

ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION SHEET

Benefits of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification

Introduction

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. It was founded in 1993 in response to public concern about deforestation and the demand for a trustworthy wood-labelling scheme. The Trademark of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a label on timber and wood based products, including paper, which indicates that the wood comes from a well-managed forest. It gives assurance that the forest of origin has been independently inspected and evaluated to comply with an internationally agreed set of strict environmental, social and economic standards.

The benefits of FSC labelling

The FSC label helps ensure public recognition of your corporate, social and environmental responsibility policies. It provides independent assurance to 'ethical' customers that your customers that your product comes from forests managed to the highest social and economic standards.

Forest Stewardship Council is supported by high profile organisations including; WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Woodland Trust.

Forest and Chain of Custody certification

Well managed forests are those whose management implements performance standards based on internationally agreed environmental, social and economic requirements. Although many forests are sustainably managed, the only way to provide credible proof of this is through independent verification. Chain of Custody certification is an independent assessment, by a qualified and accredited expert, who verifies systems are in place to trace the flow of wood containing products back to the certified forest.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility, often referred to as simply Corporate Responsibility, is a concept whereby organisations consider and take responsibility for the impact of their activities on customer, suppliers, employees, shareholders, communities and other stakeholders, as well as the environment. This commitment is seen to extend beyond the statutory obligation to comply with legislation, and sees organisations voluntarily taking further steps of continual improvement. CSR strategies are not prescriptive in what they should cover, but fundamental elements normally focus on;

- Health and Safety
- Supply Chain Stewardship – ethical procurement
- Operational environmental impacts
- Social responsibilities for both internal staff and externally for the wider community incorporating charitable support
- Business sustainability programmes
- Resource efficiencies.

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**Benefits of Forest Stewardship Council
(FSC) Certification****Business benefits of using FSC Certified Paper**

For most corporate organisations procurement and sourcing policies are now included as a fundamental element of their CSR strategy. This impacts on their use and choice of paper and print. For paper, commonly products either from a sustainable certified source, like FSC or PEFC or alternatively paper with a recycled content are specified.

Product Labelling

The FSC logo is used to indicate that the material has Chain of Custody and comes from a certified source. Only printers or agencies who are FSC certified, with this secure Chain of Custody, may use this iconography for their clients printed work.

Useful Contact Websites

HSPG FSC website: www.fscpaper.co.uk

Forest Stewardship Council (UK) website: www.fsc-uk.info

More Information

To learn more about the environmental and business opportunities of using FSC certified paper please contact us.