

### 3 MATERIALS ASPECTS 3.P PREREQUISITE

#### MA P1 TIMBER USED FOR TEMPORARY WORKS

**EXCLUSIONS** None.

**OBJECTIVE** Encourage the well-managed use of timber.

**REQUIREMENT** Virgin forest products are not used for temporary works during construction.

**ASSESSMENT** The Client shall provide **documentation** and **photographic evidence** demonstrating that no virgin forest products were being used for temporary works, unless **exceptional circumstances** required such use, in form of a report prepared by a suitably qualified person. The report should highlight how **contract documents and specifications precluded** such use in formwork, hoardings, walkways, etc., together with **evidence** such as site photos and **records** to demonstrate that no new timber or timber products were used. Wood products from well-managed or sustainable sources are acceptable for this credit requirement. Sustainable timber shall be certified by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)[1], the American Forest and Paper Association (AFPA)[2], or "Known Licensed Sources" [3].

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The Client's representative on site shall be responsible for monitoring and reporting on construction activities, and shall confirm in writing that the works were conducted in accordance with the specifications and contract documents, and that all details regarding the use of timber contained in the report are accurate.

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Where it is demonstrated that all practical steps have been taken to avoid the use of virgin forest products, the credit shall be awarded.

**BACKGROUND** Timber is the most ecologically benign of construction materials. However, there are hardwoods which are being extracted from virgin forests in an unsustainable manner, destroying valuable forests and ecosystems. Similarly, some softwoods, such as redwood and cedar are being depleted. Where forests are being harvested in an unsustainable manner, the result is the extinction of indigenous species and the clearance of vegetation that would otherwise help regulating the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Improved forestry practices can be encouraged by seeking timber from sources where the forests are well-managed.

Hong Kong uses only imported timber and is one of the largest importers of tropical hardwoods. The construction sector in Hong Kong is a major consumer of hardwoods from tropical rainforests, with a large proportion used wastefully, and ending up at landfill sites. Timber should originate only from well-managed sources and should be reused whenever possible. Guidelines, templates and implementation measures are to assist organisations to develop purchasing policies and practices that help conserving forest resources are available [4]. PNAP No. ADV-5 [5] gives guidance for alternatives to the use of hardwoods in order to reduce the amount of tropical hardwood timber being used in constructions.

1 Forest Stewardship Council. <http://www.fsc.org/>

2 American Forest and Paper Association. <http://www.afandpa.org/>

3 Architectural Services Department, General Specifications for Building 2007, Section 13, Carpentry and Joinery, 13.01.03.

4 World Wildlife Fund. [http://www.wwf.org.uk/wwf\\_articles.cfm?unewsid=296](http://www.wwf.org.uk/wwf_articles.cfm?unewsid=296)

5 Buildings Department. Practice Note for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineer. PNAP No. ADV-5 Tropical Hardwood Timber. <http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/pnap/ADV/ADV005.pdf>

Q29. SA 8c, Must the design option with the best air ventilation performances be adopted in order to obtain the credit?

Q30. SA 9, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, can windows of neighbouring sensitive buildings be excluded from the VDF daylight study if...

Q31. SA 10, 11 & 12, If site formation and infrastructure works have commenced before 1 April 2010 (the release of BEAM Plus for New Buildings), can the said works be excluded in the assessment of the credits in BEAM Plus New Buildings Certification?

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Q33. SA 14, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, please clarify the assessment criteria if the project proponent intends to only provide a space (e.g. A/C platform) for the future installation of A/C equipment?

Q34. SA 14 and SA 15, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, for developments with more than one building, if the neighbouring building(s) within the site is/are regarded as sensitive receiver(s), shall it/they be considered in the above assessments?

Q35. SA 15, For BEAM Plus New Buildings / Existing Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, what should be submitted during the provisional Assessment stage to demonstrate the compliance for this credit?

Q36. SA 15 – For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 & 1.2, projects being located at urban fringe areas with more than 50% of their project boundaries facing rural context, will the environmental zones be considered as E2 or E3?

#### Material Aspects

Q1. MA P1, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, what documentation is required to show the use of virgin forest products is avoided by reusing old timber products?

The reuse of timber or timber products for temporary works is acceptable. Transfer notes and site photo records should be kept and submitted to show the originating old timber source, the quantity and the date of transfer of the timber products between the despatch work site and the project site (recipient). The transfer notes should bear the detailed name and address of the work sites concerned and duly signed by both the despatch and recipient parties undertaking the transfer (i.e. site representative / stores officer in managerial position), together with company chops.

If the old timber products are from the same project site, a detailed usage record or inventory prepared by a site representative in respect of the timber products being used/reused at the project site shall suffice to prove the reuse.

(Released on 29 November 2019)

Q2. MA P1 and MA 6, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, what documentation is required to prove the timber is from a sustainable source?

Q3. MA P3 and MA 10, If the demolition works of the existing buildings were completed by third party, can the developer waive the relevant assessment in related to demolition works for attaining BEAM Plus certification?

Q4. MA P4, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, could provision of refuse storage and materials recovery chamber (RS&MRC) for development with the minimum total usable floor space of different building types be exempted?

Q5. MA P4, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, could provision of refuse storage and materials recovery room (RS&MRR) on every domestic floor for residential development be exempted?

Q6. MA P4, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, could the area of refuse storage and materials recovery rooms (RS&MRRs) provided at residential floors to be counted towards the total area of waste facilities provided in the development?

Q7. MA P4, For BEAM Plus New Buildings Version 1.1 and 1.2, what documentation is required to substantiate the alternative proposal on the provision of waste recycling facilities other than RS&MRC and/or RS&MRR?

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In the event the timber products are not purchased from a supplier who is an "accredited company", the following basic evidences should be produced to demonstrate the products:

- (i) conform to sustainable forestry practice guidelines;
- (ii) be accredited by recognised organisations; and
- (iii) in compliance with the specification set down by the organisation.

Provided that the timber products are sourced from a supplier already accredited by the Approval Organisations, i.e. FSC, AFPA, PEFC or other "known licensed sources" according to the respective protocol (accredited company), and the timber products purchased are issued with the Certificate under the COC (Chain of Custody) system, it is acceptable that the following documents as proof to demonstrate the timber products as purchased from the timber supplier and used in the project site are from a sustainable source: -

1. Invoice plus Delivery Note (DN) from the supplier of the timber products purchased - on the invoice & DN, it should be marked with the reference Certificate No.; a note which has the effect of confirming the products in the invoice and delivery note are certified; the pack no. of the timber products (see the samples – Attachment A1 and A2);

2. A copy of the COC Certificate of the certified timber supplier; AND

3. Photographic evidence of the timber products.

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