

FAQ FSC®

1. What is FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) certification, and what are the requirements?

- **FSC® certification** is an internationally recognised standard for sustainable forestry. The **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®)** certifies forests that are managed responsibly to ensure the protection of biodiversity, ecological health, and respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities. FSC® also certifies products made from wood and other forest-derived materials, ensuring that they come from well-managed forests or recycled sources. To achieve FSC® certification, companies and products must comply with rigorous social, environmental, and economic standards.

2. What are the different types of FSC® labels?

- FSC® labels indicate the source of forest materials in a product, allowing customers to understand the environmental commitment behind it. The main FSC® labels are:
 - **FSC® 100%:** Products are made entirely from FSC®-certified forests, ensuring full traceability and responsible sourcing.
 - **FSC® Mix:** Products contain a mix of FSC®-certified wood, recycled materials, or controlled wood from responsible sources.
 - **FSC® Recycled:** Products are made entirely from recycled forest materials, reducing the need for virgin wood and minimizing forest impact.

These labels provide transparency about the origin and sustainability of materials, offering consumers options that align with their values on forest conservation and sustainability.

3. What are the main differences between FSC®, and PEFC certifications?

- FSC® and PEFC are forest certification systems with distinct standards for sustainable forestry. Here’s a breakdown of how they differ:

Aspect	FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council)	PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)
Focus	Globally recognised, strict environmental and social standards	Endorses national standards, promoting sustainable forest management
Environmental Standards	High, with strong protections for biodiversity and ecosystems	Varies by region, moderate to high
Social Standards	Strong, protecting indigenous rights and community benefits	Varies by region, moderate to strong
Certification Labels	FSC® 100%, FSC® Mix, FSC® Recycled	No specific labels, but includes certified and controlled wood

Aspect	FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council)	PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)
Global Reach	Strong, used worldwide	Primarily Europe, Asia, and Australia

FSC® has particularly high social and environmental standards, making it ideal for companies seeking globally recognised certification that emphasises biodiversity, indigenous rights, and ecosystem health.

4. Why would a company choose FSC® certification?

- A company might choose **FSC® certification** to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable forest management, ethical sourcing, and environmental conservation. FSC® is a globally respected standard that provides credibility for eco-conscious consumers, helps protect forests, and promotes responsible forestry practices. With different label options like FSC® 100%, Mix, and Recycled, companies can select the certification level that best aligns with their sustainability goals.

5. Can I use the FSC® logo in my marketing materials if my company isn't certified?

- No, only companies that have FSC® certification for their products and supply chain can use the **FSC® logo**. Unauthorised use of the FSC® logo without certification is prohibited and could lead to penalties. This restriction ensures that only verified FSC®-certified companies and products display the logo, maintaining trust and credibility in the FSC® certification.

6. If I am certified, how should I use the FSC® logo?

- Certified companies may use the **FSC® logo** to communicate their commitment to responsible forestry. They must follow FSC® guidelines, including the appropriate label (e.g., FSC® 100%, Mix, or Recycled) and certification number, to avoid misleading consumers. Correct usage helps reinforce consumer trust in FSC®'s standards.

7. Does FSC® certification guarantee that the product is fully sustainable?

- **FSC® certification** confirms that a product's forest materials come from responsibly managed sources, but it does not guarantee complete sustainability. While FSC® certification ensures responsible sourcing, it does not cover the entire life cycle of the product. FSC®-certified products should be part of a broader sustainability approach, addressing full life cycle impacts like production processes, transportation, and end-of-life disposal.

8. Can a company logo be printed on an FSC®-certified product, and what are the requirements?

- Yes, a company logo can be printed on an **FSC®-certified product** as long as the FSC® chain of custody remains intact. FSC® certification focuses on the responsible sourcing of forest materials rather than additional processes like printing. There are no guidelines for printing techniques, as the inks or branding methods that are used have no bearing on the FSC® certification.

9. Does PF Concept offer FSC®-certified branding techniques?

- There is no such thing as FSC®-certified branding techniques, but our printing facility PF Poland operations is certified, to keep the chain of custody intact. This chain of custody ensures that certified material is always identified and kept separate from non-certified material during every step in the supply chain.

10. What are the benefits of choosing FSC®-certified branded products from PF Concept?

- Choosing **FSC®-certified branded products** from PF Concept supports global forest conservation efforts and ensures responsible sourcing of forest materials. With FSC® certification, consumers can be confident that the products are made from materials that protect biodiversity and local communities. By offering FSC®-certified products with compliant branding, PF Concept provides a credible solution for eco-conscious customers looking for sustainability throughout the supply chain.