

Common Framework

Comparison of timber procurement policy criteria for forest standards, certification, accreditation, Chain of Custody and labelling

Denmark, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Belgium

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1. Contents of standards for legality and sustainability

There is no universally agreed definition on 'sustainable forest management'. The perception of sustainability is determined by social as well cultural sets of value. They may vary from nation to nation as well as with time. There seems, however to be some global consensus on the overall principles and criteria referred to by e.g. FAO and ITTO.

These 7 criteria are:

1. Legislative and institutional framework [Legality]
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 2. Productive functions of forest resources [Economic]
 3. Protective functions of forest resources
 4. Forest health and vitality
 5. Biological diversity
 6. Extent of the forest resource
 7. Socio-economic functions [Social /Economic]
- } [Environmental]

This framework is based on these seven criteria, with criteria one addressing legality at the forest source and criteria 2-7 addressing sustainability incorporating the three pillars of sustainability Economic, Environmental and Social aspects with some overlap.

1.1. Details on requirements for forest standards: Legality

Criteria		Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
		DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Property rights/ use rights to the forest*		<p>1.1.1 The standard requires that the forest owner/ manager holds legal use rights to the forest</p> <p>1.1.2 The standard requires compliance from both the forest management organisation and any contractors with local and national legal requirements including those relevant to: Other parties' tenure and use rights</p>		<p>P 1. <u>Relevant international, national, and regional/local legislation and regulations shall be respected. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 1.1. The forest manager holds legal use rights to the forest.</p>	A legality definition has not been taken up in the Belgian PPP	
Payment of taxes and fees*		1.1.3 The standard requires payment of all relevant royalties and taxes		C 1.2. The forest manager complies with all obligations to pay taxes and royalties.	A legality definition has not been taken up in the Belgian PPP	
Compliance with CITES*		1.1.4 The standard requires compliance with the requirements of CITES .		Not explicitly mentioned, but implicitly in C 1.3	A legality definition has not been taken up in the Belgian PPP	
Compliance with relevant legislation and regulations	Forest management/harvest*	1.1.2 The standard requires compliance from both the forest management organisation and any contractors with local and national legal requirements including those relevant to:		Not explicitly mentioned, but included in C 1.3	A legality definition has not been taken up in the Belgian PPP.	
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management • Environment • Labour and welfare • Health & safety 		C 1.3. Legal and regulatory obligations that apply to the forest management unit, including international agreements, are fulfilled.	Implicit covered by: Criterion 3: The forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management obeys both national rules and regulations and international treaties	
	Labour and welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other parties' tenure and use rights 		C 3.2. Employees have the right to organise and negotiate wages and employment conditions, in accordance with national laws and the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).		

Criteria		Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
		DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
	Health and safety			C 3.1. The forest manager must take adequate health and safety measures, at least in compliance with relevant legislation and in accordance with ILO conventions, in order to protect the personnel and, where appropriate, the local population.		
	Other parties' tenure and use rights			C 2.1. The legal status of the management of the forest management unit and claims from the local population, including indigenous peoples, to the property/tenure or use rights of the forest management unit or a portion thereof have been inventoried and are respected.		
Control of illegal activities		<p>Not a requirement for forest standards for legality.</p> <p>(Control of illegal activities is covered the criteria 1.2.5. under requirements for forest standards for sustainability.</p> <p>1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>c. Adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment.)</p>		C 1.4. The forest management unit is sufficiently protected against all forms of illegal exploitation, illegal establishment of settlements, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities	A legality definition has not been taken up in the Belgian PPP	
Other		None	None	None	None	

*Minimum criteria to be addressed to claim legal origin (LO) in addition to chain of custody

