

Important Dates from the changes introduced in FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1

1. Extension of the transition period until 31 December 2017

- The original transition period for V2-1 to V3-0 was going to end on 30 June 2017. However, the transition period was extended until 31 December 2017. At the same time the new version of the standard was introduced (V3-1). This created an exceptional situation in the transition from V2-1 of the standard to its most current version V3-1. Normally, the transition would involve first implementing version 3-0 and subsequently version 3-1. Instead, under these conditions, the following transition rules apply:
 - a) Organizations that have already undergone an audit against V3-0 do not have to be re-evaluated against V3-1 by the end of the transition period (31 December 2017). They just need to follow their regular audit cycle and be audited against V3-1 in the next audit.
 - b) Organizations which have not yet undergone an audit against V3-0 have two possibilities:
 - They can be audited directly against V3-1, starting from the publication date of V3-1 and, without undergoing an interim audit against V3-0,
- OR
- They may be audited against V3-0 until 30 June 2017, and then undergo the transition to V3-1 at the next audit taking place according to the regular audit schedule. This opportunity is given to accommodate logistical arrangements made by CBs and CHs who have already prepared for the audit according to version V3-0.

2. Deadline for company risk assessments (CRAs)

- Company-conducted risk assessments (now called company risk assessment and extended company risk assessment) will continue to be valid after 31 December 2017 in countries where CNRAs / NRAs are in development but not yet complete;
- The deadline by which company risk assessments must cease being used for organization-owned or managed forests has been removed;
- Reminder: if the CNRAs/NRAs is approved by FSC, organizations are still require to adopt the approved FSC risk assessment within 6 months of the date of their approval by FSC (Clause 3.2 of FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1).

3. Deadline for “old NRAs”¹

- New deadline for using “old NRAs”: 31 December 2018 which means the “old NRAs” will remain valid until 31 December 2018; and
- If the NRA is not revised according to FSC-PRO-60-002 V3-0 by 31 December 2018, areas covered will become unassessed areas, meaning extended company risk assessments shall be used when sourcing from those areas.

¹ “old NRAs” refer to the national risk assessments developed according to FSC-PRO-60-002 V2-0