Holzindustrie Schweighofer certification status update

BONN, Germany (9 February 2016) – The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is aware that on the 1 January 2016 Holzindustrie Schweighofer (HS) was issued a new FSC chain of custody/controlled wood certificate by the certification body Quality Austria Trainings-, Zertifizierungs- und Begutachtungs GmbH (QA). This certificate was issued after an audit by QA determined that all timber sourced by HS at the time of the review was from controlled sources.

Concurrently, FSC International is continuing to conduct an investigation into the serious allegations against HS of trading and processing of illegal timber in Romania filed in a complaint by WWF Germany. The complaint was accepted by FSC International in November last year, and currently an independent complaints panel is being established.

The complaint was filed under the Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC (PfA), which strictly forbids any organization associated with us to be involved in unacceptable activities, including illegal logging or the trade in illegal wood or forest products. Evaluating adherence to this policy is a key concern of FSC.

The status of any FSC certificates associated with a company under PfA investigation are reviewed by FSC International once the investigation is complete, and the Board of Directors has made a decision. Until that time, all certificates remain valid if the relevant certification body has found no corrective actions during the regular auditing process.

If you have further questions about this case, please contact FSC Communications Manager, Lisa Smyth, at communications@fsc.org or on +49 (0)228 36766 (ext. 23).