



## **Accoya® a 'Tower of Strength' For Historic Irish Lighthouse**

Accoya®, BSW Timber's modified wood, has been given its toughest assignment yet as part of a major refurbishment of an historic Irish lighthouse.

Abbey Woods, BSW's exclusive Irish agent for Accoya®, and W&J Bolger Ltd used the revolutionary wood to frame all 27 windows of the Long Hill Lighthouse, overlooking the Irish Sea on the dramatic County Wicklow coastline.

Built in 1781, the 30-metre octagonal tower has now been completely restored by the Irish Landmark Trust and now offers a stunning holiday home accommodating up to six people.

Accoya® was selected for the project because of its 60-year minimum service life and its proven record in withstanding the toughest external elements. It replaces window frames that were installed when the lighthouse underwent a major refurbishment 15 years ago.

John Bolger from W&J Bolger Ltd said: "Accoya® was the obvious choice for this project because we needed a product that would stand the test of time in the harshest of conditions. With its superior levels of performance, stability and durability, Accoya® was the perfect product to complete this picturesque building."

John Alexander, of BSW Timber added: "The use of Accoya® in this project demonstrates its practical application in projects which require quality, sustainability and flexibility. Its use reflects the growing popularity of Accoya® in the commercial sector and is further evidence of Accoya's remarkable qualities – both in how it looks and its strength."

"This is further confirmation that Accoya® fits the bill perfectly for a project that requires long life, low maintenance and sustainable timber options."

Abbey Woods recently won the exterior product of the show award for the modified wood at Ireland's largest building products show, Plan Expo.

**Ends**

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Issued on behalf of BSW Timber by Weber Shandwick, public relations consultants. For more information contact Richard Bright or Stacey Bell on 0131 556 6649 or 07770 886 914 / 07824 990614.

### **Notes to Editors: Accoya®**

- Accoya® is the end-result of almost 80 years of global R&D and field testing in acetylated wood modification. This is the process that protects wood from rot by making it inedible to most micro-organisms and insects.
- This patented process adapts sustainably grown softwoods by increasing the amount of acetyl molecules present in the wood. Pine wood has 2 per cent acetyl molecules, oak has 4 per cent and Accoya® has 20 per cent.
- Wood decay organisms require moderate levels of moisture in wood. Accoya's permanent resistance to moisture prevents this decay without making it toxic.
- The moisture resistance greatly reduces the wood's tendency to swell and shrink, making it less prone to cracking and ensuring that when painted it requires dramatically reduced maintenance.
- Since acetyl molecules are already present in all wood species, the process does not introduce anything that does not occur naturally in wood and Accoya® is therefore completely non-toxic.
- Accoya® enjoys excellent environmental credentials, using wood from sustainable plantations and being 100% non-toxic. Only naturally occurring wood compounds are added in the modification process. The wood's appearance, natural colour and strength of the timber are not affected in the process.
- Industry experts have also supported Accoya® performance and sustainability claims:
- Both the Building Research Establishment and Napier University's Centre for Timber Engineering, Edinburgh, reported an unprecedented minimum 60-year service life for the product in cladding and external joinery applications.
- Research published by the Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA) confirms the suitability of Accoya® in meeting the 60 year life requirements for timber balconies and elevated decks as specified in the NHBC Standards.
- The Paint Advisory Bureau has also published research findings that show Accoya® windows are the most cost effective option over the standard design life of a building, outperforming PVC, hardwood and softwoods.