



Certified ✓



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Issue Number 2

FROM THE EDITOR

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Welcome to the second issue of **Certified**. As this is the last issue for the year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all **A MERRY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**.

The topics covered in this issue include:

- Mixing FSC and PEFC certified wood products;
- The Green Building Council of Australia's recognition of wood products certified under PEFC schemes; and
- Getting approval for the use of logos for both on- and off-product purposes.
- A checklist to help companies who may be preparing for surveillance audits.

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 during 2010.

Kwame

Can I use PEFC certified timber and FSC certified timber to produce FSC mixed outputs?

Wood products manufacturers cannot mix Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) schemes certified timber and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified to produce FSC Mixed products without undertaking further assessment to verify the origin of the PEFC material and the associated risk.

In October this year, the FSC released the results of an analysis on the schemes, systems and standards of FSC, PEFC, and the PEFC-endorsed schemes: PEFC Germany and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

Based on this analysis, the FSC has concluded that material certified by the PEFC does not meet the requirements of the FSC Controlled Wood standards (FSC CW). Therefore, PEFC certified material cannot be mixed with FSC certified material without further examination of the origin of the PEFC material and the associated risk.

Can I use non-certified material to produce FSC mixed outputs?

Yes you can use non-certified material which has been assessed based on the FSC Controlled Wood standard (i.e. FSC





controlled wood) and FSC certified material (i.e. FSC pure, FSC mixed and FSC recycled) to produce FSC mixed outputs.

How do I get FSC controlled wood?

You can get FSC controlled wood in two ways. First, you can source FSC controlled wood from a manufacturer or a supplier who already has an FSC Controlled wood code. This means that the manufacturer/supplier has been assessed by an FSC accredited auditor against the FSC Controlled Wood standard, and has been passed to have systems, procedures and processes in place to be able to supply FSC controlled wood.

In addition to the FSC Controlled Wood code, the supplier must also have an FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) number to be able to pass on the FSC controlled wood to you.

Second, you can do your own risk assessment of your intended supplier, using the FSC Controlled Wood standard. You will need an FSC accredited auditor to do this risk assessment on your behalf.

Can I label FSC mixed products containing FSC controlled wood?

Yes you can provided the content of the FSC certified material in the mixed output (i.e. combined FSC certified material and FSC controlled material) is 70% or more.

If the FSC certified content is less than 70%, you cannot label it as FSC mixed output, but you can sell it as FSC certified material provided you indicate the content of the FSC certified material, e.g. **FSC Mixed 60%**.

Can I mix FSC certified material and PEFC certified material to produce PEFC certified material?

Although the FSC does not allow the use of PEFC certified material to produce FSC mixed output, the PEFC allows the mixing of FSC certified material with PEFC certified material to produce PEFC certified output.

Are you thinking of Chain of Custody (CoC) certification? Then hedge your bets

If you are thinking of getting your company certified for Chain of Custody to enable you to supply certified wood products, then it would be better to hedge your bets, and opt for dual certification i.e. both PEFC and FSC.

In Australia, the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Green Star Rating for building and construction projects has provided the main incentive for wood product companies (manufacturers, brokers, agents, fabricators etc) to seek CoC certification.

Until this month, the GBCA's Green Star Rating only recognized FSC certified wood products. This has now changed, and the GBCA has decided that effective from next year, it will give equal recognition to timber certified under either FSC or the PEFC.

This equal recognition will apply to timber produced in Australia and certified under Australia's national certification scheme: The Australian Forestry Certification Scheme (AFCS), as well as imported timber certified by any certification scheme which has been endorsed by the PEFC.

What are some of the implications of the GBCA's decision?

The main one is that potentially, more AFCS certified wood will be available on





the Australian market as there is more forest certified in Australia under the AFCS (which is affiliated with the PEFC) than FSC.

Another implication is that all timber certified under FSC and PEFC endorsed certification schemes (produced either locally or imported) will be treated equally from now on.

What do I do if I already have FSC CoC certification?

There are two options for you. You can decide to remain FSC CoC certified or you can opt for dual certification and include PEFC CoC with your existing CoC certification.

How do I do this?

The cheapest and easiest way to do this is to wait until your next surveillance audit is due.

If you decide to opt for dual certification, you should inform your certification body that you would like to be certified for PEFC, so that this can be done during the surveillance audit.

You will need to upgrade your FSC procedures to include the PEFC requirements in the following areas:

- CoC Quality Management system including:
 - Responsibilities;
 - Documented procedures;
 - Training; and
 - Records.
- CoC Control systems and procedures including:
 - Material Sourcing;
 - Delivery of sourced material;
 - Warehousing (segregation and identification);

- Product groups, species and classification;

- Documentation (i.e. sales, purchase and shipping/delivery documents for certified products);
- Recording of production volumes, conversion (waste) factors and batch length; and
- Claim type.

SEEKING APPROVALS FOR LOGOS

I have become aware that there have been problems with some certified companies following the procedures for obtaining approvals for logos from certification bodies.

Here is the procedure to get approval for logos on:

- Invoices;
- Sales/Delivery Dockets;
- Letterheads;
- Business cards;
- Livery on vehicles etc.

First, produce a draft of each of the above items with the logo and send it to the certification body. The best format to send this in is pdf. Note that each item will require its own approval.

Second, keep a record of the approval for each item. Auditors will ask to see these approvals during surveillance audits.

REMINDERS FOR SURVEILLANCE AUDITS

Are you due for a surveillance audit? If so, use the following checklist to make sure that you are ready.

☐ Chain of Custody Manual

Management Procedures (Have you made any changes since last Audit?)





❑ Current Policies

Do you have the latest versions of the relevant FSC and PEFC standards for your type of certification? Have you incorporated any announced changes to the standard in your procedures?

❑ Documentation

Are your Training Records up to date?
Do you have a Product Group Schedule?
Have you been doing Supplier Verification, and do you have records to prove this?

Are your Annual Volume Summary Forms up to date?

❑ Purchasing

Do you have an updated list of your certified suppliers, including copies of their CoC certificates?

Is your Product Schedule up to date?

Do you want to expand your product scope, and have you informed your certification body?

Have you updated your record of quantity/volume of certified products purchased and sold?

❑ FSC Certified Inventory

Is separation of both input and output products apparent?

❑ Logo Use

Do you have records of logo approvals for both on-product and off-product use?

FACTS AND FIGURES

Did you know that only 8% of the world's commercial forests are certified?

According to the United Nations (UN) the rate of increase in global certified forest area has slowed dramatically since 2006.

Currently, the total global certified

forest area has stagnated at only 8%, with the majority of certified forests located in developed countries.

The majority of the world's certified commercial forests are certified under PEFC affiliated certification schemes.

Certified ✓ is published by

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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.

