

CATALYST PAPER AND

CERTIFIED FIBRE

More Information on Certification

Each of the major certification systems has an informative website. You'll find them at:

- » FSC: www.fsc.org
- » SFI: www.aboutsfi.org
- » CSA: www.csa-international.org
- » PEFC: www.pefc.org

You can also find more information on the **Forest Products Association of Canada** website at www.fpac.ca and on the **Canadian Sustainable Forestry Certification Coalition** site at www.certificationcanada.org.

Paper buyers today are increasingly interested in knowing about the product's environmental attributes. One of the questions they ask most frequently is whether the fibre used in manufacturing the paper comes from certified forests. In response, companies make a number of claims about the certified content of their products. These claims can be difficult to understand. Here are some clarifications.

Q: What is certification?

A: Certification is a voluntary process that provides objective evidence that the forests harvested to manufacture wood and paper products are managed responsibly. To do this, independent, third-party experts verify a company's performance against objectives and standards for well managed forests, pertaining to forest planning, harvesting, reforestation and conservation of plants, animals and water quality.

Q: Is certification used in Canada, or just in other countries?

A: Canada is a world leader in forest conservation, protection and sustainability. Canada has the largest area of independently certified forests in the world – 150 million hectares (370 million acres) – and accounts for over 40% of the world's certified forest area.

Q: What are the major certification systems?

A: The major and most recognized certification systems that apply to forest management are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), is also recognized in Europe.

Catalyst Cares About Certification

Catalyst does not harvest forests on either public or private land. Instead, we buy the fibre we use to make paper from a large group of suppliers.

To serve our customers well, we believe we have an obligation to ensure the fibre we buy can be traced back to responsible practices. We strongly support forest management certification as a way to validate claims made about the fibre we use.



The mark of responsible forestry
Cert no. SW-COC-003894
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Q: What does it mean when Catalyst says its paper contains certified fibre?

A: It means the paper contains fibre that comes from sources that meet certain standards. The standards may vary from system to system but they all seek to measure progress in environmental performance. Catalyst can make this claim because we track our fibre supply through Chain-of-Custody systems that are independently verified.

Q: What is a certified Chain of Custody?

A: A certified Chain of Custody ensures that the amount of certified fibre or recycled fibre the company buys and uses to manufacture its products is accounted for and monitored. For Catalyst, it also assures that we are not buying or using fibre from unknown, environmentally sensitive or socially conflicted sources.

Q: Why do customers care about how much certified fibre a paper product contains?

A: Certification helps customers choose which paper products they want or are permitted to buy.

These days, public awareness and concern about the use of natural resources and the state of the environment is high. In response, many publishers and printers, or the companies that hire them, have established policies that ensure they buy products that come from sustainable sources.

Rather than accept a paper company's claim about the source of the fibre used to manufacture its products, certification gives customers the assurance that the fibre comes from sources certified by an independent third-party.

Q: How has Catalyst approached the certification issue?

A: Catalyst Paper has registered its Canadian operations to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) chain of custody standard and has registered its recycle operation in the United States to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain of custody standard. Under both of these programs, we can offer PEFC or FSC certified papers which allow appropriately certified printers to use PEFC, SFI or FSC labels on the finished paper products.

Q: How does Catalyst refer to the certified content of its paper products?

A: There are two approaches used when certifying paper content – average percentage and volume credit.

Average Percentage - Applies to Snowlake FSC certified papers

Our claim is: This paper contains at least 70% certified post consumer waste fibre while the remaining content is preconsumer recycled fibre

What it means: The mill has averaged at least 70% procurement of post consumer waste fibre to make its recycled paper

Certification: FSC certified recycled paper

Volume Credit - Applies to Canadian operations' PEFC certified papers

Our claim is: This paper contains 100% certified fibre

What it means: The mill has allocated all of its certified fibre to specific products and none to other products

Certification: PEFC certified paper that can also be labeled as SFI paper if customer or printer has appropriate chain of custody systems