



## Timber policy

### Background

There has been an increasing demand for timber and timber products and an increase in deforestation to use the land for other purposes (housing, agriculture etc). These factors have increased the pressure on the world's forests, in particular tropical rainforests. Additionally, forests are increasingly recognised for the role they play in our global climate system and for the biodiversity they safeguard.

### Approach

The ever increasing popularity of Timber, paper and pulp products has led to increased demand across the globe. However environmental groups have linked its popularity to the loss of natural habitats and the negative effects on people living in the area from which it is sourced.

To make sure that the Timber, Paper and Pulp in Asda and George branded products do not contribute to these negative effects it must be sustainably sourced by 31 December 2020.

It is Asda / George policy that all solid wood and wood fibre materials are sourced using the following criteria:

- We do not accept products that contain unknown sources, or timber that has been illegally harvested or traded.
- As well as the above, we will not knowingly accept virgin solid wood or wood fibre products coming from wood harvested:
  - In violation of traditional and civil rights;
  - From forests where high conservation values are threatened;
  - From forests which have converted to plantations or non-forest use;
- By 31 December 2020 all wood and wood fibre in our products must either be from recycled material, or traceable to forest sources that are independently certified to a credible standard. Either FSC or PEFC. Asda / George does not accept timber from the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme accredited under PEFC or the Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation also certified under PEFC as a certified source.

At the moment, we believe that FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) is the most wide-ranging and broadly recognised and accepted forest products certification system used throughout the world. As a result, we are committed to supporting and giving preference to timber and wood-based products certified against the FSC standards.

In 2015 we joined the WWF-UK forest campaign and committed to buy timber and timber products from sustainable sources by 2020, and make our performance public. We also committed to support strengthening of the current EU Timber Regulations to cover all timber and timber products.