

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].**

1 2

3

4 5

6 7

8

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.

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 CO₂ 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

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>