



Responsible Procurement Program

Serving the wood flooring industry

The Responsible Procurement Program (RPP) was developed in partnership with the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) to provide a stepwise approach for hardwood manufacturers and distributors to increase their level of responsibly-sourced timber products.

Recognizing that FSC-certified wood can be difficult to obtain in both the U.S. and abroad, the program provides a time-bound, tiered structure for companies to demonstrate significant improvements in responsible wood procurement. FSC-US recognizes and supports the NWFA Responsible Procurement Program as a valid, incremental approach toward socially and environmentally responsible forestry.

The program also works to increase the U.S. supply of FSC certified hardwood through the formation of the FSC Procurement Group. Group participation is a requirement of the program and will work to assist small landowners in overcoming barriers to FSC Forest Management certification.

Why Choose Scientific Certification Systems?

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) is a leading third-party certification body with more than 25 years of experience certifying environmental and sustainability claims. SCS's forestry certifications pre-date the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). One of the FSC's original 3 certifiers, SCS is one of the most respected certification bodies throughout the world for integrity, scientific rigor and true independence.

With auditors throughout the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, SCS has certified more than 2,500 wood product companies across the globe.

SCS is very focused on customer service and is able to contract with companies, deploy auditors to the field and make certification decisions faster than the competition.

for information about becoming certified
or locating certified products:

[SCScertified.com/rpp](https://www.scs-certified.com/rpp)

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Providing global leadership in independent, third-party certification, auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years.



Basic RPP Process

Companies first work to identify all sources of wood entering their production system and to eliminate wood products coming from unknown and unacceptable sources. The next step is to set and meet objectives for increasing production and sales of FSC-certified products over a defined time period. Annual audits are conducted to ensure conformance.

Tiers of Certification

The NWFA RPP provides progressive tiers which guide participants toward higher levels of social and environmental responsibility and performance.

Tier 1 requires an initial evaluation against the NWFA's Responsible Procurement Standard by a third party auditor to evaluate the company's classification and control of all sources of domestic and imported wood. Once verified, most domestically sourced products can carry the transitional U.S. Renewing Forest claim. Program participants have three years to progress from Tier 1 to Tier 2.

Tier 2 recognizes companies that source their wood from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified forests and agree to increase their overall use of FSC-certified wood year after year. Importers advancing to Tier 2 are required to first verify the legality of all high risk sources of wood through by contracting with an NWFA-approved legality verifier.

Tier 3 is the highest level of achievement within the NWFA RPP. It recognizes companies trading more than 50% overall sales in FSC-certified product and whose non-FSC sales meet FSC Controlled Wood standards.

Two off-product promotional labels are used to recognize companies which participate in the RPP.

Complementary Services

In addition to RPP, SCS provides LegalHarvest Verification, Forest Stewardship Council Certification and Carbon Footprint and Offset Verification. Wood products may also qualify for SCS Recycled Content, SCS Indoor Advantage indoor air quality certification and/or SCS calCOMPLIant (CARB ATCM) certification.



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