

Sanction Policy for the Forestry and Wood Industry

1. Definition and goal

Sanctions are measures imposed by the certification body on the company desiring certification. They are intended to get the company to fulfil directives completely by a certain deadline.

2. Sanction level

The levels of the sanctions are based on the department and area checked in accordance with the requirements of the respective standards, advice notes and authorities. The sanctions are tailored to specific cases with respect to the severity of the breach and its consequences.

If the sanctions are not remedied by the deadline, they are usually raised one level. In some cases, several sanctions may be imposed (such as for obligation to provide more documentation and reports plus subsequent checks).

In addition, see the catalogue of sanctions with examples for specific cases (E.CH I 4.5.2). Ecocert IMOsuisse AG (Ecocert CH) documents all sanctions by company.

3. Imposition of sanctions

For certification decisions, the catalogue of sanctions determines the measures (sanction level) resulting from non-conformities with the standards. Each non-conformity is assessed separately and is not affected by others. Ecocert CH takes all of the available information into account, including information from third parties, and may even make a decision during the validity of a certificate.

Ecocert CH's certification committee decides whether to impose sanctions, possibly in coordination with FSC International. An advisory of the following is enclosed in the notification of the decision: *Objections to this decision can be filed in writing at Ecocert CH within two weeks of its proclamation.*

If Ecocert CH rejects the recourse, then the recourse can be referred to ASI and ultimately to FSC, in case of disagreement with audit findings related to FSC normative documents. An advisory of the following is enclosed in the notification of a rejection of recourse: *Objections to this decision can be filed in writing at FSC International (name and tel./fax, email of the general secretary) within two weeks of its proclamation.*

4. Suspension or withdrawal of certification

In case of suspension or withdrawal of certification, the company has to meet the following obligations:

- immediately cease to make any use of any FSC trademarks, or to sell any products previously labelled or marked using the FSC trademarks, or to make any claims that imply that they conform with the requirements for certification;
- identify all existing certified and uncertified customers, inform those customers of the suspension or withdrawal in writing within three (3) days of the suspension or withdrawal, and maintain records;
- cooperate with Ecocert CH and with FSC in order to allow Ecocert CH or FSC to confirm that these obligations have been met.

In case of withdrawal, the following additional obligations have to be met:

- return the certificate to the certification body or destroy the original, and commit to destroy any electronic copies and printed copies in their possession;
- at its own expense remove all uses of FSC's name, initials, logo, certification mark or trademarks from its products, documents, advertising or marketing materials.

This document in its current version comes into force two weeks after shipping by Ecocert CH.