

VRIKSH Certification



EPCH facilitates woodware manufacturing & export sector get compliant, assures trade of recognised and credible certification

VRIKSH is a program which is totally based on the timber legality assessment and verification of the wood that is procured and managed by the manufacturers & exporters of wooden handicraft industries in India. This is an EPCH initiative for the benefit of manufacturers & exporters of wooden handicrafts. The VRIKSH Standard conforms to all major compliance requirements including the new CITES notification. To fulfill the obligation, the Vriksh Shipment Certificate, issued exclusively by EPCH is mandatory to go along with all shipments of two Dalbergia's species (Rosewood and Sheesham) products.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) placed the entire genus Dalbergia species in Appendix II of the CITES, thereby controlling wooden handicrafts made from Dalbergia species. The timber industry faced crisis and the entire industry got effected by a single move that was done in order to protect the forests and the environment, especially to control illegal procurement of timber, rampant in many countries. The Govt. of India filed for reservation against this notification with the



The VRIKSH Theme Area at IHGF Delhi Fair-Spring

CITES Secretariat at Geneva and also proposed EPCH to issue comparable document in lieu of the CITES permit. The reservation

has been accepted and EPCH can now issue VRIKSH Shipment Certificates to all complying exporters who are exporting handicraft items made from Dalbergia species. Besides the VRIKSH Shipment Certificate, VRIKSH is fast being recognised by consumers, importers and retailers in all major wooden handicrafts and wooden furniture market



Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Mr. P.P. Chaudhary (above) and Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Ms. Rashmi Verma (below) seen at the VRIKSH Theme Area at IHGF Delhi Fair-Spring 2017



countries. It has received overwhelming response and acceptance from manufacturers and traders based out of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Saharanpur, Moradabad and their adjoining areas where woodcrafts and furniture are being manufactured. At last count 190 Certificates had been issued. During IHGF Delhi Fair, EPCH organised a seminar and set up an information booth as well as a VRIKSH Theme Area to disseminate information about this certification among manufacturers and visiting buyers. The contact details of EPCH as Vriksh Shipment Certificate issuing authority is also placed at: <https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/IN>

Leading exporters of furniture and woodcrafts from Jodhpur share their views on VRIKSH



"We realised the benefits of wood legality certification - VRIKSH early on. We, along with many other established manufacturers and exporters from the Jodhpur region have benefited from the assessment and certification. It is evident as we proudly display that we are VRIKSH compliant. As of now, after the CITES

regulations, it is mandatory to be VRIKSH compliant to have the Vriksh Shipment Certificate as most of the woodware exporters would be doing at least some product with Sheesham or Rosewood."

Bharat Dinesh, Bharat Arts & Crafts, Jodhpur



"Had EPCH not intervened and helped, it would have become nearly impossible to export woodware. EPCH came up with the idea of VRIKSH and represented the wood industry to various conventions and convinced various authorities and forums for our business practices."

Lekhraj Maheshwari

(immediate past Chairman, EPCH), Rajasthan Handloom & Handicrafts Industries, Jaipur



"In the world of rules & regulations, it is necessary to have one single agency which can help in complying with every rule and each regulation. VRIKSH helps us in a very befitting manner and also saves time and effort of manufacturers. With the dedication and support of EPCH, we are having flawless overseas

business." **Girish Agarwal, Sankalp International, Jaipur**



"The efforts of EPCH were very crucial in the making of VRIKSH Certification. It is because of VRIKSH Certification that we are able to do business in European and American countries. This helps us at every level and it is a good step."

Gaurav Sharma, Nupur International, New Delhi



While many VRIKSH certified exporters are already benefitting from the program, many others who are now unable to ship out Sheesham and Rosewood goods are contacting us (EPCH) for issuance of VRIKSH Shipment Certificate. To facilitate our woodware exporting members, we would set-up stations in regions to expedite and fast track the audit and certification process.

Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH



"EPCH has helped the entire woodcraft industry when the crisis came in form of international regulations. Having VRIKSH Certification has its own benefits and it provides you a bridge where no inconvenience takes place while doing business. The certification helps at all levels from auditing to

assessment to free flow of shipments. VRIKSH also helped recently when shipment in transit got stuck due to non-compliance with the regulations. I am really thankful to EPCH for getting us VRIKSH."

Amit Rawat of Yatrik Arts & Crafts Pvt. Ltd., Jodhpur



"Having business without any problem is an important part in any economy but due to new regulations, it became almost impossible to have business abroad. After the regulations, it was not possible for an individual buyer to comply with foreign regulations and to get everything done. It was EPCH who

supported, represented us to various platforms for continuing of our business and came up with the idea of VRIKSH. I am really thankful for EPCH's dedication."

Naresh Bothra, International, Jodhpur

