



FSC and Procurement

Our forests are under threat and those who buy a range of materials, including timber, paper and other forest products could be rewarding damaging and destructive practices.

Many timber and paper suppliers will tell you, often in good faith, that their supplies are from 'sustainable' or 'managed' sources, or from plantations. Without an independent certification system, there is often no way of verifying this or of demonstrating to your clients that you have met their expectations.

If you don't know where your timber and paper come from, you could be part of the problem.

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.



"Some 129 million hectares of forest - an area almost equivalent in size to South Africa - have been lost since 1990"

- FAO 2015



Why specify FSC?

- **We have the highest standards**

We set higher standards than any other forest certification scheme, which gives users the best assurance that certified forests are being managed responsibly.

- **We are respected and credible**

We are the preferred certification scheme for business and the one most widely used by members of the Fortune 500.

- **We are recognised**

FSC is recognised by BREEAM and the UK Government Timber Procurement Policy. We are a member of ISEAL Alliance, the global association for sustainability standards, and are the only forest certification scheme endorsed by Greenpeace and WWF.

What products are available with FSC certification?

FSC certification is available on wood, paper and other forest products, such as cork and natural latex.

Just about everything from sawn timber to sticky labels is available with FSC certification. Many of the UK's leading timber and paper suppliers hold FSC certification. FSC UK can help you to locate appropriate suppliers and materials - get in touch for free advice.



Purchasing

- Source from an FSC certified supplier. All FSC certified organisations are included within the FSC certificate database at www.info.fsc.org
- Check that the certificate is valid and that it covers the appropriate product categories using the database at www.info.fsc.org
- Specify FSC certified materials when placing your order and let your supplier know that you need them to make an FSC claim on their sale documents
- Check that the delivery note and/or invoice clearly identifies the FSC certified products and includes the supplier's FSC certificate code

Procurement Policies

Buyers of forest products could be contributing to deforestation.

Many organisations have, or are now implementing procurement policies to help safeguard against this.

A timber/paper procurement policy is a good way to ensure everyone in your organisation knows what timber/paper is acceptable for use. It can also help you to make and meet Corporate Social Responsibility targets.

Template timber/ paper procurement policies for the private and public sectors are available from FSC UK.

