



Introduction the Coed Cymru Group Certification Scheme

The timber market is increasingly demanding assurance about the quality and environmental impacts of forest management. One way to provide this assurance is through independent verification against a published standard, which defines appropriate and effective management. In forestry, this process is widely known as forest certification.

The **United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)** certification standard sets out the requirements which woodland and forest owners and managers and forest certification bodies can use to certify woodland and forest management. In order to achieve certification your wood will need to meet the UKWAS standard.

The Coed Cymru Group Scheme is available, at no cost, to all woodland owners who meet the criteria for woodland management support from Coed Cymru.

Coed Cymru's scheme covers 'woodland management' but not 'chain of custody'. **This means that round timber and firewood can be sold by the group member as 'FSC Certified' up to the first point of sale,** using the Coed Cymru certificate number **SGS-FM/COC-0069**. Further processing, buying or mixing of timber will require 'Chain of Custody' certification and we can advise you of who to contact to obtain this. A list of Chain of Custody Certifiers is available from FSC UK: www.fsc-uk.org

What to do Next

1. Decide whether Certification is right for you. There is no charge for the Coed Cymru FSC scheme but you will need to keep certain records and documents. Do you need certification to sell your timber?
2. Read the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) or have the main requirements explained to you by a Coed Cymru officer. Understand the implications of any restrictions, though these are usually minor. Most grants schemes will now incorporate the UKWAS standard anyway. A copy of the standard is found on our website www.coedcymru.org.uk under 'Woodlands' and 'FSC'.
3. Contact Coed Cymru (01686) 650 777 or your local Woodland Officer to receive the introduction pack. To enter the scheme your woods must be managed (or be eligible for management) by Coed Cymru. All of the FSC process will be carried out with the support of the local Coed Cymru Officer.
4. Read the rules of the scheme and be aware of the records you need to keep. You will need:
 - A management plan in excess of 5 years with the first 5 years in detail
 - A good map of the woodlands on your holding
 - A strategy for chemicals usage (form supplied)
 - Records of timber harvested (form supplied)
 - Records of hunting and shooting in the woods (form supplied)
 - Coed Cymru will audit every new site that enters the scheme. This will take approximately 2 hours.
 - You might expect to be visited from time to time either by Coed Cymru or our external auditors SGS Qualifor. Notice of these visits is given.