

UK GOVERNMENT'S TIMBER PROCUREMENT POLICY

**Bob Andrew
Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs**

June 2007

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