

ADVICE-20-005-01 Waiving of AAF for certificates in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine (V2-0)

Normative reference FSC-POL-20-005 V3-1, Clause 6.7 and 6.10

Scope This advice note applies to all certification bodies

Approval FSC Director General, 18 March 2022
V2-0: 25 May 2022 (changes applied retroactively)

Effective date 01 April 2022 (valid until withdrawn)

Background According to FSC-ADV-20-001-12, by 8th of April 2022 all certificates in Russia that allow the sale or promotion of FSC products have to be suspended. As this suspension is not grounded in the actual performance of the individual certificate holders but due to matters beyond their control, FSC decided to waive the AAF for suspended certificates in Russia from Q2/2022 onward. FSC also decided to waive the AAF for FM certificates that do not include the sale or promotion of FSC products to recognize the continued commitment of these certificate holders to responsible forest management.

For Belarus, ASI's decision to reduce the geographic scope of certification bodies in combination with FSC-ADV-20-001-12 make it necessary to terminate all certificates in the country, again by 8th of April 2022. In order to limit the financial risk for CBs operating in Belarus, FSC decided to waive the AAF for Q2/2022 as invoices would only have to be issued when relevant certificates are already terminated.

FSC has further decided to also waive the AAF for all certificates in Ukraine as of Q2/2022, regardless of their certification status.

This Advice Note serves to implement these decisions.

- ADVICE**
1. As of Q2/2022, FSC will stop charging the AAF from CBs until further notice for:
 - a) all certificates in Russia,
 - b) terminated certificates in Belarus, and
 - c) all certificates in Ukraine.
 2. As of Q2/2022, CBs shall stop invoicing and collecting the AAF for relevant certificates as specified under clause 1 above.