

Environmental Policy Statement

The Directors of Howarth Timber & Building Supplies Ltd (The Company) recognise that The Company has a responsibility to the environment, customers, suppliers and staff to base its commercial activities on well-managed and sustainable forests.

The Company is committed to purchasing all timber from legal and sustainable sources and seeks evidence of compliance from suppliers that they are operating in accordance with the laws of their country. The Company unreservedly condemns illegal logging practices and keeps informed of processes and changes in international legislation.

The Company imports and sells Softwood, and buys and sells Hardwood, Sheet Materials and Engineered Timber Products into the UK merchanting, joinery and construction markets. As a signatory to the Timber Development UK (TDUK), Responsible Purchasing Policy (RPP) due diligence process, The Company assesses suppliers for evidence of legality and sustainable forest management and is subject to an annual independent 3rd party audits.

As such The Company takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it is in compliance with the UKTR. The UK Government has recognised the TDUK RPP as an excellent example of industry good practice in helping to source legal and sustainable timber.

The Company actively performs due diligence and risk assessments on all suppliers and seeks the clearest practicable information regarding the sources of raw materials. It recognises that the independent certification of the forests and the process supply chain is the best means of providing assurance that timber comes from legal and well-managed forests and will purchase certified material wherever possible.

The Company continues to implement Chain of Custody (CoC) procedures to ensure these materials meet the Government Timber Procurement Policy and former C.P.E.T. (Central Point of Expertise in Timber) policy and guidelines on sustainable forest management practices and are obtained from legal, well managed and sustainable forest sources.

As part of this system, it is the policy of The Company to ensure compliance with our Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®-C019610) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC PEFC/16-37-361) certification.

As part of this certification, it is the policy of The Company to not to be directly or indirectly involved in the following unacceptable activities: a) Illegal logging or the trade in illegal wood or forest products; b) Violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations; c) Destruction of high conservation values in forestry operations; d) Significant conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use; e) Introduction of genetically modified organisms in forestry operations.

Management is responsible for implementing this policy and the day-to-day responsibility that this statement is carried out and that The Company Chain of Custody certification scheme is maintained in line with the certification body requirements and the Government Timber Procurement Policy and former C.P.E.T. policy.

If it is established that The Company has received materials from illegal sources, it will promptly take the appropriate action(s), including ceasing purchasing from such sources for products covered by this policy.

The Company will continue to work closely with all its suppliers to encourage greater use of certified timber and timber products and will continue to support the WWF #Together4Forests campaign. In order to achieve this all timber and engineered timber products, where possible, are sourced and procured from a list of 'Approved Suppliers' that is maintained and updated in accordance with The Company's Chain of Custody scheme requirements. These suppliers have already achieved Chain of Custody certification through a licensed and approved independent third-party certification body.

On some product lines where certified material is as yet unavailable, the Company will continue to seek alternative sources or work with the supplying company to implement their own Chain of Custody scheme within agreed timescales. The Company will work with its certification body to ensure that all criteria required by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®-C019610) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC PEFC/16-37-361), UKTR RPP, the UK Government Timber Procurement Policy and former C.P.E.T. (Central Point of Expertise in Timber) policy are met and that any nonconformances are corrected without delay.

Mr. N. D. Howarth
Managing Director

Signed: _____



Date: 12th January 2024