

Forest certification and FSC™

At a glance

Forest certification is a system that combines **auditing forest practices** with **tracing forest products**

The **FSC™** oversees and accredits **third-party certification bodies** to **assess** and **audit** forest owners, who participate **voluntarily**, against **FSC™ standards and criteria**.

FSC™ standards are based on **10 principles** supported by **56 criteria**

FSC™ has **3 types of certification**

- Forest Management
- Chain-of-Custody
- Controlled Wood and Mixed Sources

100% of our own and leased **plantations** are **FSC™-certified**

In 2013, **86%** of the **woodfibre** supplied to our manufacturing operations was **FSC™-certified**, the balance was procured from **known and controlled sources**.

Ensuring forest products are sourced responsibly...



"Our mission is to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of the world's forests....so that we can meet our current needs for forest products without compromising the health of the world's forests for future generations."

Forest Stewardship Council

What is forest certification?

Forest certification is a way of verifying, through the inspection of forest management activities and the tracking of timber, pulp and other forest products, to ensure they have been produced according to a strict set of environmental, social, and economic standards.

The key to forest certification is a system that combines auditing forest practices with tracing forest products. The certification process begins in the forest and continues through the entire chain-of-custody, so the end consumers can be certain they are buying an environmentally sound, responsibly produced, product.

Essentially, certification is a tool which helps environmentally and socially conscious consumers make the right choice when they buy paper products.

Which forest certification system does Sappi use in South Africa?

In South Africa we use the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™), an independently verified, internationally accepted, forest certification system. All our own and leased plantations are FSC™-certified and, together with FSC™-certified timber produced by farmers under the Sappi Group Scheme and other schemes, 86% of the wood supplied to us is FSC™-certified. The balance is procured from known and controlled sources.

Which of Sappi's South African mills are certified?

Our Enstra, Ngodwana, Saiccor, Stanger, and Tugela Mills are all FSC™ Chain-of-Custody certified giving them the right to label their products as FSC mixed sources™.

Are Sappi's third-party timber suppliers in South Africa certified?

We have established a group scheme for small and medium sized growers. There are currently 50 participants in the scheme with plantations ranging from a few hundred hectares to well over 10,000ha.

Micro grower certification remains challenging. Forestry South Africa is engaged in a three-year study in collaboration with the FSC™, to review a number of alternative assessment approaches to micro grower certification. The study is currently in its first year.

Timber from micro growers is recognised as controlled wood and can thus be used to produce FSC™ products labelled as **mixed sources**.





Which forest certification system does Sappi use elsewhere?

Globally, FSC™-certified wood supply is limited. Therefore, in addition to pursuing FSC™-certification in Europe and North America, we also pursue independent, third-party Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certifications through the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™ (PEFC™) in Europe and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) in North America. By achieving and maintaining these certifications in addition to FSC™-certification, we are increasing the likelihood that we will be able to offer our products as CoC certified by at least one third-party, independent certifying body.

How does the FSC™ work?

The FSC™ oversees and accredits third-party certification bodies to assess and audit forest owners, who participate voluntarily, against FSC™ standards and criteria. Certification covers all types of situations, including communal and group certifications, natural and semi-natural forests, government owned forests and plantations. FSC™-certification affirms that the forest or plantation has been independently inspected and evaluated for compliance with local laws, respect for indigenous and traditional people's rights, the health, safety and rights of forest workers, and the provision of a wide range of social benefits.

What are the types of FSC™-certification?

FSC™ Forest Management certification Forest managers or owners who want to verify that their forest operations are socially beneficial and managed in an environmentally appropriate and economically viable manner can apply for Forest Management (FM) certification. To achieve FM-certification, the forest and its management must comply with the Principles, Criteria and Indicators (Ps, Cs & Is) of FSC™ FM-certification. FSC™ FM-certification means that the forest from which the trees were harvested has been managed in accordance with the FSC™ Forest Management Standard.

FSC™ Chain-of-Custody certification tracks the origin of a raw material at each stage of the production process, from beginning to end. For forest-based industries, like ours, certifying the chain-of-custody means verifying that the wood used at each stage of the production process came from a forest certified as being sustainably managed. It is only valid if each link in the chain is checked. Once a link in the chain is broken, material loses its certified status.

FSC™ Controlled Wood and Mixed Sources Despite continued and sustained growth of FSC™ market share, some shortages remain in the supply of FSC™ material. To allow manufacturers to provide FSC™-labelled products, FSC™ has introduced the 'mixed' label. This allows manufacturing companies to mix FSC™-certified material with non-certified material – a minimum of 70% certified content is required.

What standards does FSC™ prescribe?

The FSC™ standards are based on **ten principles** supported by **56 criteria**.

Principle 1	Compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.
Principle 2	Maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of workers .
Principle 3	Identifying and upholding indigenous peoples' legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land , territories and resources affected by management activities.
Principle 4	Contributing to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities .
Principle 5	Efficiently managing the range of multiple products and services to maintain or enhance long term economic viability and the range of environmental and social benefits .
Principle 6	Reduction of environmental impact of logging activities and maintenance of the ecological functions and integrity of the forest.
Principle 7	Maintaining, conserving and/or restoring ecosystem services and environmental values and avoiding, repairing or mitigating negative environmental impacts.
Principle 8	Appropriate monitoring and assessment activities to assess the condition of the forest, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.
Principle 9	Maintenance of High Conservation Values through application of the precautionary approach .
Principle 10	Management activities should be consistent with an organisation's economic, environmental and social policies and objectives and in compliance with the Principles and Criteria collectively

What is covered by the 56 FSC™ criteria?

These are some of the provisions of the 56 FSC™ criteria:

- Prohibits conversion of natural forests or other habitats
- Prohibits the use of highly hazardous pesticides
- Prohibits the cultivation of genetically modified trees
- Respects the right of indigenous peoples
- Audits a sample of each certified operation at least once a year; if they are found not to comply, the certificate is withdrawn.