1.2. Details on criteria for forest standards: Sustainability

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Productive function of forest resource					
Harvest rates	1.2.4 The standard must seek to ensure that productivity of the forest is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: e. Harvest levels that do not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, based on adequate inventory and growth and yield data.		<p><u>P 6. The production capacity of timber and relevant non-timber forest products shall be maintained. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 6.1. The production capacity of each forest type of the forest management unit as a whole is maintained.</p>	<p>Implicit Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations</p>	
Other	Other criteria addressed under management aspects		None	<p>[The Belgian criteria refer to the Helsinki criteria (but also PEOLG and ITTO for instance) and therefore is implicitly covered.]</p> <p>[Since the 'relevant criteria in national TPP' are asked for, we can't go into detail. We acknowledge referring to a general criterion (like the Belgian criterion no.1) is an easy answer to this question, but it doesn't mean that it has not been taken into account. It has, but in an implicit way. Criteria and indicators with regard to harvest rates are found</p>	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
				both in the MCPFE resolutions and the ITTO C&I. This argumentation can be repeated for several boxes.]	
Protective function of forest resource					
Impacts on soil, water and other natural resources	<p>1.2.3 The standard must ensure that harm to ecosystems is minimised. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>b. Protection of soil, water and biodiversity;</p> <p>1.2.4 The standard must seek to ensure that productivity of the forest is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>c. Operations and operational procedures which minimise impacts on the range of forest resources and services.</p>		<p><u>P 5. The regulation functions and quality, health, and vitality of the forest shall be maintained and where possible enhanced. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 5.1. The soil quality of the forest management unit is maintained and, where necessary, improved, whereby special attention is given to shores, riverbanks, erosion-prone parts and slopes.</p> <p>C 5.2. The water balance and quality of both groundwater and surface water in the forest management unit, as well as downstream (outside of the forest management unit), are maintained and, where necessary, improved.</p>	<p>Implicit Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations</p> <p>Criterion 7: (...). Certification must adequate protection of the environment and of social aspects</p> <p>[The Belgian criteria refer to the Helsinki criteria (but also PEOLG and ITTO for instance) and therefore is implicitly covered.]</p>	
Environmental impact assessment	<p>1.2.3 The standard must ensure that harm to ecosystems is minimised. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>a. Appropriate assessment of impacts and planning to minimise impacts;</p>		<p>EIA is not explicitly required but is considered to be part of the Management system, plan, do check, improve. (C 8.1 and C 8.4)</p>		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Use of chemicals/ pesticides		1.2.3 The standard must ensure that harm to ecosystems is minimised. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: c. Controlled and appropriate use of chemicals and use of Integrated Pest Management wherever possible.	C 5.7. The use of chemicals is only permitted if maximum use of ecological processes and sustainable alternatives proves insufficient. The use of class 1A and 1B pesticides, as drafted by the World Health Organisation, and of chlorinated hydrocarbons is not permitted.		
Disposal of waste		1.2.3 The standard must ensure that harm to ecosystems is minimised. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: d. Proper disposal of wastes to minimise any negative impacts.	C 5.8. Non-organic waste and litter are avoided collected, stored in the designated places and removed in an environmentally responsible manner.		
Ecological cycles		Implicit 1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: a. Management planning which aims to maintain or increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems	C 5.3. Important ecological cycles, including carbon and nutrient cycles, which occur in the forest management unit, are at least maintained.		
Reduced Impact logging		Implicit 1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: a. Management planning which aims to maintain or increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems 1.2.4 The standard must seek to ensure that productivity of the forest is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: c. Operations and operational procedures which minimise impacts on the range of forest resources and services.	C 5.4. Avoidable damage to the ecosystem is prevented by application of the most suitable and available methods and techniques for logging and road construction under the prevailing conditions.		
Other		None	None		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Health and vitality of forests					
Management of fires, diseases and pests	1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: a. Management planning which aims to maintain or increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems b. Management of natural processes, fires, pests and diseases.		C 5.5. Initiating of forest fires is only permitted if that is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit and adequate safety measures are taken. C 5.6. Forest management is geared towards preventing and controlling diseases and pests , inasmuch as they threaten the timber production.	Implicit Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations	
Genetically modified organisms	Not covered	Not covered	C 4.7. Genetically modified organisms are not used.	[The Belgian criteria refer to the Helsinki criteria (but also PEOLG and ITTO for instance) and therefore is implicitly covered.]	
Other	1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: c. Adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment.		None		
Biological diversity					
Treatment of high conservation value forests / key ecosystems or habitats	1.2.6 The standard must seek to ensure that biodiversity is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: c. The protection of features and species of outstanding or exceptional value.		<u>P 4. Biodiversity shall be maintained. and where possible enhanced.</u> <u>To that end the system requires that:</u> C 4.2. Objects of high ecological value and representative elements of	Implicit Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
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			forest types that occur within the forest management unit are identified, inventoried and respected.	institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations	
Protection of rare, threatened and endangered species		1.2.6 The standard must seek to ensure that biodiversity is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: a. Implementation of safeguards to protect rare, threatened and endangered species .	C 4.5. Protected or endangered plant and animal species are not exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures have been taken for their protection and, where relevant, increase of their population.	[The Belgian criteria refer to the Helsinki criteria (but also PEOLG and ITTO for instance) and therefore is implicitly covered.]	
Establishment of conservation areas for key habitats		1.2.6 The standard must seek to ensure that biodiversity is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for: b. The conservation/set-aside of key ecosystems or habitats in their natural state	C 4.2. Objects of high ecological value and representative areas of forest types that occur within the forest management unit are identified, inventoried and respected.		
Non timber forest products (exploitation is regulated and monitored)		Implicit 1.2.8 The standard must seek to ensure that the socio-economic function of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for: a. Property and land tenure rights as well as legal, customary and traditional rights related to forest land and the utilisation of forest resources should be clarified, recognised and respected.	C 4.6. The exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, are regulated and monitored and controlled. . Insofar as relevant, knowledge of the local population, indigenous peoples, and locally active environmental organisations is utilised in monitoring commercial exploitation.		
Other	None	None	None		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Extent of forest resource					
Forest area	<p>Implicit 1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>c. Adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment.</p>			<p>The issue of forest area at the level of FMU is covered by the non-conversion requirement C 4.1</p>	<p>Implicit Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations</p> <p>[The Belgian criteria refer to the Helsinki criteria (but also PEOLG and ITTO for instance) and therefore is implicitly covered.]</p>
	<p>1.2.7 The standard must seek to ensure that the extent of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for:</p> <p>a. Forest management planning should aim to maintain or increase forest and other wooded area, and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water.</p>				
Composition of forest and/or conversion issues	<p>Implicit 1.2.5 The standard must seek to ensure that forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>c. Adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment.</p>			<p>C 4.1. Conversion of forests in the FMU to other types of landuse, including timber plantations, shall not occur unless in justified exceptional circumstances.</p>	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
	<p>1.2.7 The standard must seek to ensure that the extent of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for:</p> <p>c. More detailed requirements regarding operations that affect the extent and composition of forest resources in the short term should be laid down, either in nationally or locally developed standards, or in broader framework standards addressing the issue, e.g. standards regulating opportunities for the conversion of forest areas.</p>				
Provision for plantations	Not covered	Not covered	<p>C 4.3. In case of plantations <u>native species are preferred and</u> the requirements of C 4.2. apply to a relevant part of the plantation, e.g. 5%.</p> <p>C 4.4. Plantations shall not be established through the conversion of natural forests after 1997.</p>		
Other	<p>1.2.7 The standard must seek to ensure that the extent of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for:</p> <p>b. Forest management</p>	None	None		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
	practices should safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvest and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.				
Socio-economic functions					
Social	Consultation with local communities and indigenous peoples (Public availability of plans)	Implicit 1.3.2 The standard-setting process must seek to ensure balanced representation and input from the economic, environmental and social interest categories.	<p><u>P 2. The interests of directly and indirectly involved stakeholders shall be taken into account. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 2.2. Effective communication with and consultation and participation of stakeholders take place regarding the management of the forests.</p> <p>C 2.3. The local population and indigenous peoples have a say on forest management on the basis of free and informed consent, and hold the right to grant or withhold permission and, if relevant, receive compensation where their property/use rights are at stake.</p> <p>C 2.4. The forest management plan and accompanying maps, <u>relevant monitoring results</u> and information about the forest management measures to be applied are publicly available, except for strictly confidential business information.</p>	<p>Criterion 7: The forest certification scheme must guarantee that the forest management is based on a highly developed social dialogue and with due respect for indigenous peoples. Certification must ensure adequate protection of the environment and of social aspects;</p> <p>[The ProForest evaluation of our policy points out there these criteria can be interpreted as a requirement for both the content of the standard and the standard setting process → conflation]</p>	

