



Forest Stewardship Council®

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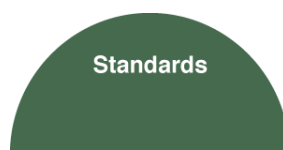
# Interpretations of the normative framework

TRADEMARK

14 MAY 2018

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF THE FSC TRADEMARKS BY CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

### FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2 and FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_25	
<b>Requirement(s)</b>	<b>FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0</b>	Standard effective date, Transition period 1 March 2018 – 28 February 2019
<b>Publication date</b>	14 May 2018	
<p><b>Is the certification body required to schedule additional audits for those clients that have not been audited against the revised standard FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0 before the end of the transition period?</b></p> <p>No additional audits are required for certificate holders that have not been audited against the revised standard FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0 before the end of the transition period – 28 February 2019. Certificate holders do not need to have an audit before they make the transition to V2-0 of the standard; it is sufficient that they inform their certification body when they are ready to have their FSC trademark use approved in line with V2-0 of the standard during the transition period.</p> <p>Please note that after 28 February 2019, all trademark uses are to be approved in line with FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0.</p>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_21	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.1, 1.16, 11.4, 11.6, 11.7, FAQ #21
Publication date	24 June 2016	

**Is it acceptable to use the FSC trademarks as segregation marks? And does the segregation mark need to be approved by a certification body prior to use?**

Yes, the FSC trademarks may be used for the purpose of identifying FSC certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished: FSC treats this as a segregation mark. These segregation marks for internal use should be reproduced in such a way that they comply as closely as possible with the standard FSC-STD-50-001. It is not required to submit segregation marks to the certification body for approval prior to use. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale, or are delivered to non-certified organizations.

Code	INT-STD-50-001_22	
Requirement(s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 1.3, Clause 5.5
Publication date	14 May 2018	
Is it allowed to omit the license code when using the name 'Forest Stewardship Council' or the initials 'FSC' in social media posts?		

Given the particularities of this communication medium, it is allowed for a certificate holder to omit the license code in a social media post, so long as either the social media account or the post itself references the certificate holder's website where the compulsory promotional elements are listed.

Code	INT-STD-50-001_23	
Requirement(s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 1.4
Publication date	14 May 2018	
<p><b>Is it allowed to omit the trademark symbol when using the name ‘Forest Stewardship Council’ or the initials ‘FSC’ in social media posts?</b></p> <p>Given the particularities of this communication medium, it is allowed for a certificate holder to omit the trademark symbol when using the name ‘Forest Stewardship Council’ or the initials ‘FSC’ in a social media post.</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_17	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.4;
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 2.1e)
<b>Publication date</b>	11 April 2014	
<p><b>A Certificate Holder has certification for chain of custody with controlled wood included in their certificate scope. According to FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2 clause 1.4 and FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0 Clause 2.1e) it is not allowed to use FSC trademarks to promote FSC Controlled Wood. Is it allowed to publish the certificate document issued by the certification body on the website when the controlled wood scope is mentioned on it?</b></p> <p>The certificate document with controlled wood in the scope may be published online or displayed on a wall in public.</p>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_24	
Requirement(s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 1.5
Publication date	14 May 2018	
<p><b>Is it allowed for the certification body to approve generic formats (templates) for their clients?</b></p> <p>In the absence of an approved trademark use management system, certificate holders shall submit all intended uses of FSC trademarks to the certification body for approval. There are however situations when the certification body is able to approve a generic format (template) to be used on a range of products to which different designs are being applied (e.g. a postcard with different images). This is allowed when the following conditions are met:</p> <p>a. The FSC label is used on the same product type without any alterations (e.g. changing the label title, changing the product type, changing the size of the label etc.).</p>		

- b. The different designs do not affect the area where the FSC label is placed and the exclusion zone is respected.
- c. The different designs do not include any uses of the FSC trademarks (e.g. use of statements containing the name 'Forest Stewardship Council' or the initials 'FSC', use of the 'Forests For All Forever' marks), except for the ones approved in the generic format (template).

