

October 17 , 2017

Credibility of PEFC Certified Products

Recently, some organizations cast doubt on the credibility of PEFC certified products. Responding to it, we assure that the credibility of certified products is secured as the highest priority of PEFC as an international certification system through mutual recognition of national forest certification systems which conform PEFC`s high standards, as well as strictly managed third-party certification system, under which scheme owners, accreditation bodies and certification bodies are totally independent in their task.

Thus, PEFC aims to achieve compatibility between credible and independent forest certification systems and to implement and safeguard consistently high standards for sustainable forest management around the globe.

In order to achieve that aim, PEFC undertakes an open, transparent and independent benchmark endorsement process for national forest certification systems and ensures that a consistently high and stringent quality and performance level is applied by all PEFC endorsed certification systems globally.

In addition, PEFC certification system adopts ISO principles, that are widely recognized around the world, and under those principles, accreditation bodies of respective countries, which are members of International Accreditation Forum, provide accreditation of certification bodies based on rigorous assessment on their ability, qualification, independence, etc.

Certification bodies accredited by accreditation bodies conduct certification of forest managers, or manufacturers of timber products, paper or other forest products, based on rigorous assessment of the conformity with FM and CoC certification requirements set by scheme owners.

Scheme owners, accreditation bodies and certification bodies play their role independently. Complaints or appeals delivered from citizens or consumers are to be promptly taken up and handled by relevant organizations in order to secure the credibility of the certification system.

PEFC certified products currently imported into Japan are adequately controlled in exporting countries based on the certification system explained above. Every raw material procured by CoC certified manufacturers is examined through Due Diligence System to avoid mixing of controversial sources such as illegal timber into their production lines.

With respect to any complaint or appeal against specific PEFC certified timber or other PEFC certified forest products, it is advised that the complaint or appeal should be submitted to the responsible certification body, since every certification body shall have a complaint resolving procedures based on ISO/IEC17065 in a transparent manner.

According to the ISO standard, a certification body shall receive complaint and acknowledge its receipt to the submitter. Then the certification body shall gather and verify all necessary information as far as possible, and give a formal notice of outcome to the submitter. Even after the notification of the outcome, the certification body shall take any subsequent action needed to resolve the complaint or appeal.