

Riga Wood

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Riga Wood Insight



Our Common Responsibility – Sustainability in Actions

Being an active player in the forest sector of the Baltic Sea Region not only provides possibilities but also imposes important duties.

Our responsibility starts from the very beginning of our supply chain –

from the forestry source. Responsible forest management that maintains bio-diversity is an important part of our vision, supporting the statement of our Sustainability Policy - to work, to earn and to use natural resources responsibly. This is why the raw material used in the production of Riga Wood plywood comes from known, controlled and legal origins close to mills, thereby lessening the negative impact on the environment frequently caused by ineffective logistics solutions.

Investing in the latest technologies, using 100% of resources, including side streams of the production, as well as developing green glue RIGA ECOlogical, is another step in supporting sustainable development and a responsible attitude towards our society and the environment. RIGA ECOlogical glue, where bio-based renewable lignin is used as a replacement for the traditional fossil phenol, shows high performance in VOC testing programmes and is gradually replacing the traditional glues used in the production of plywood. Using RIGA ECOlogical allows us to reduce the carbon footprint and meets the growing interest for sustainable solutions.

Furthermore, we involve people of all ages in awareness-building of responsible forest management from planting a tree till harvesting it in a responsible manner. In this way a full understanding of the lifecycle of wood can be achieved and a more responsible attitude towards the environment can be expected.





The World's First Fully Automatic SARS-CoV-2 Virus Test Specimen Collection Device was put into operation in Riga, Latvia. The solution is thanks to close cooperation among three Latvian companies – E. Gulbja Laboratorija, JK Energo and Latvijas Finieris.

The aim is to ensure that anyone can conveniently and quickly submit a sample of saliva for the Covid-19 test at any time of the day, without involving medical staff at all. These devices are available in different locations around the country.

Materials used: [RIGA Form](#); [RIGA Mel](#)

The Cultural Centre “The Pearl of Ulbroka”,

located in Latvia's capital city Riga. It will host diverse cultural life - professional music and amateur art concerts, conferences, exhibitions, creative workshops, theatre performances and other events.

We value our customers' opinions

“Riga Wood Baltic provided detailed technical information, which facilitated the work on the site and allowed optimisation of the financial and material resources, as it was possible to choose the size of panels and produce according to the required volume”

Dāvis Ondzulis, SIA Arčers



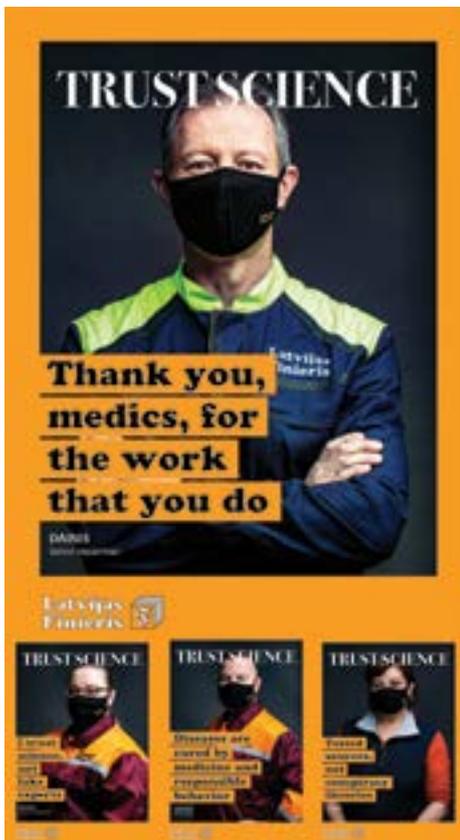
Materials used: [RIGA Decor](#); [RIGA Hexa Plus](#); [RIGA Ply](#)

The Nouadhibou International Stadium in Mauritania with a capacity of 11,000 seats made of RIGA Tex birch plywood. The largest stadium in the country and the only one complying with international standards. In the process of renovation, companies specialising in the construction of

sports infrastructure and military engineers were involved. The renovation was coordinated by the Mauritanian Football Federation.

Materials used: [RIGA Tex](#)





Latvijas Finieris Calls on Everyone to be Responsible During the Pandemic with a Social Campaign “Trust Science”

Seeing and feeling how the current pandemic is affecting us all, the leadership of Latvijas Finieris made a decision to step up and call on responsible action through a social campaign “Trust Science” by encouraging people to be critical about information that is available on various sources and separate the truth from conspiracy theories.

“The situation with Covid-19 in Latvia has got to the point where, for the first time in our company’s history, we feel compelled to address people with a social campaign,” says the company’s chairman of the Supervisory Board, Uldis Biķis. “The virus is continuing to spread, and this threatens our colleagues, families, friends, neighbours and everyone. We are a part of Latvia, respect and safety are among our company’s corporative values, and this is why we feel obliged to support medics who are currently on the front lines of this crisis.”

