

INTERFOR WOOD PURCHASING GUIDE

The use of wood products is a good choice for the environment. Wood is a natural and renewable resource that offers strength, beauty and durability in building applications.

Forests make a vital contribution to our quality of life in the world by providing essential environmental and economic benefits. Recognizing the importance of forests is key to fostering their sustainable use and conservation.

One way consumers can make a difference is to purchase products that use wood from sustainable managed forests. Sustainable forestry is defined as the stewardship and use of forests to provide environmental, economic and social opportunities for present and future generations. It is based on forest practices that maintain the health and productivity of forest ecosystems that protect and enhance soil, water, fish and wildlife values while providing useful products for people.

Certification of forest practices can help customers make environmentally responsible purchasing decisions. A certification system can provide independent verification that environmental and sustainable forestry standards are being met. Certifiers monitor and audit practices on a continual basis to ensure performance.

Several Certification systems are available for application to forest operations:

- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- International Standards Organization (ISO)
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

While each of these systems is somewhat different in application, they all provide independent assurance for standards being measured.

Chain of Custody (CoC) certification offers end customers the assurance that products can be tracked back to a certified source. CSA, FSC, SFI and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) all offer CoC certification procedures.

Consumers can also gain useful first hand knowledge by visiting forest operations of suppliers, where appropriate. Providing an open forum for public discussion about the use of forest resources is important in making informed, well-balanced decisions.

Wood Purchasing Guide

We believe that the use of wood products is a good choice for the environment.

We intend to purchase wood products that come from sustainably managed forests.

We will favor suppliers who have their forest practices independently certified to recognized standards.

We encourage ongoing review of forest practices to make informed, well- balanced decisions regarding the use of forest resources.