

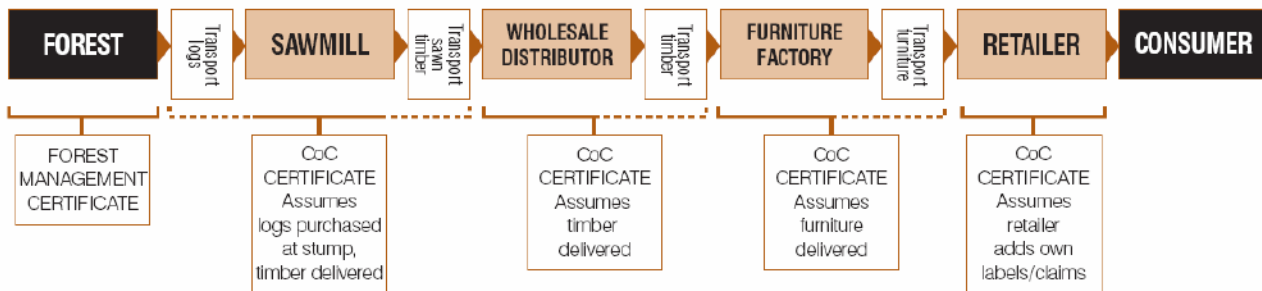
The Facts: Chain of Custody Certification

Chain of Custody Certification (CoC) is the formal process of tracking wood and forest products from a certified forest to consumers.

This includes all stages of processing, transformation, manufacturing, storage and transport where progress to the next stage of the supply chain involves a change of ownership of the materials or the products. It can be likened to an inventory control system.

A secure chain of custody requires that certified products are identified, tracked through the facility and accompanied by appropriate documentation at all stages across the supply chain.

Example of a fully certified chain of custody (furniture)



Note: Transport companies do not generally have legal ownership of products and so do not require separate certification.

Diagram Source: FWPA

Who needs Chain of Custody Certification?

Companies who show their commitment to the environment and responsible forest management by sourcing legal and sustainable timber and obtaining Chain of Custody Certification add value to their products, giving them environmental and social credentials for consumers. Companies supplying product to various government agencies and special projects that specify 'certified timber' may also require Chain of Custody certification.

If you are a sawmiller, manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, retailer or any type of company that would like to use certification logos and advertise your products as being made from certified timber you will require Chain of Custody Certification.

How do you obtain Chain of Custody Certification?

Australian Chain of Custody Certification is available through two major schemes:

- Responsible Wood (RW) and;
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

These schemes have 'standards' which are the set requirements that companies must implement to make the claim that their products are certified. When implemented they are checked by an 'accredited certifier', and once certified, companies can use the relevant trademarks, labels and claims that advertise the environmental credentials of their products.

For more information see Timber Queensland Fact Sheet "Forest Certification Schemes".

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