natureplus e.V.

Guideline 5002

Origin of Wood and Wood Production

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for the awardance of the eco-label

Only those species of timber which are not excluded by the terms of the Washington Wildlife Protection Agreement may be considered for wood production. The timber may not originate from a source in which exhaustive cultivation or over-felling has been practised. If the timber has not been directly obtained from a regional forestry source, it must be ensured by the raw material supplier and the processor through Chain-of-Custody certification that the timber has not been obtained from dubious or controversial sources. Wood from controversial sources is deemed to be:

1. Illegally harvested timber (if the felling of such trees is prohibited or exceeds the permitted quotas and/or the felling area is under state protection or if an application has been made public for state protection of the felling area by a state controlled or state-recognised institution).
2. Timber from forests requiring special protection (if harvesting endangers species with a special national relevance; the forests are part of an endangered national eco-system or harvesting may represent a relevant national danger to other areas e.g. through erosion or flooding) (1)
3. Timber from areas in which the harvesting of such timber may infringe upon the public or human rights of the indigenous population (in Europe this applies to the area of the Sami people in Finland)
4. The conversion of natural wooded areas to other purposes (e.g. natural forests into plantations in south-western Europe).
5. Timber from genetically modified trees (e.g. eucalyptus plantations in south-western Europe)

The proportion of newly-felled timber originating from sustainable forestry should be as high as possible. Evidence of sustainable forestry needs to be provided by means of a certificate which complies with the natureplus requirements for forest certification systems (see appendix). The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is recognised a suitable source of certification. The scope of this proof is based upon the regional availability of certified timber and its suitability for the application. It is required that a minimum proportion of certified wood is used in the processing chain of the manufacturer/processor, in which the product is manufactured, that corresponds to the current proportion of certified woodland within the relevant region. This is mandatory if the relevant proportion within the region is greater than 20%. The results of research relating to the availability of certified timber which complies with the natureplus requirements of the certification system for agricultural forestry must be documented.

Non-native (non-European) timber may only be employed when it is FSC-certified.

The requirements of the Chain-of-Custody certification do not apply to the recycling of secondary raw materials (old wood) and industrial waste wood i.e. shavings, chippings, slabs.

If recovered wood is employed, it must be verified that this wood is category A1 wood(2) accordingto the German Old-Wood Regulations (Altholzverordnung) or a selection which may be processed according to the Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institute (WKI) decomposition procedure or a similar procedure. The manufacturer is responsible for ensuring compliance through regular raw materials tests which must be documented. Via intake controls, it must be ensured that recovered wood has not been chemically treated (wood preservatives).

(1) Until the preparation of a relevant map of the corresponding areas, wood from PEFC- certified stands is deemed to fulfil these requirements without the need for additional verification.

(2) A1 = Natural, untreated or merely mechanically-processed recovered wood which, in its previous application, has only incurred a minimal level of contamination from foreign substances.

Freight transport and especially road transport has manifold negative effects upon the environment: noise, dust, road construction, energy consumption, emissions. If a long distance transport of the wood raw materials cannot be avoided, the licensees are called upon to minimise the negative environmental effects of transportation. A concept for energy optimization for the transport and evidence for its implementation must be provided.

If lignocellulose shavings, chippings or fibres are employed, at least 80% of them must originate from a source within a radius of no further than a 300 road-kilometre-equivalent (1 km road = 2.5km train = 27 km ship-overseas = 4 km ship-inland waterways) from the production plant.

Appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the moisture content of wood, wood materials and wood components is not detrimentally changed during transport and storage due to soil humidity, rain fall or dehydration or the like.

If less then 80% of the energy demands for drying the wood comes from renewable energy sources, the efficiency of the drying facilities must be below 0.5. The proportion of renewable energy used for electricity generation is taken into account.

Requirements concerning the Forestry Certification System

Sustainable Forestry

The standards include criteria whose compliance guarantees environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically sustainable forest or plantation management. These include the maintenance and promotion of biodiversity, the protection of water resources, the soil and ecological systems as well as respecting the rights of indigenous populations.

Independent Certification System

The certification is carried out by independent third parties (Certification offices) and regularly assessed. The certification offices are accredited by an independent institution.

Local Operations Checks

The audits are carried out on-site and are adapted to the relevant production process (they may be applied to individual concerns or regionally cooperative company groups).

Performance Standards

The checks are based on measurable, performance based standards.

Closed Product Chain

All organisations in the production chain from the forestry operation to the manufacturer are subject to a material- flow control process. This guarantees that at any time during the production process, the proportion of certified wood to the total level of material employed can be verified.

Transparency and Participation

The certification system is transparent and requires an active declaration of intent from the participating organisations. Decisions are made by a committee comprised of a balanced representation of environmental, social and commercial interests.

Internationalism

The certification system is applicable globally.