



## **POLICY ON TIMBER PROCUREMENT**

### **1. POLICY**

It is ASDA policy that all timber and timber based materials used in Asda brand products and major items used in our store operations are from a known legal and sustainable source.

Asda will furthermore require that these products are independently certified to one of the certification schemes in Appendix 1 by no later than December 2010, with the exception of products where it can be verified that waste or recycled materials have been used.

The terms 'wood' and 'timber' are used in this document to refer to any product which is made from timber or timber based, including tissue, fibreboard and paper. It does not include products containing wood derivatives, such as palm oil.

The term 'waste' material refers to materials that are produced as an unavoidable by-product of another industrial process, such as food production.

The term 'recycled' material refers to materials that have fulfilled their primary function and are now being re-used to prevent virgin materials being used.

### **2. SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

- all Asda brand products.
- Goods not for resale, such as shop fitting & equipment, tables and chairs in our internal restaurants.
- Primary and secondary construction items used in our stores, such as joinery and framing.
- all wood-based packaging materials and all point of sale (POS) materials.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

Asda is committed to selling timber based products from known legal and sustainable sources and to help stop the trade in illegal timber. We will never knowingly source products made from illegally logged timber nor will we knowingly source any timber species which have been referenced in Appendices I,II or III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) list.

In line with the Objectives above, our suppliers must be able to demonstrate that all the timber used in products within the scope of this policy comes from a legal and sustainable source.

By 2011 Asda will require independent certification of compliance to either Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards. All products that were FSC certified at the time of launch of this policy, March 2009, MUST remain FSC certified and cannot be substituted by PEFC certified timber.

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We will also actively seek alternative materials to virgin timber, such as recycled or waste wood where these are available.

There is no requirement to utilise certification logos on products but where they are utilised this should be backed up by documented evidence of chain of custody compliance.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

All suppliers of products covered by this policy **MUST** adhere to the following requirements:

A - All timber used must be from a known legal and sustainable source or be from recycled or waste sources

- This is our primary requirement and no products will be accepted that do not adhere to this requirement
- Verification must be provided where recycled or waste timber is used

B - You must have a plan in place to obtain certification from a timber certification body accredited by FSC or PEFC before December 2010

- Please note that certification can be a lengthy process and so it is strongly recommended that you begin the process immediately

C - From 2011 you must be able to demonstrate compliance to either FSC or PEFC standards

- From 2011 you will be required to send the relevant chain of custody certification documentation to Asda before the goods will be accepted

For details of accredited timber certification bodies please refer to the FSC or PEFC websites detailed in Appendix 1.

We reserve the right to carry out audits to ensure compliance with this policy and you must allow access to an Asda, Wal-Mart or nominated auditor to monitor compliance with this policy

#### **5. APPENDICES**

##### **Appendix 1 - Acceptable Certification Schemes**

Asda only accepts the following certification schemes:

*Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)*

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. It provides standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. FSC has offices in more than 45 countries. (correct Feb 2009)

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*The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC)*

www.pefc.org

The PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. The PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests.

PEFC is a global umbrella organisation for the assessment of and mutual recognition of national forest certification schemes developed in a multi-stakeholder process. These national schemes build upon the inter-governmental processes for the promotion of sustainable forest management, a series of on-going mechanisms supported by 149 governments in the world covering 85% of the world's forest area. PEFC has in its membership 35 independent national forest certification systems. (correct Feb 2009)

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