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_9	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.6
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 2.1a)
<b>Publication date</b>	07 February 2012	
<p><b>When a printed publication is FSC labeled, is it allowed to print calculations on savings on environmental resources based on the choice of paper?</b></p> <p>The calculations may be printed provided the following conditions to reduce the risk of confusion are met:</p> <p>a) There shall be no reference to FSC within these calculations</p> <p>b) A reference to the party responsible for the calculation shall be provided</p> <p>c) Calculations may not be placed in a way which implies connection to FSC. If it is not possible to place the calculations anywhere but close to FSC label (exclusion zone shall be always respected), there shall be a disclaimer: "FSC is not responsible for any calculations on saving resources by choosing this paper."</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_12	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.15
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 1.4
<b>Publication date</b>	27 June 2012	
<p><b>Can the FSC initials be used vertically as required in the traditional way of writing in Asian nations? If so, should the registration status symbol go on the top right corner (alongside F), or bottom right corner (alongside C)?</b></p> <p><b>F</b> <b>S</b> <b>C</b></p> <p>Yes, it is possible to use the FSC initials vertically when used in the traditional way of writing for Asian nations. The registration status symbol may be used in superscript font in both, the top right corner (alongside F), or bottom right corner (alongside C) as preferred.</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_13	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.15, Annex 1
<b>Publication date</b>	29 May 2013 (Updated 29 July 2016)	

**Which trademark symbol should be used when creating on product labels, promotional panels or in any other use for Russian and CIS markets?**

The symbol ® or ™ may not be used for unregistered trademarks in Russia and the following CIS countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Therefore, no symbol may be used next to the initials “FSC” when creating on-product labels, promotional panels or in any other use for Russia, until the initials “FSC” are successfully registered. The symbol ® shall continue to be used for the FSC logo (checkmark-and-tree) and the name “Forest Stewardship Council”.

No symbol may be used next to the FSC logo, the initials “FSC” and the name “Forest Stewardship Council” when creating on-product labels, promotional panels or in any other use for the aforementioned CIS countries, until the trademarks are registered.

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_14	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clauses 1.15, 7.5, Annex 1
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clauses 1.4, 6.2, Trademark Registration List
<b>Publication date</b>	17 October 2013	

**Is an exception for the omission of the use of trademark registration symbol in promotional texts related to FSC on invoice templates, delivery notes and similar documents possible if the software that an organization uses to produce these documents does not support trademark registration symbols in texts?**

NOTE: The use of trademark registration symbol is not required for FSC claims nor for the disclaimer / statement specified in requirement 7.5 of FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2 and in requirement 6.2. of FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0.

The omission of the use of trademark registration symbol in promotional texts related to FSC on invoice templates, delivery notes and similar documents is possible if the software used to produce these documents does not support trademark registration symbols. This exception only applies to the use of the trademark registration symbol for the initials “FSC” and the name “Forest Stewardship Council”.

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_16	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.15
<b>Publication date</b>	11 April 2014	

**Is the registration or trademark symbol required when initials “FSC” are used for claims on invoices as required by FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1?**

The registration symbol is not required for making FSC claims or for displaying the FSC certificate code on invoices or delivery documents as defined in FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1 clause 6.1.1. The registration symbol is required for any other use of initials “FSC” on documents.

