

DER-STD-60-004_01 Exemption from recalculating AAC based on harvestable area and adjusting management plans accordingly

Normative reference FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 Criterion 5.2 and related applicable provisions in Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS)
 FSC-PRO-60-004 V1-0 Draft 1-1 Development of indicators for the protection of Intact Forest Landscapes considering the landscape level
 FSC-DIR-20-007; ADVICE-20-007-18 V3-0
 INT-DIR-20-007_16

Scope Generic – applicable by:

- a) Organizations
 - i. holding Forest Management certification (FM, FM/CoC, or CFM) as of the effective date of this derogation; and
 - ii. having Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) overlapping with their Management Units; and
 - iii. operating under a license agreement by a management plan which: had been approved before IFL rules became effective for the Organization by the relevant public authority – such as state departments or equivalent entities – and which for that reason cannot be aligned with these rules within the ongoing harvesting cycle; and
 - iv. having Management Units located in countries where there is a registered pilot for the development of IFL indicators based on FSC-PRO-60-004 (see Annex 'Countries with registered Motion-23 Pilots' below).
- b) Certification bodies of Organizations listed under a).
- c) Assurance Services International (ASI)

Specific
 (applicable only upon individual request and confirmation by the FSC Policy & Performance Unit)

Approval 27 March 2025

Effective date 01 April 2025

Period of validity Until, whatever date is earlier:

- a) 31 December 2026, or
- b) The effective date of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS) resulting from the ongoing Motion 23 pilot.

NOTE: The FSS resulting from the ongoing Motion 23 pilot test are expected to become effective no later than by end of 2026.

Terms & definitions **Core area:** The portion of each Intact Forest Landscape designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. Core areas are managed to exclude industrial activity (Source: shortened from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1).

Industrial activity: Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1).

Rationale The situation of Organizations listed under Scope, point a) is supposed to be addressed by ongoing pilots under Motion 23/2020 by means of landscape-level approaches. The enforcement of requirements leading to suspensions or terminations of their certifications would be against the intent of the Motion.

Nevertheless, the relevant exemption is of limited duration in expectation of relevant results from the pilots being available in 2026.

Derogation 1. The Organization is not required to exclude IFL core areas from the total area used to calculate the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) and to reflect this in its management plan. Actual harvesting rates in the annual operating area of the Management Unit shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained for that area.

NOTE: This means that harvesting and other industrial activity in areas outside of the IFL core area may continue as stipulated by the management plan as long as this does not lead to harvesting or other industrial activity within IFL core areas, nor to overharvesting outside IFL core areas.

2. The Organization shall obtain independent legal expertise on their contractual constraints to adjust their management plans by excluding IFL core areas from the total area used to calculate the AAC.

3. The Organization's certification body shall verify that the legal expertise confirms relevant contractual constraints and has been provided independently.

4. Certification bodies and Assurance Services International (ASI) shall not issue non-conformities related to this subject matter addressed by INT-DIR-20-007_16, nor suspend or terminate certificates based on relevant non-conformities issued before the derogation's effective date.

ANNEX: Countries with registered Motion 23 / 2020 Pilots

COUNTRY	Date of approved registration
Brazil	12 December 2024
Canada	13 December 2024
Peru	14 March 2025
Republic of Congo	19 October 2024