



# BETTER LIVING, HEALTHIER FORESTS.

The 2022 FSC® Furniture  
Awards Official  
Guidelines.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 WHAT IS FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is a global, not-for-profit, membership organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide.

As the most recognized, trusted and rigorous forest certification system, FSC's "check tree" label – found on millions of products worldwide – verifies sustainable sourcing from forest to consumer. FSC's responsible forestry standard, linked to a strict chain of custody certification, is a proven solution to tackle today's climate and biodiversity challenges. This means choosing FSC helps protect the future of forests and the communities who depend on them.

A forest operation must adhere to a set of internationally agreed principles and criteria before it can receive FSC forest management certification. These principles cover a broad range of issues, from maintaining high conservation values to community relations and workers' rights, as well as monitoring the environmental and social impacts of the forest management.

## 1.2 FSC AND THE FURNITURE SECTOR

Although furniture production is not considered to be a leading cause of deforestation in the world (agriculture, grazing, and plantations on the primary forests are the activities with the highest impact), the furniture industry still carries responsibility in ensuring the legal and sustainable origin of the forest-based materials and products it uses.

The most credible solution, at an international level, that ensures the origin of wood and other forest-based materials from well-managed or reclaimed sources is the one provided by the Forest Stewardship Council - an organization that has been

working for more than 25 years to protect forests worldwide.

FSC defines strict standards governing good forest management practices and establishing the environmental, social, and economic requirements that certified organizations must comply with, becoming part of the “Chain of Custody” i.e., a system that assures that FSC certification extends along the entire supply chain, to the point where the product is sold with an FSC claim and/or is finished and FSC labelled.

The furniture value chain is strategic for FSC and starting from 2019 specific actions have been planned and implemented to develop this sector.

There are over 12 000 FSC-certified companies worldwide in the furniture sector. Almost half of which are European, located primarily in Poland, Italy, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Germany.

### **1.3 FSC FURNITURE AWARDS**

With this initiative, FSC wants to promote the procurement of FSC-certified material and the use of FSC trademarks in the furniture sector. The purpose of the contest is to focus the attention of manufacturers on the origin of the wood used as input material, stimulating the design and production of FSC-certified wooden furniture.

The FSC Furniture Awards was established in Italy in 2019 to recognize the commitment of FSC-certified Italian companies producing and supplying products and collections using FSC-certified wood for indoor furniture. The following year, FSC-certified companies from the outdoor furniture sector were also included in the competition.

In 2021 FSC launched the contest at the European level to include companies in the furniture value chain from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia and United Kingdom.

In 2022 the contest is open to more European countries (see the list below). In addition, furniture retailers that sell FSC-certified and labelled indoor and outdoor products under a promotional licence can also enter.

The official organizer of the FSC Furniture Awards 2022 is FSC Italy – GFR Servizi S.r.l. (VAT 04894270281), a private organization located in Via Ugo Foscolo, 12 - 35131 Padova (PD), Italy - T +39 049 8762749 - [➔ IT.FSC.ORG/IT-IT](https://www.it.fsc.org/it-it) - [➔ A.SCHROTT@IT.FSC.ORG](mailto:A.SCHROTT@IT.FSC.ORG)

# 2. Rules

## 2.1 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation is free of charge.

### 2.1.1 Participation requirements for FSC Certificate Holders (furniture manufacturers)

The 2022 FSC Furniture Awards aim to recognise and reward companies active in the furniture sector that:

- a. hold a valid FSC Chain of Custody certificate  
and
- b. have product groups W12 (indoor furniture) and/or W13.1 (garden furniture), and/or W13.7 (other outdoor furniture and garden products) within the scope of their certificate.

