



*Clarks Wood Company Ltd*



## ***The WWF UK FTN and our Supplier Requirements***

### ***Why is responsible purchasing of forest products so important?***

Forests are important. The global trade in timber is worth an estimated US\$345 billion a year. The UK is the fifth largest market for imported wood products, with the market worth an estimated \$9.7 billion.

Billions of people depend on forests for their survival; yet over the past fifty years, half of the world's original forest cover has been cleared by man. We continue to lose around 14 million hectares of forest per year, which contributes around 20% of global carbon emissions. It is estimated that more than 90% of the global trade sits outside any form of guarantee of either legality and/or sustainability. This means that in addition to forest loss, the remaining forest areas are becoming heavily degraded. Key drivers of forest loss and degradation are illegal and destructive logging and forest conversion to agriculture and construction.

As a company that uses considerable quantities of forest products, we are therefore faced with a number of difficult choices. We could stop using timber and wood products altogether, we could ignore the issues and choose to trade without caring what impact our trade demand is having, or we could choose to trade in products which we can clearly prove through credible certification, come from legal and well managed sources.

### ***What is 'Chain of Custody' and why is it so Important?***

- Chain of custody is the way of showing that a specific piece of paper or timber that we use has actually come from a forest that has been independently assessed as being well managed. With very few exceptions, this means that the product has to be tracked and kept separate from uncertified material every step of the way from the forest to its final use. Like any chain, if there's a missing link, the chain is ineffective.

### ***What is the WWF-UK FTN?***

- A partnership between WWF-UK and companies that procure a wide range of forest products
- FTN's 40-plus members are mainly market leaders from forest product-using sectors in the UK including paper merchants, publishers, retailers and construction companies
- **The FTN allows like minded companies to source their forest products responsibly within an internationally recognised framework that represents best practice**

### ***So what are we doing?***

- We have written, implemented and actively monitor a responsible purchasing policy for timber and paper products
- To help ensure we implement our policy most effectively, we are active members of the WWF-UK Forest & Trade Network (FTN)
- We are obliged to report to the FTN annually detailing the forest products we have procured. We also have an action plan that details how we will continually improve the source of forest products we purchase

### ***What does this mean for YOU as one of our suppliers?***

- We need you to provide us with detailed information on the forest products you supply to us. This **must** include:
  - The volume (and where appropriate the species) of the product
  - Which country the forest product originally came from
  - For certified products you will need to supply 'Chain of Custody' certificates or the COC number clearly against any certified products on the invoice you send to us
  - We need this information in good time to so that we can decide which category to allocate your forest products into in our annual report to WWF-UK FTN
  - If necessary, you need to request information from your own supplier, so they are aware of our commitment and requirements

### ***Our commitments to the WWF-UK FTN***

We joined the WWF-UK FTN in **1996** and have made the following commitments:

- Written and implemented an Action Plan, which is approved and overseen by WWF. The plan shows how we are continually improving our purchasing procedures to:
  - (a) Discover more about all of our wood product sources, (including paper)
  - (b) Steadily move our purchasing away from high risk sources towards sources which have been certified and importantly and;
  - (c) Report in detail every year on products we have purchased
- In our annual report to the FTN, we have to allocate our purchases of forest products to categories from 'unknown' up to 'credibly certified', by way of 'known', 'legal', and 'in progress to credible certification', each of which is carefully defined by WWF. There are also categories for 'recycled'.

*As a supplier this is information you may need to know anyway, in order to implement your own environmental policies, to manage your risks and reputation, and to ensure you are well placed to respond to customer requirements, especially with public sector contracts.*

**We want to continue to work with suppliers who support our commitment to WWF-UK FTN, but suppliers who are unwilling to work with us to provide the data we need are at risk of being delisted. We cannot risk purchasing forest products where we don't know the source is responsible.**

WWF take these issues as seriously as we do. Each year a sample of FTN members' reports are independently verified, and if a member consistently fails to adequately implement their action plans they can have their membership terminated.

Our decisions have impacts on our world's forests and all those who depend on them. Membership of WWF-UK FTN is helping us make sure we get those decisions right. Let us know if you need any guidance, or more copies of this leaflet.  
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