



OCP : a voluntary tool to meet **new requirements**

In August 2014, FSC released a statement confirming the Online Claims Platform (OCP) will not be a mandatory requirement for chain of custody (CoC) certified organizations. Instead FSC will develop relevant criterion to be included in the COC standard (FSC-STD-40-004).

The current CoC standard does not allow either certification bodies or ASI to detect discrepancies in FSC claims or volumes traded between certified organizations whether caused intentionally or through negligence. The OCP was originally developed to address this problem.

The CoC standard is currently being revised. The criterion presented below is part of the draft standard out for consultation in December 2014 - February 2015.

Draft criterion for **consultation**

3.4.1 The organization shall have a mechanism in place to allow verification that the organization's recorded FSC input claims match the recorded FSC certified output claims of its suppliers.

Note: This can be achieved in various ways, such as through the FSC Online Claims Platform (ocp.fsc.org) or other methods. Other methods can include manual verification (e.g.: material account records specific to each FSC certified trading partner are made available upon request by the respective trading partner or CB) or other automated systems (e.g.: systems with a common record of input and output shared between customer and supplier).

Note for stakeholders: The FSC Board of Directors has specifically asked for relevant criterion to address the opportunity of origination errors that cause an imbalance in total mass of FSC certified materials.

There are 2 types of origination errors:

1. When an organization without a valid FSC certificate (e.g.: suspended or terminated or no certificate) sells products with FSC claims or when an organization with an FSC certificate sells products with incorrect FSC claims (e.g.: product or claim type not in organization's scope).
2. When an organization buys a product and uses it as an FSC input or sells a product with an FSC claim, but does not record that claim as FSC certified in its own accounting system.

In order to address the opportunity for origination errors, FSC will introduce a requirement for certificate holders to demonstrate that FSC input claims match the suppliers' internal records. Certification Bodies will audit the method chosen by the organization to ensure accuracy. The accreditation standard (FSC-STD-20-011) will include criteria that dictates audit requirements based on the FSC requirements of scale, intensity and risk. The risk criterion will have an independent consultation period in 2015 before FSC-STD-40-004 is finalized.



Certified organizations have the flexibility to choose how to demonstrate compliance with the criterion. The relevant certification body will have the discretion to determine if the organization has met the criterion.

The OCP will be a tool made available to organizations as one method to meet this criterion. We will continue to offer it free of charge to all FSC certificate holders. Furthermore, we will continue to build functions into the OCP that help reduce the administrative burden for organizations.

Creating **alternative solutions**

We are looking for your input on alternative viable solutions to meet the criterion other than the OCP. We need your help in identifying possible alternatives. In our initial assessments we have identified that self billing /vendor managed inventory systems could be one such alternative, as well as manual comparison of volumes claims. However, we look to identify other possible means and ask for your help to identify other possibilities.

Furthermore, we are committed to collecting more detailed information on the extent of incorrect claims in the FSC system. This will be used to address how audits can be performed, such as through risk-based or sampling approaches.

Implementation based on **risk**

The implementation of the verification criterion is expected to be risk based. This means that certificate holders will need to demonstrate their compliance with the criterion based on the potential for origination errors. Risk factors being considered include scale, previous performance and risk associated with their particular industry and geography.

The certification body will evaluate the risk of an individual certificate holder. A framework for determining risk will be included in the FSC accreditation standard (FSC-STD-20-011) - the standard that is followed by certification bodies for Chain of Custody evaluations. This separate standard will be out for independent consultation in 2015 before the CoC standard is finalized and approved.

Keep **updated**

To ensure that all interested certificate holders are kept informed about OCP developments, we have created a newsletter, which will be sent to subscribers periodically.

Sign up for the newsletter at: ocp-news@fsc.org