We’re meeting a growing need.
Sustainable forest management
Sustainable forest management is defined as “the stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels and does not cause damage to other ecosystems.”

Sustainably managed forests are a renewable source of raw materials, but the forests also provide services such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and sometimes recreational opportunities. All forests can be managed sustainably, from primary or natural woodlands to intensively managed plantations.

Climate and forests are intrinsically linked. Wood is an inherently low-carbon-intensity material. The energy required to bring together wood is supplied by the sun; the trees capture carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. “In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fiber or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.” (IPPC, 2007)

Most of the carbon in harvested wood is transferred to products. The carbon stored in products remains out of the atmosphere for varying lengths of time, depending on the product. Additional carbon benefits could be obtained from the product biomass if, after potential recycling, the non-recyclable fiber was used to produce biomass energy instead of being disposed of.

Figure 1. Sustainable forestry management is the best mitigation for climate change. (Photo: Mika-Pekka Markkanen)

Figure 2. Carbon benefits of forest products (WBCSD 2011). The mitigation and adaptation benefits of sustainably managed forests include carbon storage in forests and forest products, as well as reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases, when forest products are used in place of products that are more greenhouse gas-intensive.

Figure 3. Eucalyptus plantation. WBCSD/IIED 1996

Forests cover approximately 4,000 million hectares or 31 per cent of the world’s land area. Today, 375 million hectares or less than ten per cent of the world’s forests are certified by independent third parties.

Renewable fiber from responsible sources

Our high performance materials are based on our expertise in fibers. We purchase the fibers from selected pulp producers under long term contracts based on the special features that give our products their required characteristics. To meet the demands of our plants throughout the world, we purchase our fibers globally from responsible sources.

Sustainable forest management

is a mechanism using third party certification bodies to provide assurance that a forest is managed according to internationally recognized sustainability criteria, attesting to responsible management of forests and plantations. Certification of forestry-related operations is the highest standard of stewardship and traceability that a company can provide to its customers. Forest certification is an excellent means to advance sustainability.

Planted forests comprise seven per cent of forested area, but they are an increasingly important source of industrial wood supply. A well-managed forest or plantation is one in which forestry is ecologically, socially and economically sustainable. A sustainable tree plantation conserves native ecosystems, enhances local welfare and is financially profitable. Planted forests allow the demand for wood to be met while using less land than would otherwise be the case.

Forest certification
**Forest certification schemes**

The certification criteria are that we do not use wood from controversial sources, or are indirectly or directly involved in the following unacceptable activities:

- a) Illegal logging or trade in illegal wood or forest products
- b) Violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations
- c) Destruction of high conservation values in forestry operations
- d) Significant conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use
- e) Introduction of genetically modified organisms in forestry operations
- f) Violation of any of the ILO Core Conventions as defined in the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

There are two major international systems for forest certification: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC™) and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC™). FSC is a global, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. PEFC is a global umbrella organization that recognizes the US SFI® (Sustainable Forestry Initiative®) standard, the Brazilian Cerflor standard and the CSA (Canadian Standards Association), to name a few. These systems have similarities, but also differences that are considered important by their respective constituencies. Environmental organizations tend to prefer FSC, while forest owners tend to prefer PEFC. The choice of system varies by geography, and many of Ahlstrom’s suppliers are certified to both systems.

**Illegal logging**

Illegality is anything that occurs in violation of the legal framework of a country. Legality is not a synonym for sustainable forest management. On the other hand, forest certification generally provides assurance of low risk vis-à-vis compliance with applicable legislation. The product must then be certified, not just the supplier. Ahlstrom is purchasing pulp from suppliers which have a robust policy of requiring legal supply in all contracts with suppliers and have a system to verify that these contract conditions are fulfilled and therefore compliant with the US Lacey Act and the EU Timber Regulation.

**Chain-of-Custody (C-o-C) certification**

This system shows that a product is made of wood originating from certified forests or plantations. It makes it possible to trace the raw material from the forest to the consumer, each step involving a change in ownership. It allows companies to make claims and carry logos about the percentage of certified and/or recycled fiber in their products. All entities along the supply chain must be certified. Chain-of-Custody certificates are issued by an independent, accredited certification body which verifies that the requirements of the scheme for tracking the certified material from sustainably managed forests to the final product are met.

The certification body Ahlstrom uses is SGS (Société Générale de Surveillance SA) in Switzerland. All our major plants using wood fiber are Chain-of-Custody certified, allowing them to sell FSC and PEFC certified products.

To view Ahlstrom’s Chain-of-Custody certifications click here>

**Making and selling certified products**

Ahlstrom uses FSC’s Credit System, making it possible to sell our products as FSC Mix Credit which includes the FSC certified product and FSC Controlled Wood. The FSC certified products can be labeled with the FSC trademark logo, while the FSC Controlled Wood will be marked only on the shipping documents. These responsibly sourced products can be purchased by customers who are Chain-of-Custody certified.

This system is described in Figure 4 below.

All systems allow mixing of certified and non-certified materials. In PEFC, the amount of certified fiber must be as a minimum seventy per cent in order for the product to be eligible for labeling with the PEFC trademark. Ahlstrom is using the volume credit system in PEFC.

For more information, please contact us at sustainability@ahlstrom.com

**Products from responsible sources**

**Credit system in FSC-STD-40-004 (V2-1) EN**

An example of inputs with different FSC claims and without FSC claims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 units with FSC input of 100%</th>
<th>8 units with FSC input of 70%</th>
<th>4 units without FSC input</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The number of outputs units which can be sold with an ‘FSC Mix Credit’ claim is calculated as follows:

- 4 units with FSC input of 100% + (8 x 70%) units
- 9.6 units ‘FSC Mix Credit’ certified products
- The remainder of 4.4 units of products can be sold as ‘FSC Controlled Wood’

**Figure 4.** Credit System according to FSC-STD-40-004 (V2-1) EN. On the input side, the dark green refers to FSC-certified fiber, while the white units are fibers originating in non-FSC-certified forests or plantations. Either:

a) They have been assessed by a certification body to conform to FSC Controlled Wood requirements

Or

b) They are Controlled material, which is virgin fiber originating in non-FSC-certified forests or plantations that has been assessed for risk by Ahlstrom and the Risk Assessment approved by the Certification body.

All such fiber is from responsible, acceptable sources.
Ahlstrom is a high performance materials company, partnering with leading businesses around the world to help them stay ahead. Our products are used in a large variety of everyday applications, such as filters, medical gowns and drapes, wallcoverings, flooring, labels and food packaging. We have a leading market position in the businesses in which we operate. Our 5,200 employees serve customers in 28 countries on six continents. In 2011, Ahlstrom’s net sales amounted to EUR 1.6 billion. The company’s share is quoted on the NASDAQ OMX Helsinki. More information is available at www.ahlstrom.com.

References:

1) http://www.foresteurope.org/eng/What_we_work_for/Sustainable_Forest_Management/
2) www.fsc.org
3) FSC Certificate database: http://info.fsc.org
4) www.pefc.org
World Business Council for Sustainable Development
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