


Forest Stewardship  
Council® (FSC®) Certified  
Procurement Policy

**FASTAID+**  
First Aid...for life





FastAid is committed to the responsible sourcing of forest products. Our long-term intention is that all timber and paper used in the products that we purchase or specify is sourced from well-managed forests that have been certified to credible certification standards and/or recycled sources.

“Some 129 million hectares of forest - an area almost equivalent in size to South Africa - have been lost since 1990”

FAO 2015

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# Background : Why are we talking about FSC®?

### What is the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)?

So many things in our lives come from forests. FSC® helps take care of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. So you can keep your life full of forest products while keeping our forests full of life.

### Why are forests important?

Forests are good for us. They provide a great environment for hiking and other outdoor pursuits and are even proven to have therapeutic properties. Millions of indigenous people and countless species of plants and animals are wholly dependent on forests. Trees produce oxygen and in the process store carbon dioxide, meaning that forests are our planet's best defence against climate change. Forests also provide many products that we use every day from timber for furniture and construction to paper for books and tissues and even foods and important medicines.

### What's the problem?

Forests are under threat and disappearing at an alarming rate. Deforestation accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than the global transport sector. Finding a balanced way to both use and protect our forests has become critical.

### What does FSC® do?

FSC® is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. FSC® has developed a system of forest certification and product labelling that enables people to identify responsibly sourced wood, paper and other forest products.

### How does FSC® work?

FSC® runs a global forest certification system with two key components: Forest Management and Chain of Custody. The certification process is carried out by independent organisations called certification bodies, which assess forest managers and forest products companies against FSC® standards.

### What makes FSC® forests special?

FSC® certified forests must be managed to the highest environmental, social and economic standards. Trees that are harvested are replanted or allowed to regenerate naturally. The forests must be managed with due respect for the environment, the wildlife and the people who live and work in them. This is what makes the FSC® system unique and ensures that a forest is well-managed, from the protection of indigenous people's rights to the

methods of felling trees. FSC® is the only forest certification scheme endorsed by WWF, Greenpeace and the Planet Ark.

### What do the labels mean?

An FSC® label on a wood or wood-based product is your assurance that it is made with, or contains, wood that comes from FSC® certified forests or from post-consumer waste. FSC® labels can also be found on some non-timber forest products.



### How can FastAid help?

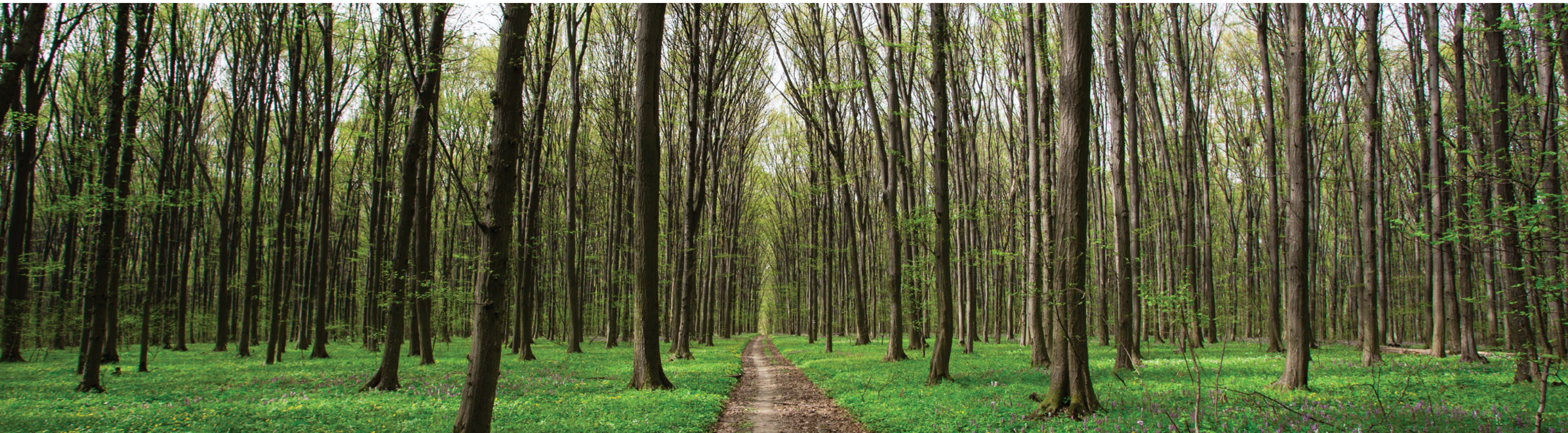
We can proactively choose FSC® certified products whenever we can. We will ensure our packaging suppliers utilise raw material supply that is FSC® certified. We will look out for the FSC® labels on paper, timber and other forest products including cork, bamboo and natural latex if relevant. For unlabelled products, such as sawn timber for packaging use, we will choose an FSC® certified supplier.

