



IMPORTANT – CHANGE TO UKFCG’S FSC FM/COC CODE

The following information concerning use of the FSC FM/COC code is important, please take note of the details provided and contact either Paul or Phil if you have any questions.

We have decided to transfer the UKFCG FM/COC certificate to The Soil Association with effect from 1st September 2015:

- By transferring to The Soil Association we will be able to offer PEFC Certification in the future. We believe this is an important step to provide choice, or dual certification, between Certification Schemes in response to a number of enquiries we have already received from existing and potential members. We have not prepared costings for PEFC Certification at this stage, however, if any member is interested in this option please let us know and we will investigate further.

UKFCG’s new certification code is SA-FM/COC 004807
THIS CODE SHOULD BE USED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON ALL TIMBER SALES DOCUMENTATION

Please ensure your site sub code is used immediately after the main code given above – site sub codes remain unchanged

If you are part way through a harvesting/timber sale operation you may continue to use the old CU code as there is a period of grace to allow for implementation of the new code.

We will be contacting each member in the coming weeks to confirm the above changes, including re-issue of UKFCG Doc. 09 Confirmation of Membership to each member showing the full SA code and individual site code. A revised UKFCG Doc. 10 will also be provided to reconfirm Trademark Approval and Logo Use requirements.

Timing of the decision to transfer the certificate to SA was important; the new Certifier has to carry out an audit of the Group’s documentation, record keeping and procedures along with audit visits to a sample of members within a set period following the transfer. The timing coincides with the originally scheduled CU audit thus ensuring we do not incur the costs which would otherwise be associated with an additional audit later in the year. The SA audit will be undertaken in October following a period of stakeholder consultation which commences shortly. To facilitate the stakeholder consultation we have provided SA with copies of stakeholder lists for each of our members. As soon as SA have reviewed our members list and history of audits



we will be advised of the sample of members to be audited in October – Paul and Phil will be in attendance to ‘see fair play’!

REMINDER

We are still waiting on return of several annual monitoring reports, the blank forms were sent out in April. The information requested in the report forms is required from all members to enable us to respond to the Group audit which, if our records are incomplete, will result in NCs being raised on the Group. If we do not receive the information requested from our members we will be forced to raise NCs on those individual forests to protect the majority of members.

Do get in touch if you have any queries and many thanks to all members who have provided timely responses to the annual monitoring report.