UK GOVERNMENT’S
TIMBER PROCUREMENT
POLICY

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POLICY – APRIL 2007

• Central government departments **must** seek to buy timber from sustainable and legal sources
• Legal timber is a condition of contract
• Tenderers can **choose to offer sustainable timber** as a variant
• Evidence of compliance will be independently verified if necessary
POLICY - 2009

• Central departments will demand only timber and timber products made from trees grown and legally harvested in sustainably managed forests or:

• Timber and timber products licensed under FLET voluntary partnership agreements

• This is an interim policy until 2015
POLICY - 2015

• Central departments will purchase only timber and timber products made from trees grown and legally harvested in sustainably managed forests
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

• 55% of timber imports certified
• Public sector requirements could be met with certified timber but demand still low
• Suspect current flexible policy to blame
• Departments and their suppliers being monitored
• Reporting performance is inconsistent
POST APRIL 2009 IMPACTS ON OWNERS OF SMALL FORESTS

- Policy applies to central government supplies
- Legal compliance alone no longer acceptable unless laws ensure sustainable management
- Consultation on policy impacts from 05 July 07
- CPET will facilitate discussions
- Definition of SFM will be debated
- Legal compliance as assurance of SFM and forms of evidence will be debated
Harmonisation

- UK working with Denmark and Netherlands
- Legality harmonised
- UK exclude social criteria from definition of SFM
- DK includes forest conversion criteria in definition of SFM
- NL target of 2010 for 100% sustainable timber purchases
IMPACTS

• UK trade has responded positively
• TTF has Responsible Policy
• GLOBE is working internationally
• Japan has adopted a policy
• G8 support
• Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, Finland, Italy, Spain and China interested
Central Point of Expertise on Timber

- CPET is a free service to UK public sector and its suppliers
- Funded for three years by Defra
- CPET monitored by Reference Board of trade and ENGOs
- CPET has oversight committee to advise on conflicts of interest
- CPET may become self financing