Specifying *FSC and PEFC* timber

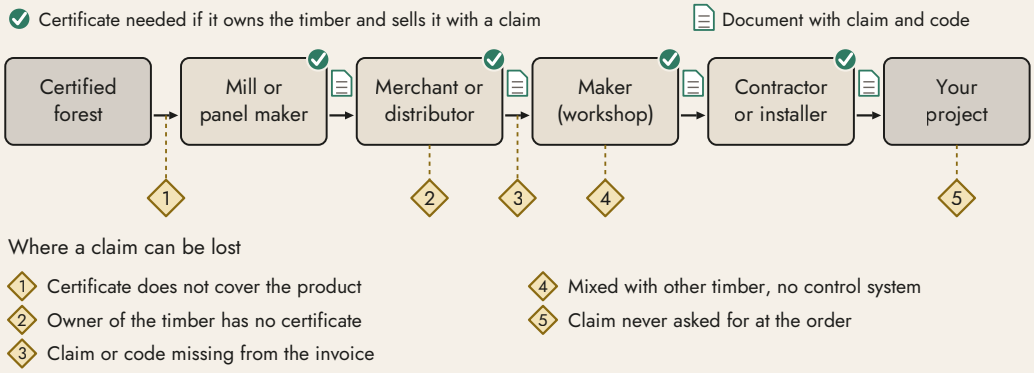
How to specify FSC and PEFC timber so that you can verify it: the claim types, where a claim can be lost, what must be on the invoice, and clause wording. Guidance, not legal advice.

Compliance guidance. Read on 5 November 2026 from FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1, PEFC ST 2002:2020, FSC UK and PEFC public pages and gov.uk and OPSS timber guidance. Check the current editions. This is guidance, not legal advice. Nothing here says that Make Bespoke Studio or any partner workshop holds a certificate: ask each supplier for its certificate and check it in the scheme's database.

AT A GLANCE

Claim	What it tells you	What it does not tell you
FSC 100%	All the material comes from FSC-certified forests.	That this supplier's certificate covers this product: check the scope.
FSC Mix x%	A mix of certified, recycled and controlled inputs. The x is the share that counts towards the claim, over a claim period or job order.	That every part of every piece is certified timber.
FSC Mix Credit	The supplier holds certified input on account and sells part of its output against that credit.	What is in this piece: the credit is counted across a product group.
FSC Recycled x% or Credit	Made from reclaimed material only.	That it contains certified forest timber.
FSC Controlled Wood	Material sold under FSC's separate Controlled Wood requirements (FSC-STD-40-005, not read for this sheet).	FSC-certified product: FSC's standard says it is not one. It is for raw or semi-finished goods sold to a certified customer.
x% PEFC certified	PEFC's claim for certified material, stated on sales and delivery documents.	The method used, unless the supplier says. Read the number.
100% PEFC Origin	PEFC wording, optional, for certified material never mixed with controlled sources, under physical separation.	A claim every PEFC supplier uses: it is an option.
PEFC controlled sources	Material the supplier assessed, through due diligence, as negligible risk of controversial sources.	That the forest is certified.

Meanings follow FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 (Annex E definitions, cl 5.1, Table C, cl 5.6) and PEFC ST 2002:2020 (3.27, 3.28, 5.2). Ask the supplier which claim applies to each item: do not infer it from a label.



The chain from forest to project, and five places a claim can be lost. Schematic. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

TIMBER CLAIM REQUIREMENT

Timber, veneer and timber-based board in [items, by schedule reference] is to be supplied with the claim [FSC 100% / FSC Mix, minimum [x]% / FSC Recycled / x% PEFC certified] [credit claims: accepted / not accepted]. 'Controlled Wood' and 'controlled sources' are not accepted as a certified claim. Each organisation that owns the material and sells it on with the claim is to hold a valid chain of custody certificate whose scope covers the product.

SALES AND DELIVERY DOCUMENTS

Each sales and delivery document is to show the seller's name and contact details, the customer, the date, the description and quantity of each product, the seller's certificate code [FSC certificate code / PEFC certificate number] and the claim for each product. For finished work invoiced as a service, a linked supplementary document is to list the certified components, quantities, claims and certificate code.

EVIDENCE AND LEGALITY INFORMATION

Before order, [Supplier] is to give the certificate code and scope of each certified party it relies on, and [Designer] will check them in the scheme's database on [date] and file the result. Delivery documents are sent with each delivery and kept for [5] years. [Supplier] is to state each species (common and scientific name) and its country of harvest, and to confirm in writing which party is the operator under the UK Timber Regulations. Certification is not accepted as the only evidence of legality.

SUBSTITUTION, LOGOS AND REMEDY

No change of claim (including a downgrade such as FSC 100% to FSC Mix) and no substitution of a specified product without written approval from [designer]. FSC and PEFC logos are not to be applied to the work, packaging, drawings or promotional material unless the user holds the trademark licence. Where a claim cannot be evidenced as above, the item does not conform and [Supplier] is to [remedy to be agreed with the contract adviser].

TERMS USED

Chain of custody

The documented trail that follows certified timber from forest to finished product so a 'certified' claim can be passed on. It must be maintained by each business in the chain, including the maker.

FSC Mix Credit

An FSC claim in which certified and other wood are mixed and credit for the certified share is sold on, so an individual item need not itself contain certified timber. It differs from a percentage claim, which states the certified share of the product.

Product group

The product or products an organisation lists for the purpose of controlling its claims. A certificate's scope is stated as product groups, so the group must cover what you are buying.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 EN: Chain of Custody Certification: approved 14 Jan 2021, effective 1 Sep 2021; read 5 Nov 2026.
- PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products: in force 14 Feb 2020; read 5 Nov 2026.
- FSC UK: UKTR and FSC; Choosing FSC-certified products: read 5 Nov 2026; pages show no date.
- gov.uk: Regulations: timber and FLEGT licences, with the OPSS guidance and SI 2013/233: page last updated 20 Aug 2025; read 5 Nov 2026.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/specifying-fsc-and-pefc. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.