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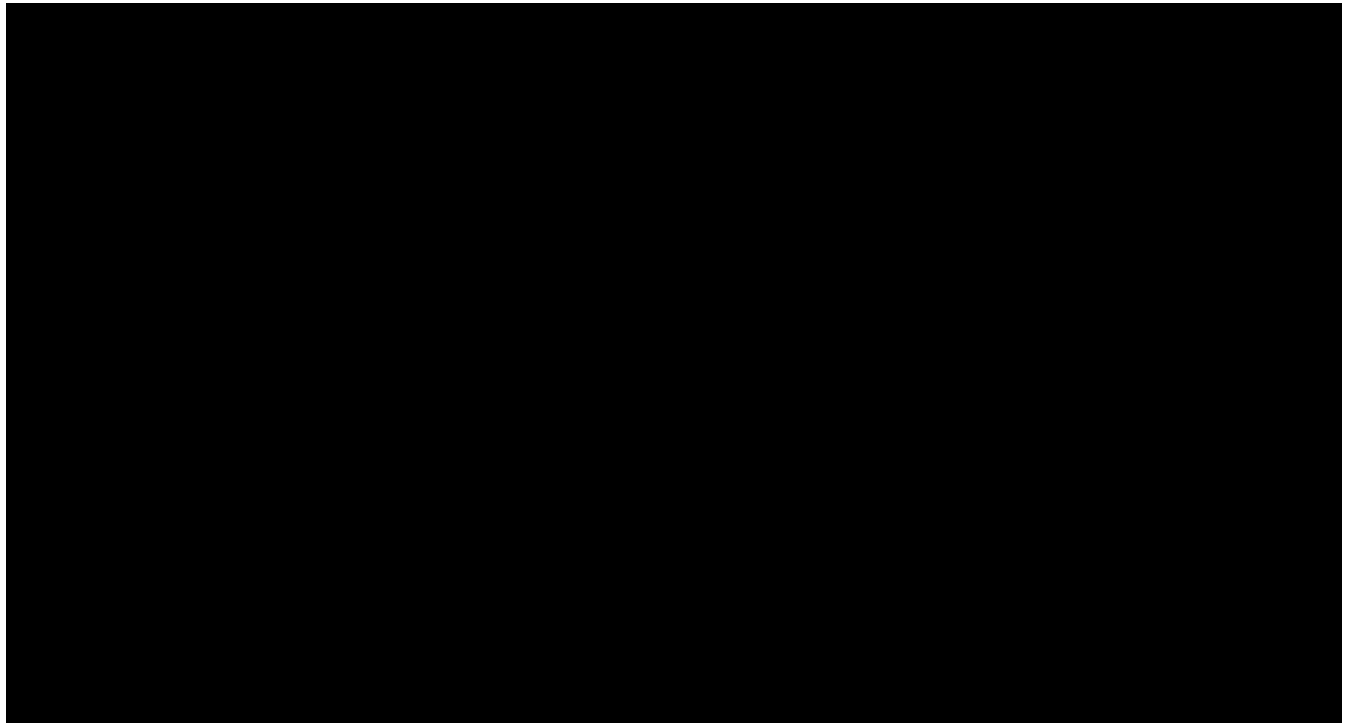
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PAPIK

REGULATION

3 January 2013 • 4 min read

FSC certification: controlling and guaranteeing the responsible origin of timber

The FSC label certifies that timber comes from forests managed responsibly toward both the environment and local communities. At PAPIK Group we build only with timber that carries this guarantee.

Timber is the central material of high-efficiency industrialised construction, yet its environmental credibility rests on one prior condition: knowing where it comes from. FSC certification is designed to control the origin of timber and guarantee that it comes from plantations managed in a controlled way, with respect for environmental and social development. Without that traceability, the ecological advantage of building with wood is called into question.

The origins of the Forest Stewardship Council

The concept of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) emerged in 1990, when a group of timber-consuming and timber-trading companies, together with representatives of environmental and human-rights organisations, met in California. Their shared aim was to find a system capable of identifying good forest management and the origin of wood products manufactured responsibly.

The institution gradually took shape and was formally founded in 1994 in Oaxaca, Mexico. In Spain, the certificate began to develop in 1998 through WWF, and in 2006 FSC International approved the corresponding standards. It is therefore a relatively recent certification, but one with very broad adoption across the sector.

The ten principles of responsible forest management

For an operation to be considered certified under the FSC label, the owner or manager of the forest must comply with ten basic principles:

- **Principle 1. Compliance with laws:** comply with all applicable laws, regulations, treaties, conventions and agreements.
- **Principle 2. Workers' rights and employment conditions:** maintain or enhance the social and economic well-being of workers.
- **Principle 3. Indigenous peoples' rights:** identify and uphold indigenous peoples' rights to the ownership and use of land and its resources.
- **Principle 4. Community relations:** maintain or enhance the social and economic well-being of local communities.
- **Principle 5. Benefits from the forest:** maintain or enhance the long-term economic, social and environmental benefits derived from the forest.
- **Principle 6. Environmental values and impacts:** maintain or restore the ecosystem, its biodiversity, resources and landscapes.
- **Principle 7. Management planning:** have a management plan that is implemented, monitored and documented.
- **Principle 8. Monitoring and assessment:** demonstrate progress toward meeting management objectives.
- **Principle 9. High conservation values:** maintain or enhance the attributes that define this type of forest.
- **Principle 10. Plantations:** plan and manage plantations in accordance with FSC's principles and criteria.

Each of these principles contains concrete criteria that make it possible to establish whether the operation has met them in practice, beyond a mere statement of intent.

Why PAPIK Group builds only with FSC timber

At PAPIK Group we work to deliver buildings that are highly energy efficient, sustainable and welcoming. For the sake of consistency with that goal, we use only FSC-labelled timber, a guarantee that our buildings do not represent an assault on the environment or on social development.

Certifications like this help to prevent the uncontrolled logging affecting regions such as the Amazon, where deforestation destroys vast forest areas and generates social conflict. Choosing certified timber is a direct way of carrying that requirement from the forest all the way to the construction site. The same logic of traceability and responsibility guides our construction and retrofit work, and connects with the growing role of wood as a structural material that we explore in other articles on the blog.

The sustainability of a timber house does not begin on site: it begins in the forest, and it is only real when the origin of every board can be proven.

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