



Tool Box Talk

Focus on Performance

Timber Use on Site

Sust. 09

What?

Interserve has a policy of using only sustainable and legal timber on site, for both structural and non-structural works and in temporary and permanent works.

Why?

Timber can be one of the most sustainable materials that you can use on site. The tree will take up carbon during its life time and lock it away. As trees are harvested, more trees can be planted, maintaining a habitat for plants, animals, insects and birds and keeping our air fresh and clean. However, some forests are not properly managed, trees are removed and nothing is put back, destroying the whole ecosystem for the future.

How?

All timber must be from a sustainable source. Suppliers can show this by complying with a timber sustainability standard. Best known is FSC but we recognise others detailed below:



Forest Stewardship Council



Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification



Canadian Standards Association



Sustainable Forestry Initiative



Malaysian Timber Certification Council

- Timber suppliers must hold Chain of Custody certificates demonstrating they can provide legal and sustainable timber in accordance with an accepted timber standard (certificate must specify timber types and depots covered).
- Our orders must specify legal and sustainable timber (Buyers will specify and check certificates).
- Check delivery notes for proof that the supplier has supplied sustainable and legal timber.
- Sub contractors must prove they purchase sustainable and legal (discuss requirements in F723 meetings).
- Checks on Chain of Custody documentation (including subcontractors) are included in the L4 inspections.
- Re-used timber (e.g. scaffolding planks), and small timber items (e.g. setting out pegs) are not subject to this policy.
- Clients may have additional requirements (e.g. Environment Agency require compliance with FSC Chain of Custody).



FSC certificate

Questions

1. Are your (and subcontractor) suppliers registered to an accepted scheme?
2. Are delivery notes checked for sustainable timber?
3. Do call-off orders also specify sustainable timber?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this tool box talk please contact your Sustainability Advisor or Line Manager.