### Where can we find and validate FSC® certified products and suppliers?

We can find FSC® certified suppliers on the FSC® public database, and request certificates of currency for cross checking, from any suppliers of our products that are paper based such as first aid notebooks and registers of injuries, and also on any of our products that include paper or timber-based packaging. It is important we conduct cross checks on the FSC® database regularly and before engaging suppliers that source paper and timber raw material.

### What should we do if we can't find FSC® certified suppliers?

Although more and more FSC® certified products and suppliers are available all the time, there are still gaps in the market. If we cannot find a product or suppliers that are FSC® certified, we will ask for it. We will also contact the FSC® Australia office to help to identify suppliers of specific products if required.





# What we will do about FSC® : Our Procurement Policy

Possibly unknowingly, many buyers of forest products and some agricultural commodities could be contributing to deforestation. As an organisation, FastAid is now implementing procurement policies to help safeguard against this. This is a way we will ensure everyone in our organisation knows what timber/paper is acceptable for use. It will also enable us to make and meet ambitious CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) targets.

### Our goal

FastAid is committed to the responsible sourcing of forest products. Our long-term intention is that all timber and paper used in the products that we purchase or specify is sourced from well-managed forests that have been certified to credible certification standards and/or recycled sources.

### Criteria

FastAid's FSC® Certified Procurement Policy requires that all timber and wood-derived products must have Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification, at least to raw material supply level. We understand there are many complex layers of suppliers in our supply chain, and the supply of FSC® certified raw material to manufacturing processing is our minimum expectation. FastAid believes that the FSC® currently

represents the gold standard for responsible forest management.

### Labelling

Printed paper materials should carry an FSC® or equivalent label whenever possible. The label should be applied under a valid chain of custody certificate in line with the requirements of the certification scheme.

### Evidence

When requested, suppliers must be able to provide evidence to FastAid that the wood or wood products they supply are from responsible sources. Products supplied as FSC® certified will only be accepted as such if accompanied by an invoice which confirms the FSC® status of the products and the FSC® certificate number of the immediate supplier. Due to the complexities in many layers of suppliers in our supply chain, we may specify this requirement to our immediate suppliers, who in turn request compliance and proof from their sub suppliers.

### Alternatives

Timber or paper from other certified sources with a complete chain of custody, will be accepted only in situations where a particular type of product or timber

species is needed, and it is not possible to source FSC® certified products. The following criteria must be met within the certification scheme:

- + compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, treaties, conventions and agreements;
- + recognition of long-term tenure and use rights;
- + recognition of indigenous peoples' rights;
- + maintenance of forest workers' and local communities' social and economic well-being;
- + maintenance of long-term economic, social and environmental benefits from the forest;
- + maintenance of the ecosystem, its biodiversity, resources and landscapes;
- + a documented, implemented, monitored forest management plan;
- + maintenance of high conservation value forests;
- + long-term responsible forest management;
- + regular monitoring and a chain of custody scheme to track products.

If independently certified timber or paper proves to be unavailable, we will accept, as a second resort only, timber/paper that can be supplied due diligence to comply with the requirements of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012 (Regulation). See <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/compliance/can/2015/1-2015>. Evidence must

also be provided to demonstrate that every attempt has been made to obtain certified materials before exploring alternatives - flexibility in terms of species specification should be pursued.

### Critical points for purchasing

1. Source from an FSC® certified supplier. All FSC® certified organisations are included within the FSC® certificate database at [www.info.fsc.org](http://www.info.fsc.org).
2. Check that the certificate is valid and that it covers the appropriate product categories using the database at [www.info.fsc.org](http://www.info.fsc.org).
3. Specify FSC® certified materials when placing your order and let your supplier know that you need them to make an FSC® claim on their sale documents.
4. Check that the delivery note and/or invoice clearly identifies the FSC® certified products and includes the supplier's FSC® certificate code.
5. Where our immediate suppliers use sub-suppliers, we stipulate that they request the above information from them, with proof to be onforwarded to FastAid for cross-checking as per the above steps.

### Responsibility

Responsibility for the implementation, execution and maintenance of this policy rests with the FastAid Operations Team Leader, and will be subject to annual audit checks by our Quality Assurance & Sustainability team.







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