FSC Project Certification

FSC project certification is project and site specific. It can be used for virtually any type of new build or refurbishment project, and for permanent or temporary structures.

FSC certified construction projects in the UK include the London 2012 Athletes’ Village (now residential development East Village), WWF Living Planet Centre, M&S Cheshire Oaks, London office development 5 Broadgate, and Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital.

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 specify and procure timber, paper and other forest products such as cork and latex from well-managed forests and/or verified and recycled sources.

How does Project Certification work?

Having selected an FSC accredited Certification Body, your project manager (either in-house or a consultant) must then liaise with them to put in place a system of collating and verifying documents relating to purchases of FSC certified timber by all contractors and sub-contractors. As with any Chain of Custody certification, all relevant personnel will need training in:

- how to specify FSC certified timber
- how to find FSC certified suppliers
- how to verify that FSC certified timber has been supplied
- what to do if non-FSC certified timber is delivered

There are two possible options for FSC project certification:

- **Full Project Certification**
  
  For full project certification, the standard requires a minimum of 50% of the timber products used to be FSC 100%, FSC Mix or post-consumer reclaimed, with the remainder being ‘other reclaimed’ or ‘controlled wood’ (see overleaf).
• **Partial Project Certification**

For partial project certification, stated components will be FSC certified (e.g. windows, cladding, timber frames) and this must be made clear in all publicity. There are no minimum requirement or restrictions on sources of other timber (partial certification can either be the intention at the outset or a fall-back position if it proves impossible to meet full certification).

During the project the FSC trademarks can be used by the main contractor (using an applicant project ID code) for on-site signage and other communications. On successful completion, the certification body will carry out a final audit and will authorise the full use of FSC trademarks to promote the project, subject to normal rules.

A normal FSC Chain of Custody certificate is issued for 5 years, however a project certificate simply states the year of issue. Major refurbishments would, however, count as a new project.

*Below: Westside Apartments - Hollybrook Homes Ltd FSC-P001540*

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**How FSC classifies timber and wood fibre:**

- **FSC 100%** - Solely from FSC certified forests.
- **FSC Mix** - A mixture of some of all of the following: timber from an FSC certified forest, post-consumer reclaimed material and/or Controlled Wood.
- **FSC recycled** - Made of verified reclaimed materials.
- **Other reclaimed** - E.g. pre-consumer reclaimed.
- **FSC Controlled Wood** - Risk assessed as being from known, legal sources with no outstanding social conflicts, no GMOs, no clearance of natural forest for plantations and no uncertified high conservation value areas. This may include timber certified under other certification systems however this is NOT automatic.

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**Other useful documents and links:**

- Standard: FSC Chain of Custody Standard for Project Certification
- FSC Public Project Certificate Search info.fsc.org/project.php
- FSC Public Certificate Search: info.fsc.org
- Factsheet: Specifying FSC Certified Timber
- Factsheet: FSC and Procurement
- Factsheet: FSC Recycled