

FSC Advice

ADVICE-40-005-17	Documentation and procedural requirements to demonstrate the geographical district of origin for co-products
Normative reference	FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1 Clause 8.1
Effective date	01 January 2011.
Terms & definitions	<i>Company</i> : the legal entity that must comply with FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1 which is either the certificate holder or an applicant for certification.
Background	<p>Companies are required to maintain documentation that demonstrates the district of origin (i.e. the same geographical scale at which the risk assessment is going to be conducted) of the material supplied and shall implement a process to verify the authenticity of the documentation. This is a specific challenge for companies using co-products as such materials are commonly mixed at early stages within the supply chains.</p> <p>Hence, for co-products the controlled wood requirements had been waived by a specified exemption under FSC-STD-40-004 (Version 1) and subsequently FSC-ADV-40-004 (Version 1 and 2). This general waiver will be lifted from 01 January 2011 onwards and only maintained for products registered as being commercially produced before this date until 31 December 2012.</p>
Advice	<p>1. For co-products, the company may document the geographical district of origin by a legally effective and enforceable agreement that includes the information on the source of origin together with a plausibility check conducted by the company to verify the provided information.</p> <p>The plausibility check shall include the following evidential criteria:</p> <p><u>Enforceability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of the country of the supplier providing the declaration is equal to or above 5. <p><u>Plausibility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of supplier (e.g. forest operation, trader, agent, manufacturer) - Duration and intensity of relationship with supplier (e.g. long-standing, sporadic, first contact) - Is the supplied timber species commercially utilized in the declared district (and carries a CITES certificate if required) - Is the type and quality of the supplied material available from the declared district - Distance and means of transportation to the company match the declared district <p>NOTE 1: It is the responsibility of the company to evaluate the above criteria and come to a fair and objective judgment regarding the plausibility and reliability of the information provided by the supplier. The precautionary principle should always be applied. A CPI \geq 5 in the enforceability check is a prerequisite for accepting a statement of origin and is not subject to further interpretation. If the result of the plausibility test is negative, the material cannot be used as</p>

	<p>controlled material input.</p> <p>NOTE 2: The supplier statement of origin is not intended to replace the company's responsibility for conducting a full risk assessment. The statement shall only provide the basis for the risk assessment, i.e. the information on the geographical origin of the raw material, according to Clause 8.1 of FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1.</p> <p>2 The agreement shall be in writing and shall include:</p> <p>a) The information on the geographical origin (e.g. country, region, forest management unit) of the supplied co-product which is necessary information for the company's risk assessment. The type of information provided must match with the geographical scale of the risk assessment.</p> <p>b) A commitment that, in a case where the material is considered as originating from areas with unspecified risk, the supplier will support the company to get information to identify the forest of origin and the whole supply chain relating to that supply.</p> <p>3. Certification Bodies shall confirm that adequate documentation is maintained and verified each time they evaluate the company's risk assessments.</p>
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