



EST. 1798

# J. Gibson McIlvain Co.

FINE IMPORTED & DOMESTIC WOOD PRODUCTS

## 3 QUESTIONS TO VERIFY TEAK LEGALITY



Buying “genuine” Teak from Myanmar has gotten a lot more straightforward since July of 2014. After many months of work J. Gibson McIlvain and several other industry leaders in partnership with the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) have secured a license to export Teak and other lumber directly from Myanmar. This effectively simplifies the buying process in that all lumber export MUST come from the Myanmar Timber Export (MTE) and reference the IWPA license number. This license can only be used by IWPA members which makes discovering the legality of the Teak you want to buy much easier. Just ask your supplier the following questions:

- 1. Who is the importer of record on this material and are they an IWPA member?**
- 2. Did the material originate from the MTE?**
- 3. Is the IWPA license number referenced in the import paperwork?**

If the answer to any of these is “no” or “I don’t know” then the material in question may not be legally imported and should not be purchased. Please remember also that purchased material under this license is also subject to the Lacey Act. Simply adhering to the above points does not guarantee 100% legality. As always work with an importer you trust and can provide you with chain of custody documentation. In the end, we urge you to contact us with any specific questions. Our buyers are well versed in all the regulations and were an integral part of obtaining this license.

Give me a call with any questions on this topic.

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