



Holzindustrie Schweighofer certificate suspended June 2016

BONN, Germany (23 June 2016) – The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain of custody/controlled wood certificate ([QA-COC-0073/0](#)) issued to Holzindustrie Schweighofer in January this year has been suspended, following findings that the certification body that issued the certificate did not have proper systems in place.

The certification body, Quality Austria Trainings-, Zertifizierungs- und Begutachtungs GmbH (Quality Austria), chose to suspend the certificate because it concluded that its auditing process was insufficient, and was not suited to assess non-compliances by Holzindustrie Schweighofer. A review of the auditing process was conducted by the certification body after Quality Austria [was suspended by Accreditation Services International on 29 May 2016](#).

Concurrently, FSC continues to [conduct an investigation](#) into the serious allegations against Holzindustrie Schweighofer of trading and processing of illegal timber in Romania filed in a complaint by WWF Germany. The recent certificate suspension is not related to the ongoing investigation.

FSC established an independent and chamber-balanced complaints panel in March 2016 to conduct an evaluation of the complaint. The panel will determine whether the following unacceptable activities, defined by the [Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC](#), have taken place in relation to Holzindustrie Schweighofer operations:

1. illegal logging or trade of illegal wood or forest products
2. destruction of high conservation values in protected areas
3. violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations.

The panel is expected to submit a final report in September 2016. [For further information, please visit the case page.](#)

If you have further questions about this case, please contact FSC Communications Manager, Lisa Smyth, at communications@fsc.org or on +49 (0)228 36766 (ext. 23).