Active communication about safety matters within and outside the company has been taking a place for over a year now. With the help of this campaign Latvijas Finieris has reached not only its employees, but a wide audience all over the country, due to expanded media coverage and PR activities.

RIGA ECOlogical—the Most Significant Innovation in Plywood Gluing For Many Decades

The environmentally friendly green glue “RIGA ECOlogical”, where Bio-based renewable lignin is used as a replacement for the traditional Fossil Phenol, is gradually replacing the traditional glues used in the production of Riga Wood Plywood. “We always do our maximum to offer our customers the latest product solutions and technology,” explains Latvijas Finieris Executive Board Member Mārtiņš Lācis. “It reduces the carbon footprint of Riga Wood Plywood from production to its end-uses, offering Riga Wood customers a significant competitive advantage in an increasingly green business environment,” he adds. According to various tests, including industrial end-user trials in their production lines, all technical properties of Riga Wood plywood remain unchanged when applying RIGA ECOlogical.



Riga ECOlogical meets the requirements of A+, M1 and BREEAM

Supported by Latvijas Finieris Group in 2020

24 
Educational Projects

8 
Movies, Books & Cultural Projects

21 
Non-Governmental Organizations

3 
Wildlife Protection & Research Projects

5 
Sports & Athletes

Special thanks to Verems & Likmere Mills for the involvement



Ilkka Heikkilä is Chairman of the Board at Riga Wood Finland and one of our long-time employees. Last month he celebrated his 17th Work Anniversary at Riga Wood Finland Sales Office.

You have been a part of Riga Wood for more than 17 years now. Please tell us what makes your work interesting, and what makes you passionate about it?

I really enjoy my job, because it is very independent and every working day is different. I have great customers and they give us interesting challenges to

Giving the Best Service Always Pays Back in the Good and Bad Days

solve. My job joins together my two big interests—birch plywood and sales work. Still, after all these years, nothing feels better than a nice plywood deal.

How did you start working at Riga Wood?

In fact, my relation with Latvijas Finieris is already over 21 years long. Before joining Riga Wood Finland, I was importing Latvijas Finieris plywood to Finland through another company. One day, in autumn 2003, a question arose that Latvijas Finieris should establish their own sales office in Finland. I volunteered immediately, because I knew Latvijas Finieris pretty well and had experience and confidence that the products would find a market in Finland. The decision was made, a sales office was established and the job started. It was as simple as that.

What have been the biggest challenges during these years?

When you know your company, customers and competitors well enough, it is very seldom that big challenges catch you by surprise. The plywood market doesn't flip overnight and you normally have time to prepare yourself and make new plans if

something is changing. Keeping things simple, avoiding unnecessary risks, as well as having a wide long-term customer base and giving the best service, always pays back in the good and bad days.

How has the industry changed during these 17 years and where do you think it is headed?

The industry has changed a lot during these years. Small and old plywood mills have been closed and competition in the basic product sector has increased. At the same time the market has become more aware of green values, the importance of knowing the origin of wood and product performance. These are important values for our mother company as well, and are followed carefully.

In the future, the winner will be the company that can serve the customers in the best and most efficient way, with the best products. The future players must be big enough, while at the same time innovative and open minded to hear all the hopes and wishes from customers and the overall market. In my opinion, Latvijas Finieris is this kind of company.

Building a Strong Team and Effective Communication for Long-term Development

In a constantly changing environment it is important to be properly prepared for challenges. Behind every product and service, stands a team of professionals, where effective communication and leadership skills can secure proactivity with regard to the challenges presented. "We need to be prepared to react quickly to good and bad news, and assume that stability shouldn't be expected anytime soon. It all depends on how we are able to find a solution for our customers" explains Latvijas Finieris Executive Board Member Mārtiņš Lācis. In these days, when remote work has become a necessity, well-developed leadership skills have become essential. Leaders need to maintain strong and cohesive

teams despite the physical distance, as well as communicate effectively within the team and further with customers.

Seeing new challenges on the horizon, Latvijas Finieris and Riga Wood have been highly focused on preparing the teams for the new set up of the business environment by forming communication and human resource development strategies.

"Attention is given to employee engagement, building an understanding of individual involvement towards reaching common goals and recognising, as well as improving leaderships skills, thereby increasing the number of proactive managers within all departments," adds Mārtiņš Lācis.

The Covid-19 pandemic has tested our ability to work in a hybrid workplace and has perhaps demonstrated how remote work will be a part of our future too. Besides, developing effective

communication and leadership skills in the environment of a hybrid workplace is a long-term investment.

