

The Australian Sawmilling Consortium

In March 2005 the Australian plantation softwood sawmilling industry came together to discuss a request for 28,800m³ of timber for use in temporary shelters in Sri Lanka after the Boxing Day Tsunami. Members of the plantation softwood sawmilling industry met through their key industry association, the Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P), to consider its response to such a large request.

As a result, seven companies joined forces to supply timber to Sri Lanka via aid organisation Oxfam Australia. Oxfam then distributed this timber to various Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in Sri Lanka.

After responding to this initial project, the seven leading Australian forestry companies have made a formal alliance to submit joint quotations for the supply of timber to emergency relief projects.

Environmental sustainability

Australian Sawmilling Consortium timber is guaranteed to be produced from renewable plantation resources within Australia. The World Wildlife Fund Australia has endorsed the resources as environmentally sustainable. Plantations are certified under various schemes and standards, such as ISO 14001, FSC, or the Australian Forestry Standard, which is cross certified with PEFC.



The companies in the Australian Sawmilling Consortium for emergency response are

- AKD Softwoods - www.akd.com.au
- Carter Holt Harvey - www.chh.com
- Hyne and Son - www.hyne.com.au
- International Timber Solutions - www.itslimited.com.au
- Weyerhaeuser Australia - www.weyerhaeuser.com



Why source products from the Australian Sawmilling Consortium?

Supply capability and capacity

Having a joint approach allows the Australian Sawmilling Consortium to supply larger volumes of timber faster than any company operating alone.

The group has a production capacity of 2.3 million cubic metres of sawn product per annum. This represents approximately 75% of the total sawmilling capacity in Australia. The alliance of the biggest timber companies in Australia has access to timber supplies from 17 different sawmills and is therefore able to supply high volumes of product with short response times.

Single point of contact

The alliance consists of manufacturers who are also distributors. International Timber Solutions, on behalf of the consortium, is the single point of contact, handling co-ordination of the order and acting as shipper. All supply contracts are made with International Timber Solutions.

Technical expertise

Timber is the core business of all members of the Australian Sawmilling Consortium. Not only do we understand timber but we have in-house technical and marketing support, as well as support from a wide network of allied industries, government and semi-government organisations and institutions.

Treated timber

It is recommended that all timber used in construction be treated to prevent decay or termite attack. A number of suitable chemical formulations such as CCA, ACQ[®] and LOSP are available. Treatment can occur either in Australia or at the destination if suitable infrastructure is available.

Proven track record

Regularly shipping timber to Asia, the consortium has established relationships and proven logistical solutions for working on emergency relief and reconstruction projects. See "Recent projects" for some examples.

"It is the aim of the alliance to establish the Australian softwood sawmilling industry as a reliable and quality supplier to large-scale emergency response and reconstruction projects."

Recent projects

Sri Lanka - Our timber was distributed to various NGOs via Oxfam for temporary and semipermanent shelters after the devastating Tsunami on 26 December 2004.

Indonesia - The consortium is able to ship timber to remote places, including outer islands, even ports that do not have appropriate infrastructure in place. A recent example of this was the delivery of treated timber for permanent housing to the remote port of Meulaboh.

Referees

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Logistics and other useful info

The transit time from Melbourne Port to Belawan Port is 23 days with vessels leaving Melbourne every 7 days. The total time from receipt of signed Purchase Orders to delivery into Belawan Port is a minimum of 65 days.

Payment is by Letter of Credit which needs to be received and sighted by Weyerhaeuser Australia before the timber can be despatched. This needs to occur at least 14 days before the ship sails. Details of when the Letter of Credit is due will be noted on the proforma invoice/order confirmation.

We recommend requesting a variety of lengths such as 4.8m, 5.4m and 6.0m as this will expedite the sourcing of timber. We can supply length information on the proforma invoice/order confirmation so that purchase orders can be adjusted before being signed. Each container needs to hold only one size (normally between 35 to 50m³ per container depending on lengths).



For further information contact

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Australian Sawmilling Consortium

Expert suppliers of plantation timber for emergency response and reconstruction projects



CONSORTIUM LEADER



International Timber Solutions
ABN 97 124 632 444

All members of the Australian Sawmilling Consortium are also members of the Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P), the peak national body for Australia's plantation products and paper industry.