Criteria		Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
		DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
	Property and land tenure rights, use rights of local communities and indigenous peoples etc.	1.1.2 The standard requires compliance from both the forest management organisation and any contractors with local and national legal requirements including those relevant to: Other parties' tenure and use rights		C 2.1. The legal status of the management of the forest management unit and claims from the local population, including indigenous peoples, to the property/tenure or use rights of the forest management unit or a portion thereof have been inventoried and are respected.		
	Objects of cultural and traditional economic value	1.2.8 The standard must seek to ensure that the socio-economic function of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for: a. Property and land tenure rights as well as legal, customary and traditional rights related to forest land and the utilisation of forest resources should be clarified, recognised and respected.	Not covered	C 2.6. Objects of cultural and traditional economic value are identified and inventoried in consultation with the stakeholders and are respected.	Implicit Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations [The Belgian criteria refer to the Helsinki criteria (but also PEOLG and ITTO for instance) and therefore is implicitly covered.]	
	Mechanism for disputes resolution	1.2.8 The standard must seek to ensure that the socio-economic function of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for: b. Appropriate mechanisms for resolving disputes between timber production operators logging in the forests and local people should be laid down.	Not covered	C 2.5. Adequate mechanisms are in place for resolving disputes regarding forest management, property/usage rights, work conditions, or social services.		

