



Certified Materials Program

Today's consumers are increasingly interested in the benefits of green, sustainable products for their homes. Continuous reinforcement from the mass media about environmental issues keeps this topic at the forefront. Although not certified, Conestoga purchases lumber from certified mills that participate in FSC, SFI, CSA, PEFC, ATF, ISO14001 and others. With all of these certified programs available, there is a great deal of confusion as to what constitutes being certified and which program is the most viable.

To achieve actual certification, each company involved in the harvest and processing of the lumber, fabrication of components and manufacturing the cabinetry must have been audited and approved by the certifying organization before they can claim they are certified. Most certification programs dictate that material Chain of Custody (CoC) be maintained; meaning lumber, components and finished cabinetry must be segregated from non-certified materials at all times. If any one step throughout the entire process, from loggers to cabinet manufacturers and even the kitchen dealers do not maintain material segregation or one of the companies is not certified, the Chain of Custody is considered broken. When this occurs, the product cannot be sold using the name or logo of the certifying organization.

Conestoga does not maintain Chain of Custody; therefore, we are not certified. This also applies to the vast majority of our customers, who have not paid a hefty annual fee for certification status or proved that they can maintain Chain of Custody.

When explaining certification guidelines, our customers state they are not as concerned about Conestoga maintaining Chain of Custody as they are about receiving products manufactured using certified lumber. They want to be assured that the lumber used to make their doors originated from properly grown, managed and harvested forests meeting stringent environmental and social standards. Since Conestoga partners with suppliers that maintain Chain of Custody, we can readily source certified lumber.

To address the market demand for products manufactured with certified lumber, Conestoga's pleased to introduce its *Certified Materials Program*. The rollout includes 10 species including various grade and thickness options. Most popular door designs are available using certified materials; however, plywood panel designs and accessories are not included at this time. In guaranteeing the sustainability of your order, certificates are offered from our lumber suppliers as proof that the materials used have come from a certified source. These certificates will be posted on our new Customer Business Portal or can be obtained by contacting our Customer Service team. For certified material pricing refer to the Material Pricing Guide in our Custom Product Manual.