#### W12 - INDOOR FURNITURE

- W 12.1 Cabinet
- W 12.2 Custom furniture
- W 12.3 Tables
- W 12.4 Beds
- W 12.5 Couches and armchairs
- W 12.6 Chairs and stools
- W 12.7 Office furniture
- W 12.8 Institutional casework
- W 12.9 Wardrobes
- W 12.10 Cupboards and chests
- W 12.11 Kitchen countertops
- W 12.12 Part of furniture
- W 12.13 Shelves

#### W13 - OUTDOOR FURNITURE

- W 13.1 Garden furniture
- W 13.7 Other furniture and garden products

NOTE: Participation is also open for companies producing semi-finished products, as long as they fall into one of the categories W12 and W13 listed above.

and

- c. have their headquarters in one of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

and

- d. have produced and sold with an FSC claim (on the invoice) at least one FSC-certified wooden indoor or outdoor piece of furniture during the past two years. To demonstrate that this requirement is met, at least one invoice featuring an FSC claim, must be provided (sensitive data shown on the invoice, such as price and quantities, can be redacted).

FSC Italy will check the proof of requirement checking the company's data in the FSC database → [INFO.FSC.ORG/CERTIFICATE.PHP](https://info.fsc.org/certificate.php)

**FSC-certified companies must meet the requirements of (a), (b), (c) and (d) for their entry to be valid.**

### **2.1.2 Participation requirements for FSC Promotional Licence Holders (furniture retailers)**

The 2022 FSC Furniture Awards aim to recognise and reward companies active in the furniture sector that:

- e. hold a valid FSC Promotional Licence or a valid FSC Chain of Custody Certificate

and

- f. are furniture retailers (traditional retailers and/or on-line retailers that sell to end-consumers) that sell FSC-certified and FSC-labelled furniture products (the furniture products sold should belong to the following FSC product groups: indoor furniture (W12), garden furniture (W13.1) or other outdoor furniture and garden products groups (W13.7).

and

- g. have their headquarters in one of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

and

- h. have bought for resale at least one FSC-certified wooden indoor or outdoor furniture product during the last two years. To demonstrate that these requirements are met, the company should provide:
  - at least one invoice or a letter from the FSC-certified supplier of the product, featuring an FSC claim, (sensitive data shown on the invoice, such as price and quantities, can be redacted).
  - photograph/s of the product to show that it carries an FSC label.

and

- i. have distributed in its sales channel(s) at least one FSC-certified and FSC-labelled wooden indoor or outdoor furniture product during the past two years.  
To demonstrate that this requirement is met, the company should send a proof of the product on the company's distribution channel (stores and/or online). For example, a photograph of the product in-store, a photograph,



screen capture or pdf of a printed/online promotional catalogue or a link to the webpage where the product is promoted.

**FSC-Promotional Licence Holders must meet the requirements of (e), (f) and (g), (h), (i) for their entry to be valid.**

For any question or request of clarification on the above points please contact the FSC National Office/Representative based in your country (see article 8 for details).

## **2.2 AWARDS**

### **2.2.1 Awards for FSC Certificate Holders (manufacturer)**

#### **FSC Commitment Award**

This award will evaluate a company's procurement policy or policies for furniture products and/or raw materials to produce the furniture products, packaging or other paper products and marketing materials (catalogues, brochure, tags, flyers, stickers, postcards).

It will be evaluated if the company has a 100 per cent FSC procurement policy or other certification schemes. It will consider where FSC-certified materials are accepted or preferred for packaging and other materials sold and/or used.

#### **FSC Brand Award**

This award will evaluate the use of the FSC trademarks by the company in the past two years. This can include the use of:

- FSC Product Label (if it is used on the furniture products and it is visible)
- FSC Promotional Panel (if it is used in online channels and/or marketing materials)
- Any other FSC supplementary logo/brandmark like for example FSC Forests For All Forever (if it is used on-product and/or on marketing materials and/or in online channels - website and/or social media)

- Other FSC trademarks

### **FSC Communication Award**

This award will evaluate the company's FSC promotional and communication activities/campaigns (B2C or B2B). Activities carried out over the past two years will be evaluated.

### **FSC Manufacturer of the Year - Indoor**

The FSC certificate holder of FSC-certified indoor products who demonstrates the best performance in all the three areas above (procurement, FSC-trademark use and communication) will be elected as FSC Indoor Manufacturer of the Year - Indoor.

