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[For immediate release]

Lake States Lumber receives FSC Chain of Custody Certification

April 23, 2008
Brooklyn Park, MN

Lake States Lumber is proud to announce they have received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain-of-custody certification. This means that customers can be sure that the wood purchased by Lake States Lumber is traceable to responsibly managed forests, and that there are documented controls in place to make sure that the integrity of the environment is upheld.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. FSC certification is carried out by accredited certification bodies to maintain FSC's independence between its standards and requirements, and operations seeking certification. (www.fsc.org)

Chain of custody certification provides a guarantee about the production of FSC-certified products. Chain-of-custody is the path taken by raw materials from the forest to the consumer, including all successive stages of processing, transformation, manufacturing and distribution.

From a customer perspective, the FSC label represents a promise being made. Chain of custody standards are the mechanisms FSC has to ensure that the promise is delivered. Operations that have been independently verified for FSC chain of custody certification—like Lake States Lumber—are eligible to label their products with the FSC logo.

"This certification will be appreciated by manufacturers, architects and custom builders who specify green building products for environmentally-conscious homeowners and commercial applications," states Keith Laugen, President. "FSC Certified Wood is specified in all the major Residential Green Building Programs, and is the only allowable certification for both commercial and residential LEED projects. [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.]

Achieving FSC chain of custody certification is consistent with Lake States Lumber's wood procurement policies and guidelines. " Wood is naturally renewable. We believe that wood is the ideal sustainable choice for high quality, durable homes and structures. Trees are the only abundant, biodegradable and

renewable resource and wood is the only significant industrial raw material that can be produced while maintaining the natural system that generates it.” stated Jerry Lipovetz, National Sales Manager. "Sustainability, reinforced through FSC and their leadership in promoting well managed forests makes our wood products even more appealing from an environmental perspective," Lipovetz concluded.

Lake States Lumber is committed to the ongoing growth of their environmentally intelligent product portfolio. Lake States Lumber already has several exceptional 'green' products and strong working relationships with suppliers, which has allowed them to be environmental leaders in the wholesale forest products business. They are also able to leverage those existing positive factors with their abilities to pressure treat, factory prefinish, remanufacture and custom mill products to provide an even greater flexibility and a wider product offering all while maintaining certification.

“Chain of Custody certification is a major example of our willingness to invest in meaningful environmental initiatives. Environmental stewardship is part of our heritage and a responsibility we bear for future generations,” Laugen says. "Lake States Lumber is committed to offering environmentally responsible products and services because it is the right thing to do, and because it enables us to offer greater value to our customers."

Chain-of-Custody certification was issued to Lake States Lumber by SmartWood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance and an independent, FSC-accredited certifier, at the completion of a rigorous audit of our facility and processes.

Lake States Lumber Inc., established in 1979, is known for quality, competitive pricing and valued service. (www.lake-states-lumber.com)

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