Criteria		Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
		DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Health and safety conditions	1.1.2 The standard requires compliance from both the forest management organisation and any contractors with local and national legal requirements including those relevant to: Health & safety			<p>P 3. Safety, health, and labour conditions shall be sufficiently safeguarded <u>and where relevant enhanced</u>. To that end the system requires that:</p> <p>C 3.1. The forest manager must take adequate health and safety measures, at least in compliance with relevant legislation and in accordance with ILO conventions, in order to protect the personnel including contractors and their employees and, where appropriate, the local and indigenous population.</p>		
	1.1.2 The standard requires compliance from both the forest management organisation and any contractors with local and national legal requirements including those relevant to: Labour and welfare			C 3.2. Employees have the right to organise and negotiate wages and employment conditions, in accordance with national laws and the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).		
Workers' rights to organise and negotiate	1.2.8 The standard must seek to ensure that the socio-economic function of the forest resource is maintained. In order to do this the standard should include requirements for:		-			
	d. Employees must be able to organise freely and negotiate wages in accordance with the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).					

Criteria		Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
		DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Economic (Benefits to local community)	Employment promotion	Not covered	Not covered	<p><u>P 7. Forest management shall contribute to the local economy and employment. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 7.1. Forest management stimulates employment of the local population, including indigenous peoples, as well as the local processing of timber and non-timber forest products.</p>	No clear	
	Infrastructure development	Not covered	Not covered	<p>C 7.2. Insofar as not provided for otherwise, a contribution is made to the development of local physical infrastructure and of social services and programmes for the local population, including indigenous peoples. This contribution is made in agreement with the local population.</p>	No clear	
	Other	None	None	None	-	
Other		None	None	None	None	

1.3. Management aspects of the sustainability criteria

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Management aspects					
Management cycle (Plan, do, check/monitoring, improve)	1.2.2 The standard must include performance-based requirements for all key criteria set out in 1.2.3-1.2.8	1.2.2 The standard must be performance-based	<p><u>P 8. Sustainable forest management shall be realised through a management system. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 8.1. Forest management aims to achieve the goals formulated in the forest management plan and comprises the cycle of inventory and analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and improvement.</p> <p>C 8.4 The implementation of the forest management plan and the ecological, social and economic effects of forest management <u>on the FMU and its surroundings</u> are monitored <u>periodically</u> on the basis of adequate data.</p>	<p>Implicit Criterion 4: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that the forest management is targeted, effective and economically viable;</p>	
	<p>1.2.4 The standard must seek to ensure that productivity of the forest is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:</p> <p>a. Management planning and implementation of management activities to avoid significant negative impacts on forest productivity.</p> <p>b. Monitoring which is adequate to check compliance with all requirements, together with review and feedback into planning.</p> <p>e. Harvest levels that do not exceed the long-term production capacity of the forest, based on adequate inventory and growth and yield data.</p>				
Management plan and maps	1.2.4 The standard must seek to ensure that productivity of the forest is maintained. In order to do this the standard must include requirements for:		<p>C 8.2. There is a forest management plan, consisting of, or dealing with at least:</p> <p>a. a description of the current condition of the forest management unit</p> <p>b. long-term objectives</p> <p>c. the average annually allowable cut per forest type, and, if relevant, the</p>		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			<p>annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products, based on reliable and current data</p> <p>d. budget for the implementation of the forest management plan.</p> <p>C 8.3 Essential elements for forest management are indicated on maps.</p>		
Training, skills, expertise			<p>C 8.5. Forest management is based on scientific research and, if needed, information on comparable forests types. C 8.6. Forests are managed by professional staff and forest workers. Adequate periodic training secures the level of skills, including knowledge of relevant laws and treaties.</p>		
Requirements for group or regional certification	Not covered	Not covered	<p><u>P 9. Forest management in a group or regional association shall offer sufficient safeguards for sustainable forest management. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 9.1. A group or regional association is under the <u>leadership and supervision</u> of an independent legal entity.</p> <p>C 9.2. The management system of a group or regional association offers sufficient guarantee to fulfil criterion 9.3.</p> <p>C 9.3. A group or regional association complies with the</p>	Not covered	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			requirements set by the SFM standard of the certification system. In addition, each member of a group or regional association complies with these requirements, inasmuch as they apply to its operations.		