### **FSC Manufacturer of the Year - Outdoor**

The FSC certificate holder of FSC-certified outdoor products who demonstrates the best performance in all the three areas above (procurement, FSC-trademark use and communication) will be elected as FSC Outdoor Manufacturer of the Year - Outdoor.

## **2.2.2 Awards for FSC Promotional Licence Holders (retailer)**

### **FSC Commitment Award - Retail**

This award will evaluate a company's procurement policy or policies for furniture products and/or raw materials related to the furniture products, packaging or other paper products and marketing materials (catalogues, brochure, tags, flyers, stickers, postcards).

It will be evaluated if the company has a 100 per cent only FSC policy or uses other certification schemes. Also it will be analysed where FSC certified materials are required or preferred and the products, packaging and other materials sold and/or used that are FSC-certified.

### **FSC Brand Award - Retail**

This award will evaluate the use of the FSC trademarks by a company in the past

two years. This can include the use of:

- FSC Promotional Panel (if it is used in online channels and/or marketing materials)
- FSC Forest For All Forever Brandmark (use on marketing materials and/or in online channels - website and/or social media)
- Any other FSC supplementary logo/brandmark (if it is used on marketing materials and/or in online channels - website and/or social media)
- Other FSC trademarks

### **FSC Communication Award - Retail**

This award will evaluate a company's FSC promotional and communication activities/campaigns (B2C or B2B). Activities carried out over the past two years will be evaluated.

### **FSC Retailer of the Year**

The Retailer who demonstrates the best performance in all the three areas above (procurement, FSC-trademark use and communication) will be elected as FSC Retailer of the Year.

# 3. How to participate – Application

The official language of the FSC Furniture Awards is English. Participation is free of charge.

Candidates must fill in the online form in English, accessible at the following link [➡ WWW.FSCFURNITUREAWARDS.ORG/SUBMISSION-FORM-2022](https://www.fscfurnitureawards.org/submission-form-2022), completing the form with the requested information (a) and uploading the materials required (b) by 12 am (CET) on September 8th 2022.

See Annex “FSC Furniture Awards 2022- Online form questions” to find out the information that will be requested for the application.

## 4. Evaluation criteria and FSC Committee

Applications received within the deadline set out in article 3 will be evaluated by a Committee specially identified by FSC Italy, composed of staff of each FSC National Offices/FSC Representative of the countries participating in the 2022 T3 FSC European Furniture Project (Adria-Balkan Region, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, United Kingdom).

One of the members of the committee will take up the role of President. The work will be documented through meeting minutes. A member of FSC Italy secretariat will act as a secretary, with no right to vote.

The committee will carry out the evaluation based on the awards criteria (article 2.2) and the adherence of the application to the FSC System (referring mainly to the FSC Standards of Chain of Custody and Trademark Use), and to the FSC values, mission and vision. In addition, sales figures (in value and in quantity) of FSC-certified products in the past two years will be used as judging criteria. The FSC Committee will check the validity of certificate or licence status of each selected winner with their certification body. If the certificate of the company is suspended or terminated during the FSC Furniture Awards 2022, the company will be excluded from the list of applicants.

If there are no applications for a specific award category, no winner shall be selected.

If none of the entries are deemed valid, no winner shall be selected.

If some of the applications do not meet the rules of the contest, are incomplete, or if there are no suitable applicants, FSC reserves the right not to issue an award.

Participation does not assign any rights to the participants and FSC Italy reserves the right to suspend or cancel the contest in its unquestionable judgment.

The Committee assessment is unique and unquestionable. Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a majority of votes; in the event of a tie, the assessment of the President of the Committee will be decisive.

# 5. Winners, awards, and final event ceremony

Each company participating to the Awards can win a maximum of one award.

If none of the entries are deemed valid, no winner shall be selected.

