

# Stakeholder review on forest certification schemes compliance with the Timber Procurement Policy

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October

***CPET invites all stakeholders to submit evidence of certification schemes compliance in preparation for the review of the schemes to monitor continued compliance with UK government Timber Procurement Policy. (TPP). Comments can be submitted using the online survey until the deadline (19<sup>th</sup> November 2014). Email [cpet@efeca.com](mailto:cpet@efeca.com) for a link to the survey.***

## **Why are we carrying out a consultation?**

The forest certification schemes approved as 'Category A evidence' are reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to provide evidence of compliance. The 2014 review has now been initiated and will cover a review of the schemes: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Both schemes have made changes to their standards and reference documents in the past four years. The Criteria for Evaluating Category A Evidence have now been updated to reflect revision to the TPP Definition of Legal and Sustainable, fifth edition published in June 2013, which is available [here](#).

## **What has changed since the last consultation?**

Changes were made to the UK TPP Definition of Legal and Sustainable to ensure that the UK TPP is in line with the 'EU Timber Regulation' (EUTR, available on the EUR-Lex website [here](#)) which came into force on 3rd March 2013 and which prohibits the placement of illegally harvested timber and timber products on the EU market. The definition of 'legal' has been

amended in the 5th edition to reflect the exact definition of ‘legally harvested’ set out in the EUTR.

The updated criteria : Criteria for Evaluating Certification Schemes (Category A Evidence) 4<sup>th</sup> edition (October 2014)’ are available for download [here](#)’.

### **What can stakeholders comment on?**

CPET therefore invites stakeholders to provide evidence of non-compliance by PEFC, FSC and their national schemes. Non-compliances may relate to either:

- 1) failure by a scheme’s documented requirements to meet one of the criteria set out in Criteria for Evaluating Certification Schemes (Category A Evidence) 4<sup>th</sup> edition, October 2014.
- 2) failure by a scheme to implement its own documented requirements. Please note that it is expected that the schemes’ official complaints procedures have been pursued where appropriate.
- 3) Evidence submitted will be checked as set out in Section 4.3.3 of the Methodology for reviews of timber certification schemes, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (October 2014), available [here](#).

Comments referring to the actual outcome of certification in the forest cannot be considered. In order to be used in the review process, comments must be supported by objective verifiable evidence. If further information or clarification is required, the party that submitted the comment may be contacted, particularly where there are discrepancies between information received from stakeholders and from schemes.

***Please email [cpet@efeca.com](mailto:cpet@efeca.com) for a link to the online survey. The comment period will close on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 12 pm.***

If you have any questions about the stakeholder consultation or methodology for the scheme review, please email [cpet@efeca.com](mailto:cpet@efeca.com).