



Forest Stewardship Council®



## **Calculating duration of Blocked Organization's status and Compensation Fee**

FSC-PRO-10-003 V1-1 EN





**Title:** Calculating duration of Blocked Organization's status and Compensation Fee


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**Approval body:** FSC Director General

**Contact:** FSC International Center  
- Performance and Standards Unit -  
Adenauerallee 134  
53113 Bonn, Germany

 +49-(0)228-36766-0

 +49-(0)228-36766-30

 [psu@fsc.org](mailto:psu@fsc.org)

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The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC's vision is that the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

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## **A Objective**

The objective of this document is to provide the procedures for the calculation of the duration of Blocked Organization's status and for the Compensation Fee. This procedure additionally entails description of the mechanism for Blocked Organizations to contest their status or Compensation Fee in response to False Claims.

This procedure is not subject to the rules and regulations outlined in FSC-PRO-01-001.

## **B Scope**

This procedure shall be applied by FSC, FSC-accredited certification bodies and Blocked Organizations. All aspects of this document are normative, including the scope, standard effective date, references, terms and definitions, tables, notes and annexes, unless otherwise stated.

## **C Effective date**

Approval date	10 March 2020
Publication date	13 March 2020
Effective date	6 April 2020; 01 January 2022 (V1-1)
Amendment date	25 October 2021
Period of validity	until replaced or withdrawn

## **D References**

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

FSC-STD-20-001 *General requirements for FSC accredited Certification bodies*

FSC-STD-20-007 *Forest management evaluations*

FSC-STD-20-011 *Chain of Custody Evaluations*

FSC-STD-20-012 *Standard for evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood in Forest Management Enterprises*

FSC-STD-40-003 *Chain of Custody Certification of Multiple Sites*

FSC-STD-40-004 *Chain of Custody Certification*

FSC-STD-01-002 *FSC Glossary of Terms*

## E Terms and definitions

The terms and definitions given in FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms, FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship and FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification, and the following apply:

**Annual turnover:** Total revenue of an organization derived from the provision of goods and services, less trade discounts, VAT, and any other taxes based on this revenue (Dictionary of Business, Oxford University Press, 1996). In the context of the coefficient of capacity, turnover refers to all certified and uncertified forest products (e.g., sawn timber, particle boards, paper, non-timber forest products) and products containing wood or fiber components. It does not refer to other 100% non-forest products companies might produce. The annual turnover refers to the most recently completed fiscal year.

**Blocked Organization:** A certificate holder or a former certificate holder that is blocked from the FSC Certification Scheme in response to False Claims by:

- (1) the suspension of the Granted Rights, alternatively the termination of the License Agreement for the FSC Certification Scheme, and
- (2) the restriction from carrying out processes or activities that are included within the scope of their FSC certification.

**Clear and convincing evidence:** Evidence available to the certification body, ASI and/or FSC or to the Blocked Organization that supports a conclusion that a fact is substantially more probable to be true than not.. Clear and convincing evidence shall be supported by documents, facts, other information or records, either quantitative or qualitative, that can be verified through analysis, observation, measurement, and other means of research.

**Compensation Fee:** a monetary sanction voluntary paid by a certificate holder or former certificate holder in order to remedy a False Claim.

**Deliberate:** with knowledge and awareness of the consequences.

**False Claim:** FSC claim made on sales documents (physical or electronic) or the use of the FSC trademarks, on products and for projects that are not eligible to be claimed, labelled and/or promoted as being FSC-certified or FSC Controlled Wood. A False Claim is different from an inaccurate claim, in which a product, that is eligible to be sold as FSC certified, is sold with the wrong claim.

**Granted Rights:** The right to use the FSC trademarks for FSC claims, as defined in FSC-STD-40-004, for on-product labeling on FSC-certified products and for promotional use worldwide as licensed and further regulated by via the FSC Trademark License Agreement.

**Negligence:** Failure to exercise reasonable care.

**FSC Trademark License Agreement:** The License Agreement for the FSC Certification Scheme signed by the certificate holder organization permitting use of the FSC trademarks ('licensed materials').

**Overall annual turnover:** Total revenue of an organization derived from the provision of goods and services, less trade discounts, VAT, and any other taxes based on this revenue (Dictionary of Business, Oxford University Press, 1996). The overall annual turnover refers to the most recently completed fiscal year and is not limited to forest products only.

