

Certified ✓

We provide 24/7 advice on all aspects of certification

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dr Kwame Asumadu



The topics covered in this issue of *Certified* ✓ include:

- PEFC and FSC claim types; and
- The correct information to use on invoices, manifests and delivery dockets.

As I travel around Australia working with, and helping companies to become certified, I have observed that some companies are not making the correct product claims on their invoices and delivery documents.

We have therefore devoted this issue of *Certified* ✓ to PEFC and FSC claim types, as well as the correct information to include on invoices and delivery documents.

We also take the opportunity to alert certified companies, particularly those in the printing industry, of the new FSC policy relating to the use of contractors.

It is your responsibility as a certified company to keep abreast of any changes your certification scheme may introduce from time to time. You can do this by

visiting the website of your certification scheme and subscribing to their newsletter.

Because certified claims are linked with the use of the logos of certification schemes, the next (April) issue of *Certified* ✓ will focus on product labelling.

Finally, please do not forget to share your copy of *Certified* ✓ with your colleagues. Alternatively, please send us the contact details of colleagues who may be interested in receiving their own copies, and we shall include them on our mailing list.

Copies of back issues of *Certified* ✓ can be downloaded from our website at: www.aassociates.com.au.

Kwame

What is a certification claim?

This is the description of certified products certified supplier organizations provide to their customers on shipping manifests, delivery documents, invoices etc.

In the case of FSC, the claims can be:

- FSC Pure;
- FSC Mixed;
- FSC Recycled; and
- FSC Controlled.

For PEFC (AFCS) the claims can be:

- PEFC Certified; and
- PEFC Certified & Recycled.

Asumadu Pty Ltd

6 Holmhurst Court, Brighton East Vic 3187

Tel: +61-(03)-9593 2435 Fax: +61-(03)-9593 2437

Mobile: +61 (0) 419723319 Website: www.aassociates.com.au

What are the differences between the different FSC and PEFC claims?

FSC Pure Claim

This is where the certified content of the product being supplied to a customer is 100%, i.e. the product has come from a certified forest, and it has not been mixed with any other raw material, certified or controlled.

FSC Mixed Claim

This is where the product being supplied to a customer has been produced from a mixture of certified and controlled raw materials.

FSC Recycled Claim

This claim relates to products made exclusively from reclaimed or recycled materials.

FSC Recycled Claims can be:

- FSC Recycled 100% - This is where the products being supplied contain 100% post-consumer reclaimed or recycled inputs.
- The FSC Recycled Percentage Claim: - This claim type requires the product being supplied to contain a minimum of 85% post-consumer reclaimed (recycled) inputs.

FSC Mixed Credit Claim

This claim type applies where the products being supplied have been produced from a mixture of raw materials or inputs which have different amounts of FSC certified contents.

FSC Controlled Wood Claim

This claim type is used when the product being supplied has been certified by an FSC certification body as meeting the following FSC Controlled Wood criteria:

- Wood has not been illegally harvested or obtained.
- Wood has not been harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.

- Wood has not been harvested in forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities.
- Wood has not been harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.
- Wood has not come from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

PEFC Claims

PEFC Certified Claim

CoC Certified Companies and SFM Certified Forest Owners/Managers can make this claim on supply documents. The claim should be “**This product is from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources.**”

This claim indicates that the product being supplied includes:

- >70% of wood from PEFC-certified forests that meets or exceeds PEFC’s Sustainability Benchmark requirements; and
- wood from controlled sources.

PEFC Certified and Recycled Claim

The claim should be: “**This product is from sustainably managed forests, recycled and controlled sources.**”

This claim indicates that the product includes:

- >70% of wood from PEFC-certified forests that meets or exceeds PEFC’s Sustainability Benchmark requirements and/or post-consumer recycled material; and
- wood from controlled sources.

Post-consumer recycled material must meet PEFC’s requirements for chemical and for non-chemical contamination. In addition, the amount of post-consumer recycled material must be specified.

Promoting PEFC Certification Claim.

The claim should be **“Promoting sustainable forest management.”**

This claim is designed for educational or promotional purposes. The use of this claim indicates support for sustainable forest management and PEFC certification.

What information should I include on my invoices and/or delivery documents?

For both PEFC and FSC, all invoices and delivery documents used to supply certified products to customers must have the following information as a minimum:

- Supplier’s name and address;
- Supplier’s Chain of Custody number;
- The date on which the documents were prepared;
- The description of the product being supplied including quantities; and
- Description of the product type i.e. FSC pure, mixed, recycled or controlled (for FSC), and PEFC certified and PEFC Certified & Recycled (for PEFC).

For FSC certified companies, the following Disclaimer Statement must be included:

“Only the products that are identified as such on the invoice are FSC certified.”

The disclaimer is mandatory particularly if the same invoice or delivery document is used for both certified and non-certified products.

What product information should I include on my invoice?

In addition to the quantities being supplied, you must describe clearly the product type. For example “20 pieces of FSC Pure Ironbark Kiln Dried dressed sawn timber.”

For PEFC, it should read 20 pieces of PEFC Certified Ironbark Kiln Dried dressed sawn timber.”

It is against the FSC and PEFC CoC Standards if you do not describe the product group or type on the invoice i.e. whether the product is FSC pure, FSC Mixed, FSC recycled or FSC controlled wood (for FSC) and PEFC Certified or PEFC Certified & Recycled (for PEFC).

Remember, the product type/group relates to the FSC and PEFC claim you are making in transferring CoC to the customer.

For example, it is against the FSC CoC Standard to state on the invoice or delivery document “FSC Makore layon veneer.”

You must tell the customer whether the FSC Makore layon you are supplying is FSC pure, FSC Mixed or FSC controlled.

Similarly for the PEFC, it must be “PEFC certified Makore layon.”

What if I use the Percentage Claim system?

If you use the Percentage claim system, you must always indicate the percentage certified content. For example, FSC Mixed MDF (70%) or PEFC Certified (70%).

For FSC, it is not enough to simply describe the product as FSC Mixed MDF without indicating the amount of certified content under the Percentage Claim system.

What if I use the Mixed Credit Claim system?

The FSC Mixed Credit Claim system always indicates that the amount of certified content in the product is 100%.

Are you aware of FSC’s new Policy on contractors?

The FSC has recently released a new Policy that details the benefits and implications of contract work being provided by FSC certified Chain of Custody (CoC) contractors.

This Policy clarifies the conditions under which contract work for an FSC certified product can be provided also for non-certified organizations.

It deals with situations, particularly in the printing industry, where larger publishing organizations that do not hold an FSC Chain of Custody certificate often purchase the paper but outsource the printing process to certified operations.

The Policy became effective from 9th February 2010.

If you do not already have a copy of this Policy, you can download it from the FSC Resource Centre at:

www.fsc.org/resourcescenter.html

Are you keeping up-to-date with changes to your CoC certification Standards?

From time to time, both the FSC and PEFC make changes to policies, or clarify aspects of their Standards to make it easier for certified organizations to implement their CoC certification correctly.

As a certified organization, it is your responsibility to make sure you are aware of these changes.

You can keep-up-to-date by subscribing to the newsletter of your certification scheme at www.fsc.org or www.pefc.org.

Advertising

The readership of the Newsletter continues to grow exponentially.

Certified ✓ therefore provides an excellent opportunity to promote your company and its products and/or services. Please feel free to contact us about our competitive rates.

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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.