



FSC® Controlled Wood in Australia

March, 2013

Introduction & Purpose of Controlled Wood

The FSC Mix label was introduced in 2004 and allows manufacturers to mix FSC certified material with uncertified materials in FSC labeled products under controlled conditions. This has enabled manufacturers to manage fluctuating supplies of FSC certified forest products, while creating demand for FSC certified wood.

Controlled Wood grew out of FSC's Policy on Percentage Based Claims in 1997. Prior to this, products needed to be made of 100% pure FSC Certified material, which proved to be difficult to apply to some mainstream forest products. For this reason, only a limited amount of products ever reached consumers as certified. With the decision to allow for FSC Mix products came the parallel need to ensure that the uncertified portion of the certified product met a minimum threshold of requirements.

The FSC Controlled Wood Standard aims to avoid the use of wood products from 'unacceptable' sources in FSC labeled products.

There are two different systems under which FSC Mix products can be produced, both of which are designed to encourage companies to use more and more FSC Certified wood, and reduce use of FSC Controlled Wood:

1. **Percentage system**
Products (solid wood) must contain a minimum of 70% FSC and/or postconsumer reclaimed materials, the balance (maximum 30%) must be Controlled Wood
2. **Credit System**
There is no minimum level of FSC and/or post consumer reclaimed input, but only a proportionate percentage of outputs can be labeled as FSC. All non-FSC/non-recycled content must be FSC Controlled Wood.

Hence, producers of controlled wood do not access the FSC market benefits of those with full FSC Certification. Controlled Wood is however, an important first step and provides an incentive for producers to achieve full FSC Certification.

WHAT IS CONTROLLED WOOD?

Controlled Wood ensures the avoidance of wood in FSC certified products that come from the following unacceptable sources:

- Illegally harvested wood
- Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights
- Wood harvested from forests where High Conservation Values are threatened
- Wood harvested from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest uses
- Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

Selling Controlled Wood

Trade of FSC Controlled Wood can be between FSC Chain of Custody operations when mixing with FSC certified material in FSC Mixed products. This means that any company supplying FSC Controlled Wood shall hold a valid FSC Chain of Custody certificate duly issued by an FSC accredited Certification Body, which includes an FSC Controlled Wood registration code.

No claims of 'FSC Controlled Wood' are allowed for promotional purposes and no labeling is allowed for products sold as 'FSC Controlled Wood'.

Companies supplying FSC Controlled Wood can only make claims regarding FSC Controlled Wood or use the statement 'FSC Controlled Wood' in business to business communications (e.g. invoices, delivery dockets and shipping documentation).

Finding Suppliers

Suppliers of Controlled Wood can be identified using the FSC International Certificate database at info.fsc.org.

To search for forests certified to FSC Controlled Wood standards, select 'CW/FM' from the drop down list of categories under the 'Certificate Code' Search field.

To search for FSC Chain of Custody certified companies with Controlled Wood included in the scope of their certification, place a tick in the 'CW' box under the 'Certificate Code' search field.



The International Controlled Wood Standards

The non-FSC material used in FSC Mix products must comply with the FSC Controlled Wood or FSC Recycled Standards.

There are two ways in which manufacturers and traders can use Controlled Wood, and exclude timber from unacceptable sources from the supply chain.

The International Standards are available at www.ic.fsc.org/standards.340.htm

FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FSC-STD-30-010)

This Standard specifies basic requirements applicable at the forest management unit (FMU) level for forest management enterprises to demonstrate to a company or third party certification body that the wood supplied is controlled. It allows forest management enterprises to provide evidence that the wood they supply has been controlled to avoid wood from unacceptable sources.

FSC Standard for Company Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-40-005)

This Standard has been designed to allow companies to avoid wood from unacceptable sources by evaluating the source. The material's forest of origin must be risk assessed against this standard and found to be at a low risk.

Global Forest Risk Registry

The Global Forest and Risk Registry is a free tool providing information about the risk of sourcing controversial wood and other forest products from more than 150 countries. The registry contains countrywide risk assessments, such as what has been created and approved by FSC Australia that are mandatory for companies with Controlled Wood in their scope.

See www.globalforestregistry.org

FSC Controlled Wood in Australia

National Risk Assessment – 'Annexe 2'

FSC Australia developed a formal Risk Assessment for Controlled Wood in the Australian Context in 2009. This is known under FSC-STD-40-005 as the 'Annex 2' and is available on the Global Forest Risk Registry and at

www.fscaustralia.org/policies-and-standards/controlled-wood

This Controlled Wood Risk Assessment (FSC-CWRA-001-AUS) provides guidance to both companies and certification bodies seeking to identify risks in accordance with FSC-STD-40-005.

All of the resources are available at:

www.fscaustralia.org/policies-and-standards/high-conservation-values

High Conservation Values Framework

The treatment of High Conservation Values in the National Risk Assessment required a guidance document to be developed.

After nearly 4 years of consultation with social, environmental and economic stakeholders, version 3-4 has been approved by FSC International and will be effective for all Controlled Wood assessments conducted after 1 May 2013.

The framework focuses on supporting the implementation of the Annex 3 of the FSC Controlled Wood Standards. However, the framework will serve as a basis for interpretation of HCV definition for Principle 9 in the context of the Australian National Standard and shall be used in the interim as guidance for Certification Body adapted standards applied in Australia.

For clarification, as to the meaning of "guidance" in FSC, please refer to: ic.fsc.org/requirements-guidance.105.htm

FSC Australia has also sought to provide assistance to companies by creating the HCV Directory of Information Sources. This will assist companies in ascertaining where resources may exist and help them identify HCV's in Australia.

Continuous Improvement – FSC Actions

Following Motion 51 being passed by the International membership at the General Assembly in July 2011, FSC International is working towards the goal of strengthening the Controlled Wood system, and is executing an action plan that will:

- Ensure all countries develop National Risk Assessments (as has occurred in Australia) and phase out company developed Risk Assessments (ie the Annex 2 process of FSC-STD-40-005)
- Revise the requirements for sourcing controlled wood from areas designated as 'unspecified risk' in National Risk Assessments. A chamber balanced Technical Committee has been established to provide strategic input into this process, and the Australian approach is being reviewed as part of it.
- Bring the Controlled Wood standard in line with the new EU Timber Regulations, US Lacey Act, Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and other timber legality legislation.
- Review existing company risk assessments in order to cancel or correct any which do not currently meet Controlled Wood requirements.

The Motions passed at the General Assembly can be viewed at www.motions.fsc.org/motions

The Policy & Standards Committee of the FSC Australia Board is also working on a guidance note relating to stakeholder engagement in FSC Controlled Wood processes.