

FOREST MANAGEMENT AUDITS & CERTIFICATION

SGS

HOW CAN YOU BEST DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT?

FOREST MANAGEMENT AUDITS & CERTIFICATION FROM SGS

Forests are among our oldest natural resources. Rapid industrialisation, combined with population growth, has led to an increase in global wood consumption and exploitation of forests. Public pressure, more stringent legislation, and a global focus on environmental protection are currently fuelling the drive to ensure that forests are a well-managed resource and we are using materials from responsibly managed forests. Forest certification provides an opportunity for your company to prove its support of public and environmental demands, helping to differentiate your service from competitors.

ABOUT FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest management certification is an independent assessment that ensures your forest management practices are in compliance with the internationally recognised standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)®.

An FSC® accredited Forest Management certification from SGS assures buyers that timber has come from a forest which has been evaluated and certified as being managed according to the correct social, economic and environmental standards. The FSC® also evaluates, accredits and monitors forest certification organisations, which are authorised to certify against its principles and criteria. The SGS programme holds FSC® accreditation. ¹

SGS Qualifor is an FSC®-accredited certification body that inspects, audits and certifies organisations against

FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Management. These principles and criteria concern the environmental, social and economic impacts of forest management.

SGS also offers Forest Product Chain-of-Custody certification that ensures the origins of timber as a raw material or product. Where there is timber processing within the forest environment, SGS can provide Forest Product Chain-of-Custody as well as Forest Management audit and certification services at the same time, saving money and avoiding the duplication of efforts.



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THE BENEFITS

Responsible Forest Management certification enables you to demonstrate your commitment to well-managed forests and customer satisfaction, as well as continuously improving your corporate image. It also provides an assurance to customers, stakeholders and investors of the quality and reliability of your forest management efforts. Products originating from forests certified by SGS Qualifor may carry the FSC trademark. Since buyers of wood products are increasingly adopting FSC-accredited certification as an element of timber specification, an FSC trademark

on your products provides you access to markets that specify timber products from well-managed forests.

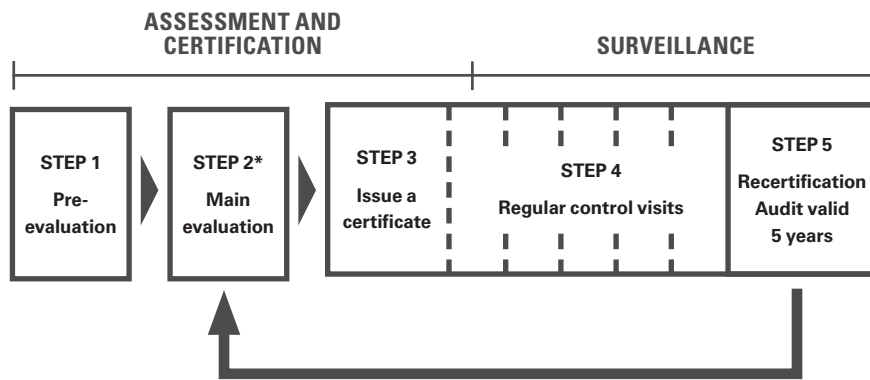
FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The SGS Forest Management certification involves six steps:

- Step 1 – SGS conducts a pre-evaluation to ensure that you understand the requirements of the SGS Qualifor evaluation and to help us initially identify any gaps that may exist in the management of your forests.
- Step 2 – A main evaluation is then carried out by SGS and involves the following stages:
 - Agreement to proceed – a contract is signed to begin the main evaluation.
 - Preparation – a checklist is developed based on local FSC standards (where this is not in place already).
 - Stakeholder consultation – consultations are carried out with individuals and groups who have an interest in management of forest areas to be certified.
 - Field evaluation – to determine how closely your activities in the field comply with your documented management systems and the SGS Qualifor programme requirements.
 - Stakeholder interviews – interviews are carried out in order to clarify the nature of any issues raised and your responses to them.
 - Summing up and closing meeting – our findings are presented to your management at a closing meeting to inform you whether you will be recommended for certification and will describe any areas of non-conformance with the SGS Qualifor programme.

¹ SGS global FSC certification is performed under the terms of accreditation held by SGS South Africa (Pty) Ltd (FSC-ACC-015) on behalf of the SGS Group.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROCESS



* Includes Stakeholder consultation and interviews, refer to Step 2 in the text on the facing page.

- Chain-of-Custody inspection – the purpose of this process is to ensure that any wood entering the production process is drawn solely from certified forest, or if not, then adequately segregated. The inspection must be carried out before any organisation may use the FSC trademark on its products.
- Reporting – a report will be prepared to detail all of our findings from the field evaluation.
- Peer and internal review – this involves scrutiny of the report by nationally recognised, independent forest experts. The report and Peer Reviewers’ comments are then internally reviewed and the final decision on certification is made.
- Step 3 – If the result of the evaluation and review process is positive, a certificate, together with information about conditions of its use, is issued.
- Step 4 – After certification is issued, regular visits are made to ensure that the standards assessed at certification are being maintained. The first visit is approximately 6 months after certification, and subsequent visits at least annually and more frequently if there are issues needing to be monitored such as outstanding Corrective Action Requests.
- Step 5 – An SGS Qualifor certificate is usually valid for a period of 5 years. After this time, because of changes in regulations, technical and scientific information, and stakeholder expectations, we are required to re-assess your entire forest management system.

FOREST MANAGEMENT RELATED TRAINING

We offer an in-depth training that provides an overview of what is meant by Forest Management Certification. Please check with your local SGS affiliate to find out more about Forest Management Certification training courses.

OTHER SERVICES RELATED TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

SGS is also known for its solutions against other needs related to forest management as well as continuous improvement:

- Chain-of-custody certification: a secure chain of custody requires that certified products are identified, segregated and accompanied by appropriate documentation at all stages;
- Forestry Monitoring services including: Timber Legality & Traceability Verification (TLTV), Mandatory Legal Timber Validation (MLTV) and Voluntary Legal Timber Validation (VLTV);
- Forest Product Inspection Services (FPIS) for round wood and poles, wood chips, pellets, particles, sawdust wood pulp fibres, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood as well as fumigation, collateral management and financial services; and
- Consumer wood products testing against Japanese, EU and US market requirements.

WHY SGS?

SGS is the world’s leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. Recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity, we employ over 67 000 people and operate a network of more than 1 250 offices and laboratories around the world. We are constantly looking beyond customers’ and society’s expectations in order to deliver market leading services wherever they are needed. SGS is the world’s leading independent body in Forest Management and in Forest Product Chain-of-Custody certification.

Partnering with SGS opens the door to better performing processes, increasingly skilful talent, consistent and compliant supply chains and more sustainable customer relationships delivering profitable competitive advantage. Work with the global leader and take your commitment to the next level.

We have a history of undertaking and successfully executing large-scale, complex international projects. With a presence in every single region around the globe, our people speak the language and understand the culture of the local market and operate globally in a consistent, reliable and effective manner.

TO LEARN HOW SGS CAN HELP YOU EXCEED CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS, VISIT WWW.UK.SGS.COM/ FORESTRY-CERTIFICATION OR CONTACT UK.NOWISTHETIME@SGS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WWW.SGS.COM