**Parties to the process:** the organization, and all parties considered relevant by the FSC, the FSC Board of Directors, ASI and CBs.

## 1. Impact of False Claims

- 1.1. A False Claim causes severe damages to the credibility and reputation of the FSC certification system as well as to certificate holders that are in full compliance with the requirements for FSC certification. A False Claim also has further negative impacts, it damages the credibility and reputation of the FSC trademarks and misleads customers and consumers.

## 2. Applicable criteria

- 2.1. The duration of Blocked Organization's status and the Compensation Fee are determined by FSC in accordance with the seriousness (Clause 3.4) and the duration (Clause 3.5) of the specific False Claim as well as with the economic capacity (Clause 3.6) of the Blocked Organization based on the annual turnover. Each of the aforementioned criteria is further scaled to reflect the seriousness and duration of each specific False Claim. This calculation is used to ensure that the duration of Blocked Organization's status and Compensation Fee is reasonable and to ensure fair and equal treatment to Blocked Organizations who made False Claims.

## 3. Duration of Blocked Organization's status

- 3.1. The duration of Blocked Organization's status is linked to the amount of the Compensation Fee.
- 3.2. The Blocked Organization who made a False Claim shall be blocked for the period specified in the following table:

<b>Duration of Blocked Organization's status in months</b>	<b>When Compensation Fee in USD would correspond to:</b>
3	Below or equal to 900.00
6	Between 900.01 - 1,800.00
9	Between 1,800.01 - 3,600.00
12	Between 3,600.01 - 7,200.00
15	Between 7,201.01 - 14,400.00
18	Between 14,401.01 - 28,800.00
24	Between 28,801.01 - 59,600.00
30	Between 59,601.01 - 119,200.00
36	Between 119,201.01 - 238,400.00
48	Between 238,400.01 – 476,800.00
60	Equal or above 476,800.01

## 4. Calculation of the Compensation Fee

- 4.1. A standard flat rate for calculating the Compensation Fee is set at USD 60<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.2. The Compensation Fee is calculated as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to adjustment for future inflations according to the annual reports of the European Central Bank.

$$\text{Compensation fee} = (\text{Flat rate} \times \text{Cs} \times \text{Cd}) \times \text{Cc}$$

- Cs = coefficient of seriousness as calculated per Clause 3.4
- Cd = coefficient of duration as calculated per Clause 3.5
- Cc = coefficient of capacity determined by the Blocked Organization's annual turnover as calculated per Clause 3.6

4.3. The Compensation Fee shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the Blocked Organization's *overall annual turnover* and the maximum Compensation Fee shall not be more than 10 Million USD in any case.

#### Basis for calculation

##### 4.4. Coefficient of seriousness

Market value of products affected by False Claims (USD)	Coefficient of seriousness
Less than 2,500	1
2,500 - 5,000	2
5,001 - 12,500	3
12,501 - 25,000	4
25,001 - 50,000	5
50,001 - 100,000	6
100,001 - 300,000	7
300,001 - 500,000	8
500,001 - 700,000	9
700,001 - 1 Million	10
Any additional million	10+ (millions)

Examples for the 10+ category:

- a market value equal or above USD 2 million and less than USD 3 million corresponds to a coefficient of seriousness of 12 (= 10+2).
- a market value equal or above USD 15 million and less than USD 16 million corresponds to a coefficient of seriousness of 25 (= 10+15).

NOTE: The exchange rate used for the calculation of the market value is the rate published by the German Federal Bank of the date of the False Claim.

##### 4.5. Coefficient of duration

4.5.1. The coefficient of duration is equal to the number of months in which the False Claim was made.

Examples:

- False Claim was made for 2 weeks corresponds to a coefficient of duration of 1.
- False Claim was made for 6 weeks corresponds to a coefficient of duration of 2.
- False Claim was made for 11 months and 1 week corresponds to a coefficient of duration of 12.

