

Code of practice for importing and selling legal and sustainable tropical timber and timber products in New Zealand

Effective from August 2010

Introduction

This voluntary Code of Practice¹ sets out recommended guidelines based on industry best practice with the aim of ensuring that all tropical timber and timber products imported and sold in New Zealand are from logs which are legally harvested and wherever possible from sustainably managed forests.

To achieve this aim participants will:

- Comply with the provisions of this Code; and
- Actively encourage all involved with importing and selling tropical timber and timber products in New Zealand to do likewise.

Scope

The Code covers all tropical timber and timber products imported and sold in New Zealand including: indoor and outdoor furniture and components; solid timber; engineered wood; and reworked and reconstituted timber products (such as plywood and associated product).

Requirements of this Code

The following outlines best practice principles for the importation and selling of tropical timber and timber products.

- All imported tropical timber and timber products (as specified under Scope) entering and sold in New Zealand must be from legally harvested logs.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to seek timber and wood products from sustainably managed sources wherever such supplies exist.
- Third party verification of timber and timber products' legality status should be present with every shipment.
- No claim of tropical timber 'legality' by participants is valid without verification by a credible third party verification scheme.
- Tropical timber and timber products that are certified as 'sustainable' are by definition legally harvested.

Responsibilities and Procedures

- Participants agree to actively seek sources of timber and timber products from verified legal and wherever possible certified sustainably managed forests or tree plantations, and as such sources become available, to phase out the importing and sale of timber from non-verified sources.

¹ This Code has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in consultation with industry

- Participants should seek proof of legal verification from a recognised third party forest verification scheme²
- Where sustainability is being claimed participants should seek proof of sustainability from a third party certification scheme.
- Participants should develop tropical timber and timber product procurement policies that reflect and implement the principles of this Code.
- These policies should be publicly available on participants' websites and progress reports on the implementation of the policies should also be available.
- Participants should challenge any behaviour which is inconsistent with the principles of this Code.

Review

This Code of Practice will be reviewed in two years. This is the first published version.

Comments and queries on the Code may be addressed at any time to the participating companies as listed below.

Participating companies (in alphabetical order):

BBS Timber Ltd
Harkness and Young Ltd
Herman Pacific Ltd
Independent Timber Merchants Co-operative Ltd - ITM
J. Scott Ltd
Kenneally Timber Products Ltd
Mitre 10 (NZ) Ltd
Moxon NZ Ltd
Rosenfeld Kidson and Co. Ltd
Simmonds Lumber (NZ) Ltd
The LumberBank NZ Ltd
Timber Specialists Ltd - Timspec

² Examples of certification and legality verification schemes can be found on the MAF website under the New Zealand Timber and Wood Products Procurement Policy <http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/twpp/index.htm>