

Certified ✓

We provide 24/7 advice on all aspects of certification

January 2010

Issue Number 3

FROM THE EDITOR

Dr Kwame Asumadu



Welcome to the third issue of *Certified* ✓. As we have begun a new year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all **A HAPPY, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

The topics covered in this issue include:

- The new changes to the FSC's trademark standard;
- Minor components and derogations; and
- The different types of certificates.

For readers receiving *Certified* ✓ for the first time, you can access the previous issues from our website: www.aassociates.com.au under Newsletter.

Certified ✓ is still evolving, and I encourage you to continue to provide feedback on its usefulness to your businesses, as well as suggestions on how I can improve the newsletter to better meet your needs. I look forward to continuing my relationship with your company.

Kwame

Are you aware that the FSC has made changes to its trademark standard?

The FSC has approved a new trademark standard that will ensure greater consistency in the use of the trademarks in line with today's market needs. The new standard will make it easier for FSC certificate holders to promote their responsible practices to their customers.

The new standard comes into effect on 1 March 2010 for new applicants. Companies and operations certified before this date will need to implement the new requirements by 1 January 2011.

The standard introduces:

- new label designs that will begin to appear on products when the standard comes into effect on 1 March 2010;
- one label to replace the existing three variations of the Mixed Sources labels along with more meaningful text for consumers;
- design for mini-labels that will ensure greater consistency in using the labels on small certified products;
- a new promotional panel design that will incorporate all the requirements in a format which mirrors the labels, and which will be available to download from the same labeling website; and
- a trademark license code to accompany all trademark use with a format which links the code number to FSC.

A copy of the new trademark standard can be downloaded from the following link: FSC-STD-50-001

[“Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by certificate holders” \(pdf\)](#)

What are Minor Components in the FSC Standard?

The FSC allows companies to use minor inputs which cannot be identified positively as certified or eligible input for the manufacture of minor components such as paper backing, jointing dowels, solid timber edging for doors etc.

The Minor Components requirements apply mainly to manufacturers and refer to the percentage of the volume or weight of the total certified output:

- less than 1% and
- between 1% and 5%, where a valid derogation from the FSC is required.

Exceptions

The following, however, do not qualify as minor components:

- solid wood veneers used as visible face veneer on top of other materials such as MDF, plywood, particleboard etc.; and
- components made from species which have been listed in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendices I, II and III.

< 1 %

For minor components of less than 1% of the weight or volume of the total certified output, companies must apply to their certification body for permission before using the material in the manufacture of Pure or Mixed FSC outputs.

How do I do this?

You do this by writing to your certification body and providing an accurate and up-to-date justification for why the material you intend to use as minor component cannot be sourced

from FSC-certified, controlled or reclaimed/recycled material.

1% - 5% - Derogation is required

Derogation is the permission from the FSC to use minor components of between 1% and 5% of the volume or weight which cannot be sourced from FSC-certified, controlled or reclaimed/recycled material in the manufacture of FSC pure and mixed outputs.

How do I do this?

Derogations are given by the FSC and not your certification body. To get derogation, you must apply to the FSC through your certification body.

If you know that you are going to need minor components in your manufacturing operations, you must disclose this when applying to the certification body for your CoC certification.

If you become aware of the need to use minor components after your CoC certification, you must discuss this with your certification body which will help you to apply for the derogations.

Remember, there is a fee for applying for derogations, and you must re-apply every year if you intend to continue to use the minor components for the duration of your certificate.

Declaration of minor components

If you use minor components in the manufacture of Pure or Mixed outputs, you must declare this by including a statement on product labels and invoices, indicating that the product contains components that are not covered by FSC claims. If the minor components are visible, such as edging, you must also specify them.

Warning

If you are an FSC CoC holder and you use minor components in the manufacture of FSC pure or mixed outputs without permission from your

certification body (i.e. for minor components of less than 1%) or valid derogation from the FSC (for minor components of between 1% and 5%), this may lead to the immediate suspension of your certificate.

Are you aware of the different types of certificates?

There three types of certificates as follows:

Forest management certificate is given to owners and/or managers of natural forests or plantation forests. Forest management certification covers the raw material source i.e. logs.

Controlled Wood (for forest management only) controls non-certified material in certified products, to avoid timber from the most destructive and harmful practices, such as illegal logging or human rights abuses. The equivalent term for PEFC and the AFCS is “Wood from Controversial Sources.”

Chain of custody (CoC) certificate tracks the certified material through the production processes all the way to the store. CoC certificates are issued to companies or individuals that process, transform or trade (i.e. take legal ownership of) certified forest products, and who wish to label the products with either FSC or PEFC/AFCS label or make product claims about the certified nature and/or origins of their products.

FACTS AND FIGURES

ABOUT THE FSC

As of 22 January 2010:

- 121.94 million hectares of forest have been certified under FSC.
- the FSC has issued 15,946 CoC certificates world-wide.
- 996 FM/CoC (forest management/Chain of Custody) certificates have been issued by the FSC world-wide.

ABOUT THE PEFC

- The world's largest forest certification umbrella organisation with 35 independent national schemes in membership from all over the world.
- 24 of these certification schemes have been endorsed by the PEFC Council, delivering hundreds of millions of tonnes of wood to the market place from more than 200 million hectares of certified forests.
- The Australian Forestry Certification Scheme (AFCS) is affiliated with the PEFC.
- There is more PEFC certified timber available globally than FSC certified timber.

Certified ✓ is published by

**Asumadu
Pty Ltd.**

ABN: 47104589228

ACN: 104589228

We can help with your CoC certification by:

- Preparing your internal procedures based on the standard of your preferred certification scheme (FSC, PEFC or both).
- Training your staff in the procedures, and preparing them so they know what to do and say during the audit.
- Engaging an auditor (FSC or PEFC accredited)
- Completing on your behalf all the necessary paperwork, including quotations from auditors to give you the most competitive price.
- Attending the audit to ensure everything goes well with the auditing process.

We also specialize in sourcing FSC and PEFC certified plywood and sawn timber for the Australian market.