#### 4.6. Coefficient of capacity

Coefficient of capacity	Turnover of the organization for forest products (in USD) <sup>2</sup>		Coefficient of capacity to	Turnover of the organization for forest products (in USD)	
	from	to		from	to
<b>11</b>	0	30,000	<b>71</b>	72,900,001	87,480,000
<b>12</b>	30,001	60,000	<b>72</b>	87,480,001	102,060,000
<b>13</b>	60,001	90,000	<b>73</b>	102,060,001	116,640,000
<b>14</b>	90,001	120,000	<b>74</b>	116,640,001	131,220,000
<b>15</b>	120,001	150,000	<b>75</b>	131,220,001	145,800,000
<b>16</b>	150,001	180,000	<b>76</b>	145,800,001	160,380,000
<b>17</b>	180,001	210,000	<b>77</b>	160,380,001	174,960,000
<b>18</b>	210,001	240,000	<b>78</b>	174,960,001	189,540,000
<b>19</b>	240,001	270,000	<b>79</b>	189,540,001	204,120,000
<b>20</b>	<b>270,001</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>204,120,001</b>	<b>218,700,000</b>
<b>21</b>	300,001	360,000	<b>81</b>	218,700,001	262,440,000
<b>22</b>	360,001	420,000	<b>82</b>	262,440,001	306,180,000
<b>23</b>	420,001	480,000	<b>83</b>	306,180,001	349,920,000
<b>24</b>	480,001	540,000	<b>84</b>	349,920,001	393,660,000
<b>25</b>	540,001	600,000	<b>85</b>	393,660,001	437,400,000
<b>26</b>	600,001	660,000	<b>86</b>	437,400,001	481,140,000
<b>27</b>	660,001	720,000	<b>87</b>	481,140,001	524,880,000
<b>28</b>	720,001	780,000	<b>88</b>	524,880,001	568,620,000
<b>29</b>	780,001	840,000	<b>89</b>	568,620,001	612,360,000
<b>30</b>	<b>840,001</b>	<b>900,000</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>612,360,001</b>	<b>656,100,000</b>
<b>31</b>	900,001	1,080,000	<b>91</b>	656,100,001	787,320,000
<b>32</b>	1,080,001	1,260,000	<b>92</b>	787,320,001	918,540,000
<b>33</b>	1,260,001	1,440,000	<b>93</b>	918,540,001	1,049,760,000
<b>34</b>	1,440,001	1,620,000	<b>94</b>	1,049,760,001	1,180,980,000

<sup>2</sup> Refers to the definition of “annual turnover” in this document.



Coefficient of capacity	Turnover of the organization for forest products (in USD) <sup>2</sup>		Coefficient of capacity to	Turnover of the organization for forest products (in USD)	
	from	to		from	to
<b>35</b>	1,620,001	1,800,000	<b>95</b>	1,180,980,001	1,312,200,000
<b>36</b>	1,800,001	1,980,000	<b>96</b>	1,312,200,001	1,443,420,000
<b>37</b>	1,980,001	2,160,000	<b>97</b>	1,443,420,001	1,574,640,000
<b>38</b>	2,160,001	2,340,000	<b>98</b>	1,574,640,001	1,705,860,000
<b>39</b>	2,340,001	2,520,000	<b>99</b>	1,705,860,001	1,837,080,000
<b>40</b>	<b>2,520,001</b>	<b>2,700,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,837,080,001</b>	<b>1,968,300,000</b>
<b>41</b>	2,700,001	3,240,000	<b>101</b>	1,968,300,001	2,361,960,000
<b>42</b>	3,240,001	3,780,000	<b>102</b>	2,361,960,001	2,755,620,000
<b>43</b>	3,780,001	4,320,000	<b>103</b>	2,755,620,001	3,149,280,000
<b>44</b>	4,320,001	4,860,000	<b>104</b>	3,149,280,001	3,542,940,000
<b>45</b>	4,860,001	5,400,000	<b>105</b>	3,542,940,001	3,936,600,000
<b>46</b>	5,400,001	5,940,000	<b>106</b>	3,936,600,001	4,330,260,000
<b>47</b>	5,940,001	6,480,000	<b>107</b>	4,330,260,001	4,723,920,000
<b>48</b>	6,480,001	7,020,000	<b>108</b>	4,723,920,001	5,117,580,000
<b>49</b>	7,020,001	7,560,000	<b>109</b>	5,117,580,001	5,511,240,000
<b>50</b>	<b>7,560,001</b>	<b>8,100,000</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>5,511,240,001</b>	<b>5,904,900,000</b>
<b>51</b>	8,100,001	9,720,000	<b>111</b>	5,904,900,001	7,085,880,000
<b>52</b>	9,720,001	11,340,000	<b>112</b>	7,085,880,001	8,266,860,000
<b>53</b>	11,340,001	12,960,000	<b>113</b>	8,266,860,001	9,447,840,000
<b>54</b>	12,960,001	14,580,000	<b>114</b>	9,447,840,001	10,628,820,000
<b>55</b>	14,580,001	16,200,000	<b>115</b>	10,628,820,001	11,809,800,000
<b>56</b>	16,200,001	17,820,000	<b>116</b>	11,809,800,001	12,990,780,000
<b>57</b>	17,820,001	19,440,000	<b>117</b>	12,990,780,001	14,171,760,000
<b>58</b>	19,440,001	21,060,000	<b>118</b>	14,171,760,001	15,352,740,000
<b>59</b>	21,060,001	22,680,000	<b>119</b>	15,352,740,001	16,533,720,000
<b>60</b>	<b>22,680,001</b>	<b>24,300,000</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>16,533,720,001</b>	<b>17,714,700,000</b>
<b>61</b>	24,300,001	29,160,000	<b>121</b>	17,714,700,001	21,257,640,000