The winning companies will be awarded with:

- Participation in an FSC “surprise” initiative involving a FSC-certified forest
- Wooden statuette as symbol of the commitment in the protection of forests
- Visibility in the communication channels of FSC national or representing offices where the company is located

A final event will be organized during which the winners will be revealed. All the companies that participated in the contest, and other FSC stakeholders will be invited to join the event.

The aim is to organize a conference with the FSC key account stakeholders from the furniture sector at the beginning of the event, with the topic of Sustainable Furniture, and promptly after the award ceremony will take place. Due to the pandemic, it is still not decided whether the ceremony will be held online or in-person.

The final event will be held in English within November 2022 (date and location to be confirmed).

# 6. Calendar

**12TH OF MAY 2022:** Public announcement and opening of registrations

**8TH OF SEPTEMBER 2022** (12:00 am CET): Deadline for submitting applications by completing the form and uploading requested materials

**WITHIN NOVEMBER 2022:** Final event (date to be confirmed)



# 7. Copyright, industrial property rights, and any other product rights

Participants guarantee that the product they submit for entry in the FSC Furniture Awards 2022 does not impose rights of any kind in favour of third parties, and personally and exclusively assume all responsibility concerning the information presented in connection with any violations of industrial property rights and copyrights or other rights belonging to third parties.

The participants, therefore, release FSC Italy (the official organizer of the contest) from any liability towards third parties that may arise for any reason as a result of the use of the project presented for this contest.

The participants fully authorize FSC to use images and information about their competing product for communication and/or promotional aims.

## 8. Official information

The official information about the FSC Furniture Awards is published in English on the following website ➔ [WWW.FSCFURNITUREAWARDS.ORG](http://WWW.FSCFURNITUREAWARDS.ORG).

If you would like to receive assistance in the explanation and/or translation in your language of the rules, please contact the FSC National Office/Representative based in your country and listed below:

<b>FSC AUSTRIA &amp; GERMANY</b>	Julia Koeberl ➔ <a href="mailto:JULIA.KOEBERL@AT.FSC.ORG">JULIA.KOEBERL@AT.FSC.ORG</a>
<b>FSC REP. FOR ADRIA-BALKAN REGION</b>	Ivan Hederic ➔ <a href="mailto:I.HEDERIC@IT.FSC.ORG">I.HEDERIC@IT.FSC.ORG</a>
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<b>FSC UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Tallulah Chapman ➔ <a href="mailto:TALLULAH@FSC-UK.ORG">TALLULAH@FSC-UK.ORG</a>

## 9. Confidentiality and processing of personal data (“GDPR”)

FSC Italy (the official organizer of the contest) is obliged to keep the information, data, and documentation relating to the participants, of which it will become aware during the organization and implementation of the contest, confidential and will not disclose it to third parties, or use it, directly or indirectly, for reasons not strictly related to the organization and implementation of the contest.

By participating in the contest, the companies agree to transfer all rights relating to the publication and communication of both the product and the participant’s name to FSC Italy free of charge. Failure to consent to the processing of personal data by candidates leads to exclusion from the contest.

FSC Italy will keep the received information about the company’s sales data confidential and will not publish it, rather it will be kept internally.

The personal data provided for participation in the contest will be used exclusively for this purpose in compliance with the privacy legislation and EU Regulation 2016/679 (“GDPR”).

The processing of personal data will take place through manual, IT and telematic tools, however suitable to guarantee the security and confidentiality of the data themselves. The collection and processing of data takes place in compliance with the principles of lawfulness, correctness, transparency, relevance, completeness and not in excess of the purposes for which they are collected and the legal bases of the processing mentioned above. The personal data may be communicated to the members of the Committee, who will undertake GDPR Regulation.

Participants have the right to access their data, to request their correction, integration, and any other rights contemplated in art. 15 to 21 of the GDPR.

Data controller is FSC ITALY – GFR Servizi Srl (VAT 04894270281), Via Ugo Foscolo, 12  
- 35131 Padova (PD), Italy - T +39 049 8762749 - [➔ IT.FSC.ORG/IT-IT](https://www.it.fsc.org/it-it) -  
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