



# FSC™ Project Certification

## Certify your use of responsible timber in construction

The Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) Project certification helps you to demonstrate that your construction project supports sustainable forest management through the use of certified forest-based materials.

Sustainability is a key theme in construction, and timber is gaining ground as a climate-conscious choice of building material. Architects and developers are increasingly aware of the options for using wood materials in modern and eco-friendly building design. This naturally leads to increased focus on the responsible origin of the timber.

### What is project certification?

You can FSC certify your project under FSC's special chain of custody requirements for one-time or continuous projects. Any type and size of project may be certified, from a TV set to a large-scale housing complex. There are several types of project certification, including:

- ✓ **One-time project certification:** Project certification for a single project.
- ✓ **Continuous project certification:** Project certifications that allow organisations to continuously obtain FSC project certification for several projects.

### What claims can you use?

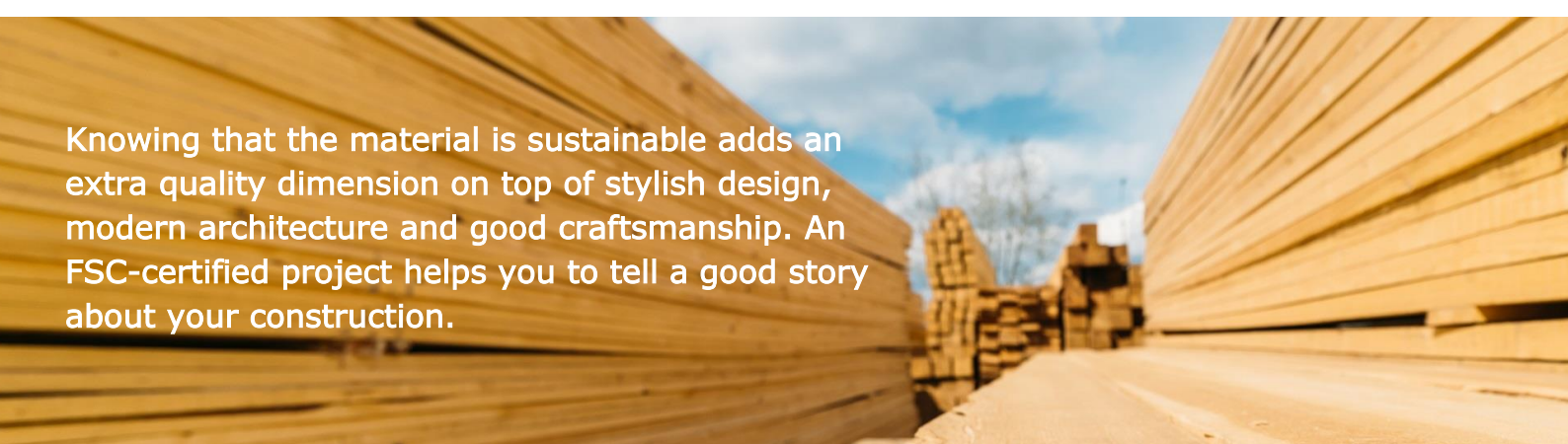
According to the scope of your certificate, you could use some of the following claims:

- ✓ **Full project certification:** Demonstrates that all wood-based material used for the construction project is either FSC-certified, post-consumer reclaimed material or pre-consumer reclaimed paper.
- ✓ **FSC claims on specific components of a project:** When full project certification is not an option, this possibility allows the organisation to make claims about the use of certified timber for specific parts of the construction, such as doors or windows.
- ✓ **Percentage claims:** When full project certification is not an option, this possibility allows the organisation to make claims about the share of certified timber used in the project.

### Why choose FSC project certification?

FSC is widely recognised as a credible scheme that provides assurance for responsible timber. FSC project certification is a good choice if you wish to demonstrate to your clients, investors and the wider society that you are serious about responsible timber sourcing. In addition, you will gain the opportunity to:

- ✓ Document the share of certified timber used for a construction project, in support of the world's forests.
- ✓ Communicate in public about your use of certified timber.
- ✓ Use FSC's logo and trademarks throughout the project and as long as the construction exists.



Knowing that the material is sustainable adds an extra quality dimension on top of stylish design, modern architecture and good craftsmanship. An FSC-certified project helps you to tell a good story about your construction.



## Project certification in brief

### 1. Scope of the project certificate

In dialogue with us, you decide on the scope of the project certificate. A [certification agreement](#) must be signed before Preferred by Nature initiates the certification process.

Once the proposal and agreement are signed, we will appoint a specific Preferred by Nature contact person for your organisation.

### 2. Your preparation

You provide instructions and training to all suppliers of FSC-input material for the project, explaining how to handle certified material.

