

Timber Procurement Information Sheet

UK Government policy is that its central departments and executive agencies will seek to procure timber and wood derived products from legal and sustainable sources.

1. It is mandatory for all central government departments, their agencies and their sponsored bodies to adopt this policy.
2. The devolved administrations have adopted this policy.
3. This policy is not mandatory for Local Authorities, but they are encouraged to adopt it or something similar.
4. All central Government contracts should include a Supplementary Condition that obliges the Contractor to prove, if requested, that any timber supplied or used during performance of the contract was legally harvested.
5. Invitations to tender for central government contracts should give tenderers the option of offering timber from a verified sustainable source. Defra sent departments a model Variant Specification for this purpose in January 2004.
6. The Authority should, as a rule, reject any bid that does not offer to supply legally harvested timber and should give preference to tenders that offer to supply both legal and sustainable timber provided such bids offer value for money.
7. Departments are advised to clarify with tenderers how they would, if requested under the contract, provide assurance that the timber is legal and, if offered, sustainable and establish that the supply chain has a chain of custody from the forest to the end customer.

If you are from a central government department, one of their agencies or sponsored bodies or a contractor, subcontractor, supplier or indirect supplier to central government or a participating local authority, you have free access to the *Central Point of Expertise on Timber Procurement* (CPET). This is a service funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and offers advice and information on how to meet the timber procurement policy.

Help is available from:

- The CPET Website www.proforest.net/cpet
- Timber Procurement Advice Note (see CPET website)
- CPET workshops – run monthly in Oxford
- The CPET Helpline 01865243766/cpet@proforest.net