

Environmental Policy Statement

The Directors of Howarth Timber & Building Supplies Ltd (The Company) recognise that The Company has a responsibility to the environment, customers, suppliers and staff to base its commercial activities on well-managed and sustainable forests.

The Company is committed to purchasing all timber from legal sources and seeks evidence of compliance from suppliers that they are operating in accordance with the laws of their country. The Company unreservedly condemns illegal logging practices and keeps informed of processes and changes in international legislation.

The Company imports and sells Softwood, and buys and sells Hardwood, Sheet Materials and Engineered Timber Products into the UK merchanting, joinery and construction markets

As a signatory to the Timber Trade Federations (TTF) Responsible Purchasing Policy (RPP) Due Diligence process, The Company assesses suppliers for evidence of legality and sustainable forest management and is subject to an annual independent 3rd party audit. As such The Company has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that it is in compliance with the EUTR (European Union Timber Regulation). The UK Government has recognised the RPP as an excellent example of industry good practice in helping to source legal and sustainable timber.

The Company performs due diligence and risk assessments on all suppliers and seeks the clearest practicable information regarding the sources of raw materials. It recognises that the independent certification of the forests and the process chain is the best means of providing assurance that timber comes from legal and well-managed forests and will purchase certified material wherever possible.

The Company has implemented Chain of Custody (CoC) procedures to ensure these materials meet the Government and C.P.E.T. (Central Point of Expertise in Timber) policy and guidelines on sustainable forest management practices and are obtained from legal and sustainable forest sources.

As part of this system it is the policy of The Company to ensure compliance with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) criteria. As part of this system it is the policy of The Company to avoid using timber harvested from forest areas where traditional or civil rights are violated, timber harvested from non FSC-certified forest areas having high conservation values which are threatened, timber from genetically modified (GM) trees, illegally harvested timber and natural forest that has been converted to plantations or non-forest use.

Management shall be responsible for implementing this policy and the day-to-day responsibility that this statement is carried out and that The Company Chain of Custody certification scheme is maintained in line with the certification body requirements and the Government and C.P.E.T. policy.

If it is established that The Company has received materials from illegal sources, it will promptly take the appropriate action(s), including ceasing purchasing from such sources for products covered by this policy.

The Company will work closely with all of its suppliers to encourage greater use of certified timber and timber products so that our continual improvement programme of introducing more certified products can be sustained. In order to achieve this all timber and engineered timber products, where possible, are sourced and procured from a list of 'Approved Suppliers' that is maintained and updated in accordance with The Company's Chain of Custody scheme requirements. These suppliers have already achieved Chain of Custody certification through a licensed and approved independent third part certification body.

On some product lines where certified material is as yet unavailable, The Company will continue to seek alternative sources or work with the supplying company to implement their own Chain of Custody scheme within agreed timescales.

The Company will work with its certification body to ensure that all criteria required by the FSC, PEFC, TTF, RPP, the UK Government and C.P.E.T. (Central Point of Expertise in Timber) are met and that any non-conformances are corrected without delay.

Mr. N. D. Howarth
Managing Director

Signed: 

Date: 10th June 2014