

FSC-DER-2024-003 FSC MIX label transition period extension

Normative reference	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-1, Section C 'Standard effective date' and Clause 3.2
Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generic (applicable to all certificate holders) <input type="checkbox"/> Specific (applicable only upon individual request and FSC confirmation)
Approval	04 th April 2024
Effective date	1 st July 2024
Period of validity	To be confirmed with the subsequent specific derogations
References	N/A
Certification Body	Multiple
Request by CB	FSC-STD-50-001 V2-1 introduced a new on-product FSC MIX label to be implemented by FSC certificate holders (CHs) by 30 June 2024. Multiple certification bodies (CBs), on behalf of their clients, have requested an extension of the transition period for a limited amount of certificate holders. These certificate holders will not be able to implement the new FSC MIX label by the end of the transition period because they use printing technologies with a lengthy lifespan and high replacement costs, namely flexography and rotogravure.
Rationale	Adoption of the new FSC MIX label before the transition end date would imply high environmental and economic costs incurred by certificate holders using printing technologies that have a lengthy lifespan and extremely high replacement costs, namely flexography and rotogravure.
FSC Conclusion	<p>After conducting due diligence to understand the concerns raised by CHs, FSC acknowledges the high environmental and economic costs incurred by certificate holders using the technologies described above.</p> <p>Consequently, FSC has decided to grant CHs, upon their request and approval by FSC, a derogation for a limited extension to the transition period. These CHs are thereby allowed to continue using the old MIX label when fixating the FSC label using flexographic printing or rotogravure, with printing plates (stereos, clichés) or cylinders that were in use before 1 July 2022.</p> <p>To be subject to this derogation, CHs must send a request via email to trademark@fsc.org before the end of the transition period by 30 June</p>

2024. Upon receipt, FSC will assess each case and decide whether the CH is granted the timeline extension as well as the length of the extension, based on provided justifications (economic necessity, environmental impact, technical conditions).

FSC will keep records of the CHs to which the extension has been granted and inform the respective CB. The CB shall verify the accuracy of the provided information during the following annual audit.
