

## Knoll and Environmental Sustainability

# Knoll and the FSC® Certified Wood Standard

Effective December 1, 2009, Knoll established FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood as the standard for general office open plan office systems, casegoods and tables. Once again, Knoll is advancing industry-leading standards for environmental sustainability with an initiative that makes it easier for the design community and Knoll customers to blend environmental responsibility with workplace planning.

As a leading advocate for independent third-party certification, which provides the most impartial and trustworthy foundation of industry compliance, Knoll is working with FSC and the Rainforest Alliance to assure that FSC certified wood will be provided without asking, at no surcharge, and at standard lead times on wood open plan office systems, casegoods and tables with the exception of KnollStudio products.

The FSC Certified Wood Standard applies to the following open plan office systems—Antenna Workspaces, AutoStrada, Currents, Dividends Horizon, Equity, Morrison, Reff Profiles, Template—as well as the Graham Collection, Interaction Tables, Magnusson Desks and Upstart Tables.

### The Big Picture: Why Bother?

In 2006, as scientific evidence and public concern mounted on the devastating impacts of global warming, Knoll began to implement a Sustainable Wood Policy targeted to protect endangered forests and promote sustainable harvesting of wood resources. The purpose of the Policy is to ensure that wood and wood fiber used in the manufacture of Knoll products is obtained from environmentally responsible sources. This is a matter of critical importance because forests are vital components of our ecosystem, providing timber and wood pulp, food and medicines, wildlife habitat, and livelihoods and cultural identity for those who dwell in them.

Forests also contribute to air and water quality and play a key role in the global carbon cycle. Worldwide, unmanaged and illegal wood harvesting are associated with rapidly disappearing forest resources, diminishing bio-diversity, destruction of local cultures and economies.

### Knoll and FSC: A Legacy of Working Together Toward Shared Goals

Knoll began working with exemplary forest resources in 1993 when we introduced Frank Gehry's bentwood seating collection with an option of sustained-yield maple grown by the Menominee Tribal Enterprise. We initially began collaborating with FSC in 1995 and subsequently with the Rainforest Alliance to develop the North American supply chain for FSC wood. This successful effort at "greening the supply chain," which linked our suppliers with Rainforest Alliance experts who helped them improve their processes to meet certified forest standards, has helped make FSC-certified wood more widely available to all manufacturers in the industry. Knoll continues to leverage its power in the marketplace with suppliers to increase the long-term supply of FSC certified wood through partnership with the Rainforest Alliance's SmartSource service.

Recent milestones include:

YEAR	MILESTONE	
2003	<b>Chain of Custody Certification</b>	Knoll receives FSC certification authorizing it to provide customers with Chain of Custody certification for Knoll wood products meeting stringent FSC standards.
2006	<b>Knoll Wood Policy</b>	Knoll introduces a wood policy, including a controlled wood clause based on the FSC model, responding to evidence that over one half of the world's original forest cover has disappeared, much of that over the last 50 years, with alarming implications for climate change, species extinction, and the economic and cultural survival of people living in rainforest regions.
2009	<b>FSC Certified Wood Standard</b>	Knoll establishes FSC certified wood as the standard for the vast majority of Knoll open plan office systems and tables.

These efforts are part of a continuous improvement process that recognizes that sustainable wood harvesting practices can contribute to stopping and eventually reverse devastating environmental and social trends—and that Knoll can be part of the solution.

### Furnishing the Workplace with the Environment in Mind

As the largest contract supplier of FSC certified furniture in North America, the December 2009 Knoll FSC Standard raises the sustainability bar by bringing virtually all of the Knoll core systems business under the FSC umbrella, affirming that, at Knoll, sustainability is business as usual.

We are able to carry out this ambitious program because we have spent more than a decade:

- + Developing the supply chain for sustainable wood
- + Creating the infrastructure in our business and manufacturing processes for sourcing, tracking and incorporating FSC wood into our products, and
- + Building FSC certification into our ISO 14001 process.

*FSC and LEED®.* We selected FSC as our third party certifier because it sets the most stringent standards, including baseline prerequisites that must be met to earn certification. It is a benchmark standard and the only wood certification standard recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) under Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®). Importantly, unlike some other certifiers, FSC addresses all three measures of sustainability: environmental, economic and social equity. Knoll partners with Rainforest Alliance, the largest FSC certifying body, to audit and administer our FSC chain of custody certifications.

The new Knoll FSC standard also provides some immediate measurable benefits. It can help:

- + Knoll customers achieve LEED® credits.
- + Secure the FSC certification that is a prerequisite for SMaRT® (Sustainable Materials Rating Technology) from MTS (Market Transformation to Sustainability), a comprehensive consensus sustainability standard that addresses 80% of the world's products and has been adopted by more entities than any other product certification.

### Without Special Request, Without Additional Charge, Without Extended Lead Times

Knoll brings its FSC standard to our customers without special request, without additional charge and without extended lead times.

- + The Knoll FSC Standard encompasses 95% of the wood in systems and tables manufactured at Knoll facilities.
- + The Standard applies to all Knoll products with laminate and North American natural veneer surfaces, specifically V2 Cherry, Maple, Oak and Walnut.

These four substrates encompass the following finishes:

#### **V2**

V312 Bronze Cherry

V316 Maple

V411 Light Walnut

V415 Peacock Green Walnut

V417 Old English Walnut

V418 Smoked Walnut

V421 Chalk Oak

V423 Light Oak

V425 Amber Oak

V427 Brown Oak

V433 Light Fawn Cherry

V436 Medium Brown Cherry

#### **V3**

V513 Graphite Oak

- + Five non-domestic veneers (Anigre, Beech, Makore, Sapele and Sycamore) and Techwood veneers are not included at this time. However, Knoll is currently working to obtain these species through FSC sources.

*With the institution of this new standard, FSC Chain of Custody certification will be included on all invoices for Knoll office systems and tables as specified above.*