

## **Keurhout's approval to Finnish forest certification renewed**

The Dutch Keurhout has renewed its approval for a total of 22 million ha of FFCS (Finnish Forest Certification System) -certified forests. The FFCS is the first certification system which has been validated against the recently established Keurhout Protocol for Validation of Certification Systems (KH-SYS). The admission of the FFCS system to the Keurhout Sustainable system is valid for the next four-year-period. For the first time the FFCS was approved by the Keurhout in 2001 ([www.keurhout.nl/english/news.htm](http://www.keurhout.nl/english/news.htm)).

All valid FFCS certificates for forest management are admitted now to the Keurhout Sustainable system with no further conditions. Keurhout's approval indicates that the FFCS meets the requirements for credible forest certification and sustainable forest management. In 2005 the revised FFCS-system was re-endorsed by the international PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Certification Systems) Council.

Keurhout's quality mark may be used in products as specified in the Keurhout logo Guide. The PEFC chain-of-custody (CoC) certificate holders in Finland that process timber originating only from FFCS certified forests were now admitted to Keurhout Sustainable system without further conditions. Companies that also process imported timber will be admitted as they are verified by the certification bodies to comply with conditions which aim at assuring that timber from controversial sources is excluded. A temporary extension has been granted to Finnish CoC certificate holders that had been admitted to the Keurhout Sustainable system since Keurhout's first-time approval in 2001.

### Further information

Finnish Forest Certification Council, [www.ffcs-finland.org](http://www.ffcs-finland.org)  
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Keurhout ([www.keurhout.nl](http://www.keurhout.nl)) was founded in 1996 with the support of and in close cooperation with the Dutch government by the business community (trade, processing industry) and trade unions. As of 1 January 2004, the services of Keurhout are facilitated by the Netherlands Timber Trade Association; NTTA). Keurhout reviews certification systems and certificates issued for specific forest areas and their processing chain in production countries.