

Responsible Procurement Program Glossary

Glossary of key terms used in the RPP

3/30/10

Administered by

National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA)

Acceptable Source: is wood that has been determined to come from one of the following sources: FSC-Certified sources from any region; Domestic sources from U.S. States where hardwood growth exceeds mortality and removals; Verified Legal sources from any region; or imported sources from countries where illegal logging is considered low risk.

Baseline: Represents an initial assessment of annual sales per *source type* from which to base future forecasts and objectives.

Chain of Custody (CoC): The succession of ownership of wood products from the forest through each stage of manufacturing and distribution to the final consumer.

Corrective Action Request (CAR): Advice of a non-conformance with a standard (such as the RPP Standard or the FSC Chain-of-Custody Standard) issued by an auditor to a company in the wake of an annual audit; generally, a CAR is issued with instructions and a deadline for its resolution. Failure to resolve CARs will result in the suspension of chain-of-custody certification (see above).

Country of Origin: The country where the wood was originally harvested from the forest, which is not necessarily the country where the product was manufactured or traded.

Countries not considered low risk for illegal logging: As determined by the [FSC Global Forest Risk Registry](#); Countries not considered low risk for illegal logging appear in red on the map and are referred to as being of “unspecified risk.”

FSC-accredited Certification Body: An organization that has been authorized by the Forest Stewardship Council to conduct forest management and/or chain of custody audits to FSC standards. A complete listing of FSC-accredited certification bodies can be found at this website: [FSC-accredited certifiers](#)

FSC Certified: One of the Acceptable Source Types in the RPP. Wood derived from a well-managed forest, recycled and controlled sources as defined by the FSC. For the wood to be considered “certified” it must be delivered and described on an invoice as “FSC Pure”, “FSC Mixed”, or “FSC Recycled” material from a company holding a valid FSC chain of custody certificate per www.fsc-info.org.

FSC Controlled Wood: Wood that has been screened to not include any of the five controversial sources identified in the FSC Controlled Wood Standard (FSC-STD-40-005 v2-1): 1. Illegally harvested wood; 2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; 3. Wood harvested in forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities; 4. Wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use; 5. Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

FSC Procurement Group: An initiative of NWFPA and the RPP whose goal is to assist in developing programs to overcome the barriers to the FSC certification of family forest lands across the hardwood region of the U.S.

Legal or RPP Legal: One of the Acceptable Source Types in the RPP. An designation given to wood that is either a) imported FSC Controlled Wood (see above); b) from sources that have undergone VLO by an NWFA-approved legality verifier (see below); c) sourced from countries considered low risk for illegal logging; or d) sourced from U.S. states where hardwood growth does not exceed loss and/or that do not avoid controversial sources

NWFA-approved Legality Verifier: An organization that conducts audits for Legal Harvest Verification or VLO (see below) and that has been determined to meet NWFA's standards for credible legality verification (see RPP Program Document, Appendix 1).

Other Acceptable Source: One of the Acceptable Source Types in the RPP. It includes Post-consumer Recycled Wood, Pre-Consumer Recycled Wood, and Salvaged Wood (see below).

Post-consumer Recycled Wood: Wood or wood fiber that has been reclaimed from an end-user after being used for its intended purpose. End-users may include individuals, households or industrial users of the product. End uses often include the deconstruction and reclamation of wood from buildings and other wooden structures.

Pre-consumer Recycled Wood: Wood or wood fiber that is created as a by-product of a secondary manufacturing process and is not typically re-used on-site in the same process that generated it.

Precautionary approach: Within the context of this standard the precautionary approach shall be defined as a high level of risk aversion by the Company; meaning that sources are to be considered *unacceptable/unknown* unless all evidence suggests they are *acceptable*.

Reclaimed Wood: See *Post-consumer recycled wood*.

Salvaged Wood: Wood or wood fiber that comes from logs that have been salvaged from the following sources: post-agricultural (e.g. fruit and nut orchards); urban forests (street trees); waterways (sunken logs raised from rivers, reservoirs, and lake bottoms); and other sources reviewed and approved as salvaged by NWFA and SCS.

Source Type: Refers to the classes of *acceptable* and *unknown/unacceptable* sources used throughout the RPP. The Source Types are as follows:

1. Unknown/Unacceptable
2. Acceptable
 - 2.1. FSC Certified
 - 2.2. RPP US Renewing Forests
 - 2.3. RPP Legal
 - 2.4. Other Acceptable

Unknown/unacceptable Source: Any source of wood that cannot be considered acceptable in the context of this standard. Such a source can be from a country that has a high incidence of illegal logging and has not been verified to be legal or one that is merely lacking a credible supplier declaration.

US Renewing Forests or RPP Renewing Forests: One of the Acceptable Source Types in the RPP. A designation given to hardwood forests based on published five-year, statewide statistics from the USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis whereby hardwood growth is equal to or greater than removals and mortality measured in wood volume. A prerequisite for this designation is that that the forest is located in a state or region considered low risk for the five controversial sources identified in the *FSC Controlled Wood Standard* (FSC-STD-40-005 v2-1). US Renewing Forest can be considered functionally equivalent to “sustainable yield” at the US State-level; however it is not meant to suggest or imply sustainable forest management.

Verified Legal Origin (VLO) or Legal Harvest Verification: Can be considered functionally equivalent to having the Legal Right to Harvest, and means that the Forest Manager has authorization from the forest owners to harvest in the forest management unit under a valid permit, license, or similar instrument issued pursuant to the laws and regulations governing the harvesting of forest resources.¹

¹ This definition taken from the Rainforest Alliance/Smartwood Standard for Verified Legal Origin.