

Accoya® Wood Successfully Recertified with Cradle to Cradle Gold certification

- Accoya wood retains Gold Standard Cradle to Cradle for the seventh year running
- The high performance wood also retains Platinum standard in the Cradle to Cradle Material Health classification
- Accoya ranked amongst one of the top products on Google's Healthy Materials Portal Portico

Accoya, the world-leading high performance sustainable wood product, has been successfully re-awarded Gold status by the prestigious Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Product Innovation Institute, in recognition of its sustainable credentials across its lifespan.

The industry standard for a products environmental performance and societal impact, the successful recertification, valid until June 2019, comes as more rigorous assessment processes have been introduced for 2017.

The certification highlights the importance of using the Cradle to Cradle philosophy in construction and joinery projects and demonstrates the positive impact of C2C products on the environment. Awarded the C2C Gold certificate for its sustainable wood sourcing strategy, the use of more than 50% renewable energy while being fully non-toxic, Accoya wood perfectly fits the C2C bio-cycle, as well as matching the technical performance of non-renewable, carbon intensive materials from the techno-cycle, such as PVC and aluminium.

Accoya was also re-awarded Platinum status, the highest possible certification level, in the category for Material Health. This was issued as a separate certificate, and highlights that the product poses no danger to either the environment or human health.

Furthermore, having confirmed through C2C Material Health that Accoya is non-toxic and free from hazardous chemicals, it exceeds the benchmarks for any international Google project and has been listed as an optimised product on Google's healthy materials portal, Portico.

Accoya is the only structural building material to achieve this prestigious accolade to date and further ensures it stands up to every application challenge from decking to cladding and doors to structural beams.

Paul Clegg, CEO for Accsys Group, manufacturer of Accoya wood, commented: 'We are delighted that Accoya has once again been awarded C2C Gold Status and recognised for its non-toxic properties with a Platinum classification for Material Health. New, more stringent, assessment processes make the re-certification even more reflective of the business' ethos.

'Our environmental impact is of huge importance to us, from our FSC® certified timber sources to our acetylation process that enables our wood to be safely reused, recycled and

incinerated. We're committed to producing a high performance product whilst considering our social responsibilities and this recognition is testament to the success of this philosophy.'

Manufactured using a proprietary acetylation process, Accoya wood delivers remarkable levels of stability, sustainability and durability. Exceeding the high quality and aesthetic attributes of tropical hardwoods, Accoya wood boasts excellent environmental credentials, withstands the most extreme external environments and is incredibly low maintenance with 90 years of research and development to prove its reliability.

Accoya wood is available to buy throughout the UK and Ireland. For further information and to speak to a distributor please visit www.accoya.com.

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Notes to Editors

- Accoya wood is the result of decades of research and development that has brought together a long-established, extensively proven wood modification technique. The high technology wood is produced by converting sustainably grown softwoods and non-durable hardwoods via the process of acetylation.
- Acetylation effectively changes free hydroxyls within the wood into acetyl groups. In doing so, the ability of the wood to absorb water is greatly reduced, rendering it more dimensionally stable and extremely durable.
- As acetyl groups are already naturally present in all wood species, the manufacturing process adds nothing to the wood that does not already occur within it and the end product does not add toxins to the environment.
- The effect of altering the wood's chemical structure creates an end product that is dramatically superior to its source species. Accoya wood matches or exceeds the best tropical hardwoods and treated woods in terms of dimensional stability and durability, yet Accoya wood is manufactured using wood from sustainable sources.

For further information about Accoya, please visit www.accoya.com and for further information on Accsys Technologies, please visit www.accsysplc.com.