

What is Chain of Custody Certification and Who Needs to be Certified?

Chain of Custody is the path taken by raw materials, processed materials and products, from a certified forest to the consumer, including all stages of processing, transformation, manufacturing and distribution. Chain of Custody Certification is required by companies or individuals that process, transform or trade FSC-certified forest products that wish to market and sell these products as FSC-certified.

Companies or Individuals	Certification Required
Sawmills, Lumber Yards	Yes
Manufactures of Forest Products	Yes
Building Contractors	No
Artisans	Yes
Timber Brokers, Wholesalers	Yes
Retailers	No
Pulp & Paper Producers	Yes
Paper Merchant	Yes
Publisher	No
Printers	Yes

There are 4 Basic Types of Chain of Custody Certification:

1. Chain of Custody for Manufactures and Processors – sawn wood, assembled and chip products
2. Chain of Custody for Distributors, Wholesalers, Brokers, Printers and Paper Merchants
3. Group Chain of Custody Certification – smaller value added companies meeting requirements
4. Multi-Site Chain of Custody Certification – one company with multiple locations

“Forest product certification may provide access to a market that may otherwise not be available – the ability to sell products from “well-managed” forests seems to be a growing trend.”

~ Scott Davis, FOREST CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR
EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST

The FSC® is the only forest certification system supported by the World Wildlife Fund Canada, Sierra Club of Canada, and the National Aboriginal Forestry Association. All products carrying the FSC label contain virgin wood from FSC-certified forests, controlled sources and/or verified recycled content/post consumer waste.



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The EOMF receives much of its funding from, and is a proud partner of, the Forest Communities Program (FCP) launched by the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada. We also thank and acknowledge the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev) for supporting the reprinting of this and our other Forest Certification Tool Kit materials.

FOREST CERTIFICATION IN EASTERN ONTARIO

Chain of Custody Certification for Forest Product Producers



EASTERN ONTARIO
MODEL FOREST

www.eomf.on.ca/certification



The Eastern Ontario Model Forest

As one of the 15 model forests in the Canadian Model Forest Network, the Eastern Ontario

Model Forest works with government, landowners, industry, First Nations and other stakeholders to develop new ways to sustain and manage our forest resources.

The EOMF champions the belief that we all have a stake in ensuring that the environmental, economic, cultural and social values of Eastern Ontario's forests are maintained for the benefit of all, now and in the future.

Visit: www.eomf.on.ca



The mark of
responsible forestry

The Forest Stewardship Council®

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization formed to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable forest management around the world through the certification of forest management practices.

Currently there are more than 100 million hectares of FSC-certified forest in over 81 countries. Canada represents the largest area of FSC-certified forest in the world. FSC is the fastest growing forest certification system in the world (UN FAO 2007).

Visit: www.fscscanada.org

Where does my wood come from? This can only be answered if you are specifying FSC-certified wood products. The FSC is the only system recognized by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building program.

Chain of Custody Certification for Forest Product Producers

How Can Your Business Become Certified

There are 5 basic steps to becoming FSC Chain of Custody certified:

1. Contact an FSC accredited certifier – see list of Accredited Certifiers (*below*)
2. Submit an application to the individual certifier
3. Complete the on-site audit of your facility
4. Receive the Certification approval
5. Maintain the requirements of the certificate and have annual audits

Currently There are 5 FSC Accredited Certifiers Performing Chain of Custody Certification

- KPMG: www.kpmg.ca
- Scientific Certification Systems: www.scscertified.com
- SGS International: www.sgs.com
- SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance: www.smartwood.org
- Soil Association / Woodmark: www.soilassociation.org

FSC certification allows companies and consumers interested in environmentally and socially responsible materials to be confident in their purchasing decisions. Buying products that carry the FSC “check tree” label is your guarantee a product comes from a forest evaluated against our rigorous environmental and social standards.

Requirements of Chain of Custody

There are 5 basic requirements to manage and maintain a FSC Chain of Custody Certification:

1. Create a Quality System – manage internal procedures, staff training and record keeping
2. Wood & Fiber Sourcing – identification, storage and volume control, procedures for tracking
3. Production Controls and Record Keeping – monthly records track the quantity of FSC material
4. Labeling – FSC labels identify the quantity of FSC material in the final product
5. Documentation – invoices & shipping documentation is needed to track FSC materials & products

Eastern Ontario Model Forest Group Chain of Custody Program

The EOMF has achieved Group Chain of Custody Certification and will act as the Group Manager on behalf of smaller value added wood product manufactures as well as smaller printers. The EOMF will become the primary contact for the certifier. There are requirements to become a member of the group as well as responsibilities to maintain membership. The EOMF hopes to take the technical challenges out of becoming FSC Chain of Custody certified and provide an effective option to certify businesses and in turn sell their certified wood and paper products.

A Summary of the EOMF Group Chain of Custody Membership and Manager Requirements

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the EOMF outlining roles and responsibilities
2. The Manager will prepare written procedures for the group certificate for all Members
3. Members will follow policies for material procurement, record keeping and tracking
4. The Manager will coordinate control systems for handling and tracking certified material
5. The Manager and Members will undergo audits to ensure compliance
6. The Manager and Members will adhere to FSC label use



Two Types of Certification

There are two types of FSC certification which are interdependent in producing certified forest products: forest certification and product certification.

Forest Certification is directed towards on-the-ground forest management practices and related procedures. Those obtaining forest management certification are responsible for ensuring compliance with the FSC’s principles and criteria and they are termed “Resource Managers”. Resource Managers are certified and audited to the FSC’s principles of forest stewardship on an annual basis by independent third party auditors accredited by FSC.

Product Certification is directed at those producing the wood product (i.e. sawmills, pulpmills, and printers) and it is referred to as “Chain of Custody”. The FSC has introduced an international labeling scheme for forest products which provides a credible guarantee that a given product comes from a well-managed forest by ensuring full Chain of Custody for the materials used in producing a given product. For a wood product to be labeled and sold as “certified”, it must originate from a certified forest management operation and be produced in a facility that holds Chain of Custody Certification.

