

DER-STD-60-004_02 Exemption to carry out limited industrial activity within IFL core areas
V1-1 (alternative to exemption regulated by IGI 9.2.7)

Normative reference FSC-DIR-20-007; ADVICE-20-007-18 V3-0
 FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1, Indicators 9.2.5 and 9.2.7

- Scope** Generic – applicable by:
- a) Organizations with Management Units
 - I. holding Forest Management certification (FM, FM/CoC, or CFM) as of the effective date of this derogation; and
 - II. having Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) overlapping with their Management Units; and
 - III. not conducting or having conducted limited industrial activity within IFL core areas as regulated by FSC-STD-60-004, Indicator 9.2.7; and
 - IV. operating under a license agreement by a management plan which had been approved before IFL rules became effective for the Organization by the relevant public authority – such as state departments or equivalent entities – and which cannot be altered within the ongoing harvesting cycle; and
 - V. whose management plan does not allow for any alternative option to continue their operations during the ongoing pilot in compliance with their concession license other than to proceed with harvesting of the identified IFL core area.
 - VI. located in a landscape for which:
 - i. A landscape dialogue as part of a registered pilot test for the development of landscape approaches based on Motion 23 has been held; and
 - ii. The Standard Development Group (SDG) and participants of the landscape dialogue support such limited industrial activity due to relevant protection levels of IFLs across the wider landscape; and
 - iii. The SDG has presented clear and convincing evidence that at least 50% of the overall IFL area present in the landscape as of January 1st, 2017, is under effective protection and not earmarked for any industrial or other development activities; and
 - iv. The FSC Secretariat has confirmed the above conditions (see Annex ‘Landscapes with confirmed conditions’ below).
 - b) Certification bodies of Organizations listed under a).
- Specific
 (applicable only upon individual request and confirmation by the FSC Policy & Performance Unit)

Approval 27 March 2025

Effective date 01 April 2025

Period of validity	<p>Until, whatever date is earlier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 31 December 2026, or b) The effective date of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS) resulting from the ongoing Motion 23 pilot. <p>NOTE: The FSS resulting from the ongoing Motion 23 pilot test are expected to become effective no later than by end of 2026.</p>
Terms & definitions	<p>Core area: The portion of each Intact Forest Landscape designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. Core areas are managed to exclude industrial activity (Source: shortened from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1).</p> <p>Industrial activity: Industrial Forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1).</p> <p>Very limited portion of IFL core area: The IFL core area affected shall not exceed more than 5% of the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit as of January 1, 2017 (Source: adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1).</p>
Rationale	<p>The development of landscape-wide approaches towards the protection of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) adapted to local conditions mandated by Motion 23/2020 and facilitated through an international pilot is taking more time than originally indicated by the motion. This circumstance is now putting at risk the economic viability of affected certificate holders, particularly of those operating in tropical natural forests.</p> <p>The temporary exemption will allow certificate holders in landscapes for which revised approaches are under development and where stakeholder agreement indicates support for lowered protection thresholds of IFL core area to remain certified for the duration of the pilot</p>
Derogation	<p>The Organization may carry out harvesting and other industrial activity within IFL core areas if the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The industrial activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is restricted to a very limited portion of IFL core area; and b) Does not reduce the overall IFL area below 50,000 ha. 2. The Organization has acknowledged (in writing) that, in case the relevant pilot would not result in an approach allowing for a corresponding additional industrial activity, their certification would be suspended until an appropriate remedial action would have been identified and implemented. 3. The Organization has not conducted any re-mapping of the IFL based on ground-truthing since the start of the relevant pilot. 4. The Organization has provided an independent legal expertise on their respective contractual constraints to adjust their management plans 5. The Organization's certification body has verified that the legal expertise confirms relevant contractual constraints and has been provided independently.

ANNEX: Landscapes with confirmed conditions

Last update: 5 June 2025

Northern Congo

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- i. There is evidence of a Landscape Dialogue held in Republic of Congo in January 2025.
 - ii. There is evidence that both the standard development group (SDG) of Republic of Congo and the participants of the landscape dialogue of Northern Congo support limited industrial activity in management units overlapping with IFL, due to the protection levels of IFL across the wider landscape of Northern Congo.
The Northern Congo landscape map and description are available at the [FSC Africa](#) website.
 - iii. The SDG presented evidence that more than 50% of the overall IFL area present in the landscape of Northern Congo as of 1 January 2017, is under effective protection and not earmarked for any industrial or other development activities.
 - iv. The Secretariat confirms that the conditions i, ii, and iii have been met.

Country B

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- i. ...
 - ii. ...
 - iii. ...
 - iv. ...

Country C

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- i. ...
 - ii. ...
 - iii. ...
 - iv. ...

Country D

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- i. ...
 - ii. ...
 - iii. ...
 - iv. ...
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