natureplus e.V.

Guideline 5003

Nature Conservation when Exploiting Mineral Resources

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for the awardance of the eco-label

1. When employing mineral raw materials, the use of already available or deducible secondary raw materials should be prioritised (e.g. materials available from the re-naturalisation process, processed demolition waste, FGD-gypsum etc). In the manufacture of the product applying for certification, non-renewable natural resources may only be used if secondary raw materials are not available in sufficient quantities or quality levels or within an environmentally justifiable transport distance. The manufacturer must provide details of their situation relating to the current and possible future availability of resources and provide concrete planning measures of when and in which quantities primary raw materials will be replaced by secondary raw materials.
2. The extraction of mineral raw materials must comply with the statutory requirements relating to environmental and wildlife protection. The manufacturer must provide documentary evidence of compliance.
3. The extraction of natural mineral raw materials (primary raw materials) must not conflict with or impair the statutory national or international aims for protected areas or those areas worthy of protection. If the products are composed to a significant proportion from primary raw materials or indications relating to environmental conflicts exist, natureplus will, within the framework of the certification programme, consult with the recognised environmental protection bodies on the details relating to the extraction process.
4. Re-naturalisation: The manufacturer must provide documentary proof of precautions/measures taken to ensure the protection of the environment, the ground-water, the surface and the future use of the surface on completion of the extraction process. The re-naturalisation of the extraction area must comply with the regulations of the European Flora-Fauna-Habitat-Guidelines and the Bird Protection and Water Protection Guidelines (RL 92/43/EWG from 21.5.1992; RL 79/409/EWGfrom 2.4.1979; RL 2000/60/EG from 23.10.2000). Special note should be made that deterioration in the condition of the affected area is prohibited. The manufacturer/extractor must provide a maintenance and development plan for the extraction area. The long-term compliance with these maintenance and development targets must be guaranteed and adapted to the natural development of the area. This must be supported by an independent expert assessment. The manufacturer must provide evidence of the ecological quality improvements achieved through the re-naturalisation measures applied to the abandoned/unused areas as compared to the condition before commencement of the extraction process.