How does FSC Trace work?

FSC Trace is not just a technological upgrade. It is a strategic enhancement to our certification process, to ensure that from the forest to the shelf, every product’s journey is sustainable, compliant, and efficiently managed.

Built on blockchain technology, the platform enables participants to confidentially, flexibly, and efficiently access and exchange relevant data to assist with verification, due diligence and demonstrate conformity with evolving regulations.

FSC Trace empowers seamless data flow throughout the entire supply chain to deliver both verification and traceability of supply chains, whilst safeguarding commercial confidentiality and ensuring participants are always in full control of their data.

Why adopt FSC Trace?

- **Significantly increases the integrity of your data**
  - Seamless data flow throughout the entire supply chain, if the entire chain is on the FSC Trace platform and users allow for this data to be shared. This includes verifiable information such as species, geolocation, and time of harvest.

- **Stay ahead of regulatory compliance like EUDR**
  - FSC Trace will be fully aligned with upcoming and existing regulations in the EU region, ensuring compliance with evolving standards. By adopting our blockchain solution, organizations can proactively prepare to meet regulatory requirements, fostering a trustworthy and compliant supply chain environment.

- **Potential to reduce administrative burden**
  - FSC Trace automates various elements of the certification process. This includes the generation of Material Accounting Records and volume summaries. It will also maintain a list of trading partners and periodically verify their ongoing certification. By automating these tasks, we’ll relieve Certificate Holders from the headaches of managing multiple lists.

Who can participate in FSC Trace?

Joining the platform will be entirely voluntary, offering Certificate Holders the flexibility to integrate FSC Trace seamlessly into their operations.

We will onboard Certificate Holders in batches. This exclusive focus ensures that we are tracking products that meet FSC’s stringent certification standards, thus maintaining the integrity of our label. We will gradually roll out the technology to all our Certificate Holders, ensuring everyone is well-equipped and trained to use this new system effectively.

We know that many are eager to delve into the details of the platform and the possibilities of FSC Trace. We invite you to explore our FAQs or indicate interest via our online form on fsc.org/FSCTrace.

How much does it cost?

The platform is free for FSC Certificate Holders. We may add paid premium features in the future. We are also looking into interoperability with other platforms.
How does a trade get verified on FSC Trace?

When is a claim matched?
Trading parties must agree on the following:
- FSC license codes
- Invoice date
- Product category
- Species composition
- Quantity (either volume or weight)

If either of these do not match, the claim will not be written to the blockchain as a matched claim but remain “unmatched”

How do I upload data?

1. Direct Entry
   Individual transactions recorded directly via the application website. This method is most appropriate to small companies with only occasional trades, and when first learning how FSC Trace works.

2. Bulk Uploads
   Companies can opt for bulk uploads of spreadsheets, which can cover multiple transactions over a specific period. This method is efficient for managing large volumes of data.

3. API Integration
   Certificate Holders can also choose to integrate their internal systems with the FSC Trace using an Application Programming Interface (API).

Which types of data will FSC Trace get me?

- **Species Verification**
  Confirm the exact species used in your product, ensuring authenticity and compliance.

- **Product Type & Classification**
  Record product categories as per FSC standards, with optional international HS codes for global trade and customs compliance.

- **Country of Production**
  Track the production country at each supply chain point, vital for compliance with regulations.

- **Volume/Mass/Weight Metrics**
  Flexible recording by volume or weight, with unit customization for market-specific requirements, like EUDR.

- **Geolocation Transparency & Harvest Timing**
  Provide geolocation data for the source harvesting block and precise harvest start and end dates, an optional but significant detail for regulatory adherence. This field is limited to certified forest owners or those introducing raw materials as FSC Controlled Wood or FSC Recycled.

- **Upload Additional Attachments and Data**
  Add attachments and additional data fields to an individual trade.

An evolving platform
Throughout 2024 and 2025, FSC Trace will receive regular iterative releases to improve the user interface and make new features available. Additional features will be systematically integrated to add further value for FSC Certificate Holders, and ensure tight alignment with new regulatory requirements.

- **Q1 2024**
  FSC Trace trials in progress

- **Q2 2024**
  *Launch FSC Trace to Certificate Holders*

- **Q3 2024**
  *- Integrate Geospatial Tools for collecting the plots and Earth Observation Tools for monitoring and assessing the risk*
  *- Release of FSC Regulatory Module and normative changes*
  *- Launch Basic Due Diligence Statements Beta*

- **Q3 2024**
  *Due Diligence Statements feature released*

- **Q1/2 2025**
  Expand reporting functionalities

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