



Policy on wood, paper and pulp sourcing

Caring for the environment is an integral part of the way we run our business. For this reason we will strive to purchase wood, paper and pulp products from well-managed, sustainable sources.

As an organisation we are committed to;

- the elimination of illegally harvested wood
- the elimination of timber sourced from uncertified high conservation value forests
- continuously increasing the proportion of material from known, legal sources through to credibly certified sources.

To this end we will work towards increasing the independent certification of our use of wood, paper and pulp. Such certification will be to international standards of forest management that include ecological, social and economic criteria - such as those established by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Paul Fussey
Executive director

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Policy support document

Wood, paper and pulp sourcing

Background

Boots UK sells a large number of products, which are sourced from forests around the world in the form of wood, paper or pulp. For example hairbrushes, photo frames, nappies, tissues and greeting cards.

Boots UK also purchase and consume a large number of products for internal consumption only, such as photocopier paper, internal and external magazines and promotional material. As a founder member of the WWF Forest and Trade Network, we are committed to:

- Ensuring that all Boots brand and exclusive wood, pulp and paper products come from known wood types and well managed forests.
- Purchasing no wood, pulp and paper products from known poorly managed, or unknown, forest sources.
- Working with WWF-UK to increase the proportion of forest products traded or consumed coming from well-managed forests which have been credibly, independently certified.

The WWF Forest and Trade Network actively promotes and facilitates increased trade in independently, credibly certified forest products and encourages good forest management worldwide.

The issue

For many years there has been increasing pressure from non-government organisations, investors and customers for retailers to ensure wood paper and pulp products are sourced from well managed sustainable sources.

Some issues arising from illegally or unsustainable sources include:

- Clear felling of forests without replacement damages the local ecosystems permanently.
- Certain tree species used for consumer products are classified as endangered or critically endangered with the distinct possibility of extinction.
- Unsustainable forestry has been shown to contribute to the change in the global climate due to a forest's ability to absorb vast quantities of carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen.
- Unmanaged forestry has resulted in indigenous peoples being moved with lost livelihoods.
- Illegal logging has been linked to poverty and corruption.

Boots must take a responsible approach to forest management. Failure to do so could result in erosion of the Boots brand values.

Purchasing, sourcing and product development team actions

This policy is implemented in GR 001—General Requirements For Boots Brand Products.



- **Concerning wood, paper and pulp containing products**

Suppliers must be encouraged to source wood, pulp and paper products from forests independently certified to FSC standards.

Boots wood, pulp and paper products questionnaire (WWFQuest) must be issued to suppliers - see Operating Procedure Q&CSR/ENV/01.

For products made from solid wood, the FSC endorsement can only be made if the minimum threshold of 70% FSC endorsed certified wood is maintained. Labelling can be on a batch basis.

At least 50% by weight of the virgin pulp and paper used in composite products must be from an FSC - certified source in order to carry the FSC trademark.

The FSC trademark can be applied to any product using up to 82.5% recycled fibre with at least 17.5% FSC approved primary fibre.

Boots will not accept species listed on CITES or certain other designated species, e.g. Dalbergia nigra (Brazilian Rosewood, Rio Rosewood, etc.*)
Pericopsis Elata (Aformosia, Kokrodua, etc.*)
Swietenia macrophylla (American / Brazilian Mahogany, etc.*)
Gonystylus spp. (Ramin, Melawis, etc.*)

** Most common UK names. If in doubt the Latin name should be used as a reference*

For further information on the CITES list please see website link (www.cites.org) and/or contact Head of NPI Healthcare or Q&CSR department.

No claims regarding sustainability/forest management may be made relating to Boots wood, pulp and paper products, unless an independent certificate to FSC standards is provided.

Where a certificate is provided the product supplier will be provided with a form of words and a symbol by the Certification body which must be used on pack.

- **Illegal sources of wood paper and pulp**

As well as aiming to seek to increase volumes of paper and pulp products from certified sources, Boots must also ensure sources of illegal or unknown timber are eliminated.

Several companies have consistently been recognised as flouting their obligations to ensure well managed and sustainable forests are maintained. Two companies in particular have been singled out, Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Holding (APRIL), therefore we ask suppliers if they supply Boots wood paper or pulp from either of these companies or their subsidiaries.

Where no sourcing information is provided by suppliers or there are doubts surrounding the legality of the source e.g. for paper products, a declaration must be sought from suppliers to prevent illegal sources being used in products. Should a supplier refuse to sign this declaration then alternative suppliers must be sought. Please consult with Head of NPI Healthcare or Q&CSR should further clarification be needed.



- **Concerning recycled paper and board in products**

The decision whether to use recycled paper and board should be made at the beginning of the design process. Designers need to be informed, as the type of paper/board can affect print quality.

Boots is committed to using recycled paper and board in products and packaging, wherever it is of adequate quality and represents value for money.

Where recycled fibre cannot be used in Boots wood pulp and paper/board products, these should be made from primary fibre sourced from forests known to be well managed.

Consult the NPI&D Packaging team for recommended recycled paper/board grades to ensure that quality and consistency is achieved throughout Boots.

Paper/board must have a minimum of 50% post-user recycled fibre** content to be labelled as "recycled". Whilst the highest possible post-user recycled content paper/board should be sought, inclusion of some virgin fibre may be necessary to achieve the required quality and performance.

A recycling statement agreed with Boots should be used on all paper/board packaging, including transit packaging.

** Post- user recycled fibre - Post-consumer material means a material or finished product that has served its intended use and been discarded for disposal or recovery, having completed its life as a consumer item. Recycled fibre does not include mill broke.

Key questions

- **What is the WWF Forest and Trade Network?**

Originally called the WWF 95+ Group, it was originally founded with 20 members as the WWF 1995 Group in 1991. Since then, it has become widely recognised as a highly successful partnership between WWF, a non governmental organisation (NGO), and business, promoting and progressing responsible management of the world's forests.

The WWF FTN was relaunched in 2004 with stringent requirements for membership, members must report on progress annually and commit to continual improvement.
- **What is the Forest Stewardship Council?**

FSC is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. It was founded in 1993 in response to public concern about deforestation and demand for a trustworthy wood-labelling scheme.
- **Why is the FSC trademark different from other labels?**

There are a number of other "Eco labels" around but they do not have the same strict environmental, social and economic standards or such a rigorous chain of custody; tracking timber from the forest to the final user. Therefore the FSC is the only one endorsed by the major environment charities including WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Woodland Trust.



- **How can I be sure that the product really does come from an FSC well-managed forest?**

In addition to forest certification, the FSC system includes a certified chain of custody that tracks the timber through every stage in the supply chain from the forest to the final user. This is monitored through the invoicing process and the final label on the product has a code that confirms that the item is genuinely FSC.

- **What is the definition of recycled fibre and primary fibre?**

Recycled Fibre - Includes only post consumer-use waste material. Recycled fibre does not include mill broke.

Primary Fibre - Sourced from newly felled trees, i.e. virgin, non-recycled fibre.

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