

Timber – the Complete Building Material

Timber as a material, sits at the heart of the construction industry. It has the lowest embodied CO₂ of any commercially available building material and when used for structures, it is increasingly viewed as a simple and straightforward way of achieving a high-performance, energy efficient building.

PEFC-certified timber is a key element in many building projects from structural applications such as timber frame, engineered woods including glulam, cross laminated timber (CLT), laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and structural insulated panels (SIPS) to key components such as engineered floor cassettes, attic trusses, along with standard joinery items such as staircases, windows and doorsets.



Sourcing Sustainable Timber

Increasingly public and private sector procurement policies are seeking evidence of certified timber and their preferred tool for companies to demonstrate legal and sustainable sourcing of forest products is Chain of Custody certification. This is the process of tracking certified material from the forest to the building site, where each step of the supply chain is independent audited. This unbroken link is evidence that the timber procured is sourced from a sustainably-managed forest. To date, 20,000 companies have obtained PEFC Chain of Custody certification.

PEFC Project Certification

PEFC Project Certification is ideal for construction projects involving many different, sources of timber, or the one-off production of a specific product. It recognises that not all parties involved in specific projects are certified, even though the timber used for the project is covered by regular Chain of Custody certification. Usually, the fact that non-certified parties handle certified material would break the chain, and this is where PEFC Project Chain of Custody helps.

As with the regular Chain of Custody, meticulous records must be maintained on all aspects of the wood and wood-based products received onsite, and employees involved in the project must be competent and receive sufficient training. At the completion of a project a certificate will be issued stating the overall percentage of PEFC legal and sustainable timber used in the construction.



Market Drivers for Certified Timber

Using PEFC-certified timber helps achieve Excellent and Outstanding BREEAM ratings and with its great thermal properties, can help reduce thermal bridging. Certified timber is also a central component of the RICS Ska environmental performance standard for fit-out projects. PEFC-certified timber is accepted in green building procurement schemes around the globe including the US Green Building Council's LEED environmental assessment programme, Built Green in Canada and CASBEE in Japan.



Green building standards such as LEED and BREEAM, together with industry and private sector responsible sourcing policies, are helping drive demand for certified timber. They also send a strong signal to forest owners that their investment in sustainable forest management certification is valued and appreciated by companies and customers around the world.

While many choose certification in response to legislation and regulatory requirements, others realise the benefits of delivering sustainability assurances to address their clients' environmental, social and ethical concerns.

Legislation: PEFC Chain of Custody certification helps demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements such as the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), the US Lacey Act, and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation.

Customers: Demonstrating a corporate commitment to curb deforestation, conserve biodiversity and act in a socially responsible manner are increasingly vital to corporate reputations.

Buying Legal & Sustainable Timber

It is critical to make sure your timber and timber products have full Chain of Custody or are demonstrated as legal and sustainable in line with the Government's Timber Procurement Policy (either Category A or Category B). Evidence of legal and sustainable timber can be demonstrated by supplying timber or timber products with Chain of Custody. The acceptable claim for PEFC-certified material is **"xx% PEFC Certified"**. For the majority of construction standards, specifications and labels, 70% is the minimum accepted claim.



Key information required on timber delivery documents for Chain of Custody

1. Supplier's name and address
2. Site delivery address
3. Clear product description
4. Quantity of delivery for each certified product
5. Delivery date
6. Formal claim against each certified product - **"xx% PEFC Certified"**
7. Supplier's Chain of Custody certificate number.



The World's Largest Forest Certification System

PEFC is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management through independent third-party certification. It works by endorsing national forest certification systems and has recognised certification systems in 39 countries.

Today over half a million forest owners manage more than 300 million hectares of forests according to PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks, making PEFC the world's largest forest and wood product certification system.

For more information on PEFC visit: www.pefc.co.uk



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PEFC-CERTIFIED TIMBER

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

