

# A Responsible Approach to the Procurement of Timber

## *Environmental Timber Purchasing Policy*

Saint-Gobain Building Distribution is the largest distributor of building materials in the United Kingdom. Timber and timber products form a very significant part of the Group's activities. We therefore consider it imperative that we take an informed approach to ensure responsible procurement.

We purchase timber materials from around the world. Our policy is to purchase wherever possible from well managed forest sources. However, we do recognise that some areas of the world represent greater environmental risk than others in respect of timber harvesting. In this regard the company will not source any timber species that is prohibited under appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITIES).

The company is committed to sourcing all timber and timber products from legal sources. Where customer demands dictate that we procure timber from areas of greater risk, our approach is to only work with suppliers who can demonstrate to us an improving program of sustainability in their timber related activities.

Saint-Gobain Building Distribution acknowledges the importance of auditable independent certification throughout the supply chain process and is striving to introduce relevant schemes where appropriate to the business. As there is currently more than one recognised forest certification body, given that common acceptable standards can be achieved, mutual recognition is crucial. We are firmly committed to a stepped approach, to continuously increasing the sourcing of timber from known, legal, progressing to certified and certified sources. This includes the identification of wood originating from non certified High Conservation Value Forests and its elimination from the supply chain.

We endeavor to work in partnership with our suppliers and customers to facilitate the provision of clear information about the sources of our wood products wherever practicable. We seek to obtain clear evidence of good forest management practice at the original source. Whilst our intention is to give preference to those suppliers who can provide such evidence, we also accept the need to work with those who are less able but are genuinely seeking to attain high standards of forest management.

An integral part of our program for continuous improvement is our activity and association with relevant leading organisations. For example we are members of the WWF-UK Forest and Trade Network and founder members of Forests Forever, the environmental arm of the Timber Trade Federation.

Saint-Gobain Building Distribution –  
A company committed to maintaining a responsible approach  
To the procurement of timber and timber products

*We seek continuous improvement to this policy. We shall determine our own objectives and targets and implement the necessary strategic programs to achieve them  
(2005)*