



**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT USING CERTIFIED TIMBER  
IN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT.**

### **1. Why use timber?**

Because, used sensibly, it is an excellent construction material, it is reliable, proven and tested, and environmentally-speaking no other material can match it: it is a natural material that improves quality of life and well-being. According to the latest study published by Confemadera and Biomechanics Institute of Valencia (IBV), timber provides good acoustic correction, thermal insulation and impact damping and it creates subjective comfort (warm and cosy atmospheres).

### **2. How can I be guaranteed that timber will be long-lasting, and that it is a reliable material? Can it really be as resistant as stone and concrete?**

Timber delivers every guarantee required for construction materials because in order to be used in architecture and construction it must meet strict conditions and requirements. To ensure that timber-based products are suitable for use, they undergo accredited tests and the necessary factors of safety for each situation are applied.

### **3. What are the advantages of building with timber?**

Timber provides economically competitive, technically-favourable (resistance, insulation, etc.) and environmentally-friendly solutions.

It is usually installed using accurately defined and calculated custom-made, pre-fabricated systems, which increase design possibilities, simplify the installation process, save time, require less work on-site, and lessen noise.

Being a lightweight material, in contrast with its strength, it means lighter loads. Timber also helps regulate humidity in living spaces, and provides good heat and acoustic insulation.

Environmentally-speaking, it is a renewable and recyclable material, with minimum CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy expenditure associated with its life cycle, being converted into another raw material at the end of this.

### **4. Do timber constructions not last as long? Are they at risk from fungal decay, insect attack and fires?**

Timber is one of the longest-lasting materials in the right conditions, especially with the ideal level of humidity and ventilation.

Preventive protection, with the right choice of timber, treatments, the construction solution and handling until the works are completed ensure the structure's durability. In addition, improved manufacturing techniques and breakthroughs in protective treatments (insecticides, fungicides and water repellent and fireproof systems) enhance its properties, rendering it almost immune to insect and fungal attack.

As far as fires are concerned, contrary to outdated popular belief, timber performs better than other materials because, although it burns on the surface, the fire reaches the inside of the supporting structural elements very slowly and the combustion gases are non-toxic (a metal structure might be damaged quickly by deformation and loss of strength). Also, the use of fire-proof treatments and increasing the cross section of the structural elements make timber much more fire resistant.

### **5. "I tried to make something from timber and I couldn't because technical control bodies would not issue insurance companies a favourable report,**

**saying that because there are no complete standards for timber they did not have the proper guarantees to insure works”.**

Technical control bodies had their doubts about construction systems and materials that do not conform to standard construction. Since the Spanish Building Code was approved, which acknowledges timber as an essential construction material and defines criteria for its use, there is no longer any reason for technical control bodies to doubt the suitability of this material. In light of the aforementioned ban situation, the Catalonia, Madrid, Asturias and Basque-Navarre Professional Architect Associations have arranged the setting up of ECC, a technical control body that considers new building methods. The choice of consolidated and trustworthy companies that are pioneers in revolutionary timber construction technology ensures the project's success.

#### **6. How does the use of timber in the construction sector contribute to mitigating climate change?**

The use of timber in construction solutions over other materials cuts back emissions by 79%.

#### **7. Does timber protection affect forests?**

No, because the timber used must be certified and come from sustainably managed forests. Any that is not must not be sold.

This does not only guarantee forest development, it also ensures biodiversity and environmental conservation.