



Summary Report
of the
Final Assessment of
Keurhout CoC standard
by
Timber Procurement Assessment Committee
(TPAC)

The Hague, Netherlands

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Dutch procurement policy for timber

The Dutch government, like other (European) administrations, has developed a public procurement policy for wood-based products. Central in this procurement policy are the *Dutch procurement criteria for timber*, which have been developed in consultation with stakeholders, and were officially established in June 2008.

To facilitate the implementation of the Dutch procurement criteria, the Minister of Environment commissioned the *Timber Procurement Assessment Committee* (TPAC) to assess existing certification systems for sustainable produced timber to verify whether they meet the procurement criteria.

The TPAC assessment procedure of a certification system consists of several steps, which are concluded by the final judgement. The underlying document is the public summary of this final judgement.

1.2 The assessment of the CoC Keurhout

Keurhout is an independent organisation, supported by the Netherlands Timber Trade Association (NTTA), which serves as a metasystem. One of facilities of Keurhout is a CoC system for Keurhout approved timber. Certified organisations can use this CoC system alongside the separate CoC standards of FSC, PEFC or other certifications systems. A considerable part of the Dutch timber sector has a Keurhout CoC certificate.

The Ministry of Environment requested the assessment of the Keurhout CoC standard by TPAC (December 2008), because the CoC may prove valuable in separating "TPAC approved" timber from not approved timber.

1.3 Reader's guide

This summary report is structured as follows: in section 2, the TPAC assessment method is explained, giving the details on what scores are required for a certification system to be assessed as conforming to the Dutch procurement criteria. In section 3 a summary is provided of the final assessment of the CoC of Keurhout. Subsequently in section 4, the scores at the level of the principles are explained in more detail. Finally, section 5 gives a detailed overview of the scores of the Keurhout CoC on each of the criteria and principles.

This document gives a summary of TPAC's final assessment of the Keurhout CoC standard and provides an overview to the interested reader. The document by no means attempts to be exhaustive: For more detailed information on the TPAC assessment procedure etc. please refer to the User Manual which can be downloaded under 'TPAC' on the website of SMK (www.smk.nl).

2 The TPAC Assessment Method

The Dutch procurement criteria consist of principles and criteria which are structured in three standards so-called matrices. The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), the Chain of Custody (CoC) and Development, Application and Management of certification systems (DAM) Only the CoC standard of Keurhout is relevant to be assessed for the purpose mentioned above.

The assessment procedure of TPAC includes a test of the functioning of the system in practice. Because the Keurhout CoC standard does not directly effect forest management, a stakeholder forum on the internet did not take place. In order to test the functioning of the system in practice, TPAC assessed audit reports of the Keurhout CoC standard. On the basis of this assessment TPAC concluded that the practice is in line with the written standard.

The tables below depict the possible scores for criteria and principles.

Scores for Criteria		Scores for Principles	
=	Fully addressed	2	Fully addressed
≈	Partially addressed	1	Partially addressed
≠	Inadequately addressed	0	Inadequately addressed
n.r.	Not relevant	n.r.	Not relevant
c.o.	Covered otherwise in legal and social context		

A certification system for timber is conforming to the Dutch procurement criteria if:

1. all 17 principles of SFM, CoC and DAM have a score of at least 1;
2. at least 50% of the principles have a score of 2;
3. within the social, ecological and economic aspects of SFM, at least *one* of the two principles has a score of 2 (*not relevant for the assessment of the Keurhout CoC standard*);
4. the fraction of the criteria that is "inadequately addressed" is not more than 10% of the total of the 76 SFM, CoC and DAM criteria together.

3 Summary of the Final Assessment of the Keurhout CoC standard

In the table below an overview is given of the scores of the Keurhout CoC at the level of the principles. Two CoC principles score a 2, one CoC principle scores a 'not relevant'. The other principles are not relevant within this assessment. The 9 relevant criteria all score 'fully addressed'. Based on these findings, TPAC's final assessment is that the Keurhout CoC standard is:

"conforming to the Dutch procurement criteria".

Keurhout CoC – Summary of the Final Assessment Matrix			
Score	Chain of Custody (CoC)		
	P1	P2	P3
2			
1			
0			
n.r.			

