

Summary of the verification scheme

Name of the system	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Certification Scheme (both for forest management and chain of custody).
Related Area	Global (As of December 31, 2006, there are 5 forest management units in China which are granted as FSC FM certificates, and 221 timber processing companies which are granted as FSC COC certificates).
General overview of verification	Party responsible for issuing verification
	Independent and third party certification bodies accredited by FSC International.
	Outline of issuing process
	Application – pre-assessment - main assessment - peer review - certificate issuance – surveillance.
	The system shall verify legality only□/or both sustainability□
Scheme to check for legality at the time of logging	Both legality and sustainability.
	Definition of legality
	See FSC documents.
	Relevant laws
	See FSC documents.
	Details of presumed illegal activities
	See FSC documents.
	Procedures for retaining and verifying the evidence
	See FSC documents.
Scheme to check for sustainability	Scheme implemented by the third party and so on to ensure reliability
	See FSC documents.
	Definition of sustainability
	See FSC documents.
	Procedures for retaining and verifying the evidence
Scheme of separative custody management	See FSC documents.
	Scheme implemented by the third party and so on to ensure reliability
	FSC Forest Certification Scheme (both for forest management and chain of custody).
	Real picture of the dealings, from logging to export
	See FSC documents.
	Procedure for ensuring separative custody management
Future Task and Perspectives	See FSC documents.
	Scheme implemented by the third party and so on to ensure reliability
	FSC Forest Certification Scheme (both for forest management and chain of custody).
	Criticisms against the system and recognition of problems
	The system is too environmentally oriented, especially with too strict principle of plantation. As plantation is the principal sources of timber supply in China due to the implementation of the Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP) since 1998, it is a big challenge for China to widely apply FSC scheme. Also, the cost of FSC certification is quite high, both for the direct cost due to the lack of Chinese FSC accredited certification body (which leads to high cost of international travel and non-Chinese auditors) and indirect cost due to the more improvement to be made so as to meet stricter standard of FSC. Furthermore, the domestic market for FSC certified forest products is quite limited.
	Remediation procedure
	See FSC documents.
Reference Author	Future perspectives
	Generally good.
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