

Revision of Forest Management Groups standard Main changes in version 2-0 (FSC-STD-30-005)

1 Revision and transition period

2019 - 2020	Revision process. From version 1-1 to version 2-0.
16 December 2020	Publication of the revised version (2-0), approved by the FSC International Board of Directors.
16 March 2021	Effective date. Groups established as of this date need to use version 2-0 of the standard.
16 March 2021 to 15 March 2022	Transition period. Existing groups have these twelve months to incorporate the changes in version 2-0 to their groups and get audited according to version 2-0.

2 Changes in version 2-0 of the standard (in order of appearance)

Scope extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups can also be established for Controlled Wood (CW/FM). <p>V1-1: the scope only included Forest Management groups (FM/CoC).</p>
Clause 1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One group entity can manage more than one group, as long as it has enough capacity and resources. Each group results in one certificate. Groups are either CW/FM or FM/CoC. <p>Inclusion of interpretation INT-STD-30-005-10.</p>
Clause 2.1 b), c), NOTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The member declares that the management unit they are bringing into the group is not included in another FSC certificate. The member agrees to allow the group entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfil their responsibilities. The member declaration can also be in a non-written form. <p>V1-1: does not include any safeguard for management units being in more than one certificate. Member declaration only referred to allowing the group entity fulfil their responsibilities. No mention to a non-written form of the declaration.</p>
Clause 2.1.1 and 2.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the declaration is signed by a representative of the member, the declaration includes an agreement between the member and their representative. The representative must be able to prove that they have been authorised by the member to act on their behalf. <p>V1-1: did not specify anything about the relationship between the member and its representative, nor ways to verify this representation.</p>



Clause 3.1 NOTE Clause 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify that the division of responsibilities is flexible, as long as there is conformance in each MU.
Clause 3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulate the establishment of resource management units (RMUs).• The resource manager is responsible to meet the applicable forest stewardship standard and the group rules on behalf of the members of its RMU.• An RMU can include all or some members of the group.• RMU members can do some activities in their forests. <p>V1-1: RMUs were only mentioned in the definitions.</p>
Clause 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conformance with Criterion 6.5 can be done across management units for SLIMF.• Larger management units can support the SLIMF ones to conform with 6.5. <p>Inclusion of interpretation INT-STD-30-005-08.</p>
Clause 7.1.1 and 7.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the initial evaluation, field test is not compulsory for SLIMF (size and intensity) and communities.• Moves between groups managed by the same group entity need to pass the initial evaluation. <p>V1-1: only small management units were exempted. Moves between groups managed by the same group entity were not considered.</p>
Clause 9.1 i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group rules need to set out how to use the FSC trademarks. <p>V1-1: did not include instructions for members about the FSC trademarks.</p>
Clause 10.1 a) NOTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group entity to take into consideration data protection legislation when gathering the members' information. <p>V1-1: did not include mention to data protection regulations.</p>
Clause 10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In countries identified by FSC International as high-risk for false claims, the group entity maintains up-to-date records of harvesting and sales volumes at the management unit level.• Where harvesting and sales are done by a contractor, the group entity verifies that the volumes sold by the contractor correspond to the estimated volumes bought from its group (through specific clauses in the contract between the forest owner and the contractor). <p>V1-1: did not include safeguards for these high-risk situations.</p>
Clause 11.1 c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of the internal monitoring are used back into the management system to improve it (adaptive management). <p>V1-1: did not analyze the monitoring results to improve the management of the group.</p>
Clause 11.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The group entity can incorporate a risk-based approach to the internal monitoring, by classifying the management units as active (higher monitoring



intensity) or inactive (lower monitoring intensity, remotely when available information).

V1-1: did not include a risk-based approach from the point of view of the management activities implemented in the forest.

Clause 11.4

- The formulas to calculate the internal monitoring sampling size have been changed. Lower sampling intensity is possible for smaller management units, low intensity managed forests and communities.
- It is also possible to classify the management units as active or inactive, to adapt the sampling intensity accordingly.

V1-1: lower sampling intensity was only possible for smaller management units. Only two types of groups were considered.

Clause 11.6

- Inactive management units can be monitored remotely if the information needed is available.

V1-1: did not include a risk-based approach from the point of view of the management activities implemented in the forest.

Clause 11.7

- The group entity can lower the minimum sample if the group has good performance, as shown by the results of the internal monitoring.

V1-1: did not analyze the monitoring results to improve the management of the group, nor to adapt the sampling size accordingly.

Clause 11.10 NOTE

- Emphasis to identify whether the responsible for a non-conformity is a member or the group entity (their performance or overall the group management system).

V1-1: did not mention the allocation of non-conformities at different levels.

**Part III
Clauses 13 – 19**

- New part to allow the optional inclusion of forestry contractors in the group.

V1-1: did not consider the possibility of including contractors in the group.