Standard for the certification of Chain of Custody Multiple Sites

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Action: Decision

1. Background

The FSC-STD-40-003 standard provides the requirements for the Chain of Custody certification of multiple-sites (e.g. two or more sites or enterprises under the same certificate scope).

This standard results from a major revision process of the group and multi-site requirements, where the FSC policy for group certification (FSC-POL-40-002) and the FSC standard for multi-site certification (FSC-STD-40-003) were merged into a single document. This contributes to the simplification and improvement of the overall consistency of the FSC Normative Framework.

The requirements specified in this standard apply equally to Multi-site and Group COC certification, unless otherwise specified in the standard.

The document has passed through two rounds of public consultation. The working group responsible for the development of this document has approved the submission of the final draft to the PSC and Board for approval. However, there is one outstanding concern from one of the working group (WG) members (Mr. Ulf Sontag) and supported by another working group member (Christopher Gibbons) regarding the qualification of Central Office (CO) auditors (See Clause 5.2.4). The WG members (which are also Certificate Holders, managing Group certificates) do not agree that CO auditors are required to possess a formal ISO 9001, ISO 14001 or OHSAS 18001 lead auditor certificate. The issue was discussed with the Head of FSC Policy and Standards Unit who recommends the maintenance of this requirement as a measure to ensure the quality of the audits performed by CO auditors.

2. Summary of main changes

- The new standard clarifies that, under certain conditions, single COC certificates can also include more than one site (Clause 1.1);
- The multi-site eligibility criteria was improved in order to avoid separate legal entities without centrally administered and controlled management system to access multi-site certification (Clause 2.1);
- Improved requirements on the competence and qualification of Certificate Managers and Central Office’s auditors. It includes the requirement that Central Office’s auditors of large group certificates and multi-sites (where the Participating Sites are not linked through common ownership or subject to a strongly controlled management system) shall attend a formal ISO lead auditor training course. (Clause 5.2.4);
- The revised standard provides clear rules on the size and increase on the number of Participating Sites in the scope of the certificate. The size of the certificate is now limited to a maximum of 500 Participating Sites per certificate (Section 5.5).
- Each Participating Site will be required to use a sub-code on sales and delivery documents of FSC certified products (NOTE: Under the current rules, all Participating Sites use the same certificate code) (Clause 6.2).
3. **Requested decision**

The FSC Policy and Standards Committee is requested to recommend approval of the revised standard as presented.

**Annexes:**

1. Chain of Custody Certification of Multiple Sites (STD-40-003 V2-0)