by numerous international certifications as being from legal sources (*Bureau Veritas Legal Origin of Wood/OLB*) and for being traceable to the point of origin (*PEFC Chain of Custody* and *OLB Chain of Custody*).
6. APRIL strictly adheres to all national laws and regulations.

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