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## FRIM to work with UK laboratory to ensure complicity

**KUALA LUMPUR:** In a move to boost the export of Malaysian timber and construction products to Europe, the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) is working with the United Kingdom's Trada Technology Ltd (TTL) as an approved testing laboratory.

FRIM and TTL, a construction products testing arm of the BM Trada Group, inked the agreement last Monday at the BM Trada Group head office in Buckinghamshire, UK, said FRIM in a statement here yesterday.

FRIM was represented by Director-General Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Mahmood, and TTL, by Director Andrew Abbott.

Under the agreement, which is for CE Marking and Q-Mark schemes - a declaration that the product complies with the essential requirements of European countries - TTL will look at two areas.

They are, wood durability by the FRIM Wood Mycology Laboratory, in accordance with EN350, and the strength testing of structural timber by the Timber Engineering

Laboratory.

In a statement, Abdul Latif said the durability of wood used in plywood production would have to be tested, in accordance with EN350 to ensure that Malaysian durability rating would not be downgraded.

"This will be a big slap to our higher quality plywood exported to the European Union (if Malaysian durability rating is downgraded). Similarly, sawn timber for construction without CE mark for the same market will be downgraded if not tested against similar technical requirements stipulated for the CE marking.

"This will affect our sales to EU (European Union), which is one of our major markets," he said.

He said, in efforts to boost export of higher value-added wood-based products, in line with a target set by the National Timber Industries Policy and help the country attain higher economic status by 2020, FRIM was exploring various means to contribute actively towards the achievement of those objectives.

- Bernama