



Issue 18

March 2005

Chain of Custody for DIY Stores

Homebase has become the first DIY retailer to achieve FSC Chain of Custody certification in the UK. Certified by Soil Association, Homebase's FSC certificate number, SA-COC-8888, will appear on 'own brand' products such as the timber range and MDF, chip and fibre boards, garden fencing, sheds and outdoor timber products, internal and external doors, Homebase bark chips and ornamental mulches.



"In today's world of global trade, it's hard enough to determine where the timber comes from," explained Homebase Sustainable Business Manager, Charles Drewe (left), "let alone know that the forest operates in a professional way, looking after its

social and environmental responsibilities and ensuring that the timber harvested is sustainable and well managed for our future generations. Having this Chain of Custody means that not only do independent specialists verify that the forest is being well managed and all the social and environmental factors are being considered, but that the timber you have requested is in fact the timber that ends up in your products."

Next in line is B&Q, the largest DIY chain in the U.K. B&Q has signed a deal with the certification body SmartWood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance, and is aiming to certify a number of key stores in the first half of 2005.

B&Q is targeting business customers such as Government and local authority purchasing departments as well as general trade customers who are increasingly demanding timber and manufactured wooden products from well managed forests.

Mike Cartwright, B&Q's Business to Business Manager said, "The key benefit to our business customers is to have the evidence to promote FSC certified products they buy from B&Q as traceable from the store right back to the forest."

Main Office Change of Address

The FSC UK Working Group has moved offices, our new address is:

FSC UK Working Group

Rm. 8, 11-13 Great Oak Street

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POWYS

SY18 6BU

Our phone, fax and email details remain the same.

Tel: 01686 413 916

Fax: 01686 412 176

Email: info@fsc-uk.org

FSC International Forums

FSC International is holding a series of global forums over the next few months.

The **Garden Furniture Producer Forum** will be held at the International Centre in Bonn on April 8.

The **Global Paper Forum** will be held at the FSC International Centre on April 21-22.

The **Global Retailer Forum** will be held in Washington, USA on May 26th.

For more information and attendance fee details please contact the Advisory Service.

FSC Paper for Children in Need calender

Each year BBC TV's Countryfile calendar is sold on behalf of the BBC Children in Need appeal. Designed and produced by The Art of Design Ltd, Maidstone, the calendar features winning pictures of British nature submitted by viewers of Countryfile and chosen by a panel of judges which included Lord Litchfield and Jo Brand.



The first 15000 copies of the 2005 calendar have been printed on Revive Special Silk, a new FSC-certified paper stock that was donated by the Robert Horne Group. According to Robert Horne, Revive Special Silk represents a new class of coated paper that combines FSC certified fibre and de-inked post consumer waste to provide a superb print surface.

Window of Opportunity



FSC timber windows are now widely available from Magnet, the trade and DIY joinery supplier with branches throughout the UK. The windows, in Georgian, Victorian and Cottage styles, are made from Scandinavian redwood. This will be welcome news to local authorities, housing associations & the general public when looking for new or replacement windows.

Ecobuild 2005

The Ecobuild Conference will be held at the QEII Conference Centre in London on the 24th and 25th May. The conference 'Designing and Building a Sustainable Future' intends to debate the challenges faced by planners, policy makers, investors and the building and design community to deliver a "greener" future for towns and cities. Beck Woodrow, our Construction Specialist, will be holding a workshop on the second day looking at FSC chain of custody and how it is applied to the construction sector.

For more information see www.ecobuild.co.uk.

FSC Stand Sponsorship

In addition to the debate, seminar and workshop program – Ecobuild is a showcase for companies and organisations which have products and services to demonstrate to the sector. FSC UK has been offered the opportunity to take a stand to showcase the FSC system and the range of certified products available in the UK. In order to do this we need find sponsor companies. The Sponsors package is £575 and includes:

1. A display panel on the stand (1m wide by 2.25m high).
2. Space for a literature rack for brochures and catalogues.
3. An entry in the Event Guide (100 words editorial, full company contact details and logo as well as an entry on the show website)
4. Each company would be able to invite 1 key client/target client to attend the cocktail party on the first night of the event.

We think this is an ideal opportunity for your company to have a presence at the show at very low cost as well as support the overall FSC presence at this key construction sector event.

If you are interested, please contact Beck Woodrow on 01686 413 916 or beck@fsc-uk.org.

WWF Research shows benefits of FSC Certification.

A new study launched today by WWF shows that credible certification brings added value to society, the environment and the economy. A systematic analysis of all changes forest managers have had to make to obtain FSC certification of 18 Million hectares of forests in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Sweden and the UK, shows that certification led to significant improvements to biodiversity conservation, management planning, health & safety and the employment rights of forest workers.

The study analysed 2817 Corrective Action Requests which were raised by independent certifiers as forest managers sought to achieve and maintain FSC certification in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Sweden and the UK. These Corrective Action Requests detailed shortcomings on environmental, social and economic issues and were the basis for WWF's systematic analysis of the nature of the improvements achieved on the ground through FSC.

