

## ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – TIMBER\* PURCHASING POLICY (April 2007)

Type of Timber	Requirements
<b>Softwood</b>	FSC <sup>1</sup> / PEFC <sup>2</sup> / CSA <sup>3</sup> / SFI <sup>4</sup> certified softwoods only [Note: coppiced material is exempt].
<b>Temperate hardwood</b>	FSC / PEFC / CSA / SFI certified temperate hardwoods only [Note: coppiced material is exempt].
<b>Tropical hardwood</b>	<p>Tropical hardwood will not be purchased unless it is an operational necessity.</p> <p>A <u>business case</u> must be completed for all potential applications / uses of tropical hardwood and senior management approval will be needed before any purchases can be made.</p> <p>If tropical hardwood is purchased, it must be FSC / PEFC / CSA / SFI / MTCC<sup>5</sup> certified whenever possible. If certified timber is not available, credible evidence must be obtained which demonstrates legality, sustainability and traceability through the supply chain [NB: this will be assessed in accordance with CPET guidance and Category B checklists].</p>
<b>Coppiced material</b>	<p>Coppiced material is exempt from the requirements for softwood and temperate hardwood if documentary evidence which demonstrates the following is obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The source of the coppiced material</li> <li>• The coppicer has legal rights to coppice the wood</li> </ul>
<b>Recycled timber</b>	<p>From a waste hierarchy and resource use perspective the purchase of recycled timber is preferable to the purchase of virgin timber.</p> <p>Recycled timber is defined as timber which is being used for a different purpose than the purpose for which the tree was originally felled<sup>6</sup>.</p> <p>For recycled timber, the previous use must be established and documented [Note: this will be strictly monitored]. However, it is not necessary to prove legality or sustainability of the recycled timber.</p>

\* Timber is defined as any product that contains wood or wood fibre, with the exception of 'recycled' materials. However, in the Environment Agency this is practically restricted to timber used in connection with a building or construction (including refurbishment/ maintenance) project (e.g. wood planks, fencing, groynes, footbridges, window frames, floor joists, site hoardings, shuttering, lock gates, excavator mats etc), as well as office furniture purchased for use in Environment Agency premises.

<sup>1</sup> Forest Stewardship Council

<sup>2</sup> Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Standard Association

<sup>4</sup> Sustainable Forest Initiative

<sup>5</sup> Malaysian Timber Certification Council

<sup>6</sup> E.g. If a beach groyne is removed and re-sawn to make fencing posts. If the beach groyne was removed and used again as a beach groyne somewhere else, this is re-use not recycling.