The [FSC project standard](#) provides the full set of requirements that must be prepared for.

### 3. Assessment

At the project start, we conduct an audit to verify that you have adequate systems in place to ensure traceability of the FSC material.

### 4. Approval

With the positive certification decision, you will gain access to the use of FSC's logo and trademarks to promote the project.

### 5. Periodicity

Depending on the type of project certification, one-time or continuous, and the duration of the project, we conduct annual surveillance evaluations and re-evaluations.

### 6. Statement approval

Once the project is finalised, we review and approve your project statement, which demonstrates that your project is FSC-certified.

### Who owns the project certificate?

The certificate is issued for the project via the project manager, who is responsible for ensuring that the project follows FSC's requirements. The project manager may be a construction company or developer and maybe a company or an individual person.

Contractors working with FSC-certified timber used for the project are included as "project members". The project manager ensures that the project members meet FSC's requirements.

### We are experts on responsible timber

Preferred by Nature is an international non-profit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and climate in **100+ countries**. With **30 years** of experience, Preferred by Nature has provided forestry certification services against international and recognised schemes like FSC and PEFC.


Preferred by Nature has certified over 33 million hectares of FSC and PEFC forestland in more than 30 countries, providing Supply Chain and Chain of Custody certification services to more than 3,000 companies around the world.

### Green services for the construction sector

Beyond FSC certification, we can also certify your project according to the PEFC scheme. You can have the option of having your project certified according to both schemes. Additionally, we offer [Carbon Footprint Support](#) and [Preferred by Nature Certification](#) services that could complement your certifications. Our Preferred by Nature Certification, based on the Sustainability Framework which is aligned with the [EU Deforestation Regulation \(EUDR\)](#), and can help you meet its requirements.

We hold accreditation for FSC Forest Management, FSC Chain of Custody and Project Certification. Find more [here](#).

Ready to know more? [Contact us](#).



The FSC project certification shows that the forest-based materials you use come from FSC-certified sources.



## Frequently Asked Questions about FSC Project Certification

### Which standards apply to my organisation?

The FSC Standard for Project Certification, FSC-STD-40-006, is used for certification of projects that use forest-based material/products and want to promote and claim them as being FSC-certified. A project is defined as the production or renovation of a construction or civil engineering project, like an office building, a condominium of houses, event infrastructure such as concert stages, a stand in a trade fair, a timber bridge, individual art or decorative object or transport vehicle that is made of or contains forest-based materials.

### What is the cost structure?

The total certification cost consists of the **costs related to the auditing services** and the **FSC Annual Administration Fee (AAF)**. The auditing fee depends on the size and complexity of the company and its CoC system. It is specified in our proposal. The AAF fee is set by FSC and may change during the validity period of the certificate.

### What about quality assurance?

Preferred by Nature's Quality Management System includes several [policies](#) and procedures that allow our organisation to provide assurance services credibly in compliance with accreditation requirements. These include the [Impartiality Policy](#), which ensures impartiality, transparency, and independence in all of our activities, and the Confidentiality Policy, which describes our rigorous approach to safeguarding confidential data and information our clients provide. Our [Disputes Resolution Policy](#) describes how we process complaints and appeals.

### What about confidentiality?

The confidentiality of all data is secured, and strict confidentiality requirements bind our staff. However, all FSC certificates are listed in the [public FSC database](#). For information provided to third parties, please check the [Certification Agreement](#).

### When can certification be refused?

Certification is refused when Preferred by Nature concludes that the audited company does not meet the standard's requirements.

### When is certification suspended?

It depends on your type of project certification. A continuous project certification may be suspended for the following reasons: a) Five or more major nonconformities are found during an annual audit. b) Failure to address one or more major/critical nonconformities by the specified timeline. c) Serious breaches of the certification requirements. d) Lack of payment of applicable fees and invoices. e) Lack of willingness to plan and undergo scheduled audits.

A suspended certificate may be reinstated when the company has addressed the issues that led to the suspension and we have conducted an audit verifying compliance within the required timeline.

### When is certification terminated?

Your certificate may be terminated for the following reasons: a) Failure to sufficiently address the issues leading to suspension within the suspension period, b) Failure to undergo renewed assessment within the suspension period after addressing the issues leading to suspension, c) Deliberate fraud or serious breaches of the certification requirements, d) For continuous project certification, failure to undergo a renewed assessment before certificate expiration, e) Failure to undergo reassessment once the suspension period has reached its deadline.

When a certificate is terminated, the company needs to undergo a renewed assessment to have a new certificate issued. Until the certificate is renewed, the company may not make any claims or use certification trademarks.

Ready to know more? [Contact us](#).