Motions for the 2011 FSC General Assembly

No. / Title:	38) Certified reclaimed pap FSC-STD-40-004	er material by	Category: Policy				
Original 🗌 🛚 🖟	Amended 🛛 New 🗌	Submitted language(s): Engl	lish ⊠ Spanish □				
Vote by: show of cards		F	Result: PASSED				
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MOTION:

FSC shall conduct a chamber-balanced study to evaluate the risks and benefits from a market, environmental and social perspective of pre-consumer paper materials. The study will explore where best to place and value pre-consumer paper materials within FSC paper products.

Purpose and/or additional information:

Maximize Reclaimed PAPER materials (post-consumer and pre-consumer sources) for paper production, and increase the availability of

FSC certified paper with responsibly sourced fiber content. The objective of certifying reclaimed materials is to incentivize the use of recycled fiber and thereby contribute to a more responsible use of the forest resources along the lifecycle. This is in alignment with <u>A Common Vision for Transforming the Paper Industry.</u>

Pre-consumer fiber (reclaimed paper generated by commercial, industrial and media facilities "in their role as end-users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose") is of the same eligible character as valuable, sustainable, local input as post-consumer fiber (for paper production).

Excluded, and not accepted as reclaimed PAPER material, are inputs that can be reused on site within the same manufacturing process that generated it (commonly known as mill broke).

Background:

An increasing amount of paper products are produced from reclaimed material as technology progresses. To produce high quality end-products from reclaimed material, the quality of the raw material input is crucial. While recovered paper is purchased according to international standards and classification systems, FSC only distinguishes pre- and post-consumer reclaimed material.

The proportion of pre-consumer in the total collection of recovered paper is in the range of 10 to 15% on average. However, this fraction is crucial for paper recycling, since its composition is homogeneous and exactly known by the buyer of the material. It is the backbone for paper recycling, allowing for the growing volume of (heterogeneous) household materials to be recycled. The vast majority of recovered paper used in the paper industry is post-consumer (85-90%), originating from end-users in industry, shops or households.

Historically, the distinction between pre- and post-consumer reclaimed material has been introduced to increase collection from households. Collection levels from households have significantly increased in all parts of the world. The recovered paper collection rates in 2008 have reached 50% in Asia, 57% in North America and 66% in Europe. Keeping in mind the scarcity of land and pressures on food, fuel and fibres, it becomes clear that the global demand for recovered paper will remain high and all recycled fibre will be needed. Therefore the simplistic distinction of reclaimed materials in two groups does not serve any environmental purpose any longer. Non-accountability of pre-consumer reclaimed material is an unnecessary discrimination of a part of the reclaimed material, which is needed to make the recycling of post-consumer materials possible. The rule is de facto preventing some high-quality recovered paper based products from being certified.

Certain paper products like boxes and newspapers have been produced from recovered paper for a long time. To produce higher qualities of paper products based on recycled fibre, the industry needs

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to enhance its raw material basis. And to use post-consumer material for high-quality end-products, it needs to be blended with pre-consumer to refine the raw material mix. Thereby an efficient use of the reclaimed material can be ensured.							
The foreword of FSC-STD-40-004 (Version 2-0) EN claims that the new standard version aims to make the overall FSC policy framework for Chain of Custody certification more feasible by introducing new concepts by considering pre-consumer reclaimed material as eligible input in "FSC Recycled" product groups. This policy change was an important step, since it has made the use of the FSC standard more feasible for paper products based on recovered paper. Based on the encouraging experience, FSC should continue the work and overcome fully the distinction between pre- and post-consumer reclaimed PAPER material.							
Suggested Revision to FSC STD 40-004 V2 EN 8.3.1: The calculation of input percentage shall be:							
% input = [Q(FSC) + Q(Reclaimed PAPER material)]/Q(Total)							
Document(s) to be revised / developed: FSC STD 40-004 V2 EN 8.3.1							
Timeline:	December 3	1, 2011					
Cost to FSC:							