defra
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

cpet

UK Government Timber Procurement Policy

Policy Update

This is an archived document. For the most recent guidance on the UK Government's Timber Procurement Policy, please see: www.cpet.corg.uk

From 1st April 2009 the government's timber procurement policy will change

Currently the UK government's timber procurement policy requires its departments to actively seek to purchase legal and sustainable timber and timber products. This will change as of April 1 2009. From that date onwards the policy demands that **all timber and timber products should come from independently verifiable legal and sustainable sources**, or is **FLEGT licensed**. This note provides a summary of the policy and its requirements.

Who and what does the policy apply to?

The policy is mandatory for **all central government departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies** (NDPBs). It also applies to other public sector bodies, such as local authorities, which have voluntarily adopted the policy. The requirements apply to all timber and wood-derived products used on the government estate, such as paper, furniture and construction timber, including temporary site works and material supplied by contractors.

Specification text and contract condition

Model specification text and a model contract condition are set out in the **Timber Procurement Advice Note August 2008** which can be found on the CPET website (see below). This text should be included in specifications for all contracts and funding mechanisms involving the supply of timber or wood-derived products. Similarly, the model contract condition should be used as a Supplementary Condition including the supply of timber or wood-derived products.

Evidence of compliance with the policy

Government buyers should request evidence from contractors that the supplied products comply with the policy requirements for legal and sustainable timber. This evidence should cover both the source of the timber (chain of custody) and proof that this source is legally and sustainably managed. This evidence can come in two forms:

Category A evidence is independent certification of the timber and timber products by any of the forest certification schemes that meet the policy requirements (such as FSC and PEFC. See the CPET website for a full list of accepted schemes.)

Category B evidence is alternative documentary evidence that provides assurance that the source is legal and sustainable. See the CPET website for more information on how to collect and evaluate category B evidence.

These two forms of evidence can be combined, for example when the forest of origin is certified, but the chain of custody is not.

FLEGT-licensed timber will also be accepted under the policy.

FLEGT

FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) is an EU initiative to support countries to address illegal logging. A key component of FLEGT will be a licensing scheme between producer partner countries and the EU. Further info will become available on the CPET website when this licensing scheme is rolled out in 2009.

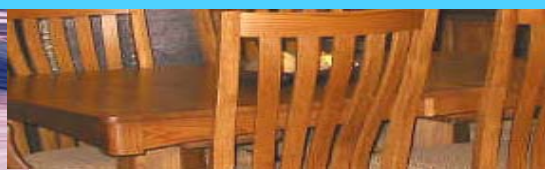
www.proforest.net/cpet/flegt

For more detailed guidance see the CPET website:
www.proforest.net/cpet/change

CPET offers free support and advice

The Central Point of Expertise on Timber Procurement (CPET) is funded by Defra to provide free advice and guidance to all public sector buyers and their suppliers and contractors to support compliance with the timber procurement policy.

CPET provides information via its website
www.proforest.net/cpet

Or contact the helpline with any queries
01865-243766 or cpet@proforest.net

CPET also runs training workshops across the UK for public procurement personnel and suppliers (see the website for dates and booking forms)