



GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Introduction of the Code of Practice for Wood Processing Facilities for Guyana

(Sawmills and Lumberyards), January 2012

The Code of Practice for Wood Processing for Guyana, is an output of a project between the Government of Guyana and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The process involved: reviewing of policy and legislative documents, gathering baseline data, development of a draft document, consultation with stakeholders to gather comments and feedback information, local and international review, incorporating comments and finalizing draft document.

During the development process, analysis were conducted firstly on the data provided by sawmills to the GFC to arrive at the present status of the sector. This was followed by research and analysis of data acquired from conducting recovery studies utilizing different technologies and practices, to identify the “best practices” that will realize the maximum value from processing logs. The identified practices were then discussed with local stakeholders and visits were made to observe and compare the practices being implemented in the USA and Suriname.

This Code contains recommendations and requirements informed by best practices, which have been developed based on both domestic and foreign research, and practical experiences. It will be applicable to all sawmills engaged in the stockpiling and sawing of round logs of all timber species or sawing of cants, squares and other forms of sawn forest timber products, into sawn lumber. It applies to all processes conducted within such sawmills and sawmill yards, including handling round logs, sawing round logs into sawn timber, handling sawn timber, air drying of sawn timber, as well as the management of sawmill waste within the boundaries of a sawmill yard. The information contained in the Code is intended to provide required guidance and requirements for recorded best practices for the sector. The objective is to encourage the adoption of minimum standards that will act as the driving force to encourage improvement in the current practices of the industry and facilitate maximum benefits for Guyana in the utilization of its natural resources.

This Code is expected to facilitate the Government of Guyana and the Forestry Sector’s vision for wood processing facilities in Guyana. Its guidelines for best practices will allow increased returns from sawmilling and lumberyard operations, ensure that continuing economic returns can be obtained over the long term, and foster overall sustainable development of Guyana’s forest resources. The implementation of this Code will also be facilitated through a capacity-building strategic plan and training activities, and the development of other guidance documents which will provide more detailed information on the subject matter covered in the Code of Practice. It is the intention that all sawmilling and lumberyard operations will show progress towards compliance to this document which will be legally binding for all new operations, whilst selected elements will be made mandatory for existing licensees with full implementation within a stated time frames.

This Code can be accessed on the GFC’s website at www.forestry.gov.gy; copies will also be distributed directly to Sawmillers and Lumberyard operators/owners. This Code has already benefitted from the results of an extensive and inclusive consultation process. However, to facilitate finalization of this Code, the GFC kindly requests additional feedback, if any, on or before February 29, 2012.

All feedback should preferably be in written form, and be forwarded to the Project Officer, Planning and Development Division of the GFC, at 1 Water Street, Kingstown: (Guyanaforestrycommission@yahoo.com) or fax: 592 226 8956.

James Singh, Commissioner of Forests, Guyana Forestry Commission