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Chain of Custody

Timber and Wood Based Products

Background

Increased awareness by the public, canvassing by non-government organisations such as Greenpeace and general political focus on environmental issues are all key drivers of current timber supply specification and legislation.

The Government's position is that for all timber based products used on government funded projects, timber must come from legal and sustainable sources. This is having an increasing impact on supply and specification for social housing and public buildings with the prospect of similar changes affecting the private sector.

Marlows Policy

Marlows support these environmental objectives and have clearly defined purchasing standards and contracts within its Quality Management system to ISO 9001:2000.

Forestry & Supply Chain Schemes

Responsible timber producing countries operate a number of independently audited schemes designed to produce timber in a legal and sustainable way. There continues to be debate about the merits of the various schemes and the Government recently commissioned a Report from CPET (Central Point of Expertise on Timber). Following this Report, three of the five schemes examined were given 6 months to make changes to their schemes to address concerns on the issue of sustainability. This process ended in July and a statement is expected shortly from the Government. The five schemes reviewed are:

- FSC - Forest Stewardship Council Certification Scheme
- PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forestry Certification
- CSA - Canadian Standards Association
- SFI - Sustainable Forests Initiative
- MTCC - Malaysian Timber Certification Council

Specifications

Specifications range from simple statements of procurement from legal and sustainable sources to schemes like EcoHomes who specifically require sourcing from the independently named schemes shown above. To demonstrate compliance with Government requirements, many Housing Associations are using the EcoHomes scheme. This scheme awards points for a range of environmental performance criteria including timber use and sourcing. EcoHomes specifically accept and equally rate supply from any of the five schemes named above.

Principles of "Chain of Custody"

The principles of "Chain of Custody" are to demonstrate that the source of legal and sustainable timber is documented and controlled throughout the supply chain. The schemes vary in their detail but the broad requirement is that each company or link in the supply chain records and controls the materials it sells as originating from the scheme source. The key point is that all companies in the chain are authorised to operate the particular scheme and are subject to Third Party Audit.

Chain of Custody**Marlows
Certification
Status**

Our timber engineering products use materials from a range of sources and countries of origin. In the case of products like timber framed housing these materials are combined in manufactured components which will comprise materials sourced under several of the recognised schemes. It has therefore been necessary for us to seek certification for supply using any of these five schemes. This has been achieved by direct certification by BM TRADA for the FSC and PEFC schemes, and certification by BM TRADA's TRADA-Trak Forest Product scheme for materials sourced from CSA, SFI or MTCC. Our certification details are:

FSC TRADA-Trak Chain of Custody Registration N° TT-COC-1992

PEFC Chain of Custody Registration N° BMT-PEFC-0129

SFI, CSA, MTCC - BM TRADA Forest Products Certification
Registration N° BMT-COC-0014.

**Certification
Working with
Marlows**

You can purchase with confidence that our materials are responsibly sourced. If you have specific certification or documentation requirements for timber sourcing, it is important you discuss these with us at Enquiry/Procurement stage to ensure we understand your requirements and can support you with the appropriate documentation.

Summary

- All Government funded and some private development projects require timber from legal and sustainable sources.
- Documentary evidence of compliance by the complete supply chain is required.
- Certification of the complete supply chain is the likely industry response.
- Organisations such as EcoHomes specifically require sourcing from named certification schemes.
- Builders and contractors' ability to satisfy these requirements are a prerequisite to obtaining an increasing range of projects and are essential on government funded schemes.
- Not all suppliers can satisfy these requirements.
- Marlows have this certification in place now and we look forward to working with you.

More Information:

www.fsc-uk.info

www.pefc.co.uk

www.csa-international.org

www.aboutsfi.org

www.mtcc.com.my

www.breeam.org (EcoHomes)

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/report2004/part.htm

www.marlows.com