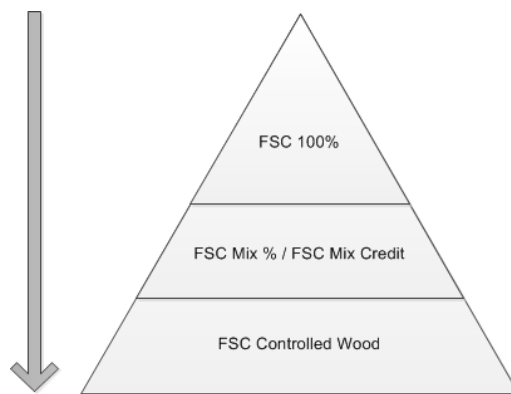


New FSC Standards Interpretations published in May 2013

1. Standards Interpretations on FSC-STD-40-004 Standard for Chain of Custody Certification

1.1 Is it possible to downgrade an FSC output Claim?

Yes, the following FSC output claims may be downgraded in any of the three systems for controlling FSC Claims (Transfer, Percentage and Credit System) as presented in the diagram below. In all cases, the FSC label shall correspond to the FSC invoice claim.



NOTE: FSC Mix % and FSC Recycled % output claims may be downgraded to claims with a lower percentage. The downgrading of FSC Recycled Credit output claims is not allowed.

Normative Reference: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1

Requirement(s): Clause 6.1.1 g

Published: 29.05.2013

1.2 The FSC trademark standard specifies that the FSC label shall not be used to make a partial claim about a product. However, is it acceptable that companies supplying the construction sector make partial FSC claims on sales and delivery documents of construction elements (e.g. dam walls), if these products also contain components of other forestry conformity assessment schemes?

Yes, companies supplying construction elements are allowed to make partial FSC claims on sales and delivery documents only. In this scenario, the products are not eligible to carry the FSC label and therefore, cannot be claimed and promoted as FSC certified product. The FSC claims and claims of other certification schemes shall not be merged. All elements of the FSC claims must be comprehensible and easily identifiable.

Normative Reference: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1

Requirement(s): Clause 6.1.1

Published: 29.05.2013



2. Standards Interpretation on FSC-STD-20-011 Accreditation Standard for Chain of Custody Evaluation

2.1 FSC considers outsourcing across national borders to countries with Corruption Perception Index (CPI) lower than 5 as high risk activity. If a company based in China establishes an outsourcing agreement with another company situated in Hong Kong, is this situation considered as cross-border outsourcing?

Recognizing that Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, FSC does not consider the outsourcing activity of a company based in Hong Kong to a company based in mainland China to be cross-board outsourcing in the context of FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1 Clause 2.1.1.f

Normative Reference: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1
Requirement(s): Clause 2.1.1.f
Published: 29.05.2013

3. Standards Interpretations on FSC-STD-20-001 General requirements for FSC accredited Certification Bodies

3.1 FSC-STD-20-001 requires that a chain of custody evaluation team shall always include at least one team member who is fluent in the language of the area in which the evaluation takes place, or a designated independent interpreter. Are there any scenarios that could warrant an exception to this rule, such as cases where the parent company has a standard corporate language requirement which is different from the local language?

It is acceptable that the evaluation team include at least one team member who is fluent in the corporate language instead of the local language if all of the following criteria are met:

- All relevant records and procedures for the CoC system are written and understood in the corporate language;
- All management staff and those with FSC responsibilities can communicate fluently in the corporate language.

Normative Reference: FSC-STD-20-001 V3-0
Requirement(s): Annex 3, Clause 2.1.2
Published: 29.05.2013

3.2 Can an ASI witness audit be substituted for a witness audit carried out by the CB to meet the requirements of 12.4? In other words does a witness audit performed by ASI on a particular Lead audit fulfill this requirement or are CBs required to conduct a witness audit of every lead audit regardless of whether or not they have been witnessed by ASI to conform to this requirement?



No, the responsibility for complying with the requirements of FSC-STD-20-001 cannot be “outsourced” to ASI.

Normative Reference: FSC-STD-20-001 V3-0

Requirement(s): Clause 12.4

Published: 29.05.2013