

The UK Government timber procurement policy requires, as a condition of contract that all virgin timber or 'non-recycled' timber must come from legal sources. It also provides the option of a variant specification for sustainable timber, but this is not obligatory. The government defines sustainable timber as recycled wood and/ or virgin timber from a well-managed forest source.

There are two ways to demonstrate legal and sustainable timber:

- Type A Evidence: independent certification of the material under a certification scheme which delivers the UK Government requirements. Currently five certification schemes meet the Government's requirements on legality. They are:

1. Canadian Standard Association (CSA)
2. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
3. Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)
4. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
5. Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

In addition, four of the above schemes (CSA, FSC, PEFC and SFI) also deliver the UK Government's requirements on sustainability.

- Type B Evidence: all other forms of credible evidence such as audit statements, government documentation or supplier declarations. This type of evidence can be very varied and may need to be judged on a case by case basis.

CPET is now revising the timber guidance that will be available by November. CPET is also developing a website which is planned to be launched by end of October. In the meantime guidance on UK Government timber procurement can be found at Section F Timber of the following site:

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/delivery/integrating/estate/procurement-guidance.htm>

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