

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 advances 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 works with FSC and the Rainforest Alliance to assure that FSC-certified wood (FSC® C028824) 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, Reff Profiles and Template—as well as Rockwell Unscripted, Interaction Tables 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 is associated with rapidly disappearing forest resources, diminishing bio-diversity and the 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.

YEAR	MILESTONE
2003	Chain of Custody Certification Knoll receives FSC certification authorizing it to provide customers with Certification Chain of Custody certification for Knoll wood products meeting stringent FSC standards.
2006	Knoll Wood Policy 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	FSC Certified Wood Standard FSC Certified Wood Knoll establishes FSC certified wood as the standard for the vast majority of Standard Knoll open plan office systems and tables.
2017	New Finishing Technology Knoll offers new veneer finishing technology with a broad range of options, as well as improved clarity and sustainability.

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 (FSC® C028824) 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.

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.