



FSC CONTROLLED WOOD STANDARD: AVOIDING ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY DAMAGING WOOD

Growing public concern with illegal logging and environmental and social damaging practices has resulted in a greater need for forest companies, corporations and governments to exercise social and environmental responsibility.

FSC labeled products guarantee that wood material originates from socially and environmentally responsible forest operations that fulfill the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Despite continuous growth of the FSC market share, some shortages remain in the supply of FSC material. To allow manufacturers to provide FSC labeled products in spite of supply shortages, FSC introduced the FSC Percentage Based Claims policy. This permits manufacturing companies to mix FSC-certified material with non-certified material that came from non-controversial sources, and promote it with the FSC label.

The FSC Controlled Wood standard (FSC-STD-40-005 *Standard for company evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood*) replaces the controversial sources requirements of the FSC Percentage Based Claims Policy. In essence the Controlled Wood standard sets clearer specifications for non-certified material in the FSC supply chain.

Controlling uncertified timber in FSC-labeled products

The FSC Controlled Wood standard helps FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certified companies avoid the use of unacceptable sources of wood in products carrying the FSC Mixed Sources label.

This provides FSC CoC certified companies with the tools to control the non FSC certified wood in their FSC product groups, so as to avoid wood produced in socially and environmentally damaging ways.

FSC Controlled Wood standard allows manufacturers and traders to avoid wood that has been:

1. Illegally harvested.
2. Harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.
3. Harvested in forests in which High Conservation Values are threatened by management activities.
4. Harvested from areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses.
5. Harvested from Forest Management Units in which genetically modified trees are planted.

The FSC Controlled Wood standard (FSC-STD-40-005) will become mandatory for all FSC Chain of Custody certificate holders as of the beginning of 2008.

The FSC Controlled Wood Approach

More than just legality:

Besides addressing international concerns on illegal logging, FSC Controlled Wood also includes a balanced consideration of key social and environmental issues, which ensures that a minimum performance level is achieved on the ground. This is particularly important in countries where forest related legislation and governance are weak, where compliance with legality can still happen with social and environmental unacceptable practices, such as forest conversion or violation of indigenous peoples' rights.

Assessing risk of wood supplies:

The FSC Controlled Wood standard includes a comprehensive methodology to help companies assess potential risks associated with procuring wood from certain forest areas in relation to the five elements that FSC Controlled Wood seeks to avoid.

Maintaining the credibility of the FSC system

FSC Controlled Wood may be used for business-to-business communication in sales and shipping documentation. There is no associated on-product labeling for these products. Chain of Custody operations wishing to label their final products with the FSC label are required to use FSC certified wood in their product groups. The purpose of FSC Controlled Wood is to support the production of FSC Mixed Sources and therefore does not create a parallel market.

A tool to improve forest management

Bringing more forest operations in line with the FSC system, FSC Controlled Wood may in some cases serve as a step up towards FSC certification. Forest Management companies that comply with FSC-STD-30-010 *FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises* will be able to supply FSC Controlled Wood to FSC CoC operations (Box).

Box. Forest Management Enterprises

FSC Controlled Wood

Wood controlled to avoid timber from environmentally and socially damaging sources, amongst others, include forest operations that:

- Harvest illegally
- Violate traditional and civil rights
- Threaten high conservation value forests
- Convert forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses
- Plant genetically modified trees in the forest management unit

Forest operations adopting FSC controlled wood standard can communicate business-to-business in order to supply FSC Controlled Wood to FSC Chain of Custody certified operations.

FSC Certified Wood

Wood certified meeting FSC standards for environmentally and socially beneficial forestry, amongst others, include forest operations that:

- Respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.
- Benefit the social well-being of indigenous forest population
- Promote the conservation of forest ecosystem biodiversity
- Assess social and environmental impact on forest operations
- Ensure the implementation and compliance of forest management plans
- Limitations in use of exotic species, pesticides and fertilizers

Forest operations adopting FSC certification can communicate business-to-business as well as *business-to consumer* (i.e. via the FSC on product label) about the company's contribution towards environmentally and socially beneficial forestry.

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