

FAQ ON THE FSC AP RFSS FOR SMALLHOLDERS

Version 1-1



Title:	FAQ on the FSC AP RFSS for Smallholders
---------------	---

Dates:	Finalization date: 30 July 2025
	Last update date: 9 September 2025

Responsible program:	Policy Innovation
-----------------------------	--------------------------

Contact for comments:	Email: policyinnovation@fsc.org
------------------------------	--

Objective of document:	This FAQ is non-normative and has been developed for all interested stakeholders.
-------------------------------	---

© 2025 Forest Stewardship Council, A.C. All Rights Reserved
FSC® F000100

You may not distribute, modify, transmit, reuse, reproduce, re-post or use the copyrighted materials from this document for public or commercial purposes, without the express written consent of the publisher. You are hereby authorized to view, download, print and distribute individual pages from this document subject for informational purposes only.

CONTENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)	4
1 Principles, Criteria and Indicators for Smallholders in Thailand	5
1.1 Can the land tax payment certificate, e.g., Por Bor tor 5 (P.B.T.5), be considered sufficient evidence for the conformance of the smallholder with indicator 1.3.1 of FSC-STD-RAP-THA-01-2024 plantations, the FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Thailand, in regard to binding legal acts (e.g. National Reserved Forests Act B.E. 2507 (no. 4) B.E. 2559) in Thailand?	5
Abbreviations	6

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) aims to clarify aspects related to the content of the AP RFSS *FSC-STD-RAP-01-2021, The FSC Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders* and its nationally adapted versions:

- *FSC-STD-RAP-IND-01-2022 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in India;*
- *FSC-STD-RAP-IDN-01-2022 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Indonesia;*
- *FSC-STD-RAP-VNM-01-2022 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Vietnam;*
- *FSC-STD-RAP-THA-01-2024 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Thailand.*

This FAQ is non-normative and has been developed for all interested stakeholders. This same FAQ applies for all countries under the scope of AP RFSS. This document will be updated on a regular basis.

Further questions to clarify aspects related to these standards will be subsequently included in this FAQ document as a result of input from engagement with stakeholders.

Requests for additional topics and questions to be considered in this FAQ can be sent to policyinnovation@fsc.org .

1 PRINCIPLES, CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN THAILAND

1.1 Can the land tax payment certificate, e.g., *Por Bor Tor 5 (P.B.T.5)*, be considered sufficient evidence of conformity by the smallholder with indicator 1.3.1 of *FSC-STD-RAP-THA-01-2024 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Thailand* in regard to binding legal acts (e.g. *National Reserved Forests Act B.E. 2507 (No. 4) B.E. 2559*) in Thailand?

Firstly, it is important to distinguish between Criterion 1.1. and Criterion 1.3 of *FSC-STD-RAP-THA-01-2024 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Thailand*:

- **Criterion 1.1** requires The Organization to have permits: “ The Organization* shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration*, with written authorization from the legally competent* authority for specific activities.”;
- **Criterion 1.3** requires The Organization to show conformity in its activities with those permits: “*The Organization** shall have *legal** rights to operate in the *Management Unit**, which fit the legal* status of The Organization* and of the Management Unit* and shall comply with the associated legal* obligations in applicable *national* and *local laws** and regulations and administrative requirements. The *legal** rights shall provide for harvest of products and/or supply of ecosystem services* from within the *Management Unit**. *The Organization** shall pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.”

While the land tax payment document, such as *Phor Bor Thor 5 (P.B.T.5)* issued by the Subdistrict Administrative Organization in Thailand, can be considered one piece of evidence for conformity¹ with indicator 1.3.1 of *FSC-STD-RAP-THA-01-2024 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Thailand*, it is not sufficient on its own until the future policy mechanism called *Kor Tor Chor (KTC)* in Thailand is in place.

In the meantime, the smallholder is expected to demonstrate that the land is used according to the specific provisions set by the P.B.T.5 -issuing authority and that forestry activities are carried out in compliance with other applicable laws, regulations, administrative requirements, and legal and customary rights. The certification body (CB) should also conduct interviews and seek stakeholder confirmation to evaluate full conformity with indicator 1.3.1.

Once the government of Thailand issues the *Kor Tor Chor Land Utilization Booklet* at the communal level, smallholders shall demonstrate their compliance according to the regulations stated in that booklet under Criterion 1.1 of *FSC-STD-RAP-THA-01-2024 Plantations, The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in Thailand*.

¹ For areas under the *Kor Tor Chor (KTC)* scheme, allocated by the state for community agricultural use and still treated as state land, local administrative bodies generally do not impose land and building tax in the same manner as privately titled properties^{[1][2]}. Additionally, the use of the outdated *Phor Bor Thor 5* form and related local maintenance tax has been officially withdrawn and suspended for such areas, including national forest reserves.^{[3][4]} These changes align with legal provisions intended to avoid misleading documentation and redundant taxation. ^{[5][6]}

ABBREVIATIONS

AP RFSS	Asia-Pacific Regional Forest Stewardship Standard
CB	Certification Body
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
KTC	Kor Tor Chor mechanism in Thailand
P.B.T.5	Phor Bor Thor 5 is a land tax payment certificate issued by Subdistrict Administrative Organization in Thailand



FSC International – Policy & Performance Unit

Adenauerallee 134

53113 Bonn

Germany

Phone: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -0

Fax: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -65

Email: FSCPolicyPerformance@fsc.org