



What is the Forestry Stewardship Council?

Sustainable timber is sourced from forests that are responsibly harvested and managed following the FSCs (Forest Stewardship Council) social and environmental criteria. It is widely available and should cost marginally or no more than other timbers.

WHO ARE THE FSC AND HOW DO THEY CONTROL SUSTAINABLE TIMBER?

The FSC promotes the responsible management of the world's forests, with its global forest certification. Their aim is to help local people and society to enjoy long term benefits and provide strong incentives to sustain forest resources.

It is a non-profit organisation, with the forests being inspected and certified against strict standards. The forests that meet these standards are awarded the FSC certification and the timber is allowed to be branded with the FSC label.

The FSC also award Chain of Custody (CofC) certificates, which allows timber manufacturers, processors and traders to brand their products with the FSC label. This certificate identifies that the timber is tracked throughout the supply chain and gives assurances to the consumer that it is:

- 🌲 made from FSC certified timber
- 🌲 or contains wood from FSC certified forest
- 🌲 or is FSC certified post-consumer waste.

The certificate verifies that the material has been identified and / or segregated from non-certified or non-controlled material throughout the chain. The standards set out in the scheme ensures the wood is:

- 🌲 accounted for at every step of the supply chain
- 🌲 when it is mixed with other woods, they do not come from undesirable sources
- 🌲 that the recycled / reclaimed material is acceptable.

A company that would like FSC certification must put a management system into place to maintain the integrity of the FSC label, when the timber is in their company. This includes:

- 🌲 Checking that their suppliers have the certification
- 🌲 Setting up a Quality Management System
 - Person designate To take charge of the compliance and ensure all relevant employees are fully informed
 - Documentation Ensure the procedure is written up as a manual
 - Training Show and retain evidence that all employees involved with FSC materials are fully trained
 - Records Production, purchase, sales, training, trademark documentation must be kept for 5 years with a constantly updated list of product groups covered by the CofC.
- 🌲 Defined product groups that are sold with an FSC label
- 🌲 Contacting an approved certification body to approve an audit.

An example of products that may carry the label include: garden furniture, decking, gates, fences, sheds, conservatories, bird tables etc.

For more information on how to become FSC approved go to www.fsc-uk.org and download the relevant certification documentation.

Being a certified company shows that you comply with the highest social and environmental standards and that you follow responsible practices in the manufacturing of your products. As public concern increases about the world's forests and the impact on the timber resources, the FSC and other certification schemes gives a credible solution for the consumer to purchase their products in an environmentally and socially conscious manner.