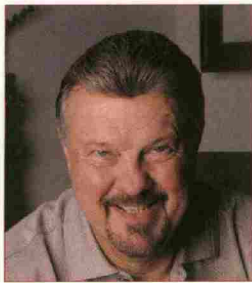




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## Progressive RPP Tiers

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 Executive Director/CEO

The National Wood Flooring Association has established the NWFA Responsible Procurement Program (RPP) to recognize wood flooring companies that work to sustain our world's forests. The goal of the RPP is to harness the power of the wood flooring industry to promote environmentally and socially responsible forest management in the regions that supply the timber on which we all depend.

The program is supported by the Forest Stewardship Council-US and the FSC Family Forest Alliance, which recognizes the NWFA RPP as a valid incremental approach toward socially and environmentally responsible forestry. The program is transitional to higher levels of environmental responsibility based on three tiers of increasing voluntary participation and associated certification.

Tier One is the entry-level stage, and requires company commitment to key program criteria:

1. Develop and adopt a Responsible Procurement Policy that conforms to RPP requirements.
2. Source domestic raw materials from forests identified as "renewing" by the USDA Forest Service.
3. Participate in NWFA Chain of Custody Program, which traces wood to renewing forests.
4. Conform to FSC criteria for "Controlled Wood."
5. Use the "NWFA Verified from US Renewing Forests" logo in off-product materials and marketing only for domestically sourced materials.
6. Provide independent verification for legal harvesting of raw materials sourced outside the United States.
7. Use the "NWFA Verified Legal Import" logo in off-product materials and marketing only for imported materials.
8. Advance to Tier Two within three years.

Tier Two is the transitional-level stage, and requires company commitment to key program criteria:

1. Obtain FSC Chain of Custody certification, requiring an annual on-site audit.
2. Source raw materials from FSC-certified forests and establish targets to increase use of FSC-certified materials.
3. Verify all raw materials sourced outside the U.S. at high risk for illegal logging have Verified Legal Import certification.
4. Join the FSC Procurement group to help increase availability of FSC-certified wood.
5. Meet FSC controlled wood standards within two years of entering Tier Two.

Tier Three is the highest-level stage, and requires company commitment to key program criteria:

1. Meet all Tier One and Tier Two requirements.
2. Achieve at least 50 percent sales in FSC-certified wood.
3. Meet FSC Controlled Wood standards for all non FSC-certified wood.

Quality assurance for the NWFA RPP is provided by a third-party certification company, Scientific Certification Systems.

You can learn more about the NWFA RPP on the NWFA's Web site: visit [www.nwfa.org](http://www.nwfa.org) and go to the "Hot Industry Issues" link, or contact the NWFA at 800/422-4556 (U.S.), 800/848-8824 (Canada), or 636/519-9663 (local and international). ■

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