

Environmental Terms Explained



The **Blue Angel** eco-label scheme was launched by the German Government in 1978 and is administered by the German Quality Control Institute.

The certification for both paper and board products is the recycled paper content of the material.

To obtain the Blue Angel label a paper and board product must contain 100% waste papers of which at least 51% must be low or medium grade scrap and waste papers containing sulphate pulp.

CoC Chain of Custody is the certified method used to determine the percentage of certified fibres found within the wood based products. There is a single, simple rule – if a company owns the timber or wood product, then that company will need to have the Chain of Custody certification or the Chain of Custody will be broken and the next owned will not be able to say that the product is certified.



The term **Elemental Chlorine Free** means that the pulp has been bleached using certain chlorine compounds, but never chlorine gas. This is the new term for the earlier way of defining chlorine free or low chlorine paper.



The **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme** is a voluntary scheme for organisations willing to commit themselves to evaluate and improve their environmental performance.

The core of EMAS is the so-called 'continuous improvement circle', whereby organisations are able to secure accreditation through identifying individual elements of their business practice that impact the environment and subsequently producing a programme of improvement in order to reduce that impact. For example, implementation of office waste paper recycling, monitoring usage levels of electricity and fuel etc.



FSC – Forest Stewardship Council is an independent, membership-based organisation that brings people together to promote responsible management of the world’s forests through developing standards, a certification system and trademark recognition.

The trademark of the FSC is a label on wood and timber products such as paper which indicates that the wood comes from a well-managed and sustainable forest. It guarantees that the forest of origin has been independently inspected and evaluated to comply with an internationally agreed set of strict environmental, social and economical standards.

100% Products come from forests certified as meeting the environmental and social standards of the FSC.

Recycled Post-consumer reclaimed material includes wood and/or wood fibre that has been reclaimed from a product after that product has been used for its intended end-use purpose by individuals or businesses.

Mixed Sources Products with Mixed Sources label support the development of responsible forest management worldwide. The wood comes from FSC certified well managed forests, company controlled sources and/or post-consumer reclaimed material.

ISO 14001 is an international standard that specifies a process for controlling and improving a companies environmental performance.

An Environmental Management System provides a framework for managing environmental responsibilities so they become more efficient and integrated into overall business operations.



Nordic Swan – Introduced by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 1989, the objective of the Nordic Swan label is to encourage production methods that create the minimum environmental impact.

Criteria exists for the registering of both fine papers and soft tissue grades. Fine papers may be made from virgin pulp or recycled fibre.

In essence it is the effect that the manufacturing process has on the environment, rather than the selection of raw material that is being assessed.



Post-Consumer Waste is waste paper that has been used for its intended purpose.

PEFC Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Council is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification.

The PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests.

Recycling or Recovered Fibre - Paper can easily be recycled in a reuseable quality 5-6 times. Without virgin fibre there cannot be any recycled fibre. A combination of using recycled and virgin fibre provides a sustainable solution for the future. The UK needs to reduce its annual landfill; a percentage of which is made up of paper and board related items that, if segregated and collected could be re-used. The UK is behind many EU countries in reducing landfill.

Virgin Fibre - Pulp fibre that is being used for the first time in the paper making process.

Woodfree - A term which refers to papers produced from virgin pulp fibres separated by chemical means rather than a mechanical process. It is important to remember that 'woodfree' does not mean that the paper or pulp is made from materials other than wood.