

Dutch step up sustainable share

Despite testing market conditions, Netherland's Timber Trade Association (VVNH) members further increased their percentage of certified sustainable imports in 2014.

According to Probos Foundation estimates, 87.7% of the 1.8 million m³ of timber and sheet materials imported by VVNH businesses were backed by FSC or PEFC labels.

"For the second year in a row we've exceeded our own certified import target, which was 85% for 2015," said VVNH Director Paul van den Heuvel.

The Association's aim, he said was to make certified timber the Dutch market norm. To this end it is continuing to work with 26 companies and organisations across the timber construction, manufacture, retail and specification sectors, plus government, under its Green Deal initiative.

According to the Probos figures, certified imports increased share in all sectors in 2014:

- Softwood imports were 96.2% certified, against 90% in 2011
- The hardwood figure was 56.3% against 36%
- Sheet materials, 89.2% against 73%.

"We aim to continue to increase these figures, perhaps now focusing on specific areas, such as tropical hardwoods," said Mr van den Heuvel.

VVNH members account for 60-70% of Netherlands timber imports and report every six months on certified material trade levels.

More: www.vvnh.nl/duurzame-vvnh-import.

Certified timber imports are ahead of target

