

# **Asia Pacific Forest Week**

## **Government's Procurement Policy for Timber and Wood Products in New Zealand**

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**(source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of New Zealand)**

# Background

- Government procurement as a policy instrument is well understood and recognized
- More and more governments are increasing using public procurement policy to promote the use of legal and sustainable timber, especially in some European countries
- In Asia Pacific region, New Zealand is the leader to implement green government procurement policy for forest products.

# ● Key features of the timber and wood products procurement policy (TWPP)

- Government departments are required to seek legally sourced timber and wood products.
- Government departments are strongly encouraged to buy timber and timber products from sustainably managed sources. The Government expects its agencies to take all reasonable steps to ensure products are from sustainably managed sources.
- Paper is now included under the TWPP policy (i.e. wood products includes paper).
- Government departments are required to document for audit their verification of the legality of timber and timber products purchased.

## ● Purpose of the policy

- The Government's Timber and Wood Products Procurement Policy (TWPP) is an expression of its commitment to show leadership in addressing illegal logging and supporting the development of international sustainable forestry management.
- The policy aims to use the 'purchasing power' of government agencies to send a market signal in favour of legally and sustainably-produced timber and wood products.

# ● Who does the policy require?

TWPP requires that government agencies:

- seek timber and wood products from legally harvested forests;
- maintain records for audit of timber and wood procurement that demonstrate verification of the legality of the harvesting of the forests where the timber and wood products were derived from;
- Government agencies are also strongly encouraged to give preference to timber and wood products from sustainably managed sources.

## ● Who does the policy apply to?

- The Timber and Wood Products Procurement Policy applies to public service agencies as listed in the First Schedule to the State Sector Act 1988, plus the New Zealand Defence Force and the New Zealand Police. Other agencies are also encouraged to follow the policy.

## ● **What purchases are covered by the policy?**

The “timber and wood products” comprises rough, sawn and dressed timber; plywood and veneers; fabricated wood; wooden structural components, fittings and joinery; wooden furniture and paper products.

## ● **Verification of legality**

- Proof of certification from a recognized forest certification scheme.
- Proof of certification from a stepwise-certification scheme. Chain of custody information which shows that the product has come from a legally harvested and managed forest.
- Proof of legality from a legality verification scheme.
- A declaration from your supplier that the wood is from a legally harvested forest.

# ● How to identify sustainably produced products?

## ➤ Certification

## ➤ Other evidence

- the voluntary National Standard for Environmental Certification of well-managed Plantation Forests in New Zealand

# ● The means of identifying legal and sustainable timber products

- Full certification
- Step-wise certification
- Proof of legality
- New Zealand products

### ➤ ***Full certification***

With forest certification, an independent organization develops standards of good forest management, and independent auditors issue certificates to forest operations that comply with those standards.

### ➤ ***Step-wise certification***

In some cases, the capacity of wood producers to meet advanced sustainability standards under a full certification program is limited. A step-wise approach might be employed where the forest manager or supplier works towards full certification.

➤ ***Proof of legality***

Some operators might choose to gain reputable third party or government-endorsed proof of legality certification for their forest management, harvesting, processing or export operations. Some examples are listed below.

➤ ***New Zealand products***

Timber from New Zealand planted and indigenous forests may be considered sustainably produced

# *Examples of full certification schemes*



# ***Step-wise approach to full certification***

Many smaller operators and those in developing countries do not have the capacity to achieve full certification of forests and/or timber and wood processing and production. In these cases some operators have taken a step-wise approach to certification.

## **Example of a step-wise certification scheme**



[The Tropical Forest Trust \(TFT\)](#)

# ***Proof of legality***

All the full and stepwise certification schemes above include legality as a requirement of meeting the conditions of their certification programme. Some operators may offer a certificate of legality on their products from an accredited certification organisation. It is important to make sure that any proof of legality includes proof of legal harvesting of the forest where the product came from.

**Example of a legality validation scheme**



# ***Ecolabels***

For the purposes of these guidelines, office paper can be considered legal and sustainable if it has a third-party audited ecolabel which shows that at least 70 percent of the fibre content of the paper comes from recycled and/or certified sources.

**Example of an ecolabel scheme: Environmental Choice New Zealand**



<b>Action</b>	✓ Completed
Tenderers are informed of mandatory requirement for government agencies to seek legally harvested timber and wood; and preference for products from sustainable sources, where reasonably available and consistent with value for money (Timber and Wood Products Procurement Policy referred to, requirements outlined, link to further information given).	
<b>Legality - Mandatory requirement</b>	
Insertion of standard legality clause into contracts involving procurement of timber and/or wood products.	
Information on legality is referenced. If there is doubt over legality, proof of legality is obtained from successful tenderer.	
<b>Sustainability - Preferred</b>	
Insertion of standard sustainability clause into contracts involving procurement of timber and/or wood products.	
Verifiable documentary evidence of any supplier claims related to sustainability.	
<b>Record Keeping</b>	
Record keeping follows procurement best-practice, checklist included in records, sustainability claims verified.	

# Issues for Further Discussion

- **The use of internationally agreed vs. nationally developed definition and requirements;**
- **Possible measures to increase commonality between national requirements;**
- **Requirements for other means of verification than certification;**
- **Clarification of the compatibility with the international legal framework;**
- **Measures to increase effectiveness of the procurement policies to contribute to the intended goals (SFM and Legality).**



***Thank you!***

