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MATTER

# FSC POLICY

## FSC PESTICIDES POLICY FSC-POL-30-001 (2005) EN

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## FSC PESTICIDES POLICY

### FSC-POL-30-001 (2005) EN

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The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organisation based in Bonn, Germany.

The mission of the Forest Stewardship Council is to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC develops, supports and promotes international, national and provincial standards in line with its mission; evaluates, accredits and monitors certification bodies which verify the use of FSC standards; provides training and information; and promotes the use of products that carry the FSC logo.

## **Introduction:**

FSC policy in relation to the use of pesticides in FSC-certified forests and plantations aims to minimise the negative environmental and social impacts of pesticide use whilst promoting economically viable management.

This policy is implemented through compliance with the requirements of *FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship* and the associated national or sub-national indicators and means of verification.

## **1. Key elements**

**1.1** Key elements for implementation of these requirements include:

- a) The identification and avoidance of 'highly hazardous' pesticides;
- b) Promotion of 'non-chemical' methods of pest management as an element of an integrated pest management strategy;
- c) Appropriate use of the pesticides that are used.

## **2. Implementation of requirements**

**2.1** In order to facilitate implementation of these requirements:

- a) The FSC International Center shall publish and regularly update a list of pesticides that FSC considers to be 'highly hazardous' based on published technical indicators derived from the *FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship* and associated thresholds approved by the FSC Board of Directors.
- b) The use of any pesticide containing an active ingredient included on the current FSC list of 'highly hazardous' pesticides shall constitute a major non-compliance with the requirements of *FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship* and shall therefore be prohibited unless a temporary derogation for use in the applicable territory has previously been approved by the FSC Board of Directors. Such temporary derogations may be approved on application by an FSC-accredited certification body, or, preferably, through inclusion in a national or sub-national Forest Stewardship Standard.
- c) The FSC International Center shall publish clear guidelines and procedures for the evaluation of requests for such derogations, including guidance on the justification for the issue of derogations, and on the content of derogations. Derogations shall normally be applicable for a five-year period. Derogations shall only be approved where there is a demonstrated need; where controls are specified to reduce risk; where there is a programme in place to identify alternatives; and where an appropriate level of stakeholder consultation has been carried out and stakeholder support has been demonstrated.
- d) The FSC International Center shall develop guidance on appropriate indicators and means of verification for the promotion of 'non-chemical' methods of pest management as an element of an integrated pest management strategy, and for the equipment and training that shall be provided by forest managers to minimize health and environmental risks.

- e) Forest Stewardship Standards shall require forest managers to record quantitative data on their use of pesticides. Summary data shall be collected by certification bodies and included in their evaluation and surveillance reports of FSC-certified forests, and shall be collated and analysed by the FSC International Center on an ongoing basis.

### **3. Definitions**

The FSC Board of Directors approves the following definitions for use in the application of this policy:

**Pest:** Organisms, which are harmful or perceived as harmful and as prejudicing the achievement of management goals. Some pests, especially introduced exotics, may also pose serious ecological threats, and suppression may be recommended. They include animal pests, plant weeds, pathogenic fungi and other micro-organisms.

**Pesticide:** Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. (This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, fungicides and herbicides).

### **4. Delegation of duties**

The FSC Board of Directors may delegate review and approval of the lists, guidance, standards and procedures required in order to implement this policy to a committee established for the purpose.