

Chain of Custody Certification (CoC)

Australia is serviced by two timber certifying organisations, predominantly known as the Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) and the Forest Stewardship Council Australia (FSC) – this information sheet will explore the benefits and provisions of both.

Fundamentally, certification whether AFCS or FSC, provides proof and peace of mind to the purchaser of the product and end consumer that the timber has originated from sustainably managed forests and considers the environmental impact of forestry and timber production.

Chain of Custody (CoC) basically tracks a wood or forest product from its origin in a certified forest through to its end use as a timber product by the end consumer. CoC covers all intermediate steps such as harvesting, transportation, primary and secondary processing, manufacturing, re-manufacturing, distribution and sales. As such, CoC is an inventory control system. It promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests.

Attributes

Certifying Body	Australian Forest Certification Scheme	Forest Stewardship Council Australia
International alignment	Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – approximately 200 million hectares of global certified forestry	Forest Stewardship Council – International Approximately 100 million hectares of global certified forestry
Product	AS4707 Chain of Custody Australian Standard (Certified Wood and Wood Products – Flooring and Decking)	FSC's own Chain of Custody Certification
Organisation Background	Not-for-profit public company managed by a Board of Directors elected by the members from the broad stakeholder categories of forest, government, employee representative organisations, associations and other stakeholders of timber and wood products, environmental and social and community interests	Supported by the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace and The Australian Conservation Foundation. Governed by its members
National Coverage	Over 77% of native forests and plantations across Australia (8.7 million hectares, with a further 2.5 million hectares yet to be certified). AFCS has certified approximately 95% of Australian certified forestry	Approximately 1% of forests within Australia of plantation origin (approximately 1.9 million hectares). FSC has certified approximately 5% of Australian certified forestry

Certifying Body	Australian Forest Certification Scheme	Forest Stewardship Council Australia
What Certification Covers	The sustainable management and subsequent certification of native forests and plantations	The management and subsequent certification of plantation grown products
Who it Applies to	All organisations in the certification chain which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have control over forest and wood products including their flow; and • can define their input and output stages of the forest and wood product flow 	Manufacturers and others who process, transform or trade forest products
Requirements	The audited requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Commitment to CoC • Documented Control System • Personnel Training and Development • Verification of Origin • Final Inspection • Record Keeping • Use of Certificates • Continuous Improvement 	The audited requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality System requirements • Wood and Fibre Sourcing • Production Control and Records • Requirements for FSC Labelling • Invoicing, Sales and Shipping documentation
What it represents	The Standard contributes to the protection of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human beings • Animals • Property • Forests and the environment against hazards of all kinds • Ensure inter-changeability and inter-operability • Facilitates communication by means of common terminology 	Ten principles of FSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with law and FSC principles • Tenure use rights and responsibilities • Indigenous peoples' rights • Community relations and workers rights • Multiple benefits for the forest • Assessment of environmental impact • Management planning • Monitoring and assessment of management impact • Maintenance of high conservation value forests • Responsible management of plantations

Contact Details:

Australian Forest Certification Scheme

PO Box 7031 Yarralumla ACT 2600

Tel 02 6281 3455

Email info@forestrystandard.org.au Website www.forestrystandard.org.au

Forest Stewardship Council Australia

GPO Box 152 Melbourne Vic 3001

Tel 03 8636 2661

Email info@fscaustralia.org Website www.fscaustralia.org

Please note: ATFA has a timber flooring accreditation program, this is not part of forestry certification as outlined in this information sheet, rather, quality control in the manufacturing process associated with timber flooring production.