

How to check FSC and PEFC certification of timber and wood products?

The certification schemes Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) have been assessed by the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) and found to ensure compliance with the UK Government's Legality and Sustainability criteria. FSC and PEFC are thereby accepted as Category A evidence of ensuring compliance with the Government's timber procurement policy.

When you order and receive FSC or PEFC certified products there are a few things you need to check to ensure that the product is actually certified:

FIND THE CERTIFICATION NUMBER/CODE

All certified suppliers have a unique certification code/number which you can find on a PDF or hard copy of their certificate or on the delivery notes and invoices. The format should be as follows: TT-COC-1234, BMT-PEFC-23354 or SGS-COC-12244.

IS THE CERTIFICATE AUTHENTIC?

You can check online: for FSC go to: www.fsc-info.org and for PEFC: <http://register.pefc.cz/search1.asp>. Type in certification number where it says 'certification code/number' and click search. Does the certificate appear if you scroll down?

YES

NO

The certificate may be false - Request clarification from the supplier

HAS THE CERTIFICATE BEEN ISSUED TO THE COMPANY SELLING YOU THE PRODUCT?

Click 'information'. Check under 'General data'/'More info' that it is your supplier's name and contact details.

YES

NO

Your direct supplier/subcontractor may have provided you with their suppliers certificate-> The chain is broken and you need further information to confirm the traceability is intact.

IS IT VALID AND NOT EXPIRED?

Check under 'General data'/'More info' to ensure that the certificate has not been suspended since it was issued. Is the certificate valid?

YES

NO

Do not accept. The certificate has to be valid.

DOES THE CERTIFICATE COVER THE PRODUCT?

Check under 'Product data'/'Product'. Suppliers may only have part of their production certified.

YES

NO

Do not accept. If the product is not covered, it is not certified.

CHECK THAT THE INVOICE/DELIVERY NOTE SPECIFIES FSC/PEFC UNDER THE PRODUCT DESCRIPTION. IF 'YES': YOU HAVE RECEIVED TIMBER/WOOD PRODUCT FROM A LEGAL AND SUSTAINABLE SOURCE!

Any questions, please contact the CPET helpline on 01865 243766 email cpet@proforest.net or visit www.cpet.org.uk

Remember a certified supplier can still supply non-certified products!