

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Forest Management certification is available to operations that practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable forest management, as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) Principles and Criteria (P&C).

FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Forest Conservation Program (FCP) is an independent, third party forest management certification program that operates under the sponsorship of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FCP is accredited by the FSC to conduct Forest Management and Chain-of-Custody certifications worldwide.

The FCP defines (qualitatively and quantitatively) the issues of well-managed forestry by providing uniform guidelines for assessing forest stewardship operations around the world. Additionally, the FCP clarifies well-managed forestry to the public by providing an independently verified basis for potential marketplace claims.

The program involves an in-depth evaluation of aspects of forest resource stewardship (e.g., timber, forest ecosystem, socio-economic considerations). Fundamental to this process is the evaluation of management practices against objective and regionally appropriate standards of exemplary forestry.

To date, SCS, has certified over 13 million acres of forests in Central, South and North America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand; we have also issued more than 500 FSC-endorsed chain-of-custody certificates. Our experience and market activity is truly international and our institutional resources and capacity reflect this global outlook.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The following steps are involved in verifying an applicant's Forest Management operations and "Well-Managed" Forest claim.

Step 1. Authorization

Applicant provides initial information to help SCS determine whether certification is feasible. If the approach appears viable, SCS recommends that the client proceed with the on-site audit. Applicant then signs a work order and a certification agreement.

Step 2. On-site Audit

SCS designates a qualified evaluation team, selecting experts in the relevant fields of forestry, biology and economics. The team collects and analyzes data from the client, government reports, and interviews with local stakeholders.

Step 3. Performance Scores

After analyzing the data, the team assigns performance scores for each of the FSC Principles. An operation must achieve a score of 80 or higher for each Principle to receive certification.

Step 4. Peer Review

The proposed certification report is then handed over to independent scientific experts who review the evaluation report and validate the appropriateness of the team's scientific methodology and conclusions.

SCIENTIFIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) is a multi-disciplinary scientific organization based in Emeryville, California. Founded in 1984, SCS is an internationally recognized neutral third-party evaluation, testing, and certification organization. SCS's programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, including manufacturing and retailing, consumer products, the energy industry, the home improvement and construction sectors, and agricultural production.

Step 5. Certification

Following the peer review, an SCS certification committee reviews the report and decided whether or not to approve certification. If certification is granted a certificate is issued for a five year period, subject to annual surveillance audits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about SCS'S Forest Management program, contact:

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