



Specifying FSC-Certified Timber

FSC-certified timber, panels and timber products are widely available from leading timber and builders' merchants. To check if your supplier holds FSC certification visit info.fsc.org, or for help finding suppliers, contact FSC UK at info@fsc-uk.org.

Credibility

Many timber 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.

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.



Why Specify FSC?

- **We have the highest standards**
We set higher standards than any other forest certification scheme, giving users the best assurance that FSC-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**
The FSC system is recognised by BREEAM and the UK Government Timber Procurement Policy. We are the only forest certification scheme member of ISEAL Alliance, the global association for sustainability standards.

Procuring FSC-Certified Timber

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

Timber may or may not physically carry the FSC trademarks. Your proof that FSC-certified timber products have been procured, as specified, is the invoice from the supplier, which should clearly state the applicable FSC claim/s and their FSC certificate code. Only FSC-certified organisations can make FSC claims on their invoices and delivery notes.

Purchasing FSC-Certified Timber

- Source from an FSC-certified supplier.
- Check that the certificate is valid using the online database (info.fsc.org) and that it covers the product categories which you are procuring.
- Specify FSC-certified materials when placing your order and let your supplier know that you need them to make an FSC claim on their sales documents.
- Check that the delivery note and/or invoice clearly identifies the FSC-certified product(s) and FSC claim and includes the supplier's FSC certificate code.

Chain of Custody Certification

Chain of Custody (CoC) certification connects consumers to healthy forests by tracking products from forest to shelf. It ensures that FSC materials and products have been checked at every stage of processing, reassuring customers purchasing products sold with FSC claims that they are genuinely FSC-certified. Any company involved in the transformation or processing of a forest-based product, or wishing to apply the FSC label to their products and/or sell them with an FSC claim, must be FSC-certified.

Project Certification

FSC project certification is project and site specific and can be used for virtually any type of new build or refurbishment project, for permanent or temporary structures. FSC-certified construction projects in the UK include the London 2012 Athletes' Village (now East Village residential development), WWF Living Planet Centre, M&S Cheshire Oaks (image opposite) and London office development, 5 Broadgate.

Tenders

If you are inviting tenders that include a requirement for FSC-certified materials, it is important to ensure that suppliers are aware of the requirement that both the timber and the company themselves (not just their supplier) must be FSC-certified.



Those tendering for projects requiring the use of FSC-certified materials should ensure that they hold FSC certification. This will enable them to provide the appropriate evidence of FSC certification to their contracting organisation.

Other useful documents (available on request)

- Factsheet: FSC and Procurement
- Sample policies: Template procurement policies for the private and public sectors
- Factsheet: FSC Chain of Custody Certification
- Factsheet: FSC Project Certification
- FSC Standard: FSC Chain of Custody Certification
- FSC Standard: FSC Chain of Custody Standard for Project Certification