

What exactly is a Royal designation?

From now on the Royal Eijkelkamp Earth Sampling Group will find itself amongst a select group of Royal companies such as KLM, Philips, Shell and Ahold. But what exactly does the designation involve?

Distinction from the Queen

The designation "Royal" is a distinction that is granted to societies, foundations, establishments and large companies and it symbolises the respect, appreciation and trust of the Queen of the Netherlands towards the recipient. Only the Queen can award the designation. The designation is strictly by name and means that the organisation may add the designation Royal to its name and may incorporate the Royal Crown in its logo (you can see the result on the next page).

"Not every company comes into consideration for the Royal designation."



The Royal certificate



Fons Eijkelkamp with the official Royal certificate

List of criteria

The designation is applied for via the mayor in the place of business. The registers of the Judicial Records Service are consulted and the application, along with the recommendation of the mayor, is then sent to the Queen's commissioner who, after consulting the services and ministries relevant to the judgement, makes his own recommendation. The Queen's commissioner finally notifies the applicant of the Queen's decision. The whole procedure takes about a year.

This is an extremely prestigious award as not every organisation that is put forward for the Royal designation is awarded the title. The company must have prestige in terms of type, size and reliability. It must take on a very prominent position within its field in the Netherlands and preferably have an international image. Account is also taken of the size of the company, the number of employees and the turnover. The management should be beyond reproach. The company, and its directors and commissioners, must be of good repute and unblemished conduct. Furthermore, a company must have been in existence for at least 100 years.

Obligations and extension

If the Queen is ultimately prepared to award the designation, the company is asked to adhere to the 'Conditions regarding the Royal designation'. The most important obligation is that the holder shall refrain from anything that would damage its reputation. Violation of the conditions can lead to the loss of the right to use the designation. In the event of bankruptcy, or if the organisation is transferred into other hands, if its independence is lost or if the nature of the organisation changes the Royal status can be removed. Separately from this, the right can be withdrawn at any time.

The right is awarded for a maximum period of 25 years, after which the holder can ask the Queen for an extension via the mayor. Another check is then made by running through the same steps as those for the application process.