PEFC Policy Statement Labeco BV (PEFC/07-31-402)

Labeco BVBA attaches great importance to sustainable business practices. This vision extends throughout every area of the company, enabling it to conduct business responsibly and assume the necessary social and societal responsibilities. Particular emphasis is placed on the environment, human rights, safety and health.

Labeco BVBA is committed to purchasing products originating from legal and well-managed forests, preferably from certified suppliers that can demonstrably provide such products. Their origin can therefore be demonstrated through credible, independent CoC certification based on agreed national and international requirements and standards. This decision was made based on the following convictions:

- Forests on our planet are invaluable: 80% of all animal and plant species depend on forests. Forests provide shelter and employment for hundreds of millions of people, protect against erosion and flooding, and the trees growing in them store CO2 during their growth. Forests therefore provide an environmentally friendly, inexhaustible and renewable raw material: wood, provided it comes from sustainably managed forests.
- Forests worldwide are under pressure due to deforestation and poor management. Therefore, it is important that forests are managed sustainably. By balancing ecological, social and economic functions, forests can be preserved for future generations and continue to fulfil their many functions for people and wildlife.
- Currently, less than 10% of forests are demonstrably managed sustainably, and there is an urgent need to expand certification of good forest management. Broad acceptance of different internationally recognised forest certification systems makes the greatest contribution to promoting sustainable forest management worldwide.
- As a user of paper and wood products, Labeco BVBA has a responsibility to ensure that such use does not come at the expense of forests and future generations and therefore wishes to promote sustainable forest management. By requesting products from sustainably managed forests, we aim to encourage improvements in forest management and discourage unsustainable management practices.

Therefore, we commit ourselves not to use or trade timber that is:

- illegally harvested
- genetically modified
- originating from areas with serious social conflicts
- originating from protected forest areas

Furthermore, in accordance with the PEFC social requirements, we declare that

- employees are not prevented from freely associating, choosing their own representatives and negotiating collectively with their employer.
- forced labour is not used.
- no employees below the legal minimum age, or compulsory school age where this is higher, and in any case below 15 years of age, are employed.
- all employees receive equal treatment.
- working conditions do not endanger safety or health.

This policy statement is periodically reviewed and updated in line with the latest regulations. This document is public and is communicated to all interested parties.

