



Synopsis of 1st consultation comments on the Advice note ADVICE-01-10 FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP) Criteria



Bonn, January 2014

Synopsis of the 1st public consultation feedback on the Advice Note ADVICE-01-010 FSC Advice on the FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP) Criteria:

ADVICE-01-010 FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP) Criteria

Consultation period
English version: 29th October – 29th December 2013

This document has been prepared in accordance with FSC-PRO-01-001 (V 3-0)¹, and contains an analysis of the range of Stakeholder groups who submitted comments, as well as a summary of the issues raised (in relation to the requirements), a general response to the comments and an indication as to how the issues raised were addressed.

Contents:

- 1. Range of stakeholder consultation participants**
- 2. General comments on the FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP)**
- 3. Comment summary of ADVICE-01-010 FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP) Criteria**

Abbreviations used:
CB - Certification Body
CH - Certificate Holder
OCP - Online Claims Platform

Contact for comments: Emily Crumley (e.crumley@fsc.org)

1. Range of stakeholder consultation participants

176 stakeholders provided feedback on the consulted OCP Advice notes. Of the 176 respondents, 1 is a consultant, 4 are Certification Bodies and 171 are Certificate Holders (CH), consultants or associations representing CHs. There were no environmental member or social member comments.

2. General comments on the FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP)

Most feedback was regarding the OCP Terms and Conditions of Use and security of the OCP, the need for further testing of the OCP and providing an extended implementation timeline.

A number of comments have been considered as informal according to the clause 5.8 of the FSC-PRO-01-001. Comments considered as informal as per bullets a, b and d, were not summarized in the synopsis.

¹ Please consult clause 5.12 of FSC-PRO-01-001 V 3-0.



3. Comment summary of ADVICE-01-010 FSC Online Claims Platform (OCP) Criteria

Comments addressing ADVICE-01-010 contents indicated the need to:

1. extend the OCP implementation timeline
2. circulate the OCP Terms and Conditions of Use
3. conduct an external review on data security and anti-trust issues
4. provide for further testing of the platform

FSC's response to the comments

1. FSC has adjusted the implementation timeline for the OCP and ADVICE-01-010 is to be withdrawn. It will no longer be mandatory for companies to sign up from 1 April 2014. FSC will be consulting with CH's, CB's and other stakeholders before any decision is made on making any part of the OCP mandatory. FSC expects that this will be determined during 2014 by the FSC International Board of Directors (BOD) after an extended test period. The BOD could also decide to extend the testing period further, if necessary.
2. The Terms and Conditions of Use will be available for CHs who access the [OCP demonstration \(https://ocp-demo.fsc.org\)](https://ocp-demo.fsc.org) and [OCP live \(https://ocp.fsc.org\)](https://ocp.fsc.org) website through registration, and will also be found on the [OCP website \(ocp-info.fsc.org\)](http://ocp-info.fsc.org) in early February 2014. The Terms and Conditions of Use explain the purpose and scope of the OCP, the parties who have access to OCP accounts, code of conduct, modifications of the OCP, intellectual property rights, data ownership, liability, confidentiality, data privacy, processing of data, and law and jurisdiction.
3. By the end of the first quarter of 2014, FSC will have an external review on data security and anti-trust issues.
4. During the testing period, FSC will work with CHs to identify additional benefits that the OCP could provide, particularly in how the OCP could be used to lower the administrative burden of FSC Chain of Custody Certification. Further, during this testing period, FSC will also be collecting feedback on the OCP functions and on the terms and conditions of OCP use.
5. Additional feedback:
When a decision is made in regards to the mandatory use of the OCP, CHs will have six (6) months from the notification date to register on the platform and connect to their suppliers. This and other changes are a direct result of input from CHs, CB's, the FSC Network Partners and other stakeholders.

While many CHs are critical of the OCP, many other CHs are open to its use. The OCP can deliver tools in terms of compliance to trade regulations and management of volume summaries. Therefore, FSC will launch the OCP on 1 April 2014 as planned for those that wish to use it on a voluntary basis. From 1 April 2014, CHs have the option to use a demo mode of OCP - where data is deleted regularly and their suppliers are not notified through emails, to use the live version as a way to help administer their CoC.