4 Final TPAC Assessment of the Keurhout CoC standard

4.1 Chain of Custody (CoC) and Logo Use

Principle 1 – Chain of Custody system

The first CoC principle requires that a Chain of Custody from the forest unit to the final point of sale is in place. The principle includes six criteria which focus on the organisation (criterion 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3), on the legality of sources (criterion 1.4 and 1.5) and on mixed products (criterion 1.6). All six criteria are fully addressed by the Keurhout CoC standard. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 2 – Chain of Custody group certification

The Keurhout system does not take into account group certification. The Keurhout multi-site certification option is less extensive than a group certification. The principle is therefore assessed as 'not relevant'.

Principle 3 – Logos and labels

The last CoC principle requires that logos and labels of the certification system have an unambiguous meaning and that they are applied in accordance with the rules established by the certification system. The principle includes three criteria. Criterion 3.1 deals with the design of logos and labels; criterion 3.2 with copyright; and criterion 3.3 deals with the control of all claims. All criteria are fully addressed. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

5 Assessment Matrices

5.1 Chain of Custody (CoC) and Logo Use

Chain of Custody system	P 1. A Chain of Custody (CoC) must be in place from the forest unit of origin to the final point of sale, which provides a link between the certified material in the product or product line and certified forest units. To that end the system requires that:	2
Organisation	C 1.1 Each individual organisation in the CoC possesses an operational CoC system.	=
	C 1.2 The management system of each organisation in the CoC provides sufficient guarantees that the requirements of the CoC standard are being met.	=
	C 1.3 Each individual organisation in the CoC registers quantities and the names and certificate numbers of the organisations from which it purchases timber and to which it sells timber.	=
Legal sources	C 1.4 If the system allows for mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material, the non- SFM certified material is covered by a verifiable system to ensure that it is from non-disputed, at least legal sources. This applies to new-, including pre-consumer recycled material, and post-consumer recycled material.	=
	C1.5 SFM-certified timber, including timber products, timber from other verified legal sources and timber from non-verified (legal) sources are administratively separated. Timber from non-verified (legal) sources is also physically separated from the other two sources.	=

Mixed wood and assembled products	C1.6 If the system allows for mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material, (one of) the following approaches shall be used: a. mass balance claim: the proportion of the product sold as SFM certified is equal to the proportion of SFM certified material entering a process; b. percentage based claim: the percentage of SFM certified material in a product or product line is reported.	=
Chain of Custody group certification	P 2. If Group certification of the CoC is allowed, the standard must require that the group as whole must comply with the same requirements which are posed on individual companies. To that end the system requires that:	n.r.
Juridical entity	C 2.1 A group has a juridical entity, which is responsible for the group as a whole.	
Management	C 2.2 The group has a management system that provides sufficient guarantees that C 2.3 will be met.	
	C 2.3 The group operates according to principle 1; in addition, each member of the group complies with these requirements inasmuch as they apply to its operations.	
Registration	C 2.4 The group leader has a registration system in place including: a. names and addresses of the group members b. declarations of each member to comply with the certification requirements of the CoC.	
Logos and labels	P 3. Logos and labels that belong to the certification system and occur on products and documents shall have an unambiguous meaning and shall be applied in accordance with the rules established by the certification system. To that end the system requires that:	2
Design and use of logos and labels	C 3.1. The system manager employs rules for the use of logos and labels and for supervision of compliance. The rules comprise at least: a. specification of the logos and labels b. unambiguous description of the claim that the logos and labels represent, including the requirement to communicate the actual or minimum percentages of SFM certified- and post-consumer recycled material included in the product or product line c. rights to use logos and labels d. instructions regarding the use of logos and labels and the informative text they show.	=
Copyright	C 3.2. The logo is copyrighted and is a registered trademark.	=
Clear and accurate claims	C 3.3 There is a clearly defined mechanism for controlling all claims made about the certified nature of products, which ensures that claims are clear and accurate and that action is taken to prevent any false or misleading claims.	=

6 Concluding remarks

The decision on the conformity of Keurhout CoC is valid for a period of five years: from July 2009 until July 2014. Towards the end of this period a full reassessment will take place. Revision of the assessment will also take place when Keurhout changes its CoC standard, or when adaptations are made in the Dutch procurement criteria for timber, or when serious flaws in the implementation of the standard appear.