

ADV-STD-60-004_04 V1-0 Protection of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)

ADV-STD-60-004_04 V1-0 (Former code ADVICE-20-007_18)	Protection of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)
Normative reference	FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 International Generic Indicators FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1 International Generic Indicators
Approval date	V1-0: 24 July 2026 (by FSC Director General)
Effective date	V1-0: 1 August 2026
Expiry date	This Advice Note expires in a country once IFL requirements have been integrated into the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS) based on: a) FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 or V2-1, OR b) Motion 23/2020 pilot tests, AND c) the transition period towards that FSS is completed.
Scope	This Advice Note applies to all FM and FM/CoC certificate holders and certification bodies operating in countries where Intact Forest Landscapes exist according to Global Forest Watch maps, and where there is no approved and effective Forest Stewardship Standard based on FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 or V2-1, or on Motion 23/2020 pilot tests, or the certificate holders have not yet transitioned to it.
Terms and definitions	Intact Forest Landscape (IFL): a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km ² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forests website. 2006-2014; FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1). The Organization: The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-3).
Background	Motion 65/2014 called for the protection of the vast majority of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) within certified management units. This has been

	implemented through IFL-specific requirements in FSC-STD-60-004 V2 for the incorporation into Forest Stewardship Standards, and through Advice Note ADVICE-20-007-018 V1-0 for areas where there is no approved Forest Stewardship Standards based on FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0. At the General Assembly in 2022, the FSC membership recognized the challenges in implementing the IFL requirements by approving Motion 23/2020 (M23) and the associated Implementation Note for an interim approach, which resulted in V2-0 of the Advice Note ADVICE-20-007_18 and a new Clause 2 with a 31 December 2024 timeline. In June 2024, V3-0 of the Advice Note ADVICE-20-007_18 extended the timeline of the M23 interim approach in Clause 2 to 30 June 2026. In July 2026, the Advice Note is updated to reflect the expiry of former Clause 2, while Clause 1 and former Clause 3 (which has become the new Clause 2) remain effective until the transition periods of relevant Forest Stewardship Standards stipulated in the 'Scope' section will have been completed. The Advice Note also reflects an update of the code, from 20-007_18 to STD-60-004, to make it consistent with its scope applicable to Organizations, resulting in this new version with the code ADV-STD-60-004_04 V1-0.
Advice	1. Forest Management operations, including harvesting and road building, shall not impact more than 20% of IFLs within the management unit and shall not reduce any IFLs below the 50,000 ha threshold in the landscape. 2. The Organization shall use Global Forest Watch IFL maps or an alternative IFL inventory using the same methodology¹, such as Global Forest Watch Canada, with 01 January 2017 as a baseline.

¹ See: Global Forest Watch inventory methodology at: <https://intactforests.org/method.html>