Code	INT-STD-50-001_19	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.15, Annex 1
Publication date	31 August 2014	
<p><b>In January 2014 FSC reverted a change made to Annex 1 to the attributed trademark symbol for the FSC trademarks in Hong Kong. The trademark symbol changed from ® back to TM. Does this affect the production of already approved artwork?</b></p> <p>Companies affected by this change which have approved artwork with the ® registered trademark symbol for distribution in Hong Kong may continue to produce, distribute and sell into the market product using the registered trademark symbol on the FSC trademarks for a period of 12 months, expiring 1 September 2015, with an additional liquidation period of six months which shall expire 1 March 2016. All new artwork sent for approval shall use the trademark symbol TM.</p>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_20	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.15, Annex 1
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 1.4, Trademark Registration List
Publication date	11 February 2015	
<p><b>Does publishing an update to Annex 1 have an effect on already approved artwork? And is there a transition period for changing from one symbol to the other?</b></p> <p>Updates to Annex 1/ Trademark Registration List are effective immediately. However, all products and promotional materials using previously approved artwork may continue in production and distribution. The change in the symbol shall be implemented when the artwork is up for next revision, unless this takes place during the transition period. During the transition period of 12 months either the old or the new symbol may be used. The transition period is aiming to mitigate time and cost pressures for designs already in planning at the time of the publication of an update.</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_03	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 1.16
<b>Publication date</b>	01 March 2011	

**Shall the organization submit artwork of all new reproductions of FSC trademarks to the certification body for approval?**

Provided that the organization establishes a good record of correct trademark use, it will not be necessary to re-submit labels for the same product type or with the same placement on the product, or for repeated use of promotional artwork.

This clause means in general all new reproductions of FSC trademarks require approval from certification bodies. However, in the following cases, it is not necessary for certificate holders to re-submit artwork for approval:

1. A generic format to be approved by certification bodies for certificate holders to use it on a range of products when the following conditions are met, certification body may opt to approve a generic format to be used on a range of products:

The organization must have established a good track record of correct trademark use  
The label is used on the same product type without any alterations, i.e. any changes to the label, such as label product type, label color...etc. require a further approval  
The label remains the same and the exclusion zone around it is respected  
Different designs won't affect the area where the FSC label is placed

2. Repeated use of promotional artwork

Code	INT-STD-50-001_10	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 2.3
Publication date	16 February 2012	
<b>Is it possible to display the FSC label inside packaging?</b>		
No, the only exemption is when there are legal requirements for the packaging that make the placement of the FSC label on the outside impossible (e.g. pharmaceutical industry).		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_08	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clauses 2.6 and 2.6.1
Publication date	31 January 2012	
<p><b>When a product is FSC labeled can it carry marks of other forest certification schemes?</b></p> <p>No, the product may not carry marks of other forest certification schemes. It would not be allowed to double label a product for example.</p> <p>However, in FSC labeled publications such as magazines or printed advertising material the marks of other certification schemes may be used for product promotion or educational purposes as long as there are no claims about the paper of the publication being certified against the other certification scheme.</p>		



Code	INT-STD-50-001_04	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clauses 3.3 and 3.3.1
Publication date	08 November 2011	
<p><b>Can the FSC mini label be used on paper bigger than A5 when the organization's own mark is smaller than the FSC standard label?</b></p> <p>Yes, in cases where the organization's or its sponsor's own mark is smaller than the FSC standard label and therefore the organization would like to use the FSC mini label instead, the FSC mini label can be used exceptionally regardless of paper size or of sufficient space available for the standard label.</p> <p>Prior approval for the exceptional use of the mini label from Certification Bodies (CBs) is required.</p> <p>CBs may approve this exceptional use of the mini label at their own discretion without further checking with FSC on the ground of size reasons mentioned above.</p>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_05	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clauses 3.3 and 3.3.1
Publication date	08 November 2011	
<p><b>Can the mini label in a bigger format without standard label text be used on a wine cork even if there is enough space to include the standard label?</b></p> <p>Yes, use of the mini label in a bigger format instead of the standard label on a wine cork is possible, when it is technically difficult to produce legible standard label text on the rough surface of the wine cork.</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_06	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clauses 3.3 and 3.3.1
<b>Publication date</b>	08 November 2011	
<p><b>When is the mini label permitted?</b></p> <p>1. The mini label may always be used in the following cases:</p> <p>a.) Paper size A5 or smaller</p> <p>b.) Packaging 500ml volume or less</p> <p>2. As for paper size bigger than A5, the standard label should be used when possible. This means when there is sufficient clear unprinted space available for the standard label, the standard label should be used. When there is not, the mini label may be used.</p> <p>NOTE: the area intended for writing or printing on letter templates or postcards is not considered as clear unprinted space.</p>		

3. Certification bodies (CBs) may approve the use of the mini label without checking with FSC on grounds of space restrictions.

