

WHSmith offers a wide range of wood and paper products that come from a large number of forest sources. We must ensure that these forests continue to be available for future generations: this is important to our customers and our staff. This Policy applies to all of our own-brand products containing solid wood and or/paper (such as books and cards bearing the WHSmith logo). It is our ultimate objective that all virgin (i.e. non-recycled) material used in our products be from known, legal, well-managed and credibly certified forests. Certification seeks to provide evidence of legality and sustainability and many schemes have been set up around the world. We believe that any credible forest certification scheme should:

- i. Be independent and recognised by environmental groups;
- ii. Be able to trace wood and pulp from the forest through to consumer products;
- iii. Provide a simple logo that is recognised worldwide.

The scheme that we consider to best meet these requirements is that provided by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC).

However, the issues are complex and it will take us time to get to this position. As a minimum we expect our suppliers to know where forest material used in their products comes from and be able to provide evidence that it has been legally harvested.

WHSmith will work to:

- i. Eliminate any forest material that has been illegally harvested;
- ii. Eliminate any material from forests with high conservation value that have not been independently certified;
- iii. Eliminate material arising from inappropriate clearance or conversion of natural forests to plantations;
- iv. Continually increase the proportion of material that comes from recycled post-consumer waste or from credibly certified, well managed forests, such as those certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC).

To implement this policy we will:

- i. Communicate this policy and associated targets to our suppliers of paper and wood based products and other interested parties;
- ii. Work with suppliers to ensure that all forest material has been legally harvested;
- iii. Work in partnership with key suppliers to increase the amount of credibly certified forest material used in their products;
- iv. Integrate our requirements into the purchasing decisions of our business functions; we will not accept forest sources from any species on the CITIES list.
- v. Set ourselves challenging but realistic annual targets to increase the percentage of FSC and post-consumer recycled waste used in our products.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and its implementation is the responsibility of the Commercial Director (High Street), Phil McNally.

Group Chief Executive Stephen Clarke is specifically tasked with keeping the Board advised on compliance with the policy and ensuring that suitable support is available to the businesses.

*Reviewed by W H Smith PLC Group Board: April 2016*