

Development of an Industry Contribution for the European Information Exchange on Best Available Techniques (BAT) in the Wood-Based Panel Industry (WP BREF)

Commissioned by:

European Panel Federation (EPF), Brussels

Carried out by:

Ökopol GmbH, Hamburg – Institute for Environmental Strategies

In co-operation with:

vTI Institute for Wood Technology and Wood Biology (von Thünen-Institute) and Institute of Wood Science of the University of Hamburg

Duration:

2010

Background and Task Description

Since 1996, in Europe permitting procedures of certain sectors are based on the IPPC Directive. The European Commission has reviewed the Directive, resulting in the Industrial Emissions Directive of 7 July 2010 (IED). A new element of the IED Directive is an extension of the sectors regulated European-wide on a harmonised basis. One of the new sectors is the wood-based panel industry with a capacity exceeding 600 m³ per day for the production of particleboard, MDF (medium-density fibreboard) and OSB (oriented-strand board).

The IPPC Directive and the new IED foresee an official information exchange procedure on best available techniques (BAT) for the prevention and control of emissions in the sectors under the scope. It is organised by the European IPPC Bureau in Seville, resulting in BAT Reference Documents (BREFs). BAT conclusions are the European reference for setting the permitting conditions.

Objectives

The European wood-based panel industry aims to be prepared for the start of the information exchange. Therefore, Ökopol has been awarded a contract to assist the European Panel Federation (EPF) in its work on the contribution of a draft industry BREF document. The European Panel Federation (EPF) represents most manufacturers of the wood-based panel industry in Europe. Ökopol is assisted by the Institute for Wood Technology and Wood Biology (von Thünen-Institute) in Hamburg and the Institute of Wood Science of the University of Hamburg. Ökopol will work in close cooperation with the IPPC working group in EPF, consisting of member companies from all Europe. The outcome of the project is an industry proposal for a BREF document on the wood-based panel industry, describing the sector activities in Europe in general, applied processes and techniques, current consumption and emission levels as well as best available techniques (BAT) and emission levels associated with BAT.

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