

DER-STD-40-004_01 Economically Integrated Countries treated as a Single Entity

Normative reference	Clause 14.1 b), iv & Clause 16.1 b) of FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1
Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generic (applicable by all certificate holders) <input type="checkbox"/> Specific (applicable only upon individual request and PSU confirmation)
Approval	09 April 2025
Effective date	11 April 2025
Period of validity	Until replacement or withdrawal.
Rationale	<p>Some countries are economically integrated and share socio-economic characteristics, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close diplomatic relations, e.g., agreements on taxation, customs, shared regulations on timber; • shared language; and • use of the same currency. <p>Certification applicants in countries such as these, e.g., Liechtenstein and Switzerland, may have sites in both countries, however the current requirements in FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 provide that for single CoC certification, such applicants would not meet the criteria under Clause 14.1 b) iv. Similarly, for group certification, sites across these countries are unable to be part of a group certification, with reference to Clause 16.1 b), unless these are treated as being in the 'same country'.</p> <p>Permitting such countries to be considered as the 'same country' would be beneficial for certification applicants with multiple sites across borders and offer a cost-effective solution.</p>
FSC Conclusion	<p>Countries listed in Annex I of this derogation may be regarded as a single entity and treated as the 'same country' for the purpose of obtaining a single CoC certification or for joining a group CoC certification.</p> <p>Annex I provides countries which are considered by FSC as economically integrated and share socioeconomic characteristics.</p> <p>Any updates to Annex I are the prerogative of FSC, dependent on receipt of stakeholder requests which include sufficient supporting evidence.</p>

Annex I The following countries are considered as a single entity/one country in the context of eligibility for single or group CoC certification:

- Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
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