

As a leading Canadian publisher and printer, TC Transcontinental buys important quantities of paper each year. We believe that by playing an active role in the paper procurement process we can not only have a positive impact on forest management practices, but also protect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, thereby bringing long-term social and economic benefits to communities.

Responsible use of natural resources

With respect to fibre sourcing, TC Transcontinental promotes the use of papers with maximized post-consumer and de-inked recycled fibres; it also encourages the use of papers made with pre-consumer recovered fibres or alternative fibres in preference over virgin wood fibres where LCA (life cycle analysis) shows environmental benefits.

Where virgin wood fibre is required, preference is given to fibres from responsibly managed forests with Chain of Custody certification from a recognized forest certification scheme. In addition, suppliers must have mechanisms in place to ensure that virgin wood fibre papers come from forests that are not illegally harvested, are not from converted natural forests, where traditional and civil rights are respected and high conservation values* are protected.

Other papers may be used where it can be shown that there is an overall environmental, social and economic advantage. [Data on the suppliers' production process must be supplied for review].

Recognized Sustainable Forest Management Systems

TC Transcontinental recognizes FSC[®], CSA[®] and SFI[®] certification systems in regard to forest management, protection of high conservation value forests and illegal harvesting. It also recognizes PEFC Chain of Custody certification.

Initiatives

To increase transparency and environmental awareness among consumers and customers, we will use certification logos on applicable TC Media publications in line with the Forest Management Certification schemes. We will also include messages to encourage recycling of our products and to increase the supply of paper with post-consumer recycled content.

Scope of this policy

The scope of this policy encompasses paper products bought by TC Transcontinental Printing for our customers, paper products used in the production of TC Media publications, which includes books, magazines and newspapers, as well as office papers used in our business units.

Supporting documentation and reporting

TC Transcontinental has created a "Classification of Environmental Papers" document and developed supporting tools to guide the implementation of this policy. Targets and timelines are defined within TC Transcontinental's sustainability report. The "Classification of Environmental Papers" is posted on our website.

http://tctranscontinental.com/documents/10180/53804/classification_paper.pdf

Going forward, TC Transcontinental will continue to report on its "Classification of Environmental Papers" performance in its annual sustainability report; it will also report on the amount of wood fibre purchased with Chain of Custody certification from each forest certification system (FSC[®], SFI[®] and PEFC).

We strongly encourage suppliers to share their data on their air, and water emissions, and landfill usage, as we will give preference to suppliers who monitor and promote continuous improvement in these areas.

* High Conservation Value Forests

High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).



François Olivier, President and Chief Executive Officer, Transcontinental Inc.