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# Countryside Partnerships

## Timber Policy

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### Who we are

We are a leading developer of mixed-tenure homes. We create places where people love to live with sustainable communities built to last. We work in partnership with local and central government, housing associations and the private rented sector. Our values of caring, growing together, taking pride, and always delivering are very important to us.

### What we do

We are investing in modern methods of construction (MMC) to help tackle the UK housing shortage and produce more sustainable outcomes. However, increasing the use of timber in our operations means it is more important than ever that we buy it from sustainable sources.

We recognise the role forests play in biodiversity, climate change and the livelihoods of local communities and want to play our part to keep forests thriving.

### Our objectives

- To only use timber that is certified by an internationally recognised certification scheme like the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), whether bought directly by us or through our subcontractors; and
- To become more efficient in how we use timber, to reduce waste and support circularity of this critical material.

Our objectives are supported by timber targets in our Approach to Sustainability:

- 100% sustainably sourced timber procured for building operations per year
- At least 50% of all homes built using MMC by 2025
- At least 20,000 of all homes to be built by our factories by 2025

### How we do it

- We scrutinise all potential direct suppliers of timber and timber products during pre-qualification and tender to ensure they will be bought from certified sources. Our factories procure, at a minimum, PEFC certified timber products.

- We include timber management in our ISO14001 accredited Environmental Management System.
- We keep Chain of Custody evidence from our supply chain to ensure they are following this policy.
- We never procure or use species listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or from areas of High Conservation Value.
- We provide training to our employees, contractors, and suppliers to raise awareness about sustainable timber.
- We reserve the right to audit our supply chain against this policy.
- We train our internal procurement and commercial teams on environment and social issues and offer free membership to the Supply Chain Sustainability School to all our partners.
- We measure, monitor, and report our timber procurement performance against our targets, and report this publicly to stakeholders.

### Our expectations

Our supply chain must:

- Comply with UK Timber Regulations and FLEGT Regulations at a minimum and be able to provide evidence of this;
- Buy, FSC or PEFC certified timber products on our behalf;
- Respond transparently, and in a timely manner, to any requests we make for data on the source, certification and volume of timber procured;
- Follow site procedures regarding the storage, use and disposal of timber;
- Remove any timber suspected to be illegal from site and to inform us immediately;
- Investigate new opportunities and measures to improve timber management throughout their supply chain;
- Attend toolbox talks and other training sessions on sustainable timber practices and use best practice on our sites;
- Work with us to help us achieve our targets; and
- Provide data when we request it.

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Supply chain partners who hold FSC and/or PEFC chain of custody will be preferentially selected over those who do not hold such certifications. Invoices and delivery notes for timber products must be properly completed in line with the requirements of the certification and be available on request.

## **Keeping this policy up to date**

The Executive Committee and Sustainability Committee have overall responsibility for matters relating to timber.

This policy is available on our website and displayed in our workplaces. It is reviewed annually.

Our Timber Policy is supported by our Environment Management Policy, Sustainable Procurement Policy and Approach to Sustainability.



## **Group Co-Chief Executives**

30/07/2022