1.4. Process for the setting of sustainability standards

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Standard setting					
Participation of stakeholders in standard-setting process	1.3.2 Within the overall framework set out in section 1.2, sustainability standards must be developed or adapted nationally or locally in a transparent and consultative process, which encourage participation of, and is open and accessible to all affected parties, including economic, environmental and social stakeholder groups.	1.3.2 The standard-setting process must seek to ensure balanced representation and input from the economic, environmental and social interest categories	<p><u>P 1. The process of standard development and the standard itself shall fulfil the requirements as established by international umbrella organisations (such as ISO and ISEAL). To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 1.4. The development of the standard takes place with input of the relevant stakeholders. Potential limitations for certain groups such as indigenous peoples and small forest owners to contribute directly are taken into account.</p> <p>C 1.5. The standard development procedure</p>	<p>Criterion 8: The forest certification scheme is participatory in nature and should be acceptable to a large number of stakeholders, including local communities and environmental NGOs;</p> <p>Criterion 10: The forest certification scheme must secure the active participation of forest managers/owners;</p> <p>[The ProForest evaluation of our policy points out there these criteria can be</p>	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			provides for public input during a reasonable period of time. C 1.5. With the development of the standard, the standard setting organisation takes into account any comments submitted in writing and communicated verbally. The organisation maintains reports of the development process of the standard including the received input and how it is dealt with . A summary of it is published and is freely available.	interpreted as a requirement for both the content of the standard and the standard setting process→ conflation]	
Decision-making process	1.3.3 Standards must be determined either in consensus or through a majority voting process which prevents major interest categories (representing economic, social and environmental stakeholders) from being overruled. 1.3.4 Formal approval of standards should be based on evidence of consensus or majority voting.	1.3.3 The standard-setting and decision-making process adopted must seek to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No single interest can dominate the process; • No decision can be made in the absence of agreement from the majority of an interest category. 	C 1.2. The standard development body comprises the relevant interested groups that serve the economic, social and environmental interests without undue dominance of one interest. <u>C1.3 Decisions of the standard development body are made, if possible, by consensus. If consensus is not reached, qualified majority voting applies</u>	Not covered	
Public availability of standards	1.3.5 Standards should be publicly available.	Not covered	C 1.7. The standard setting organisation publishes the standard as soon as it has been established.	Criterion 9: The forest certification scheme must be completely transparent for both stakeholders and the public; [The ProForest evaluation of our policy points out there these criteria can be interpreted as a	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
				requirement for both the content of the standard and the standard setting process→ conflation]	
International principles and criteria	<p>1.2.1 Standards for forest management must be defined to ensure a forest management consistent with the Forest Principles as set out by UNCED 1992, and build on relevant broadly recognised international, regional or national guidelines, criteria and indicators defining sustainable forest management at the forest management unit level. They should as a minimum cover the following six key thematic elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective functions of forest resources • Productive functions of forest resources • Forest health and vitality • Biological diversity • Extent of the forest resources <p>Socio-economic functions</p>	<p>1.2.1 Certification standards must be consistent with a widely accepted set of international principles and criteria defining sustainable or responsible forest management at the forest management unit level.</p>	None	<p>Criterion 1: the forest certification scheme must guarantee that forest management is based on internationally accepted standards and criteria (including Helsinki criteria) that are institutionally and politically adapted to the local situations</p>	
Application	None	None	C 1.9. The standard and the procedures for establishing compliance are sufficiently flexible to be applied under changing local conditions and to forest management units of any size, either as a part of a	None	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			group or regional association or otherwise.		
Performance based requirements	1.2.2 The standard must include performance-based requirements for all key criteria set out in 1.2.3 - 1.2.8.	1.2.2 The standard must be performance-based	C 20. The standard contains both process and performance criteria and consists, where appropriate, of measurable, unambiguous parameters with guidelines for interpretation.	Not covered	
Other	1.3.1 The standard-setting process must be consistent with the requirements of <i>ISO Guide 59: Code of Good Practice for Standardisation</i> or the <i>ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards</i> or equivalent.		<p>C 1.1. The development process of the standard fulfils the requirements established in the <i>ISEAL 'Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards'</i>, the <i>ISO Guide 59 'Code of Good Practice for Standardisation'</i> or equivalent requirements.</p> <p>The development process and application of the standard at least fulfil the following criteria: 1.2. through 1.9.; 2.1. and 2.2.; 3.3. through 3.6. of this assessment table.</p> <p>C 1.8. A national standard which is part of an international certification system with a generic standard or which is based on a generic standard of an umbrella organisation, must refer to the relevant generic standard and be accepted by the relevant international system or organisation.</p>	None	

