

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**From now on Quality Austria also certifies acc. to FSC CoC**

Audits acc. to FSC CoC guarantee a sustainable value added chain acc. to international standards

**From now on Quality Austria Training, Certification and Evaluation Ltd. offers audits acc. to FSC CoC – Forest Stewardship Council Chain of Custody. FSC CoC is a certification procedure that is recognized on an international scale and guarantees worldwide wood is won according to economic, ecological and social aspects. Certified companies can use the FSC Logo in the form of a little tree in order to make publicity for their products.**

The FSC CoC Standard addresses milling and planing mills, wood processing industry, building joiners and cabinet makers, carpentries, joiners and manufacturers of prefabricated houses, wood trade, paper industry and paper trade as well as printshops and publishing houses. FSC CoC regulates quality management, the scope of products, purchasing material, receipt of goods and storage, places clear requirements on production control, sales, delivery and identification and labelling of the certified products. Quality Austria co-operates with the Swiss Certification Body SQS in the field of FSC CoC.

“Due to continuing discussions about climate protection, environmental protection will become significantly more important. It is true that discussions about Corporate Social Responsibility meet with high interest in the media. However, companies increasingly need to demonstrate to what extent they integrate CSR in the management system,” explains Axel Dick, Product Manager for FSC CoC at Quality Austria.

Labelling of the certified goods with the FSC Brandmark, which is protected worldwide, creates value for the companies when it comes to public relations and publicity for the products. “The image of a socially responsible company can be increased, and new markets can be opened up. Even companies that do not directly have to do with FSC CoC should take care of the FSC Logo when purchasing their printed matter,” says Axel Dick.

**More than 9,100 companies certified worldwide**

All over the world more than 114 million hectares of wood are already certified acc. to FSC Forest Management (FSC FM), and more than 9,100 companies are certified acc. to FSC CoC in 79 countries. In 2007, FSC International in Bonn registered a growth of 40%. In the Netherlands, the FSC Brand already has a recognition value of 67%, in Denmark that of 61% und in Switzerland that of 56%. 69% of the holders of Certificates state the reputation of their companies could be increased by FSC certification. More than three fourths think FSC yields social improvements and makes a concrete contribution to environmental protection. Therefore, 87% of the certified companies plan to renew their Certificate, and 79% recommend FSC Certificates to their colleagues.

### **Background information on FSC CoC**

FSC was established as a worldwide, independent and non-profit organization by environmental organizations, representatives of native ethnical groups and companies active in forestry and wood management in 1993. Certification Companies must have themselves accredited for FSC FM (Forest Management) and/or FSC CoC by FSC International in Bonn. Quality Austria co-operates with the accredited Certification Body SQS (FSC-ACC-013) in Switzerland. Auditors of Quality Austria, who are trained by SQS, can also audit acc. to FSC CoC in Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

### **Quality Austria**

Quality Austria Training, Certification and Evaluation Ltd. ([www.qualityaustria.com](http://www.qualityaustria.com)) is the umbrella brand of the four organizations OQS, OVQ, OQA and AFQM. The organization is the national market leader and contact in the fields of integrated management systems and industry standards. The services provided by Quality Austria range from training and further training in the field of international management trends and certification of quality and management systems via the award of the Austria Quality Label to distinguishing Austrian organizations for consistently pursuing excellence principles by presenting them with the Austrian Quality Award. The co-operation of Quality Austria with IQNet, EOQ, EFQM and other international organizations enables global know-how to be imparted and turns the organization into a competent partner. Quality Austria co-operates with about 100 member organizations world-wide. More than 11,000 organizations in little less than 50 countries already profit from this. Quality Austria is a stable factor when it comes to creating valuable synergies at the economic site of Austria.

### Further information and contact

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### Additional web hints:

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)  
[www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org)  
[www.sqs.ch](http://www.sqs.ch)