

22th of August – 2007

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your email of August 15, 2007 and the letter attached. The input you provide to the certification process is most valuable.

We have noted your concerns and forwarded your message to the FSC accredited certification body assessing Veracel's compliance with FSC standards. We have also forwarded the message and your concerns to Accreditation Services International (ASI), who is managing the FSC accreditation program and whose role it is to accredit, monitor and audit the FSC accredited certification bodies and ensure that they comply with our requirements.

ASI will closely monitor SGS to ensure that FSC's procedures, standards and policies are upheld. We are also aware of the importance of trust in the system and of following FSC rules and procedures that have been developed through strong multi-stakeholder processes. We are confident that the system is set up and functions in a way that ensures your comments – and other stakeholder comments and concerns - will be properly assessed and taken into account.

The FSC system, its standards and procedures have been set up to deal effectively with certification of forests and plantations in all parts of the world. With the accelerated growth of FSC over the last years, we have taken particular care to strengthen the FSC system to maintain and increase its credibility and minimize the possibility of misguided certification decisions.

Please continue to pass information and concerns that you see relevant on the Veracel certification evaluation to ASI (accreditation@accreditation-services.com) and FSC (director.office@fsc.org). Your participation is important to ensure a solid outcome to the certification assessment process.

I would like to ask you to kindly identify the signatories to the letter (i.e. at minimum with an address or email address and the name of a contact person in case of organizations) so that we can contact the signatories directly and inform them about the outcome of the certification process. I would appreciate your response at your earliest convenience.

I would like to ask you to kindly distribute this response to all signatories.

Thank you for bringing this important information to our attention.

Best regards,

Heiko Liedeker
Executive Director
Forest Stewardship Council