2. Certification

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Certification					
Compliance with relevant ISO Guides etc.	2.1 Certification must be undertaken by a body whose organisation, systems and procedures conform to applicable ISO guidance, or publicly available equivalent.		<p><u>P 4. Certification bodies shall be independent and shall be competent to assess sustainable forest management and the chain of custody system. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>P 4. is covered by C 4.1 – C 4.4</p> <p>Compliance with ISO is covered by the accreditation requirements C 4.1.</p>	Not covered	
Accreditation requirements	2.2 Certification is undertaken by a body which is accredited to evaluate against forest management standards.		<p>C 4.1. The certification bodies are accredited on the basis of the requirements and guidelines in ISO 17021¹ 'Conformity Assessment - Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems' and/or ISO Guide 65 (EN 45011) 'General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems' and preferably on the basis of specific supplemental requirements for performance</p>	Criterion 11: The certification must be granted by an accredited independent body.	

¹ ISO 17021 has replaced ISO Guide 62 (EN 45012) and ISO Guide 66. A transition period applies. ISO Guide 62 (EN 45012) and ISO Guide 66 may be used until September 2008.

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			of conformity assessments according to the standards for sustainable forest management and the chain of custody.		
Stakeholders consultation		2.4 The certification audit must include sufficient consultation with external stakeholders to ensure that all relevant issues are identified relating to compliance with the requirements of the standard.	C 4.2. The certification contains an assessment of system documents, site visits, and sufficient consultation of external stakeholders.	Not covered	
Review of documentation and system and field audit		2.3 The requirements for certification audits must include assessment of systems and documentation together with verification of outcomes in the forest adequate to ensure that both system and performance requirements in the standard are being met.	C 4.2. The certification contains an assessment of system documents, site visits, and sufficient consultation of external stakeholders.	Not covered	
Public availability of reports		2.5 A summary of the results of the certification audit (excluding confidential information) must be publicly available to interested parties.	C 4.4. The certification agency makes the following items public in addition to the requirements in ISO 17021 and ISO Guide 65: a. summaries of assessment reports a list of the granted certificates	Not covered	
Accessibility of complaints and disputes mechanism		2.6 There is an accessible and functioning mechanism for dealing with complaints and disputes which is open to any interested party.	This is included in ISO 17021	Not covered	
Other	None	None	C 4.3. In case of group or regional certification an adequate sample of group members must be audited. [Provision must be made to accommodate group certification]	None	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Certification scheme governance					
Legal entity, statutes	Not covered	Not covered	<p><u>P 2. The certification system shall be managed by a legal entity (system manager). The tasks and responsibilities shall be clearly distributed among the organisations, which form an organisational and/or functional part of the system. To that end the system demonstrates that:</u></p> <p>C 2.1. The system manager is a legally registered organisation with statutes, contact address, telephone, e-mail, and website.</p>	<p>Implicit Criterion 2: the forest certification scheme must take account of each region's diversity and specificity and must not discriminate against certain forest type, groups of forest owners, countries or regions;</p>	
Distribution of responsibilities			<p>C 2.2. The distribution of the responsibilities, authorities, and tasks among the entities, comprising an organisational and/or functional part of the certification system, and the procedures to be followed are clear and publicly available. The certification system comprises at least rules for the following functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. standard development b. certification c. accreditation d. supervision of proper performance of tasks and compliance with the rules e. objection and appeal handling f. design and use of logos and labels 		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Decision making			<p><u>P 3. Decision-making bodies shall reflect the interests of stakeholders and shall provide for adequate procedures for objection and appeal regarding the decisions made and the functioning of the decision-making bodies. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>C 3.1. The decision-making and advisory bodies comprise the relevant interested groups without undue dominance of one interest.</p> <p>C 3.2. Decisions of decision-making and advisory bodies are made, if possible, by consensus. If consensus is not reached, majority voting applies.</p>		
Complaints and appeal provisions			<p>C 3.3. Objection and appeal procedures are publicly available and clearly indicate the entity a stakeholder must turn to in the event of an objection or appeal against the operation of a particular entity or against a decision made by a particular entity.</p> <p>C 3.4. The objection and appeal procedures require that the submitter or a representative substantiates the objection or appeal with arguments and relevant documentation.</p> <p>C 3.5. Objection and appeal</p>		

