

**Approved interpretations on National Forest Stewardship Standards**

**Germany**

**Interpretation 1**

**Keywords: Introduction of non-native tree species, regeneration area (10.3.3 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019

**The term “regeneration area” was defined. Therefore, many questions from experts being responsible for forest planning reached us.**

The regeneration area is the area for which a respective regeneration planning is prepared or available within the scope of the operational/management planning (normally 10 years) or for which a regeneration planning is prepared or available on a yearly basis (disturbance areas).



**Interpretation 2**

**Keywords: Directive to pesticide application (Appendix II: 10.7.2 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<p><b>Correction of a mistake in Glossary II of the Standard document ('In the case of officially acting forestry authorities, these, from the perspective of private forest owners, are the authorities superior to the forestry offices.'). The mistake was noticed and made aware of by an auditor.</b></p> <p>Official directives to apply pesticides to the private or communal forest owner are made by the under Land law responsible authority. The remarks to the competencies for private forest owners in the German FSC-standard 3.0, Appendix II to 10.7.2 has thus become devoid of purpose.</p>	



### **Interpretation 3**

**Keywords Exception from the ban of schematic regeneration methods reasoned from a technical point of view of nature conservation (10.1.1 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<p><b>The implementation of ,mitigation and compensation measures‘ occur on the basis of procedures defined by official authorities and regulated by law (please refer to 6.9.1.b as well). Partially, such also include measures which raise the biotope value of specific species and can only be achieved through clear-cuts. Evaluation from a nature conservation point of view is carried out by the responsible conservation authority.</b></p> <p>If clear-cuts &gt; 1 ha are called for in the scope of compensatory measures to enhance the conservation value in the forest, those are permitted. The measures can be equated with “species conservation and biotope tending measures based on a reasoned nature conservation concept” according to 10.1.1.</p>	



**Interpretation 4**

**Keywords: Equivalent national qualification for ECC-certificate (2.5.2 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<p><b>An evaluation of the quality level of the course AS-Baum I (including examination regulations, proportion of hours and content, etc.) has shown that the course is equivalent to ECC level 3, as well as to another national course mentioned in an earlier interpretation published in July 2018, offered by an organization called committee for forestry work and forestry technology (KWF). Therefore, listing AS-Baum I is an adaptation and clarification.</b></p> <p>The requirements related to the needed qualification to work with chainsaws are only required for persons who commercially work in the forest and not for apprentices.</p> <p>As “equivalent national qualification” are effective proofed examinations which have been approved before June 2018 after completing two-week long training seminar (so-called “proof of expert knowledge”) offered by forest worker schools, chainsaw courses (module A and B) run by KWF (committee for forestry work and forestry technology) or so-called course “AS-Baum I”..</p>	



**Interpretation 5**

**Keywords: Transformation reference areas to natural forest development areas (6.5.3 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<p><b>Forest ecologist assume that the typical forest biodiversity is prone due to current forest management practices which include non-native tree species, short rotation periods/decline of older forests &gt;180 years and other non-natural characteristics.</b></p> <p><b>Those arguments among others have been the basis for the former FSC reference area concept as well as the new regulations of natural forest development areas (which are very alike the requirements set by the federal government.) It would contradict the idea of promoting natural forest development (on a certain small proportion of the forest area) to first dissolve the formerly demanded reference areas, conduct harvest operations on those areas and then designate the same areas as natural forest development areas according to STD 3.0 again. Since the latter need to be proofed not later than 5 years after the first audit of STD 3.0 there would be enough time to run fellings or other operations in the meantime.</b></p> <p>In reference areas which serve as natural forest development areas in the future and need to be established not later than within 5 years there are no fellings allowed according to the definition of the natural forest development areas. Consequently, reference areas which are taken under management again cannot be accounted for natural forest development areas again.</p>	



### **Interpretation 6**

**Keywords: Rapid biodegradation of chain lubrication oils (10.11.3 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<b>The standard was not coherent, correction of a mistake.</b>  The demand for rapid biodegradation of hydraulic fluids is also related to chain lubrication oils.	

### **Interpretation 7**

**1. Keywords: Pioneer forest with non-native tree-species (10.3.5 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<b>The indicator get specified, no additional content or change.</b>  As 'justified exceptional case' to establish a pioneer forest with non-native tress species exists if native pioneer forest species are not suitable for the target forest cover and if this is justified with reference to individual cases with specific site characteristics (soil, vegetation, exposition, etc.) ('concept of individual cases').	



**Interpretation 8**

**Keywords: Minimum distance between skid trails (10.10.7 German FSC-Standard 3.0)**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017 V3-0, 1.6. 2018
<b>Publication date</b>	10. July 2019
<p><b>With the new standard skidding became more flexible, 13,5 % of the total forest area can be used as skid trails (before in STD 2.3 a minimum distance between skid trails of 40m had to be met unless need for exception was justified). Theoretically, falling below 20m is possible with the STD 3.0 but contradictory to low impact skidding and IGIs.</b></p> <p>Systematic distance between skid trails smaller than 20m are fundamentally excluded</p>	



**South Africa**

**Interpretation 9**

**Keyword(s): Legal status: Tenure and user rights**

<b>Code</b>	<i>To be filled</i>
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	FSC-STD-ZAF-2017 V1-0 Criterion 1.2 Indicator 1.2.1.
<b>Publication date</b>	10.July 2019
<p><b>In South Africa, traditional authority areas operate with a traditional structure. Chiefs grant community members land tenure and user rights. Often this is not formally recorded within the traditional structure and is not recorded in the National Deeds Registry</b></p> <p>If no documented evidence is available in Traditional Authority areas, where individual/family owned plantations are planted on individual /family fields or household plots, then informal rights to use this land can be presumed unless there is evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Ownership disputes or</li><li>(ii) Overlapping claims to the Forest Management Unit (FMU) which may be verified via interviews with landowner, neighbours and Chief</li><li>(iii) Contravention of the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act, 1996.</li></ul> <p>In terms of the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act 1996, a rights holder(s) resolution shall be applied where informal rights occur within an FMU.</p>	