

San Mauro Torinese, July 12, 2007

Burgo Ardennes obtains PEFC forest certification

The Burgo Ardennes paper mill, one of 14 plants operated by the Burgo Group, the largest manufacturer of graphic paper in southern Europe, has obtained PEFC certification (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes – Programme de Reconnaissance des Certification Forestières), which is granted exclusively to companies that use wood pulp from woods or forests managed with eco-sustainable criteria.

This rewards the plant's Chain of Custody, which certifies the "traceability" of all the various steps from the original forest to the end product. Today all the cellulose produced by the Belgian plant is covered by PEFC certification, and the woodfree coated paper can also be sold in a PEFC certified version.

The PEFC system was created by national associations of forest owners and wood and paper industrialists; it operates in 14 European countries, each of which has certification programmes that are subject to inspection by independent, accredited organisations and based on the pan-European criteria supported by the Ministers for forestry policies of 37 countries, including the maintenance and appropriate development of forest resources, and their contribution to the global carbon cycle, biological diversity in forest ecosystems and socio-economic conditions.

This certification is a further step forward in the Burgo Group's strategy, which considers respect for the environment to be one of the mainstays of its activities. Forest certification from the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) for the chain of custody of six other Italian plants is another aspect of this same strategy.