

## **North American Wholesale Lumber Association Environmental Policy**

*Adopted October 23, 2002*

The North American Wholesale Lumber Association (NAWLA) is one of the oldest and largest organizations in the forest products industry. NAWLA members are deeply committed to enhancing professionalism within their industry sphere and the efficient distribution of the products they sell. NAWLA members support those suppliers who use sustainable forest management practices, which integrate the world's social, economic and environmental needs.

NAWLA and its members salute all those who use sound environmental practices. We endorse the significant efforts being made within the forest products industry to assuage the public's environmental concerns through the development and implementation of scientifically based forest product certification programs. We view the wise and prudent use of renewable resources as a cornerstone to the world's long term building products needs, and support those firms and organizations that embrace these practices.

Environmental destruction caused by illegal logging is wrong and creates negative perceptions of the forest products industry in general. To ensure against any form of illegal logging, NAWLA's members have the responsibility to support high forest management standards and the commitment to use forest management and manufacturing practices that meet environmental, social and economic objectives.

NAWLA and its members promote implementation of and compliance with constructive logging laws in all global timber-producing regions. NAWLA defines illegal logging as any violation of the laws and regulations of those regions. In regions where these laws are not in place, NAWLA supports the establishment of those laws and regulations that protect legal and sustainable trade in forest products.

Elements of certification processes only partially address the problems associated with illegal logging. Certification by itself will not prevent the problem. NAWLA member companies should be diligent in situations where illegal logging is suspected so as to not knowingly support these illegal practices. NAWLA urges all levels of government to enforce laws established to prevent environmental destruction caused by illegal logging.