Coefficient of capacity	Turnover of the organization for forest products (in USD) <sup>2</sup>		Coefficient of capacity to	Turnover of the organization for forest products (in USD)	
	from	to		from	to
<b>62</b>	29,160,001	34,020,000	<b>122</b>	21,257,640,001	24,800,580,000
<b>63</b>	34,020,001	38,880,000	<b>123</b>	24,800,580,001	28,343,520,000
<b>64</b>	38,880,001	43,740,000	<b>124</b>	28,343,520,001	31,886,460,000
<b>65</b>	43,740,001	48,600,000	<b>125</b>	31,886,460,001	35,429,400,000
<b>66</b>	48,600,001	53,460,000	<b>126</b>	35,429,400,001	38,972,340,000
<b>67</b>	53,460,001	58,320,000	<b>127</b>	38,972,340,001	42,515,280,000
<b>68</b>	58,320,001	63,180,000	<b>128</b>	42,515,280,001	46,058,220,000
<b>69</b>	63,180,001	68,040,000	<b>129</b>	46,058,220,001	49,601,160,000
<b>70</b>	<b>68,040,001</b>	<b>72,900,000</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>49,601,160,001</b>	<b>53,144,100,000</b>

4.7. If actual figures are not available to FSC to calculate the coefficients due to limited access to the Blocked Organization's transaction records and information, and the Blocked Organization is not cooperating with FSC, FSC will use the best available information to calculate the Compensation Fee.

4.8. The Compensation Fee may be reduced by FSC in proportion to the time the Blocked Organization already served its blocked status.

## 5. Legal successors of the Blocked Organization

5.1. To prevent the Blocked Organization from circumventing its status, FSC will take the following measures:

5.1.1. If the Blocked Organization that was responsible for the False Claim has meanwhile been dissolved, but another organization acts as its legal successor, then this legal successor shall be held liable to continue the Blocked Organization's status or to pay the Compensation Fee.

5.1.2. If an individual(s) responsible for the False Claims within the personnel or shareholder of the Blocked Organization, establishes a new organization which applies for FSC certification to avoid the Blocked Organization's status or the payment of the Compensation Fee, FSC reserves the right to prohibit the new company from entering into the FSC Certification Scheme. This would also apply to an organization which is already in the FSC Certification Scheme if it is controlled by an individual(s) responsible for the False Claims.

### Calculation examples of the Compensation Fee

**Example 1:** Certificate holder “Arana” with annual turnover of 4,000,000 USD made False Claims on products of a value of 600,000 USD during the period of 12 months.

**Compensation fee = (Flat rate x Cs x Cd) x Cc = (60 x 9 x 12) x 43 = 278,640 USD, or a duration of the Blocked Organization’s status for 48 months.**

**Example 2:** Certificate holder “Dovis” with annual turnover of 320,000 USD made False Claims on products of a value of 30,000 USD during the period of 9 months.

**Compensation fee = (Flat rate x Cs x Cd) x Cc = (60 x 5 x 9) x 21 = 56,700 USD, or a duration of the Blocked Organization’s status for 24 months.**

**Example 3:** Certificate holder “Luvera” with annual turnover of 90,000 USD made False Claims on products of a value of 30,000 USD during the period of 3 months.

