



Three steps to verify claims on FSC products

Companies must be able to verify the claims on the products they are purchasing. That is why FSC has set up a system of certificates for forest managers and for companies processing and trading material from certified forests.

All FSC certificate holders are controlled on an annual basis by independent certification bodies, who are accredited by a specialized international organization, [Accreditation Services International](#).

This system helps procurers to take precautionary measures by verifying claims and also to identify mistakes that may have been made unintentionally.

The first step is to be clear in the tender formulation: insist that bidders confirm they are in compliance with the rules of the forest certification schemes they intend to refer to for proving compliance with the relevant technical specifications.

The second step is to control the information given by these bidders with the use of the [FSC Public Certificate Database](#).

The third step is to control the claims that come with the actual goods, because most FSC certificate holders trade in both certified and non-certified products. The control starts with checking whether the invoices have valid FSC claims. The public certificate database again is a good way to check this.

Take into account that retailers, who sell products already packed by their suppliers, with the FSC logo on the packages, are not obliged to be FSC certified. For more information, [click here](#).