

PROCUREMENT OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

1. SPPN 09/2004 (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1265/0005315.pdf>) was a reminder of the Executive's policy in relation to the procurement of timber and timber products.

2. The Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has now approved 4 timber schemes as providing the necessary assurances that the timber bought under these schemes has been legally harvested from sustainably managed forests. These schemes are:

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC)
Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

Where suppliers offer timber or timber-related products which are certificated under one of these schemes, then procurement officers may accept that as meeting the Executive's policy requirements.

3. A fifth scheme has also been assessed:

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC).

DEFRA advice is that MTCC certification may be accepted as evidence that timber has been legally logged but not that it has come from sustainably managed forests. Procurement officers should therefore seek alternative evidence that MTCC timber has come from sustainably managed sources.

4. DEFRA will continue to monitor how these schemes work in practice through its Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET). CPET is operated on behalf of DEFRA by ProForest which is a company with wide experience in responsible purchasing. Amongst other activities, CPET operate a helpline service for public procurement officers and their suppliers, giving advice on how to specify legal and sustainable timber and how to ensure that they are getting what they ask for.

5. In addition CPET are running various **free** workshops for public procurement personnel and suppliers, including in Edinburgh (29/11/05-1/12/05). Details and a booking form are attached. The Edinburgh workshops will be held at Napier University (Centre for Timber Engineering, Merchiston Campus – location map and directions at: <http://www.napier.ac.uk/campusmaps/merch003.asp>). An application form is attached and should be returned to CPET. Any enquiries about the workshops should also be referred to CPET.

6. I would be grateful if you could disseminate this SPPN to anyone within your area of responsibility including Agencies and NDPB's.

7. If you have any questions about this Policy Note please contact Dave Cook on Dave.Cook@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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