



FSC Advice Note

Title	Expiry of national / regional FSC-endorsed forest stewardship standards FSC-ADV-60-006 V1-0 EN
Date	08 th of December 2008
Status	Approved by Head of FSC Policy and Standards Unit
Advice sought on	Period of validity, conditions for maintaining the validity and mechanism after expiry of FSC-endorsed national / regional forest stewardship standards

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FSC Advice

1 Period of validity

- 1.1 FSC-endorsed national / regional forest stewardship standards are valid until revoked by FSC (following a technical evaluation of the standard) or until replaced by a revised national / regional forest stewardship standard (developed by an authorized standard development group and endorsed by FSC).

2 Maintaining the validity of endorsed national / regional forest stewardship standards

- 2.1 5 years after endorsement and every 5 years thereafter, FSC will carry out a technical evaluation of each national / regional standard to verify the continued compliance of the standard with all relevant FSC requirements.
NOTE: FSC may also conduct an interim evaluation following significant changes in relevant FSC requirements as necessary.
- 2.2 The technical evaluation is conducted on the endorsed version of the standard if:
- 2.2.1 FSC did not receive a valid revision report from the standard development group / national working group within the defined timeline (see FSC-STD-60-006) from the endorsement date of the national / regional standard.
- 2.2.2 A valid revision report is received from a standard development group / national working group that documents that national stakeholders and membership did not decide on the need for a revision process, but on the maintenance of the existing version of the standard.

NOTE: Section 4.1 explains what constitutes a 'valid revision report'.

- 2.3 The technical evaluation is conducted on the revised version of the standard if:
- 2.3.1 A standard development group / national working group completed a formal revision process of the standard and submitted the revised standard for endorsement within the specified timeline.

NOTE: see Section 4 for details on the revision process

- 2.4 FSC will endorse a national / regional forest stewardship standard after evaluation for another period of 5 years if it is found to be in full compliance with all relevant FSC requirements.
- 2.5 FSC will revoke a national / regional forest stewardship standard if it is found not to be in full compliance with all relevant FSC requirements.

3 Transition period in the case of revocation of FSC-endorsed national / regional forest stewardship standards

- 3.1 All FSC-accredited certification bodies and endorsed National Initiatives will be informed by FSC on a revocation of a national / regional forest stewardship standard through the FSC electronic network.
- 3.2 Together with the revocation notification, FSC will define an expiry date (usually 12 months after the revocation decision) for the national / regional forest stewardship standard on which all certificates issued on the basis of this standard will become invalid.
- 3.3 During the transition period between the announcement by FSC and the expiry date, FSC-accredited certification bodies can transfer a certificate from the national standard to their adapted generic standard on the basis of a regular surveillance audit, assuming that the certificate holder can demonstrate full compliance with the adapted generic standard. A revised certificate may subsequently be issued, but without changing its original expiry date.
- 3.4 After the expiry date of the national / regional standard, accredited certification bodies shall use their adapted generic forest stewardship standard in any type of forest management audit, unless a revised national / regional standard is approved within the transition period.
- 3.5 Accredited certification bodies shall adapt their generic standard to the local conditions in compliance with FSC requirements before performing any main, surveillance or re-certification audit.
- 3.6 All open corrective action requests (CARs) issued on the basis of the revoked national / regional standard remain valid and have to be evaluated by the responsible certification body on the due date.

4 Initiating the review process

- 4.1 No later than three years after the approval date of a national / regional forest stewardship standard, the working group shall collate and review all the comments on the standard; changes to associated elements of the FSC system; as well as take into account external circumstances and the continued relevance of the standard, and prepare a formal revision report to FSC proposing what if any steps should be taken to revise the standard.

NOTE: Forest Stewardship Standards are normally approved for a period of five years. Review and possible revision processes should be planned in order to have a final draft recommended to the FSC by the end of this period (plus an optional extension)

NOTE: Should the working group cease to function during or after the development of the Forest Stewardship Standard, all records shall be handed over to FSC.

- 4.2 The formal revision report shall be submitted to FSC for approval.

References

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| <i>FSC-STD-20-003 (V2-1)</i> | <i>Local Adaptation Of Certification Body Generic Forest Stewardship Standards</i> |
| <i>FSC-STD-60-006 (D4-7)</i> | <i>Process requirements for the development of Forest Stewardship Standards (draft under development)</i> |
| <i>FSC-GUI-60-001 (V1-0)</i> | <i>FSC National Initiatives Manual</i> |
| <i>GA 2005 Motion Policy-49</i> | <i>Motion about the use of once accredited forest management standards</i> |

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