

Demand for chain of custody set to grow

Timber is often used in landscaping projects and crops up in a wide variety of products such as decking and fencing or even temporary hoardings used on commercial schemes. Timber is such a commonly occurring material on site, therefore landscapers are likely to find themselves coming under increasing pressure to obtain Chain of Custody certification to demonstrate that the timber they are using has come from a sustainable source, *Jodie Read* explains why

Commercial pressure

The commercial pressure is likely to come from the public sector imposing the requirement on their supply chain. This is because public sector organisations are obliged to comply with the European Timber regulations, which have been transposed within the UK as The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013 No 233)

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/233/made.

Simplest way to comply

Although there are various ways to demonstrate that timber has been sourced sustainably, Natural Resources Wales, speaking at a special supply chain procurement briefing said that they had a preference for "Chain of Custody certified timber" and that "it is the simplest way to ensure compliance" with their procurement policy. Indeed, in going on to announce a four year fencing contract opportunity throughout Wales, the organisation



indicated that companies were unlikely to make it past the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage unless they could demonstrate how timber products were being sourced legally and sustainably by 1 April 2014, when the contract starts.

FSC & PEFC Chain of Custody Schemes

Chain of Custody schemes operating in the UK are The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) www.fsc-uk.org and The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) www.pefc.co.uk. Both schemes enable companies to provide evidence that timber is identifiable and traceable at all stages of the supply chain, from harvesting, to sawmills, builder's merchants and installers.

Certification

Companies requiring certification need to be assessed by approved Certification Bodies. Those companies employing 15 or fewer staff may be able to join a Small Group Scheme to minimise the cost of certification.



ABOUT JODIE READ



Jodie Read is the Managing Director of Penarth Management Limited; a company which specialises in helping to make business become Better, Greener and

Safer through the provision compliance consultancy and training for quality, environmental, health and safety management. She and her colleagues assist companies to implement and maintain management systems, such as ISO9001 (Quality), ISO14001 (Environmental) OHSAS18001 (Health and Safety) or FSC / PEFC Chain of Custody. The company is an affiliate member of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI). Jodie is BALI's regional chair for Wales and has been elected to the national Board of Directors. If readers have any queries regarding Chain of Custody implementation or certification they are welcome to contact Jodie via e-mail: jodie@penarth.co.uk or by telephone on 029 2070 3328.