



## Swan Label and Forest Certification in Sustainable Forestry

*The Swan label takes into account sustainable and responsible forestry in its requirements. Swan label requires sustainable forestry in all criteria where the product's wood raw materials represent a significant part of the environmental impact. This is ensured in two ways: with certification requirement and with ensuring the origin of non-certified raw material as well as ensuring that in harvesting the ecological and social values are not threatened. Most known forest certification systems in Europe are FSC and PEFC which help to tell the raw material's origin.*

The Swan label takes into account sustainable and responsible forestry in its requirements. The Swan label requires sustainable forestry in all criteria where the product's wood raw materials represent a significant part of the environmental impact. Sustainable forestry is guaranteed with ensuring the origin of wood raw material with approved forest standard. In the requirements referring to the Swan label's forest standards the standard has to:

- balance ecological, economical and social interests
- follow United Nations Rio declaration, Agenda 21 and the Statement of Forest Principles
- respect applicable international conventions and agreements
- contain absolute requirements and promote sustainable forestry
- be generally available

Approved standard is drafted with an open process in which different ecological, economical and social interest groups are invited to join in to the process.

Forest certification label in a product tells the origin of the wood raw material, that is to say that the wood raw material is purchased legally and is from certified forest. The labels strive for responsible and sustainable forestry from the ecological, economical and social point of view. The forests are certified by an independent third party, who secures the level of forestry and that it fulfils the standard's requirements. FSC and PEFC have certified in total circa 8 % of the world's forests. The labels clarify environment properties only for one raw material of the product. The labels don't tell other environmental or health effects and don't yet take into consideration the carbon dioxide balance of the soil.

Nowadays people are interested in the state of the forests. Different factors have made both companies and individual consumers more environmentally aware, which can be seen in the generalisation of the forest certificates. The most known forest certificates in Europe are FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes). FSC is a common certificate in Europe. PEFC is predominant certificate in Finland.

The Swan label tries with its forest requirements to secure the sustainable production of wood raw material. The criteria have a certification percent through which the Swan label affects the forest companies wood raw material purchasing. At the same time the traceability of wood raw material improves. In swan labelled products there are no endangered tropical rainforest wood used nor are there any tropical forest certification systems approved to the Swan label's circle.