



CHOOSE TIMBER - CHOOSE PEFC

Timber is a versatile, organic and visually appealing material for the creation of a wide range of equipment used in **play spaces, schools, parks and nurseries** from see saws, roundabouts, climbing frames and platforms to boardwalks, benches, signposts and tables.

Timber is warm, solid, strong and importantly, very durable material for play areas that can withstand the rigours of its many users in an outdoor environment. It is textural, natural and an intriguing material for children to explore and as is commonly understood – an active childhood is heavily connected to better adult health and long-term well-being.

As with any material, timber needs to be specified correctly and be fit for purpose. It is increasingly important that the sourcing of legal and sustainable timber is critical to the protection of the environment but also as part of a comprehensive corporate social responsibility policy.

The benefits of implementing a sustainable and responsible procurement policy and knowing exactly where the wood you are buying and using is coming from is vital. Companies have long recognised that sourcing and using **PEFC-certified timber** not only contributes to safeguarding the world's forests, but also assists in improving corporate sustainability credentials and proves your supply chain's commitment to responsible forest management.

National and local governments around the UK and the rest of the world now implement sustainable timber procurement policies as a key requirement of public purchasing. Many have put in place

regulatory frameworks and legislation to this effect. **PEFC certification** is accepted by public procurement policies globally and provides evidence of sustainability and legality.



The UK government timber procurement policy requires central government departments, their executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) to procure timber and wood derived products originating from legal and sustainable sources, or FLEGT-licensed or equivalent sources. The policy applies to all timber products including timber for furniture and play areas.

The Central Point of Expertise on Timber (www.cpet.org.uk) is the technical advisory body established by DEFRA to aid implementation and delivery of the policy by providing guidance and assistance to public buyers and their suppliers of timber and wood-based products. Forest certification schemes play an enormous part in this and PEFC is fully compliant with CPET guidelines.

PEFC

Established in 1999, **PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification)** is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management through independent third-party certification.

PEFC is an umbrella organisation. It works by endorsing national forest certification systems developed collaboratively by all interested stakeholders and tailored to local priorities and conditions. National forest certification schemes undergo rigorous third party assessment against PEFC's unique **Sustainability Benchmarks**.

PEFC has recognised certification systems in more than 30 countries. Together these account for over 247 million hectares of certified forests, making PEFC the world's largest forest and wood product certification system, ensuring a consistent supply of structural timber and timber products.

For more information on PEFC, sustainable timber sourcing and to download a wide range of industry brochures and guidance visit: www.pefc.co.uk



It applies the highest ecological, social and ethical standards to forest management and is the certification system of choice for family and community-owned forests.

At its core is an independently verified **Chain of Custody process** which tracks certified material from the forest to the end user. Chain of custody documentation proves that each step of the supply chain has been monitored closely with independent auditing and is the key mechanism enabling companies to make accurate claims on the content of certified material.

To date, more than 10,000 companies have obtained PEFC chain of custody certification, offering tens of thousands of PEFC-certified products globally. **The 2013 PEFC Chain of Custody standard** with its integral **PEFC Due Diligence System (PEFC DDS)** is fully aligned with the EUTR. (PEFC ST 2002: 2013 Chain of Custody of Forest based Products).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Develop an inclusive timber procurement policy that specifies legal and sustainable timber for your play area products
- Ask your suppliers for PEFC-certified wood products and make sure they have PEFC Chain of Custody
- Join the growing number of companies in your sector which have undergone Chain of Custody certification to enable them to provide their customers with assurances of responsible sourcing
- Use the internationally recognised PEFC logo on your products.