



Sustainable Forest Management Commitment

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1. Policy Background

1.1. Introduction

This document sets out CertiSource policy with regards the commitment required from Forest Management Enterprises (FME) towards attaining a credible sustainable forest management certification.

As stated in Policy 01: Policy Statement – “our [CertiSource’s] long term goal is to move interested parties towards sourcing timber from credibly certified forests thus ensuring that legal timber becomes synonymous with sustainability.”

CertiSource recognises that many FMEs will not be able to commit to gaining sustainable forest management certification in a short space of time. This is especially true in many developing countries that are a source of tropical hardwood.

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to CertiSource certified Forest Enterprises and all Certification Body staff auditing against the CertiSource standards.

1.3. Definitions

<i>Forest Management Certification</i>	A way of ensuring that careful and long term forest management is recognised. Certification involves an inspection of the forest management by an independent organisation to check that it passes internationally agreed principles of good forest management.
<i>Forest Stewardship Council</i>	The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international network that promotes the responsible management of the world’s forests. FSC brings people together to find solutions to the problems created by bad forestry practices and to reward good forest management.
<i>In-progress</i>	A verified status that a FME is moving toward sustainable FSC Forest Management Certification.
<i>PEFC</i>	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification is an umbrella organisation that endorses national forest certification systems that have been developed through stakeholder consultation. PEFC is the world’s largest forest certification system, with over 30 endorsed national certification schemes. National schemes include Australia, Indonesia (Indonesian Forest Certification Cooperation - IFCC ¹), UK, USA, Spain, Sweden and Russia.
<i>PHPL</i>	PHPL (Pengelolaan Hutan Produksi Lestari) is the Indonesia Government mandatory Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification.

¹ <http://www.ifcc-kssk.org/>

PHPL is an increasingly recognised SFM initiative following EU ratification in April 2014. The scheme was developed as part of the European Union Voluntary Partnership Agreement within the EU FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement and Trade) process.

*Step-wise
programme*

The concept of modular verification whereby “full” certification is broken down into a number of modules or steps. Forest managers can then aim to achieve these steps in sequence over time.

2. Policy Standards

2.1 General

Reaching sustainable forest management certification can be both resource and time consuming. As such, CertiSource recognises that as a first step practical solutions are needed for companies to demonstrate the legality of their products.

CertiSource "Verified Legal" verification is one method to realise this objective.

2.2 Forest Management Enterprise Commitment

CertiSource policy is to offer "Verified Legal" timber verification for any Forest Management Enterprise (FME) for a period of up to two years.

After this time the FME should be able to demonstrate a commitment to achieving a recognised and credible sustainable forest management (SFM) certification scheme.

Currently CertiSource recognises the following sustainable forest management initiatives:

1. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification;
2. PEFC Sustainable Forest Management certification (see definitions for more details on PEFC).
3. PHPL Sustainable Forest Management certification (see definitions for more details).

2.3 Proof of Commitment

Such commitment will be proven by the FME having enlisted guidance of a credible consultant or enrolled in a Step-Wise Programme aimed towards reaching one (or more) of the above mentioned initiatives:

- Specifying clear, verifiable, time-bound steps and relevant processes for achieving the goal of sustainable forest management.
- Requiring participating FMEs to meet minimum entry requirements and follow verifiable action plans to ensure continuous progress towards compliance with the adopted sustainable forest management initiative(s).

2.4 In-Progress Status

CertiSource requires its Certification Body(s) to verify that the FME has entered into a programme to achieve sustainable forest management certification as specified in 2.3. During this time the FME will be shown to be "In-Progress" towards sustainable forest management certification.

It will be verified that the FME is making progress within the scope of the action plan and that the number of non-conformances are being reduced over time.

2.5 Non-Conformance

CertiSource will not risk its reputation by maintaining links with any party that repeatedly deviates from SFM commitments it has made to CertiSource or other bodies.

Dependent upon the nature and degree of the issues, CertiSource's Certification Body will respond in one of the following ways:

- Issue non-conformances to be responded to in a specified time;

- Report on-going problems to CertiSource buyers so that they can make informed decisions on whether to maintain relationships with the FME;
- Continue to work with the FME to address non-conformance issues identified and improve performance within an agreed and stated time period.

Issuing a non-conformance will be done in accordance with Policy 07 Non-Conformance and Observations.

3. Related Information

3.1 Related Policies and Documents

This policy has connections to the following CertiSource Policy Statements:

Policy 01: Policy Statement

Policy 07: Non-Conformance and Observations.

3.2 Policy Review

To ensure that this policy statement remains relevant it will be reviewed regularly at a minimum frequency of every six months. Revisions will be made when necessary to provide solutions to any practical problems encountered.

4. Document History

Version	Date Approved	Description
3.00	27 July 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document history added (i.e. this section). 2. Programme Manager changed to Programme Director. 3. Reference (section 3.2) to SOPs deleted. 4. Forest Management Unit (FMU) changed to Forest Management Enterprise (FME). 5. Non-compliance changed to non-conformance. 6. Section 2.5 now specifies that the Certification Body is responsible for issuing the corrective actions etc.; 7. In the “approvals” space the date of the next revision is deleted. This is to avoid confusion as to whether or not a policy is still valid (e.g. the date of the next revision in the past failed to be changed after a review if nothing was changed in a policy; 8. Title changed from “FSC Forest Management Commitment” to “Sustainable Forest Management Commitment”. 9. Previously the policy was restricted to one sustainable certification (i.e. FSC). The policy has now been broadened to accept three sustainable forest management certification scheme <p>“Currently CertiSource recognises the following sustainable forest management schemes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification; 2. PEFC Sustainable Forest Management certification 3. PHPL Sustainable Forest Management certification.” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. More explanation on PEFC and PHPL added. 12. Section 2.5 bullet point 2 expanded to: “Report on-going problems to CertiSource buyers so that they can make informed decisions on whether to maintain relationships with the FME;”
3.01	4 September 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update contact information and general review.
3.02	28 June 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfer to new template
4.00	1 August 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall check on continuing validity and relevance. 2. Up-dated to v4.00 (round number) to streamline with other revisions during this annual review. 3. Included effective date.