



# SYSTEM-WIDE CHANGES PRESENTED IN ADVICE NOTES FOR CONSULTATION

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## EUDR Alignment

FSC forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit generally meet or exceed regulations for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) requirements for deforestation-free products.

Specifically, FSC surpasses the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) by explicitly prohibiting conversion to any non-forest land use, extending beyond restrictions solely to agriculture, and includes stricter requirements addressing degradation. While most updates to the FSC system for users to support EUDR compliance are voluntary, there are some system-wide changes that are related and further strengthen FSC to be deforestation-free.



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These changes are proposed in the form of Advice Notes and available for public consultation.



## Alignment with FSC Policy to Address Conversion: Forest Management Related Advice Notes

With the approval of the Policy to Address Conversion, FSC reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to global initiatives aiming to end deforestation and to promote conservation, restoration and restitution.

To further tighten the FSC system to deliver deforestation-free products, FSC is implementing changes to closer align with the intention of FSC's new Policy to Address Conversion. FSC is now putting in place strict rules that prevent any material stemming from conversion activities to end up in FSC certified products.

This will ultimately ensure that products from any sort of deforestation that is possible as outlined per EUDR, even in exceptional circumstances as outlined in principle 6 of the Policy to Address Conversion, do not enter the system with an "FSC Claim" and keep our products deforestation free.

These Advice Notes aligning with the FSC Policy to Address Conversion will close any remaining gaps with EUDR definitions and requirements on deforestation free products.

### ADVICE-20-007-xx Deforestation-free products from FSC certified management units

By developing and adopting this advice note, FSC is aligning its system further with the Policy to Address Conversion and closing potential gaps between FSC Forest Management requirements and the EUDR, and with this ensuring that all forest products sourced from FSC certified management units are deforestation-free.

### ADVICE-20-007-02 Certification of primary forests

ADVICE-20-007-02 has been revised to align the definition of primary forest with the FAO definition and make explicit that degradation of primary forests constitutes a conversion activity and is therefore prohibited by Criterion 6.9. This provides clarity on how EUDR requirements are covered with existing FSC requirements.

## Controlled Wood and Chain of Custody Advice Notes

### ADVICE-40-005-27 Addressing systemic changes into requirements for sourcing FSC Controlled Wood

This advice note introduces amending the risk categorization applicable to sourcing controlled material, as well as aligning the requirements for the extended company risk assessments with the revised requirements for conducting FSC risk assessments in accordance with FSC-PRO-60-006b *FSC Risk Assessment Framework*. It clarifies terminology to align with EUDR and FSC-PRO-60-006b through updating the following:

- "Negligible risk" instead of "low risk"
- "Negligible risk area" instead of "low risk area"
- "Non-negligible risk" instead of "specified risk"
- "Non-negligible risk area" instead of "specified risk area"
- "Unspecified risk" instead of "unassessed risk"

### ADVICE-40-004-XX/ADVICE-20-011-XX Addressing systemic changes in Chain of Custody Certification

The FSC Regulatory Module introduces a 'Regulatory' claim to be used in combination with the FSC claims. The objective of this advice note is to provide instructions for the non-users of the FSC-STD-01-004 VI-0 FSC Regulatory Module to establish product groups with the Regulatory claim for the purpose of controlling the Regulatory output claim.



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