

UK GOVERNMENT'S TIMBER PROCUREMENT POLICY

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POLICY

- Central (federal) government departments must seek to buy timber from sustainable and legal sources
- Legal timber is a condition of contract
- Tenderers can choose to offer sustainable timber as a variant
- Evidence of compliance will be independently verified if necessary

Legal Timber

- Legally harvested
- Legal use rights
- Laws on forest management, environment, labour & welfare and Health & safety
- Payment of royalties and taxes
- CITES compliance
- Chain of Custody essential
- Certified products may be sufficient evidence
- Evidence before acceptance

Sustainable Timber

- 70% Recycled or from well managed source
- Forest management standard that sustains biodiversity, productivity and ecosystem
- ISO 59 compliant and balanced stakeholder participation
- Assurance from bodies that meet relevant ISO requirements, consult stakeholders on impacts and publish summary of audit results

Central Point of Expertise on Timber - Concept

- Help buyers and suppliers to obtain timber from legal and sustainable sources
- Single point for advice
- Independent operation outside government
- Stakeholders consulted on operation
- Phased implementation

Central Point of Expertise on Timber – Phase 1

- ProForest/ERM completed contract
- Reviewed “legal” timber definition
- Reviewed “sustainable timber” definition
- Methodology for assessing certification schemes
- Assessed five certification bodies – FSC, CSA, PEFC, SFI and PEFC
- Implementation delayed until May 2005
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Central Point of Expertise on Timber – Phase 2

- Assess remaining certification schemes
- Set criteria for assessing “other” evidence
- Advice Helpline – Pilot commenced
October 2004
- Promotion and Training
- Guidance
- Targets and Reporting

Purchase Process

- Specify outputs to allow innovation and encourage supply of under used species
- Select suppliers with the capacity to trace sources
- Notify tenderers that sustainable timber is the preferred choice.
- Reject legal only bids in favour of variant bids if value for money test passed

Guidance Web Address

[www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/
sdig/improving/contextf.htm](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/improving/contextf.htm)

Conclusions

- Consumer demand reduces illegal logging
- Tracking systems essential
- Certification provides credible assurance
- Independent verification key for credibility
- Legal and policy framework not an obstacle
- Procurement data needed to measure performance
- Policy has to be communicated and explained to purchasers and suppliers with help from trade bodies and ENGOs