**Compensation fee = (Flat rate x Cs x Cd) x Cc = (60 x 5 x 3) x 13 = 11,700 USD, or a duration of the Blocked Organization’s status for 15 months**

## 6. Contesting the Blocked Organization’s status and the Compensation Fee

- 6.1. The Blocked Organization may submit evidence within four (4) calendar weeks after they have been informed of the decision taken by FSC in order to contest the Blocked Organization’s status and the Compensation Fee.
- 6.2. All incoming and outgoing correspondence, including the final decisions and follow-up actions, will be filed in electronic format and/or hard copy, and maintained by FSC for a period of (10) years after the last activity.
- 6.3. Parties to the process should refrain from commenting publicly on the review until FSC informs all parties to the process about the outcome of the submission.

### Submitting evidence to contest a Blocked Organization’s status or Compensation Fee

- 6.4. The Blocked Organization shall submit evidence by sending a submission to [fscintegrity@fsc.org](mailto:fscintegrity@fsc.org).
- 6.5. The submission shall conform with all of the following requirements:
  - a. contain the name and contact information of the Blocked Organization;
  - b. be written in one of the official FSC languages (English or Spanish);
  - c. specify the events and issues regarding the False Claim;
  - d. contain evidence contesting the False Claim;
  - e. have supporting documents.
- 6.6. Submissions not meeting the requirements listed in Clause 6.4.2 will not be processed.

NOTE: The Blocked Organization may use the FSC template (Annex 1) for submitting evidence to contest the Blocked Organization’s status and the Compensation Fee.

NOTE: Documents submitted in other languages than the official FSC languages shall be translated by the Blocked Organization who provides the material.

6.7. The Blocked Organization may withdraw the submission at any point in time of the process, at their sole discretion.

6.8. The lack of cooperation by the Blocked Organization may be considered as grounds to discontinue the review.

#### **Processing and evaluating the submitted evidence**

6.9. The FSC Supply Chain Integrity Team ([fscintegrity@fsc.org](mailto:fscintegrity@fsc.org)) and ASI are responsible for reviewing the evidence submitted according to the following process:

- a) acknowledge receipt of the submission within ten (10) working days of receipt of the evidence; and
- b) review evidence related to the Blocked Organization and the False Claim; and
- c) keep a record of the conversations, including date, time and a summary of issues.

#### **Final decision making by FSC**

6.10. FSC makes a decision based on the information provided by the Blocked Organization and the review conducted by the FSC System Integrity Team and ASI.

6.11. FSC will communicate the outcome of the decision to the blocked organization and their certification body and all other certification bodies within thirty (30) calendar days.

#### **Rejecting the submission**

6.12. If the submitted evidence does not support lifting the blocked status and of the Compensation Fee, then the submission is rejected. The notification of the rejection shall include an explanation of why the evidence did not support the lifting of the Blocked Organization's status or of the Compensation Fee.

6.13. The status of the Blocked Organization will remain unchanged until the conditions specified in the Advice Note (ADVICE-40-004-18 *Addressing False Claims*), the Procedure FSC-PRO-10-003 or/and the FSC Normative Framework are met.

#### **Reversing the blockage decision based on the submission**

6.14. If the submitted evidence supports the lifting of the Blocked Organization's status and removal of the Compensation Fee, then FSC can:

- a) inform the certification body of the outcome of the process, and
- b) lift the suspension of the Granted Rights.

6.15. Upon this decision the status "Blocked" will be changed in the FSC database to 'Valid' without undue delay.

### **7. Appeals**

7.1. Decisions made by FSC after the submissions process cannot be appealed.

7.2. The Procedure FSC-PRO-01-005 (Processing Appeals) does not apply to FSC decisions made in response to the submission process.

## Annex 1 FSC Template for submitting evidence to contest Blocked Organization's status or Compensation Fee

### Information of the individual(s) or organization(s):

Name of individual or organization	
Contact person (for organizations)	
Postal address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street + number</li> <li>• City</li> <li>• Area code</li> <li>• Country</li> </ul>	
Phone number	
Email address	
Website	
FSC member (if yes: international/national, chamber, North/South)	
Date of submission	
Signature of legal representative	

### Information and evidence to be submitted to FSC:

Issue	Information to support the False Claim was not deliberate nor negligent
Description of the issues and events that lead to the False Claim.	Evidence to support the False Claim was not deliberate nor negligent. Please provide an overview, a description and attach supporting documents.

### Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

[Adapted from *ISO/IEC Directives Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*]

“*shall*”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard.

“*should*”: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required.

“*may*”: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.

“*can*”: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.