

Photo: Keycolor



CERTIFICATION OF FORESTRY COMPANIES AND TIMBER PROCESSING FIRMS UNDER



BACKGROUND

Who's behind it?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was formed in 1993 by environmental organisations, representatives of indigenous peoples and companies operating in the forestry and timber industry as a worldwide, independent and charitable organisation. The FSC is a membership organisation which is open to all natural persons and corporate entities. SQS – as an accredited certification company – is recognised by the FSC as a verification body.

AIMS

What are the intended aims?

The certification procedure is intended to create environmentally compatible, socially acceptable and economically sustainable forestry management as well as an improvement in the opportunities for the marketing of timber which is produced on an environmentally compatible and socially acceptable basis. In addition, the intention is to make a contribution towards the continual improvement in the business performance of forestry companies.

TARGET GROUPS

Who are the intended target groups?

- Forestry companies,
- Timber processing companies.

PROCEDURE

What does it involve?

The FSC provides an internationally applicable list of principles and criteria for environmentally compatible, socially acceptable and economically sustainable forestry management. These are adapted accordingly in each country – taking into consideration the national circumstances. Consequently, FSC certification in Switzerland is primarily based on the “National Standards for Forest Certification in Switzerland” and is implemented on the forestry company level. The entire goods chain can be certified separately so that the certified timber reaches the end user via the timber processing companies on a controlled basis.

QUALITY CRITERIA

What are the requirements?

For forest certification:

- Adherence to the laws and FSC principles,
- respect for the rights of ownership and use,
- efforts aimed at preserving and maintaining the relationships with the local population,
- adherence to the employment laws and health and safety at work,
- maintaining a high level of timber quality,
- dispensing with clear-felling,
- principle of rejuvenation,
- setting aside the protected areas,
- adherence to the laws on water conservation/protection,
- planning and control documents,
- preserving the barrier woods.

For certification of the processing chain:

- Processing and storage system which is able to prove beyond doubt that a raw material product originates from the certified source (forest or upstream processing stage).
- Guaranteeing the chain throughout the production process.

INFORMATION

I'd like to know more!

You can obtain further information from our office in Zollikofen, our auditors will also be happy to assist you with technical questions.

Internet addresses: www.sqs.ch (www.fsc-holz.ch, www.fscsoax.org, www.fsc-produkte.ch, www.wwf.ch).

CERTIFICATE/RECOGNITION

FSC certificates

- can be issued through SQS (FSC accredited) following successful certification,
- are internationally recognised,
- are valid for 5 years, after which re-certification is carried out – in the sense of continual further development.

PROFILE

Who is SQS?

SQS is your competent contact partner for the certification of forestry companies and timber processing companies in accordance with FSC.

The Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems

- is an independent, non-profit organisation,
- is accredited as a certification body by the SAS (Swiss Accreditation Service),
- provides certification for, amongst other things, quality management systems in accordance with the ISO 9000 series, environmental management systems under ISO 14001,
- has trained auditors with experience in the relevant sectors.

REGISTRATION

Where can I register?

Contact us at:

SQS, Bernstrasse 103, CH-3052 Zollikofen
 Telephone +41 31 910 35 35, Fax +41 31 910 35 45
headoffice@sqs.ch, www.sqs.ch