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			<p>procedures contain clear and reasonable deadlines for handling of the objection or appeal.</p> <p>C 3.6. A forum of independent persons, which adequately represent legal and domain knowledge, handles appeal cases. Decisions are taken by majority voting.</p>		
Other	None	None	None	None	

3. Accreditation

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Accreditation					
Public availability of procedures	<p>3.1 Accreditation must be undertaken by a national (e.g. DANAK) or international body whose organisation, systems and procedures are consistent with ISO 17011:2004 <i>Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies</i> or equivalent.</p> <p>[(e.g. DANAK) is added to the Danish text for clarification]</p>	<p>3.1 Accreditation must be undertaken by a national or international body whose organisation, systems and procedures are consistent with ISO 17011:2004 <i>Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies</i> or equivalent.</p>	<p><u>P 5. The accreditation agencies that grant the accreditations for certification of sustainable forest management and/or the chain of custody shall be competent and independent, national or international organisations that are preferably member of the IAF. To that end the system requires that:</u></p> <p>[P 5 is covered by C 5.1 – C 5.2 Public availability is required by ISO17011]</p>	Not covered	DK and UK criteria same
Accreditation body are internationally recognised, such as compliance with ISO17011, signatory of IAF's MLA and ISEAL.	<p>3.1 Accreditation must be undertaken by a national (e.g. DANAK) or international body whose organisation, systems and procedures are consistent with ISO 17011:2004 <i>Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies</i> or equivalent.</p> <p>[(e.g. DANAK) is added to the Danish text for clarification]</p>		<p>C 5.1. Accreditation must be granted by a national or international organisation that fulfils <u>requirements as included in ISO 17011 'General Requirements for Assessment and Accreditation of Certification Bodies'</u></p>		
Other	None	None	<p>C 5.2. The accreditation body takes part in a peer review process with sister organisations, preferably within the framework of the IAF. [It is important that the accreditation body is accountable to third parties.]</p>		

