



The American Hardwood Export Council

Certificate of Compliance

AHEC Responsible Procurement Policy for Exporters

This company is a member of the American Hardwood Export Council and has agreed to adhere to the association's requirements to monitor regularly and to verify that its procurement processes and suppliers operate in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of the United States and of the State of Texas. This company maintains a procurement policy that specifically prohibits harvest or production of lumber that is excluded from international trade.

This Company recognises it has a responsibility to its customers, suppliers and staff to base its commercial activities on legally and responsibly managed forests.

The Management of this company takes responsibility for the endorsement of this policy statement and its implementation throughout the company's operations, and to ensure that key members of staff are trained and that all employees are advised of our position.

This company shall:

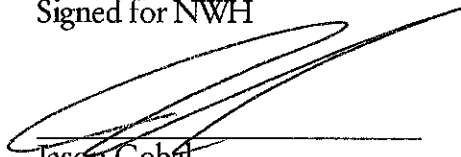
- *Ensure that formal contracts exist with contractors to require compliance with applicable laws and regulations and state Best Management Practices (BMPs)*
- *Encourage landowners/ suppliers to use state-approved BMPs and monitor the effectiveness of efforts to promote BMPs using public or private sources of information.*
- *Encourage landowners/ suppliers to utilize the services of qualified resource professionals and qualified logging professionals in applying principles of sustainable forest management on their lands.*
- *Implement a procedure to assess the risk that procured raw material derives from illegal logging and address any significant risk identified. In the United States, this procedure may be based on the AHEC commissioned study "An Assessment of Lawful Harvesting & Sustainability of US Hardwood Exports" and any follow-up reports commissioned by AHEC.*
- *Participate in public and private sector initiatives at the state and local level to work collaboratively to reduce the risk of illegal and unsustainable timber harvesting.*
- *Coordinate with law enforcement and association timber security task forces to investigate and resolve timber trespass and illegal harvesting.*

- *Encourage the use of existing mechanisms, (such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee Inconsistent Practices provision) to report those that do not adhere to the principles of sustainable forestry.*
- *Ensure that all exported wood shipments include a clear indication of the country of origin (i.e. the United States unless the product is a re-export) and, as far as possible, the state(s) in the United States where the timber was harvested.*
- *Progressively increase the proportion of procured American hardwoods that can be tracked to forest of origin.*
- *Substantiate any claims in relation to the source or environmental credentials of American hardwood products.*

AHEC and its members who have acknowledged this commitment in writing are expected to comply with this Responsible Procurement Policy (RPP). AHEC shall review substantiated, written complaints about non-conformance with this RPP. AHEC members also all understand that the organization will address any evidence of non-conformance brought to the attention of AHEC.

AHEC encourages customers, suppliers and AHEC members to resolve complaints between themselves if possible or, where not, provide for independent mediation. Where this fails a complaint may be made formally to the AHEC Board of Directors. If the complaint is upheld, the Board may impose sanctions against the offending member.

Signed for NWH



Jason Gobel
NWH

Signed for The American Hardwood Export Council



Michael S. Snow, Executive Director

