



**NEW ZEALAND**

## **Logs and wood processing industry in New Zealand**

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### **Overview**

New Zealand has some of the world's largest and most intensively managed production plantations. Pine (*pinus radiata*) makes up 89 percent of total plantation and 7 percent of New Zealand's land use, followed by Douglas fir at 6 percent.

Pine forests in New Zealand are genetically selected to ensure excellent quality in terms of growth, form and wood properties. Harvesting is possible all year round, thanks to New Zealand's climate and topography.

New Zealand-grown pine is one of the most attractive and versatile industrial wood species available in global markets, performing consistently well across a wide range of commercial applications. It is processed into joinery and interiors, furniture and components (partially and fully processed); round wood (posts and poles), engineered wood (eg glued-laminated timber and plywood); veneers and overlays; lumber grades; and mouldings and millwork.

Wood technology is a key strength of the industry. This ranges from silvicultural practices through to enhanced harvesting and milling technologies, to get maximum value from sustainably grown and managed New Zealand plantation forests.

New Zealand also exports a share of its national harvest as logs, available with bark on or de-barked. Log exports are subject to phytosanitary and other regulations of the destination countries, and buyers can also specify anti-sapstain treatment before shipping.

### **Fast facts**

- Around one-third of New Zealand's forest harvest is exported as logs; the rest is processed in New Zealand.



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- In the year to 30 June 2008, exports of sawn timber, logs, chips and pulp totalled NZ\$2.89 billion, making up approximately 5.5 percent of New Zealand's total merchandise exports.
- Australia is New Zealand's single largest market for forest products, taking 25 percent of total exports valued at just under NZ\$1 billion worth of product (year ended March 2007).
- Around 20,000 people are employed in the industry in forestry and first-stage processing.

### International innovations

#### [Verda New Zealand](#)

Originally known as Key Lumber, Verda New Zealand Limited was renamed in 2008 to reflect the company's focus on sustainable, design-led solutions to outdoor timber needs. Verda works closely with forestry research institution Scion and its patented technology and treatment keeps clearwood looking good for longer, despite exposure to the weather. Verda exports to Australia, Japan, China and the United States.

#### [Wood Engineering Technology Ltd](#)

The patented Optimised Engineered Lumber (OEL) process, developed by Wood Engineering Technology, allows lower value, non-structural log output from radiata pine plantations to be manufactured efficiently into engineered wood. It involves sawing short logs into thin strips which are then dried, finger-jointed, laminated and cut to length to meet detailed product specifications. OEL lumber meets the structural lumber standards in Australia and New Zealand for house construction and is a direct substitute for structural lumber.

### Sustainability achievements

#### [Tenon Ltd](#)

Tenon specialises in producing high-value clearwood products for the North American market. The company has redesigned its wood processing plant in Taupo to use renewable energy – cutting energy costs and preventing the release of about 26,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year. The new plant takes a mix of geothermal steam and water to three heat exchangers, and the geothermal heat is then used as the sole heat source for the kilns.

### Historical milestones

**1840s** - Pinus radiata seed imported from California.

**1918** - Exports of native timber restricted.

**1925** – The New Zealand Government introduces financial incentives to create plantations of imported species and to reduce the pressure on native forests.



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**1920s-1930s; 1960s** - Mass plantings of pinus radiata.

**1986-1988** – The New Zealand Government's forest assets split, with the NZ Forestry Corporation managing plantation forestry operations. Most of the Corporation's forests have since been sold to commercial interests.

**1991** - Representatives of four forest industry organisations and 10 conservation groups signed the New Zealand Forest Accord which recognises the importance of commercial plantation forestry as an economic activity and as an alternative to the depletion of natural forests.

### **Industry contacts**

#### **[Wood Processors Association of New Zealand](#)**

The Wood Processors Association of New Zealand (WPA) is an advocacy body representing companies responsible for the primary processing of between 75 to 80 percent of New Zealand's wood. Members of WPA include those involved in pulp and paper, engineered wood products manufacturing, sawmilling and remanufacturing.

#### **[New Zealand Forest Owners' Association](#)**

The New Zealand Forest Owners' Association (NZFOA) represents the owners of New Zealand's commercial plantation forests.

#### **[New Zealand Timber Industry Federation](#)**

The New Zealand Timber Industry Federation is the industry body representing 80 percent of New Zealand's sawmills. It was established in 1983 following the amalgamation of the New Zealand Sawmillers Federation, the New Zealand Timber Merchants Association and the Timber Research and Development Association.

#### **[Scion](#)**

Scion is a Crown Research Institute focused on developing sustainable biomaterials for future generations, by applying its knowledge of plantation forestry, wood and fibre to the development of new biomaterials from renewable plant resources.