

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – JANUARY 2018

The Ridgeon Group, in recognising a responsibility to the environment, our customers and suppliers, bases its commercial activities on timber products that have been legally sourced from well-managed forests. Many of our customers request certified timber and we are pleased to be able to offer this through our fully certified and independently audited Chain of Custody systems.

We stock full PEFC™ (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) and/or FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council ®) product, where available, for both timber and sheet materials. We also have Chain of Custody in place to enable us to offer CSA (Canadian Standards Association), SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) and MTCC/S (Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme) certified product.

We regularly obtain information relating to the environmental practices of our suppliers, and make visits to their mills to see for ourselves and to strengthen relationships.

We are also members of the Timber Trade Federation (TTF), which embraces Forests Forever, an organisation that promotes the positive environmental advantages of timber, and are signatories to the Responsible Purchasing Policy (RPP). As signatories to the RPP, we undertake ongoing due diligence on all of our suppliers of timber and timber based products to ensure that all products are sourced from legal and well-managed sources in accordance to the RPP & European Union Timber Regulations (EUTR).

The key elements of the RPP & EUTR include –

- Performing a pre-screening of suppliers.
- Risk assessment of suppliers and trade products.
- Management reports.
- Annual independent audits.

This information is then passed onto the TTF for inspection and independent auditing.

In 2017, 100% of the timber and timber based products purchased by the Ridgeon Group were fully EUTR compliant. Over 97% of these products were sourced from fully certified, low risk regions of the world in accordance to the RPP regulations.

Over 90% of the volume of timber we buy is softwood (coniferous species), principally from Scandinavian forests. The main source of supply of joinery Redwood & Whitewood, which we use for the manufacture of our prepared items, is from Finland and Sweden. All our mills supplying this product are certified under either PEFC™ or FSC®.

The Company recognises that the independent certification of forests and the process chain is the most useful tool in providing assurances to our customers that the timber comes from legal and well-managed sources, backed by independent inspection.

In October 2015, the Ridgeon Group signed up to the WWF-UK's Forest Campaign. By signing up to this campaign, the company pledge to –

- Buy timber and timber products from sustainable sources by 2020, and make our performance public.
- Support the call for the EU to close the loopholes in the current EU Timber Regulations.
- Support the call for the UK Government and the EU to complete the transition to a market in sustainable timber and timber products by 2020.

Ridgeons Forest Products (part of the Ridgeon Group) takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and continues to source and investigate sustainable supplies from well-managed forests at all times.

For further information please visit our website www.ridgeons.co.uk

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