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Environmental
Policy



**HOWARTH
TIMBER**



HOWARTH TIMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

¥This policy is applicable to all member companies of the Howarth Timber Group.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy affirms our commitment to responsibility of stewardship of resources, making possible sustained economic development and improved quality of life.

The Howarth Timber Group is committed to minimization of environmental damage caused by the day to today running of the business and the securing of raw materials, production, packaging and disposal of its product range.

- 1.2 Howarth Timber recognizes that corporate environmental performance is a matter of increasing interest to many group, most importantly our customers; our suppliers; statutory bodies; the media and various environmental NGO s.

Howarth Timber wishes to build and maintain good and frank relationships with environmental NGOs and other interested organisations. Where appropriate we will pass their concerns up the supply chain. Howarth Timber wishes to avoid confrontation as this is counter productive with no environmental benefit, and is bad for business.

- 1.3 Although The Howarth Timber Group is one of the leading company s within the UK timber industry, we believe our environmental efforts will have more impact if we cooperate with other like minded companies, both from within and outside our industry. To this end we are signatories of both the UK Timber Industries Environmental initiatives. These being the Forest Forever Environmental Policy for Wood and Wood Products and the NHA/AIMEX accord, designed to prevent illegally sourced Brazilian mahogany and cedar coming into the UK.
- 1.4 In order to stay up-to-date on more general business environmental issues, we maintain membership of and participate in environmental business organisations such as The Leeds Environmental Business Forum .

2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITHIN HOWARTH TIMBER

- 2.1 The Group Managing Director carries overall responsibility for the company s environmental policy. Our Group management structure us a very flat one with the director or general manager responsible for each subsidiary company. The responsibility for each subsidiary company s environmental policy is delegated to its director or general manager. They will themselves aware of the policy and ensure that their company complies with it in both content and spirit.
- 2.2 All Group personnel will be issued with a copy of the company environmental policy, in particular those staff with buying responsibility.

3. BUYING

- 3.1 Information provided by suppliers will be treated as strictly confidential. Howarth Timber will not discuss individual supplier matters with a third party without the agreement of that particular supplier.
- 3.2 Howarth Timber encourages all its suppliers to have their own environmental policy. This should be backed by evidence to show that efforts are being made to have it positively implemented within their company.
- 3.3 Howarth Timber will make its environmental policy know to all its timber suppliers and to the top 20 non-timber suppliers from each of its subsidiary companies (this number will be increased in future years). All the above suppliers will also be asked to send Howarth Timber a copy of their own environmental policy and details of its implementation within their company. Their policies, along with all nil and other responses, will be held centrally on file. They will be made available, upon request, to all personnel with buying responsibility within Howarth Timber.
- 3.4 As part of performing their buying duties, personnel from Howarth Timber will continue to visit supplier companies. These include both logging and other manufacturing processes. At these meetings both our own and the suppliers environmental policies will be discussed. Where pertinent environmental advice will be given and feedback invited.
- 3.5 As stated in the introduction, Howarth Timber believe that more effective pressure on the supply chain, for the constructive implementation of environmental policies, can be achieved by working with other like member companies within the UK timber industry. To this end we are a signatory of the Forest Forever Environmental Policy for Wood and Wood products . The Forest Forever organisation is the leading timber environmental organisation within the UK. Howarth Timber are both founding members and maintain membership on its Advisory Council.
- 3.6 A copy of the Forest Forever Environmental Policy for Wood and Wood Products is shown overleaf.
- 3.7 NOTE:
Implementation of the clause is to encourage a more widespread adoption of national environmental standards. Central records are held at Leeds with details of suppliers environmental policies. Timber product buyers should us these, or other relevant sources, in order to determine whether the suppliers of timber products are from forest resources managed to the environmental standards set by the National Government of supplying nations . Pressure should be put onto suppliers in order for them to provide such verifiable assurances. Everything else being equal, purchase preferences should be given to those suppliers who can give such assurances. Where a buyer believes that a supplier is supplying timber which does not comply with the above clause, he/she should inform their company director/general manager. If the supplier continues to shoe no attempt to comply with the above clause they should be contacted and informed that we will cease purchasing from them along with our reasons for this decision. Further continued supplier no-compliance should result in the supply source being switched to an alternative supplier who does comply with the above clause.



FORESTS FOREVER



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS

Our Environmental Policy is based on two founding principles:

Forests, forest functions and products, including wood, contribute to human well being worldwide. Every country, including the UK, must value its forests and strive for equity in access to the benefits which forests provide.

The ultimate responsibility for forest policy lies with the sovereign Government and people of forested countries. They have the task of balancing environmental, economical, social and political needs. Nevertheless this organisation believes that the UK timber industry has the responsibility to its customers, suppliers, and staff to base its commercial activities on properly managed forests.

