

## SUSTAINABLE TIMBER POLICY

Natta Building Company Ltd intends where possible to commit to the pursuit of best practice in the purchase of sustainable timber products. This means:

We will not purchase endangered species.

We will give preference to timber and timber panel products which carry the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or equivalent trademark.

Where unachievable, timber should be from a sustainable source with documentation from suppliers/contractors.

Where the policy requirements are met, the Natta BCL will not discriminate against contractors or suppliers on the basis that the source of the timber supplied is any particular country or territory.

If FSC (or equivalent) trademarked timber proves to be unavailable contractors will, as a second resort only, use timber and timber panel products from a known resource and will attempt to gain as much assurance as possible that the forest is well managed and will provide documentation and proof.

In specifying hardwoods, preference will be given to certified hardwoods. Natta BCL will not discriminate against certified tropical hardwoods. Local uncertified hardwoods may be used as a second resort only.

All Staff with responsibility for specifying timber will be required to inform contractors / suppliers of Natta wood purchasing policy and to devise a suitable method of monitoring contractors / supplier's success in purchasing timber under this policy.

Guidance will be given by the Natta to relevant staff as to the information they should provide to contractors working on, or proposing to tender for Natta contracts.

Guidance will also be given to contractors and suppliers as to the background environmental information that the Natta considers to be the acceptable minimum in order to ensure that its policy is being adhered to.

### FSC accreditation

FSC is a worldwide, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, representing environmental and social groups and the timber and forestry industry. Its aim is to generate certification of forestry activity that incorporates clear guidelines and standards covering social, environmental and economic aspects of forest management. So far, 800,000 hectares have been certified in the UK and 18 million hectares world-wide.

Recently all Forestry Commission woodland in Britain received the FSC accreditation.

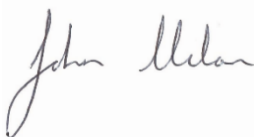
There are 21 countries supplying accredited timber to the UK. The market is therefore developing rapidly and potential increased purchase costs of 2 - 5% should reduce over time.

### Sustainable Sourcing of Timber

Forest management can be environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial, but it can also be environmentally and socially damaging. This policy recognises the responsibility of the Natta BCL as a consumer of forest products to ensure that we have a neutral if not positive effect on the world's forests.

Addressing the threats facing the world's forests is highly complex and requires a number of measures such as improving government regulation, reducing wasteful consumption, establishing protected areas and finding incentives for responsible long-term management.

The Forest Stewardship Council plays an important role in this by overseeing a system of forest certification and product labelling.



**John Whelan** | Managing Director

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