4. The following criteria are provided for CBs to use in judging cases where the mini label is requested to be used on paper size bigger than A5:

- a) Check if the printed piece is fully covered with texts, info, and graphics, and then determine the area where the label is to be placed on the piece
- b) Check if there is printable space available for the standard label in that area without requiring a redesign
- c) If yes, the standard label shall be used
- d) If not, the mini label can be used

Code	INT-STD-50-001_07	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clauses 3.3 and 3.3.1
Publication date	08 November 2011	
<p><b>If a product is so small that even the mini label can't be used, what should I do?</b></p> <p>An image of the product including the proposal for incorporating the FSC label should be submitted to the responsible CB. The CB will then raise this issue with FSC to find a solution.</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_18	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	<b>FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2</b>	Clause 4.5
<b>Publication date</b>	11 April 2014	
<p><b>A supplier may use a third party to produce part of their client's product even though the client is not aware of this arrangement. For example, Printer A may request Printer B to produce glossy covers for a magazine, even though the client X is unaware of Printer B.</b></p> <p><b>What are the requirements for the agreement of this arrangement when the client requests their own FSC trademark license code to be applied to the product and it will be applied by a supplier they are not aware of?</b></p> <p>When two Certificate Holders enter into an agreement where the supplier agrees to label the product with the client's FSC trademark license code, but the labels are to be applied by an FSC certified third party whom the supplier wishes to remain anonymous from the client, the following conditions shall be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The agreement shall designate the supplier's certification body as responsible for approval of product labels and ensuring that the buyer's code is only used on products which are supplied to that buyer, and</li> <li>ii) The third party must keep data relating to the use of the buyer's labels separately or easily available for the certification body's review.</li> </ul>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_11	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 7.4
Publication date	07 March 2012	
<p><b>Is it allowed to use the FSC trademarks on business cards?</b></p> <p>No, is not allowed as promotional use of the logo is prohibited. In business cards it is not possible to specify which parts of the operations of an organization the certification refers to.</p> <p>What is allowed is, when using FSC certified paper, to have the FSC certified printer to put the mini label at minimum size on the business cards.</p>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_02	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 10.11
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 3.7
Publication date	01 March 2011	
<p><b>Is it possible to add “contents” to the list of words for product types?</b></p> <p>No, it is not allowed to use “contents” as a product type.</p> <p>The product types are very general in nature, more of general material types actually, such as paper, wood, board, rubber etc. For the sake of clarity there are few real product names included, such as packaging. The intention is to keep the list at a very general level so it is not allowed to use “contents” as a product type.</p>		

Code	INT-STD-50-001_15	
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2	Clause 10.13
	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0	Clause 8.10
Publication date	17 October 2013 (Updated 28 June 2017)	
<p><b>Can an additional statement related to FSC be added within the clear space surrounding the label (exclusion zone)?</b></p> <p>An additional statement clarifying which component of a product is FSC certified may be added within the exclusion zone. Reference to more information about the FSC label (e.g. the FSC website address) may be added within the exclusion zone.</p>		

<b>Code</b>	INT-STD-50-001_01	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	<b>FSC-STD-50-001 V1-2</b>	Clause 10.15
<b>Publication date</b>	01 March 2011	

**Is it allowed to use a bilingual mini label?**

Normally it's not allowed as the mini label can include only one language due to small size of the mini label. Only when the following conditions are met, CBs may approve use of a bilingual mini label:

Governmental or legal requirements due to a multitude languages used in a country.  
The product that meets the requirements of using a mini label such as a swing tag, is distributed in multiple markets that require two major languages to be displayed on the product.



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