Howarth Timber

1. supports National and International efforts to achieve the fastest practicable progress towards environmentally and socially sound forest management worldwide in line with the statement of Forest Principles adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment & Development (UNCED) 1992.
2. will encourage and assist suppliers of wood products to adopt the appropriate environmental policies and standards within their own national context and relevant to their position within the wood chain.
3. encourages the use of wood as an environmentally beneficial material and is constantly seeking ways to reduce wood waste and to utilize residues.
4. will promote preferential purchase from suppliers who can provide verifiable evidence that their timber products are from forest resources managed to the environmental standards set by the National Government of the supplying nations.
5. will support the introduction of effective systems to substantiate that the relevant National Regulatory Authorities are working towards internationally acceptable standards of forest management.
6. will not use labels or certificates which included claims of sustainable forest management, unless supported by the respective government accredited authority.

Name of Director responsible for environmental issues: Mr N. D. Howarth, Group Managing Director

Signature _____



This policy is approved by the
Timber Trade Federation

Date of issue: 1st January 1995
This policy will be renewed annually.

4. MANUFACTURING PROCESSES

- 4.1 Howarth Timber have various manufacturing and value adding operations in several locations around the Group. At all such locations we will ensure:
 - 4.1.1 That all processes comply with current Environmental Protection Act regulations. Registration will be made with appropriate Local Authority or if required with Her Majesty's Inspector of Pollution.
 - 4.1.2 That all required processes are reviewed using BATNEEC principles in order to minimize environmental impact from noise, airborne and waterborne pollution.
 - 4.1.3 That all necessary CSOHH assessments are carried out and where required COSHH information is made available to all purchasers of our product.
 - 4.1.4 That the fullest possible utilisation of wood fibre is obtained. This entails the minimization of waste via quality control procedures. Where waste wood residues are produced Howarth Timber believes that certain ways of dealing with them are better than others; so it has produced its own hierarchy.
 - 4.1.4.1 Firstly, that they are used in our own in-house (eg. producing small pegs) or external (eg. producing chipboard) manufacturing processes.
 - 4.1.4.2 Secondly, that they are used as fuel for heating or manufacturing processes.
 - 4.1.4.3 Thirdly, if the wood residues cannot be sold they must be given away.
 - 4.1.4.4 Fourthly, if they cannot be given away they must be disposed of using a registered waste disposal company.

5. PACKAGING & STATIONARY

- 5.1 Howarth Timber will eliminate unnecessary packaging and over packaging.
- 5.2 Howarth Timber will require suppliers to specify post-consumer recycled materials for packaging wherever economically feasible.
- 5.3 Howarth Timber will require suppliers to design packaging for recycling wherever economically feasible.
- 5.4 Howarth Timber will assist suppliers in the collection of reusable packaging such as pellets.
- 5.5 Howarth Timber will ensure that stationary, point of sale materials, carrier bags and all other such purchases consider environmental specifications. These will include use of recycled post consumer waste, recyclability and waste minimization.

6. ENERGY CONSERVATION

- 6.1 The use of waste residues to produce heating energy has already been detailed above in (4.1.4).
- 6.2 Howarth Timber will ensure that it promotes energy efficiency in the design of its buildings and the choice of plant used.
- 6.3 Howarth Timber will ensure that both its wagon and car vehicle fleets are configured and operated in a way which minimizes fuel usage. To this end we have already switched the majority of our car fleet to more fuel efficient diesel engines.

7. PROPERTIES

- 7.1 Howarth Timber recognises that the choice of its various company sites have an impact upon many environmentally sensitive issues. In consideration of this we will endeavor to avoid or reduce impact through careful building design and development.

8. WASTE DISPOSAL

- 8.1 The hierarchy of 4 preferred methods of dealing with waste wood residues had already been decided in (4.1.4).
- 8.2 Where computers or other items of plant, equipment fixtures or fittings are no longer required they are to be sold off. If this cannot be achieved, then after ensuring they are not hazardous in any way, they should be donated to schools or charities. They are only to be thrown away as a last resort.
- 8.3 Howarth Timber strives to avoid accidental spillage of hazardous materials by good operating practises and the installation of appropriate safety measures. For example, all chemical and fuel storage tanks have bund walls. If a spill does occur the appropriate procedure, as advised by the chemical supplier, should be actioned. If feasible, the spilled chemical should be recovered and put back into the holding tank for future use. Where this is impossible, the spillage should be disposed of using a licensed waste disposal firm.
- 8.4 All waste must be removed only via the use of a licensed waste disposal firm.
- 8.5 If it is economically feasible to separate out waste for recycling this will be done.

9. HEALTH & SAFETY

- 9.1 It is Howarth Timber s policy to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees, and to provide such information, training and supervision as is required for this purpose, commensurate with the appropriate Health & Safety Legislation. A full copy of Howarth Timber s Health, Safety & Welfare Policy is available upon request.
- 9.2 Howarth Timber expects all its suppliers to operate a Health & Safety policy which conforms to the standards set by their National Government.