4. Chain of custody and labelling

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Chain of custody standard contents					
Basic requirement from the forest to the final point of sale.	4.2 The scheme must define requirements for chain of custody which provides a link between the certified material in the product or product line and certified forests.	4.2 There must be a certified chain of custody in place from the forest of origin to the final certified product which provides a link between the certified material in the product or product line and certified forests.	<p><u>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:</u></p> <p>C 1.1 Each individual organisation in the CoC possesses an operational CoC system.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Criterion 6: The forest certification scheme must guarantee the traceability of certified products through a Chain of Custody (CoC);	
Accreditation requirements	4.1 Assessment of chain of custody must be undertaken by a certification body operating in accordance with ISO Guide 65 or equivalent and accredited by an accreditation body operating in accordance with ISO 17011 or equivalent.		[This has been addressed under Certification (C 4.1)]	Not covered	
Specific requirements for group certification	No covered	No covered	<u>P 2. If Group certification of the CoC is allowed, the standard must require that the group as</u>	Not covered	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			<p><u>whole must comply with the same requirements which are posed on individual companies. To that end the system requires:</u></p> <p>C 2.1 A group has a juridical entity, which is responsible for the group as a whole. 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. C 2.4 The group leader has a registration system in place including:</p> <p>a. names and addresses of the group members</p> <p>b. declarations of each member to comply with the certification requirements of the CoC.</p> <p>[P 2 is covered by C 2.1 – C 2.]</p>		
Requirements on non-certified material in mixed products		4.3 If mixing of certified and uncertified material in a product or product line is allowed, the uncertified material must be covered by a verifiable system which is designed to ensure that it is from legal sources.	C 1.4 If the system allows mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material is allowed, 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	Not covered	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			post-consumer recycled material.		
Thresholds of non-certified material	<p>4.4 If mixing of certified and uncertified material in a product or product line is allowed (and requirements for sustainability are to be fulfilled), then there must be a system in place ensuring that either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of material in the product or product line from a certified forest is reported and constitutes in average at least 70% (percentage based claim) or; • The proportion of product sold as certified is equivalent to the proportion of certified raw material entering the process (mass balance claim). 	<p>4.4 If mixing of certified and uncertified material in a product or product line is allowed and the proportion of uncertified material can exceed 30%, then the uncertified material must be covered by a verifiable system which ensures that it is from sustainable forest sources where the requirements for sustainability set out in criteria 1.2.3 – 1.2.6</p>	<p>C1.6 If the system allows mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material, (one of) the following approaches shall be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mass balance claim: the proportion of the product sold as SFM certified is equal to the proportion of SFM certified material entering a process; • percentage based claim: the percentage of SFM certified material in a product or product line is reported. <p>[The Dutch criteria do not include a threshold in the CoC. However the label or accompanying documents should be clear about the content e.g mass balance product or percentage SFM certified in a product or product badge.]</p>	Not covered	
Definition and traceability of recycled materials in mixed products	<p>4.6 If recycled material is used there must be a verifiable system in place which is designed to ensure that recycled material is from the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-consumer recycled wood and wood fibre or industrial by-products but excluding sawmill co-products • Post-consumer recycled wood and wood fibre • Drift wood 		<p>C 1.4 If mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material is allowed, 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.</p>	Not covered	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
Other	None	None	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.	None	
Labelling					
Design and use of logo's and labels	Implicit 4.5 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.		<p><u>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:</u></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. specification of the logos and labels c. unambiguous description of the claim that the logos and labels represent, including the requirement to communicate the actual or minimum percentages of SFM 	Criterion 5: Certification should lead to an off-product or on-product label so as to reliably distinguish between products derived from sustainable forest management and other products;	

Criteria	Relevant Criteria in National Timber Procurement Policy				Notes
	DK	UK	NL	Belgium	
			certified- and post-consumer recycled material included in the product or product line d. rights to use logos and labels e. instructions regarding the use of logos and labels and the informative text they show.		
Copyright		Implicit 4.5 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.	C 3.2. The logo is copyrighted and is a registered trademark	Not covered	
Mechanism for controlling claims and labelling about certified products	4.5 DK and UK / C 3.3 NL 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.			Not covered	
Other	None	None	None	None	

Reference documents

Denmark

Draft Criteria for Legal and Sustainable Timber and Assessment of Certification Schemes, April 2007

Download PDF http://www.skovognatur.dk/NR/rdonlyres/EDDB0EC5-E2FC-494B-880F-D47635696A83/39935/draft_19_30_5.pdf

The Netherlands

Dutch Procurement Criteria for Timber. Principles and criteria for: Sustainable forest management (SFM) Chain of Custody (CoC) Development, application and management of certification systems (DAM), June 2008

Download PDF http://www.tpac.smk.nl/webadmin/files/pdf/Procurement_Criteria_June_2008.pdf

United Kingdom

Criteria for Evaluating Certification Schemes (Category A Evidence) Second Edition May 2006. CPET

Download PDF <http://www.proforest.net/cpet/resolveuid/f2b430d40317c7e13e41e0e22b89caeb>

Belgium

Definition and criteria's for wood from sustainably managed forests. As defined in the circular letter P&O/DO/2 concerning the public procurement policy of the federal Government, aimed at promoting the use of timber and wood from sustainably managed forests. February 2006 NOTE: Discussions on new and revised Belgium criteria are ongoing.

Download PDF (Official version in Dutch and French) http://www.guidedesachatsdurables.be/bs_mb/circulaire%20PO-DD-2.pdf

An unofficial English version is quoted in this current framework.