

The ins and outs of the RPP

The National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) partnered with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Scientific Certification Systems, and the FSC Family Forests Alliance to develop a forest management system called the Responsible Procurement Program (RPP). The RPP has three tiers to help hardwood flooring achieve certification.

► Tier 1 requires participation in the NWFA Verified Renewing Forests program and enables use of the “Verified from U.S. Renewing Forests” label for domestically sourced wood flooring. It also requires participation in the Verified Legal Origin program for imported products from high-risk countries and enables use of the “Verified Legal Imported” label.

► Tier 2 requires FSC chain-of-custody certification and a commitment to building trade in FSC-certified wood products. Participants also are required to meet FSC-controlled wood standards for all of their non-FSC-certified supply within two years of progressing to Tier 2. Importers from high-risk countries advancing to Tier 2 are required to complete the Verified Legal Origin program.

► Tier 3 is the highest level attainable. It grants recognition to companies whose trade in FSC-certified products exceeds 50 percent of overall sales and whose non-FSC sales meet FSC-controlled wood standards.

