



FSC CERTIFICATION FOR ALPI WOOD

Alpi Group continues its pursuit of “excellence in forest management” by expanding the FSC chain of custody certification, already obtained for Italian poplar, to include ayous originating from Africa.

Ayous and poplar are the crucial raw materials Alpi Group uses to produce Alpilignum veneers, the decorative wood that has now become a world-wide symbol of the Group.

The trademark of the Forest Stewardship Council indicates that the wood used to make the product comes from forests which are well managed according to strict environmental, social and economic standards and from other controlled sources.

Luciano Pradal, director of the Group's companies operating in Africa, stated: *“This important objective was achieved after first receiving OLB (Origine et Légalité des Bois) certification in 2009, which demonstrates not only that the wood was obtained legally, but also that important measures were taken to improve worker safety and health, to ensure that sites and plants meet regulations and to optimize management. In addition, - Pradal continued- we are proud of the fact that Alpi Group's environmental commitment led to an invitation to join the PFBC (Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo), an international organization that brings together European, North American and Sub-Saharan African governments, environmental organizations, NGOs and research institutions involved with the environment and forest development in Africa. Moreover - Pradal concluded - we have just commenced a collaboration with the French agency ONF (Office National des Forêts) for the purpose of initiating an innovative scientific project that will involve cultivating ayous on 1000 hectares of land.”*

Alpi Group's commitment to the environment is now a solid guarantee for all designers, contractors and manufacturers of furniture, windows and doors who are interested in using the Group's wood products. This guarantee provides the assurance of using completely legal and sustainable materials that respect the environment and are obtained by methods that meet all forestry regulations, as well as safety and social standards.

Yet, there is still more. Alpi woods offer complete peace of mind when used in projects (particularly in public procurement contracts) that increasingly stipulate the employment of materials that are FSC certified or meet the requirement of being legally obtained (for example, the U.S. Lacey Act or the FLEGT Project in Europe).

Environmental certifications provide official evidence that Alpi Group's commitment to the environment is not a case of greenwashing, but rather a long-term and deep-rooted practice.

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