

Deforestation and forest degradation free policy

Version	Owner (dept. or function)	Target audience	Approved by	Approval date	Review frequency	Reviewed topics
1	Group sustainability	Supply chain, own operations	ExCom	January 2019	At least every 3 years	/
2	Group sustainability	Supply chain, own operations	ExCom	April 2024	At least every 3 years	Added: targets, responsibilities
3	Group sustainability	Supply chain, own operations	ExCom	January 2025	At least every 3 years	targets' timeline aligned with EUDR

I. Introduction

At VPK, transparency is at the core of our supply chain principles. **Since 2011**, we have been certified by **the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Chain-of-Custody (CoC)**¹, ensuring that our products originate from responsibly managed forests, controlled sources, or reclaimed materials. This certification underscores our commitment to transparency and sustainability.

II. Scope

Our deforestation policy applies to **all aspects of our supply chain**, from sourcing raw materials to the production of our paper, corrugated boxes, and sheets. We prioritize the use of materials from verified CoC certified supply chains and promote sustainable forestry practices.

III. Commitments and objectives

We are committed to **exclusively sourcing materials through verified CoC certified supply chains**. For the production of our paper, corrugated boxes and sheets, we only accept materials that are 100% FSC-certified. Furthermore, all our paper mills are FSC-certified and utilize recycled CoC certified fibers.

Our goal is to maintain the production of 100% FSC CoC certified recycled paper while maximizing the use of CoC certified corrugated boxes and sheets.

VPK remains steadfast in its commitment to the **elimination of raw material sourcing from areas with a high risk of deforestation**. Through reliable risk assessments of

¹ We are certified under FSC-C109033.



our paper suppliers and strict adherence to applicable legislation, we ensure the **procurement of legal forest products while promoting sustainable forestry practices and biodiversity** along with mutual respect and appreciation at the basis of human rights². We fully endorse and commit to **complying with the EU Deforestation Regulation** once it becomes effective. To ensure an ethical supply chain, we utilise effective grievance mechanisms, enabling stakeholders to report potential incidents and fostering engagement with our suppliers. VPK's Supplier Code of Conduct serves as the cornerstone for sustainable sourcing across our entire Group.

IV. Targets

- Achieve a **100% deforestation and forest degradation-free supply chain** for VPK's end products by the end of 2026 (as of the cut-off date of December 31, 2020).
- Ensure that **100% of our supply consists of FSC CoC certified materials** for the production of our paper, corrugated boxes and sheets by 2025.
- Maintain **FSC CoC certification for all paper production sites**.
- Ensure that **at least 90% of packaging sites maintain FSC CoC certification**.
- Ensure that **100% of VPK's paper and at least 85% of packaging materials contains recycled fibers**.

V. Responsibility and governance

The Executive Committee is accountable for implementation of this policy. Board-level oversees this policy.

KPI stewards: Group FSC multi-site manager and group procurement manager, reporting to the Sustainability Steering Committee and the senior management.

² Violation of any of the ILO Core Conventions, as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.