

What is FSC?



© FSC is a commitment to good forestry practices, carried from forest to consumer.

The FSC is an international non-profit organization founded in 1993 as a voluntary and market-based mechanism for ensuring that the world's forests are managed in an environmentally responsible, socially acceptable and economically viable manner.

Under FSC certification, forestry companies are independently audited to meet the FSC's strict forest management standards. Beyond the forest, all producers along the supply chain must be chain of custody certified. At every stage of manufacturing or distribution, the fibre going into a product is tracked and identified. The FSC system not only makes certain that virgin fibre used in a product is from a sustainable source, but it ensures that claims regarding the recycled content of products are verifiable. In an unbroken chain of commitment from forest to consumer, the FSC label carries the promise that a product comes from a forest friendly source.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about FSC is that environmental groups the world over agree that when it comes to responsible forestry FSC is the only credible assurance for consumers.

“FSC has the highest environmental standard for forest management of any certification system in the world.” Monte Hummel, President Emeritus, World Wildlife Fund Canada

FSC supports healthy forests and healthy communities

Consumers, business, government agencies and communities are increasingly concerned about the way our forests are used. And they're savvy: empty promises about the environment don't cut it anymore. That's why FSC certification is rigorous: it delivers on its promise. Community and Aboriginal Peoples' consultation is built in. Fragile ecosystems, cultural needs, and workers' rights are protected. Add the guarantee that the FSC label tracks directly back to an approved source, and you have real value. On the ground this means real benefits:

- Waterways are protected
- Wildlife habitat and species are protected



- High conservation value forests are preserved
- Forest management practices are monitored annually
- Genetically modified trees are not used
- Pesticide use is reduced
- Local people are involved in forest management
- The rights of Aboriginal Peoples are respected