

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international network for promoting a more sustainable management of timber plantations and forests. Over the past ten years 50 million hectares in more than 60 countries have been certified on the basis of FSC standards, while several thousand products made from FSC-certified wood carry the FSC label.

The FSC criteria Chemical Pesticides in Certified Forests prohibit pesticides for which any of the following applies:

- WHO class Ia and class Ib (e.g. aldicarb, parathion or warfarin)
- Chlorinated hydrocarbons (e.g. aldrin, DDT, dieldrin or lindane)
- Persistent, bioaccumulative, acutely/chronically toxic pesticides, identified by their characteristics and defined thresholds (including heavy metals)

Paraquat is listed in Annex 1 (Chemical pesticides prohibited under the FSC rules of voluntary forest certification) because the following criteria apply:

- Persistence: DT50 > 1000 days (FSC threshold is a half-life of 100 days)
- Toxicity: Reference dose (RfD) 0.0045 mg/kg/day (FSC threshold is 0.01 mg/kg/day)
- Biomagnification: Octanol-water partition coefficient (logKow) 4.47 (FSC threshold is a logKow value of 3)