



Forests - new EU strategy

The beverage carton industry is proud to claim accountability for its fibre sourcing. Our industry is a leader in the responsible sourcing of primary materials. In 2007, Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc signed a voluntary industry-wide global commitment to achieve 100% chain of custody certification for all paperboard purchased by 2015. In addition, we committed to 100% certification of our own packaging material manufacturing plants by 2018.

This means that each and every beverage carton, which the ACE member companies manufacture and which then find their way to people's tables, is verified independently for the wood fiber to come from legal and acceptable sources according to the strictest international standards. These commitments were achieved, in less than ten years and are verified by an external third party. ProForest has recently verified our commitment again and will continue to do so every two years.

According to the FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, sustainable forest management is: "The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems."

In Europe, LPB (liquid packaging board) comes from Nordic forest resources. Nordic forest management follows periodic cycles through which forests are regenerated continuously. After regenerating, forests are managed so that about every 20 years a thinning takes place where part of the trees are removed to give more light and space for the remaining trees that they can grow faster. The thin trees are used for pulp production to make LPB. Thicker trees harvested in thinning are used in saw mills to produce lumber and by-products (wood chips and saw dust). The wood chips are used for pulp production – this represents ca. 50% of the material used to produce LPB product.

Sustainably managed forests preserve biodiversity through different measures such as the preservation of high conservation value areas or trees. Managing forests adds value to forest owners, avoiding conversion and provides valuable raw material with great carbon benefits. Experts are currently developing the metrics to properly assess the impact of wood production on biodiversity. Proxies are being adopted. The beverage carton industry is closely involved in these developments through their board suppliers.