



## FSC CONTROLLED WOOD: AVOIDING ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY DAMAGING WOOD

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

FSC labeled products demonstrate that the material originates from responsible forest management practices that benefit people and the environment. Despite continued and sustained growth of the FSC market share, some shortages still remain in the supply of FSC material. To allow manufacturers to provide FSC labeled products, FSC has introduced the 'FSC Mixed Sources' label which allows manufacturing companies, printers, publishers and traders to mix FSC certified material with non-certified material.

The non-certified portion must comply with the FSC Controlled Wood standards to avoid timber and non-timber products produced in socially and environmentally damaging ways.

There are two Controlled Wood standards. Forest management enterprises can be certified as Controlled Wood by complying with the FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FSC-STD-30-010). Alternatively, enterprises along the supply chain can conduct their own assessment to control the material according to the Standard for Company Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-40-005).

### Controlling uncertified timber in FSC labeled products

The FSC Controlled Wood standard helps FSC certified manufacturers, printers, publishers and traders to control the non-certified material used in products carrying the FSC Mixed Sources label. It is a mandatory tool to **avoid** timber and non-timber products produced in socially and environmentally damaging ways.

Controlled material must be independently verified before it is sold as controlled material or mixed with FSC certified material to become part of a product that can be sold carrying the FSC label.

#### Box 1. 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. It 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 socially and environmentally unacceptable practices, such as forest conversion or violation of indigenous peoples' rights.

## The FSC Controlled Wood Approach – a tool against illegal logging and social and environmental damages

FSC Controlled Wood ensures a minimum performance level on the ground beyond legal requirements. Forest management enterprises certified as FSC Controlled Wood must comply with the FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FSC-STD-30-010). Once independently verified by an FSC accredited certification body, Controlled Wood certified operations can supply this material as controlled to certified manufacturers and traders.

Whilst the Controlled Wood standard includes a balanced consideration of social and environmental issues, it does not compare to the strict requirements of the FSC Principles and Criteria. Full certification to this internationally recognized standard can be too large a step for some forest operations. In these cases Controlled Wood may serve as a first step and minimum performance for operations that would like to achieve FSC certification. Box 3 outlines some key features of the requirements of Controlled Wood and the FSC Principles and Criteria.

### Box 2. Controlled Wood AVOIDS material that is harvested:

1. Illegally
2. In violation of traditional and civil rights
3. In forests in which High Conservation Value are threatened by management activities
4. From areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses
5. From forest areas in which genetically modified (GM) trees are planted



### Assessing risk of wood supplies

Enterprises in the FSC supply chain can source controlled material directly from Controlled Wood certified forests.

Alternatively, manufacturers and traders can conduct their own assessment to control the material.

In this case, an enterprise must comply with the Standard for Company Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-40-005).

The standard includes a comprehensive methodology to assess potential risks associated with procuring wood to ensure that the five main elements of Controlled Wood are avoided (Box 2).

Only when the assessment is independently verified by an FSC accredited certification body can this material enter the FSC supply chain.



### Maintaining the credibility of the FSC system

Forestry operations adopting FSC Controlled Wood standards can demonstrate their commitment in business-to-business communication through sales and shipping documentation only. There is no on-product labeling for controlled material or promotional claims by CW certified operations. FSC certified manufacturers and traders must use certified material in order to label their final products with the FSC label.

The purpose of FSC Controlled Wood is to support the production of FSC Mixed Sources and should not to create a parallel market.



**Box 3. Forest management enterprises**

FSC Controlled Wood material	FSC certified material
<p>Certification according to FSC Controlled Wood standards ensures a minimum performance level on the ground and includes a balanced consideration of social and environmental issues. Amongst others, the material comes from forest areas that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Is not harvested illegally</li> <li>✓ Do not violate traditional and civil rights</li> <li>✓ Do not threaten areas of High Conservation Value</li> <li>✓ Are not being converted to forests or other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses</li> <li>✓ Ensures the implementation and compliance of forest management plans – only if a national legal requirement</li> <li>✓ Are free of genetically modified (GM) plants or trees</li> </ul> <p>Forestry operations adopting FSC Controlled Wood standards can demonstrate their commitment in business-to-business communication.</p>	<p>Certification according to the FSC Principles and Criteria support environmentally and socially beneficial forest management. Amongst others it includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory</li> <li>✓ Protects and improves the social well-being of indigenous forest population</li> <li>✓ Protects and promotes the conservation of forest ecosystem biodiversity</li> <li>✓ Assesses social and environmental impacts</li> <li>✓ Ensure the implementation and compliance of forest management plans - always required</li> <li>✓ Are free of GM plants or trees, and limitations in use of exotic species, pesticides and fertilizers</li> </ul> <p>Forestry operations adopting full FSC certification can demonstrate their commitment in business-to-business and business-to-consumer communication.</p>

**Useful resources**

- ✓ Controlled Wood – a guide for FSC chain of custody certified companies:  
[www.fsc.org/resourcescenter.html](http://www.fsc.org/resourcescenter.html)
- ✓ Controlled Wood Resource Center:  
[www.fsccontrolledwood.org/Default.aspx](http://www.fsccontrolledwood.org/Default.aspx)
- ✓ FSC certificates database:  
[www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org)

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