



Traceability

WOOD SUPPLY CHAIN AND FOREST CERTIFICATION FOR BUSINESSES

The value of wood supply chain and forest certification for businesses

Timber and paper products are involved with some of the most geographically complex supply chains. Providing certification of traceability through the supply chain is a way in which companies can show that they are meeting their customers' needs for legal and sustainable timber and paper products.

In addition, many countries are now building mandatory legal requirements into their national legislature. These two factors are creating an environment where companies in the supply chain are under increasing pressure to demonstrate traceability for the product back to source and to verify that the product has been legally harvested and supplied to the market.

SGS is a trusted partner to organisations worldwide for solutions across the forest and wood supply chain. We provide independent assessment and certification of forest management activities in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®, Licence Number: FSC A000531) and the Programme for Endorsed Forest Certification scheme (PEFC™).

FSC® is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation, established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management to the world's forests.

PEFC™ is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification.



How does the certification process work?

FOREST PRODUCT CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

Chain-of-custody certification verifies that products originate from certified forests and recognises that timber and paper products go through complex supply chains and manufacturing processes. Companies that undergo chain-of-custody certification are able to make claims that their products originate from certified well-managed forests and other controlled sources.



STEP A – Onsite pre-evaluation: (optional) overview of your procedures to ensure you understand the requirements of the SGS evaluation and identify likely control points against the relevant COC standards

STEP B – Onsite visits: visual checks of all appropriate site-based facilities at your organisation

STEP C – Onsite reports: reporting of identification and segregation procedures, records keeping and staff interviews

STEP D – Corrective actions: discussion of identified problems and, if necessary, of non-conformances (NCs).

STEP E – Evaluation report: feedback on the audit findings and the certification recommendation

STEP F – Certification: in the case of a successful certificate decision, SGS issues a certificate and updates the relevant website (i.e. FSC® or PEFC™)

STEP G – SGS conducts annual surveillance audits to ensure continued compliance to the relevant standard

STEP H – SGS conducts a re-evaluation audit before the expiry date and issues a new certificate

*For PEFC™ chain of custody certification, a review of the documented system by SGS is required, prior to first onsite evaluation.

How does the certification process work?

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Forest management certification is the assessment and verification of a forest against a specific set of criteria known as a forest management standard. The standard covers the environmental, social and economic activities associated with the forest, and is adapted to meet the specific local needs and requirements of the region.

STEP A – Onsite pre-evaluation: overview of your procedures to ensure you understand the requirements of the SGS Qualifiers evaluation and to identify likely control points

STEP B – Main evaluation: this step involves the following stages:

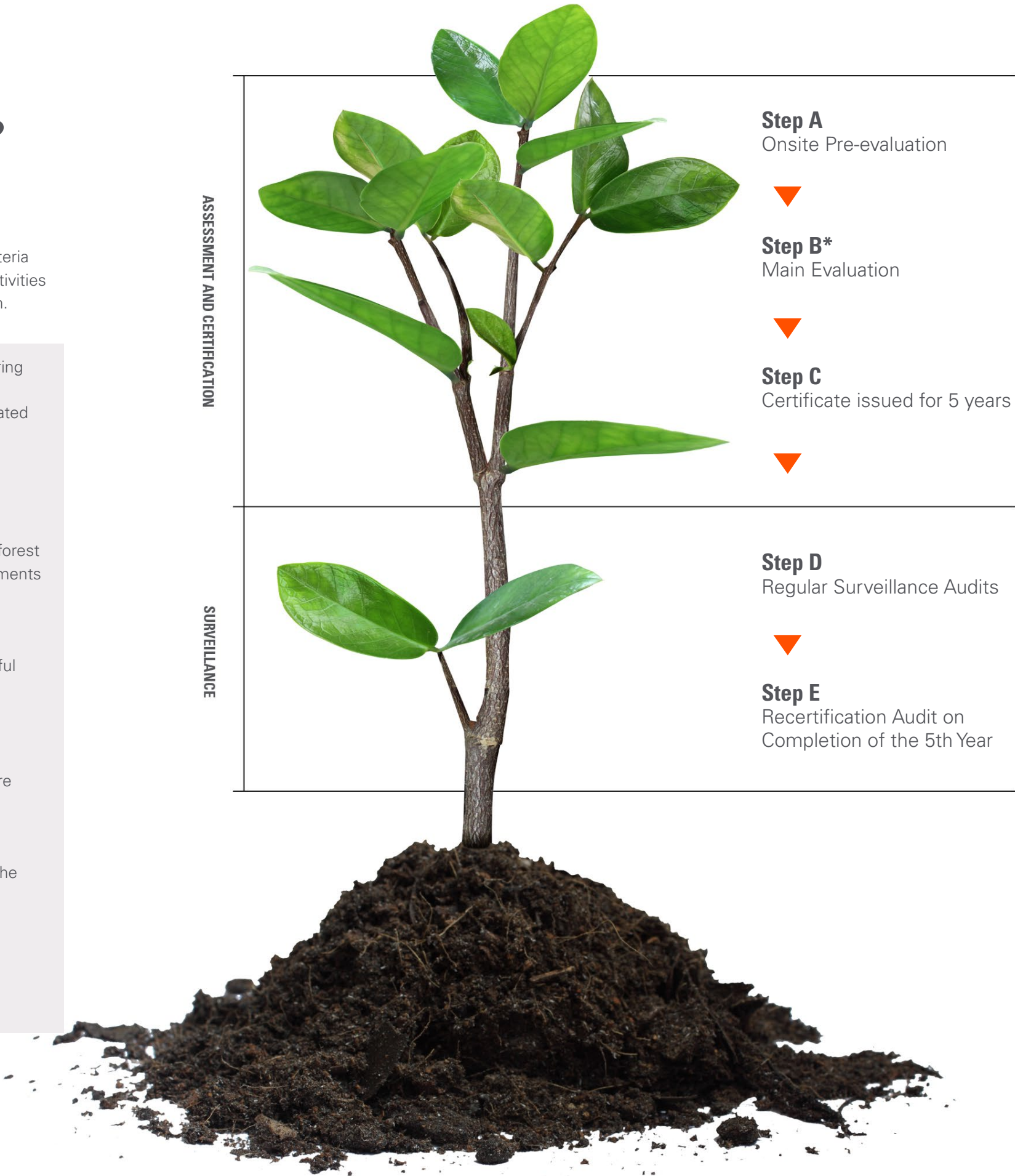
1. A contract is signed to begin the main evaluation
2. A checklist is developed for local conditions and requirements based on the international FSC® standard
3. Consultations are held with all stakeholders who have an interest in the management of the forest areas to be certified
4. Field evaluations determine how closely your activities in the field comply with the management systems
5. Stakeholder interviews clarify the issues raised and your responses to them
6. A closing meeting is held to discuss with your management the areas of non-conformance and inform you on the certificate recommendation

