Transaction Verification Criteria and OCP **Roadmap 2015**

Question	Description	2015				2016
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Are we on the right track with OCP? (Feedback on OCP through stakeholder industry meetings and webinars)	FSC has held meetings with stakeholders prior to, during and after the FSC General Assembly in September 2014. As a result of these meetings, FSC no longer requires mandatory implementation of the OCP. Instead the revised CoC standard could include criteria on transaction verification. The revised standard will soon open for a second round of consultation, and if the section on verification criteria remains, certified organizations must verify the accuracy of the claims they receive and pass on. Certificate holders may use any one of a variety of tools. We will continue to hold stakeholder meetings and webinars to ensure sufficient opportunities for input.	■	■			
Is there really a problem with inaccurate claims? (Research on extent of the problem)	Preliminary, informal research shows that inaccurate claims are being passed in the FSC system, although the extent of the problem remains undetermined. Obtaining precise data on the problem is difficult, so FSC has engaged a consultant, Ed Pepke, an internationally recognized forest products and market analysts, to carry out a study to get more data on the extent of misleading claims within the FSC system. The research includes both qualitative and quantitative parameters, and covers both a regional and global scale.	■	■	■		
How will FSC address inaccurate claims now that the OCP is voluntary? (Revision of the CoC standard)	With the OCP being voluntary, FSC will have to introduce other means of minimizing the risk of inaccurate claims in the CoC chain. Currently the suggestion of FSC is to introduce a transaction verification criterion in the CoC standard under revision. With this criterion certification bodies will be able to crosscheck transactions between trading parties. FSC will offer OCP as one of the tools accepted to do this. A discussion paper on transaction verification is expected to be released in conjunction with the second draft of the CoC standard revision process in a way for FSC to obtain feedback specific to transaction verification..	■	■			
Will my opinion on the proposed changes be heard? (Consultation for input)	All stakeholders are asked to provide input into the risk-based approach for transaction verification as part of the consultation on the CoC standard and the accreditation standards. FSC is preparing a detailed discussion paper on transaction verification to aid in stakeholder consultation. This discussion paper is expected to be released in conjunction with the second round of consultation of the CoC standard. FSC will seek stakeholder comments as part of the release of this paper and use these comments to make needed revisions.		■		■	

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When does the CoC standard enter into force? (Timing of implementation)	Are the transaction verification criterion passed as expected, by the time of audit after the CoC standard is effective, all certificate holders must have identified their means of complying with the transaction verification requirements in their final form. The second consultation is planned for Sep. – Oct. 2015 and if a third consultation is not required the standard will be submitted for Board approval in March 2016 When the new CoC standard enters into force, certified organizations will have one year from that point to comply with the standard.					▇
How does transaction verification criteria fit into the FSC strategic plan? (Simplify & use technology)	The draft strategic plan highlights the need to make the FSC system simpler while keeping it credible. The plan also calls for FSC to make the implementation of certification risk-based, starting with the CoC certification. The revision of the CoC standard to include transaction verification criteria and methods for using technology for simpler administration of a CoC certification is therefore fully in line with the FSC strategy to be implemented over the next five years.	▇	▇	▇	▇	▇
Can I start using OCPs notification functions? (OCP as a tool to assist with CoC management)	The OCP can be used solely to receive automatic updates about the certification status of one's suppliers without using the platform for inputting or receiving claims. In the live version, email notifications of any changes in connected supplier's certificate scope will automatically be sent to OCP users. If you register for the live version of the OCP when it is released in the third quarter of 2015, you will be able to use the notification function.		▇	▇	▇	▇
Is the OCP being tested for real? (Test the demo version)	Companies worldwide in our demo environment are continuously testing the OCP. Feedback from testing has been used to improve OCP functionality. The first phase of testing has been completed, but feedback from users will continue as new versions are released.	▇	▇	▇	▇	▇
Can I use the OCP now? (Live version of the platform)	The test version of OCP is fully functional. By third quarter 2015 the live version of OCP will be synchronized with info.fsc.org and open for all certificate holders to use as part of their CoC administration.			▇	▇	▇
Are there still concerns around data privacy? (OCP Terms and Conditions)	The FSC legal team has revised the OCP Terms and Conditions to ensure that the OCP complies with all German and European data privacy laws. Outside legal experts on data privacy, especially in Germany, have reviewed the new T&Cs. The OCP system has also been certified to the ISO27001 standard to ensure maximum data security. New T&Cs has been released along with the live version of the OCP platform.	▇				

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What effect does the OCP have on non-certificate holders? (Can the OCP be used to increase opportunities to promote FSC certified products?)	FSC International and Network Partners are looking at how the OCP can be used to streamline and simplify trademark requirements and support trademark management. There are a number of situations where the OCP could be used to allow more extensive use of the FSC trademark on and off product and FSC is initiating a pilot with Network Partners. A pilot project for using OCP subscription service to close gaps in supply chains for finished and labelled FSC certified goods will be conducted in 2015.		■	■	■	
How could the OCP be used to improve data quality in the FSC certificate database? (Testing an annotate function allowing certified organization edit their own certificate information.)	FSC will be testing an annotate function within the OCP. This function asks those registering on the OCP to review and confirm the certificate data that is found on info.fsc.org. If any fields are incorrect, users will be asked to provide corrections. This information will then be forwarded to the user's certification body by OCP support. We will use this test to learn more about the accuracy of certificate data and to better understand how we can build better and more efficient methods for updating certificate data.		■	■		
Can I use the OCP to set up my CoC system? (Simplifying the FSC system)	A feature that FSC plans to add to the OCP is the ability for potential certificate holders to register and use the OCP to meet many of the administrative requirements needed for certification (e.g., volume summaries, supplier lists, information to be included on info.fsc.org, and training logs).				■	■
Can the OCP be used as an auditing tool? (Streamlining auditing)	By using the Live version of the OCP, CHs will be able to use the OCP and provide access to their account to their CB/auditor at the time of the audit or before.		■			