MINIMUM STANDARD

Timber Purchasing

SHEMS-MST-GR-0007

The following Minimum Standard is applicable across Unitas and constitutes our standard on the procurement of timber and timber products.

Introduction

Historically, a significant proportion of the timber imported into the United Kingdom has been illegally harvested, an activity that causes deforestation, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Illegal harvesting is also associated with corruption and organised crime and has an impact on the standard of living of many of the world's poor who depend on forests for their living.

Unitas recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure that all timber and timber based products, such as doors, windows, roof trusses, flooring, fencing, furniture and plywood used on their projects and premises are derived from legally harvested trees, grown in sustainably managed forests.

Procurement

The company will, therefore:

- Only purchase, either directly or as part of a sub-contract package, timber or timber based products from a supplier or manufacturer who can clearly show that they are fully compliant with the requirements of the European Timber Regulations No 995/2010 (EUTR); and
- Require that the timber or timber based products are delivered with full chain of custody from a credible, independent certification scheme, approved by the UK Government's Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) (currently the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)), or is Grown in Britain (GiB) Licenced.

Unitas Support the Grown in Britain Campaign and will use GiB sourced timber wherever practicable.

If Unitas is unable to procure timber or a timber based product specified by a client, designer or architect, Unitas will advise them of the issues and request that the appropriate change be made to the specification. This may include proposing an alternative species which has the appropriate certification.

Also, wherever practicable, Unitas will use reclaimed timber or products made from recycled timber.

This guidance also applies to any timber or timber product procured through a sub-contract package.

Unitas will ensure that all their staff, designers, sub-contractors, vendors and manufacturers are made aware of this guidance.

Documentation

Evidence of compliance with this Minimum Standard is to be submitted to Unitas will include:

- FSC / PEFC Chain of Custody Certificates for relevant suppliers
- Delivery notes and invoices that:
    - Refer to the relevant Chain of Custody certificate or licence number
    - Show which products are covered by which scheme (PEFC, FSC, GiB etc.)

Under the EUTR (European Timber Regulations) Unitas are legally obliged to maintain and keep records for at least ten years of who supplied us with timber or timber products,

Further Guidance / Reference

Purchases of timber and timber products should be made stores, wherever possible, to ensure compliance with this Minimum Standard. Items not currently listed must be sourced via Unitas Procurement.

Further information on the EUTR is available at www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-timber-regulation-guidance-for-business-and-industry

The National Measurement Office (NMO) is responsible for enforcing the EUTR in the UK and, under the same powers of entry as the HSE and can seize and impound timber that they believe has been illegally harvested.