



Belco Forest Products Achieves Forest Stewardship Council Certification

(Tacoma, WA. April 30, 2007) – **Belco Forest Products**, a leading Northwest manufacturer and distributor of specialty building supplies, is now certified by Scientific Certification Systems to be in compliance with **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** standards for distributing FSC certified framing lumber. The Forest Stewardship Council is an international organization that brings people together to find solutions which promote responsible stewardship of the world's forests. Belco completed the **Chain-of-Custody (CoC)** certification process and is now offering FSC certified framing lumber with the FSC logo.

Chain of custody is the process by which the source of a forest product is verified. In order for products originating from certified sources to be eligible to carry the FSC Trademark, the certified timber or raw material has to be tracked, traced and identified from the forest through all the steps of the production process until it reaches the end user. Only when this process has been independently verified is the product eligible to carry the FSC logo.

Belco's distribution capabilities will give customers the option of not having to order truckload quantities from the mill and then attempt to break those into house packages. Customers will have the advantage of purchasing the quantities they need as the market develops, something Belco doesn't ordinarily do with most commodity lumber items.



Having FSC certified framing lumber will also enable Belco and its customers to meet the growing demand for "green" products. According to a recent survey by the American Institute of Architects, 90 percent of people said they'd be willing to pay \$5,000 more to build or buy a house that would use less energy or protect the earth. Increasingly, statistics show that green building is not merely a trend but quickly becoming mainstream.

"By 2010, the value of the residential green building marketplace is expected to boost its market share from \$7.4 billion and 2 percent of housing starts last year to \$19 billion-\$38 billion and 5-10 percent of residential construction activity." - McGraw-Hill Construction/National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) survey.

Here in Washington, we are far ahead of the national curve. Built Green™, launched in 1999, is a residential green home certification program for single-family, multifamily, remodels and communities. It is the second largest green home building program in the country. Last year, Built Green™ certified projects accounted for approximately 15% of all homes in King and Snohomish counties.

"We are very proud of the fact that we can now offer FSC certified products to our customers on such a unique basis. Here at Belco we are committed to operating our business responsibly and we will continue to seek out ways to offer our customers environmentally friendly products they can be confident in." Said Bill Staley, president and CEO of Belco. "Sustainability is essential to the future of the forest products industry, and business in general. We want to give our customers every edge in the marketplace possible and we will continue our efforts to do so."

Belco Forest Products leads the forest products industry by relentlessly delivering quality products and exceptional service through innovative manufacturing and a knowledgeable team of professionals. We create and nurture long-lasting, mutually beneficial business partnerships with our customers and suppliers, consistently employing and maintaining a "Make it happen" approach.

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(FSC Facts Attached)



FSC Facts:

- FSC is a stakeholder owned system for promoting responsible management of the world's forests.
- Through consultative processes, it sets international standards for responsible forest management.
- It accredits independent third party organizations who can certify forest managers and forest product producers to FSC standards.
- Its trademark provides international recognition to organizations who support the growth of responsible forest management.
- Its product label allows consumers worldwide to recognize products that support the growth of responsible forest management worldwide.
- FSC undertakes marketing programs and information services that contribute to the mission of promoting responsible forestry worldwide.
- Over the past 12 years, over 84 million hectares in more than 82 countries have been certified according to FSC standards while several thousand products are produced using FSC certified wood and carrying the FSC trademark. FSC operates through its network of National Initiatives in 40 countries.