7. COC inspection ensures that any wood entering the production process is drawn solely from certified forests, or if not, adequately segregated
8. A report including the findings from the field evaluation is prepared
9. Peer and internal review allow scrutiny of the report by nationally recognised independent forest experts. The report and peer reviewers’ comments are internally reviewed, after which the final decision is made regarding the certification

STEP C – Certification: in the case of a successful certificate decision, a certificate is issued

STEP D – Surveillance audits: the first visit is approximately six months after certification and subsequent visits follow at least annually or more frequently in the case of any outstanding major non-conformances (NCs)

STEP E – SGS conducts a re-evaluation before the expiry date and issues a new certificate.



* Includes stakeholder consultation and interviews, refer to Step B in the text above.

UK Timber Regulations

The European Timber Regulation (EUTR) and Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) no longer applies in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). Instead, the UK Timber Regulation (UKTR) and UK FLEGT came into effect in Great Britain from 1 January 2021. This means timber importers bringing wood in from EU countries will become 'Operators' (instead of their current status as 'Traders').

Under UKTR, businesses importing into the UK from anywhere in the world, including the EU/EEA, will need to carry out due diligence confirming that timber products placed on the GB market have been legally harvested to ensure there is negligible risk of illegally

harvested timber entering the supply chain. Imports to Northern Ireland will still be subject to EUTR.

Businesses exporting to the EU/EEA from the UK and when placing timber on the Northern Ireland market from the UK will need to supply information and documentation about the source and legality of their timber products to meet due diligence requirements in the EU Timber Regulation.

Chain of Custody certification does not in itself provide evidence of compliance with timber legality requirements but it can support compliance by providing visibility through the supply chain for timber products.

Forestry Certification Benefits

- Allows you to demonstrate compliance with globally agreed standards for forest management or product traceability.
- Improves your internal processes and performance through a system-based approach to product traceability.
- Improves internal product management systems so that they deliver increased efficiency and reductions in costs.
- Protects your reputation by verifying product traceability back to a certified source.
- Documents direct evidence that products originate from a certified source reducing the risk of product denial and possible litigation.
- Helps you implement a due diligence system.

Training Related to Forest and Wood Supply Chain Management

We offer a range of training programmes covering Forest Management, Forest Product Chain-of-Custody Certification and UK Timber Regulation. Please visit www.sgs.co.uk/training to find the available programmes in your location.

Why choose SGS

As a world leader in verification and consultancy services, we offer you unrivalled experience and a unique global network. This means you can benefit from our advice and expertise no matter where you – or your forests – are in the world.

In addition, we offer a range of forest investment, inventory and consulting services – including forest plantation reviews – to the financial industry. These services help investors and/or owners to manage forest(s) more effectively and to verify and maximise your returns.

Our services:

- Reduce the risk of the timber and paper industry sourcing from controversial or illegal sources
- Help to verify that forests are managed effectively and sustainably

Contact us today to discuss how our forestry services can help you.

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS