



FSC and Packaging

This factsheet is for companies using and/or producing FSC-certified packaging materials.

What is FSC?

FSC helps take care of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. The FSC system can help you to choose wood, paper and other forest products such as cork and latex from well-managed forests and/or verified and recycled sources.

FSC-Certified Packaging

Whether you source printed or non-printed customer-facing packaging or transport packaging, there is an FSC-certified option available for you.

Packaging products available with FSC certification include, but are not limited to, wooden and composite pallets, solid-timber and plywood packing cases and crates, cardboard and corrugated paper and paper bags, sleeves, boxes, cartons and labels. There are even certified cork closures for wine and champagne.



The FSC label can be found on packaging for Marks & Spencer, Boots, Tesco, Innocent, Yorkshire Tea, Silver Spoon, Pukka Herbs, Organix and many other brands.

Chain of Custody

Chain of Custody (CoC) certification connects consumers to healthy forests by tracking products from forest to shelf.

Do I Need Chain of Custody Certification?

- Any company involved in the transformation or processing of a forest-based product, who wishes to apply an FSC label to their products and/or sell them with an FSC claim, must be FSC-certified.
- Companies that use FSC-certified packaging produced by a certified company do not normally need to hold their own FSC certification.
- Fillers or packers of products (e.g. a company that encloses a sandwich within an FSC-labelled sandwich pack), who do not transform or label the FSC packaging product, do not need FSC CoC certification – unless they are adding timber based products.
- Retailers and brands can apply for a promotional trademark licence to promote FSC-labelled packaging; however, some brands choose to hold their own FSC CoC certification in order that the licence code (contained within the FSC label applied to their products) links back to themselves rather than their supplier.

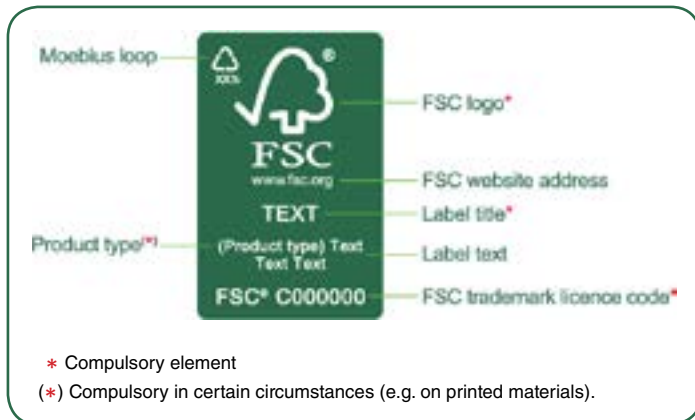
FSC Products and Packaging

It is possible for both a product and its packaging to be FSC certified e.g. a wooden hairbrush packed in a cardboard sleeve. Alternatively, it may be that an FSC product is packed in uncertified packaging or vice versa; in cases such as these it must be made clear to which element the FSC label refers to. FSC labels can include a range of product types, including 'wood', 'paper', 'board' and 'packaging'.

The FSC Labels

The FSC label is generally printed directly onto the packaging. Labels can be shown in positive and negative green, or black and white, and can be in either landscape or portrait orientation.

Each use of the FSC trademarks must be approved by the FSC-accredited certification body of the company applying the label.



On-Pack Recycling Label Scheme

The On-Pack Recycling Label Scheme (OPRL) is a voluntary scheme which aims to deliver a simpler, more consistent, UK-wide recycling message on both retailer and brand-owner packaging. This can help consumers recycle more material, more often.

FSC has granted a special trademark approval to enable the elements of the FSC label to be used within a panel featuring other information relating to environmental aspects or disposal information (like example above). More information is available on request.

Other useful documents available on request:

- FSC Standard: Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by Certificate Holders
- FSC Standard: Chain of Custody Certification
- Quick Guide: FSC Trademark Use for Certificate Holders
- Factsheet: FSC and Printed Materials
- Factsheet: FSC and Recycled Materials
- Factsheet: FSC Promotional Trademark Licences

The FSC Brandmark

Help us to share the true value of forests in all our lives by adding the FSC Forests For All Forever brandmark to your printed materials in addition to the FSC label. Contact your printer to request it.

