

PEFC Policy statement Labeco BVBA (WOOD.BE-COC-001601)

Labeco BVBA takes sustainable entrepreneurship very seriously. It is a vision that is implemented in every domain of the company, in order to do business in a responsible manner and to take the necessary social and societal responsibility. The emphasis here is on the environment, human rights, safety and health.

Labeco BVBA commits to purchase products originating from legal and well-managed forests, preferably from certified suppliers who can demonstrably deliver such products. The origin is guaranteed through credible, independent CoC certification, based on agreed (internal) national requirements and standards. This decision was made based on the following beliefs:

- Forests on our planet are invaluable: 80% of all animal and plant species depend on the forest. Forests provide shelter and work for many hundreds of million people, protect us from the dangers of erosion and floods, and the trees that grow there sequester CO₂ as they grow. The forest thus also gives us an environmentally friendly, inexhaustible and renewable resource: wood; provided it comes from sustainably managed forests.
- Forests worldwide are under pressure from deforestation and poor management, which is why it is important that forests are managed 'sustainably'. By balancing ecological, social and economic functions, the forest can be preserved for future generations and continue to fulfil its many functions for humans and animals.
- Currently, less than 10% of forests are demonstrably managed sustainably and there is an urgent need to expand certification of good forest management. Wide acceptance of different, internationally recognised, forest management certification systems makes the greatest contribution to promoting sustainable forest management worldwide.
- Labeco BVBA, as a user of paper and wood products, has a responsibility to ensure that this use is not at the expense of the forest and future generations and is therefore committed to making efforts to promote sustainable forest management. By asking for products from sustainably managed forests, we want to encourage the improvement of forest management and discourage unsustainable forms of management.

We therefore commit not to use or trade timber that:

- has been illegally harvested
- is genetically modified
- comes from areas of serious social conflict
- originates from protected forest areas

In addition, in line with the social requirements of PEFC, we declare that

- employees are not prevented from freely associating, electing their own representatives and bargaining collectively with the employer.
- forced labour is not applied.
- no workers under the legal minimum age, or compulsory school age which is higher, of 15 years are admitted.
- all workers receive equal treatment, including in terms of recruitment, promotion, distribution of work and dismissal.
- working conditions do not endanger health and safety.

This policy statement is periodically reviewed and adapted to the latest regulations. The document is public and is communicated to all interested parties.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jan Labeeuw".

Jan Labeeuw