"Our analysis provides conclusive evidence of the value of credible certification for a wide range of stakeholders across Europe", said Duncan Pollard, Head of the WWF European Forest Programme. "We simply looked at what actual changes FSC certification has brought in forest management, and the results speak for themselves. The study also brings out clearly the social and economic benefits which FSC brings for policy makers, governments, forest owners, forest industry, those employed in the forest industry and recreational forest users."

In Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Sweden and the UK biodiversity values were improved through measures such as: lower impact silviculture; improved protection of key habitats; increased deadwood levels; measures favouring species diversity; reduced soil compaction; improved water management and improved pollution control.

In all 6 countries FSC certification led to safer working conditions and enhanced worker skills. It also improved long term planning and strategies for minimising economic damage.

The FSC system provides a robust framework to guarantee compliance with the plethora of legislation, guidelines and best practice that sometimes were not being enforced. It was particularly effective in assisting the forest industry in new EU member states to implement the wide range of EU legislation and guidelines.

Through the need to implement wood-tracing systems FSC has also made a significant contribution to removing illegally logged timber from supply chains.

FSC certification has also made forests in the surveyed countries a more interesting and safer place to visit through the conservation of sites of historical and cultural significance, complemented by better and safer public access.

"We hope that our study makes the added value of credible forest certification clearer to all and also demonstrates that FSC certification is not just good for the environment, but for business and society as well. It has the ability to deliver on a variety of policy priorities that the European Commission and EU Governments have committed to", said Pollard "The conclusions from this study positions FSC certification as an invaluable investment for the present and the future management of Europe's forests".

"This study confirms FSC as the international standard to promote responsible management of the world's forests", said Heiko Liedeker, FSC Executive Director. "It shows tangible benefits from the FSC system in the social, environmental and economic areas in Europe. We know that the FSC system is delivering the same benefits in other continents and, without doubt, FSC has proved that it is a powerful and comprehensive driven system to promote responsible forest management worldwide".

FSC Russia

After searching for several months and upon recommendation of various stakeholders, FSC International announced in February that Dr. Andrei Ptichnikov has been appointed as Director FSC Russia, based in Moscow.

In addition to representing FSC interests in Russia and liaising with all stakeholder groups interested in Russian forestry, Andrei Ptichnikov will support the FSC Russia National Initiative in its efforts aimed at achieving FSC accreditation and developing national and regional standards, and he will work towards the establishment of an FSC National Office in Russia during 2005.

Forestry Commission Re-certified

The Forestry Commission has been successfully re-audited against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), confirming the nation's public woods are being managed sustainably. SGS Qualifor undertook the audit of the Forestry Commission and will continue as its certificationbody for the next five years.

The Forestry Commission has 1,043,653 hectares of certified land in the UK, as follows:

- Scotland - 657,790 hectares
- England - 258,302 hectares
- Wales - 127,561 hectares

This means consumers can continue to buy the FC range of British woodland products stamped with the FSC logo, including timber, signs, outdoor furniture and venison.

FC Director General Tim Rollinson said the audit reflected the fact that Britain's woodlands were being managed to internationally recognised standards of sustainability. "The Forestry Commission is the largest provider of public access and recreation in Britain and the largest manager of Sites of Special Scientific Interest," he said. "We're also the largest producer of wood - a top class, sustainable raw material.

"We have a UK Woodland Assurance Standard that is the envy of many countries in the world. Our forests, sustainably managed as this proves, can be infinitely sustainable. The products from them - whether they be wood or recreation and clean air - can boost the quality of our lives.

"What certification reinforces is that people can buy wood knowing it is renewable and sustainable, and that by doing so they are helping safeguard our precious forest and woodland resources for future generations."

FSC UK Working Group
 Room 8, 11-13 Great Oak Street
 Llanidloes, Powys
 SY18 6BU
 phone: 01686 413 916
 fax: 01686 412 176
 email: info@fsc-uk.org
 website: www.fsc-uk.org

Registered Charity No. 1060072

Submission of UK Woodland Assurance Standards (UKWAS) Revision 2004 to FSC for assessment

The FSC UK membership signed up to the revised UKWA Standard at the beginning of December 2004 and it was submitted to FSC Accreditation and Business Unit (ABU) on the 17th December 2004. From here the ABU will assess the revised standard and put their recommendations to the FSC Board early in 2005, when the Board will decide whether the revised standard should be accepted as the new standard for FSC Forest Certification in the UK. Once accepted, the revised standard will be available for use in FSC certification for the UK, but until then the current version of UKWAS shall continue to be used.

Following the stakeholder consultation, back in May and June 2004, the UKWAS Steering Group worked hard to resolve the main issues identified for revision, taking account of the comments and suggestions received from the wider consultation.

A paper has been produced to outline the comments received from the consultation available on request from the UKWAS Support Unit. Please contact Fiona Angier, UKWAS Secretary, on 0131 5248088 or by email (fiona@confor.org.uk) to receive a copy.

FSC in figures

As at 1st March 2005

Forest Management Certificates

UK - 44 certificates, total area 1,659,541 ha

World-wide - 682 certificates, total area 50,693,814 ha in 64 countries.

Chain of Custody

UK - 391 certificates

World-wide - 3709 certificates in 70 countries



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