

Does Midwest Hardwood Company LLC meet FSC's Controlled Wood standard?

May 21, 2026

We are carrying out an audit of Midwest Hardwood Company LLC located in Maple Grove, Minnesota, United States, to see if their operations comply with FSC's [Controlled Wood](#) standard (FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1). We are writing to you to ask if you know of any reason why their operations would not meet this standard.

Controlled Wood is wood that meets minimum requirements and that can therefore be mixed with FSC wood and used in products with an FSC Mix label. In particular, the wood must not be:

- harvested illegally.
- harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.
- harvested from forests with a high conservation value that is threatened by management activities.
- harvested from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.
- from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

We will carry out our audit **June 16th-19th**. Here is how you should comment, if you wish to do so:

- When? You should send comments to us before or during the audit.
- How? You can comment by:
 - Meeting with a Preferred by Nature staff member in person.
 - Phone to Mark Graveel. His phone number is (615) 457-9379
 - Writing to Mark Graveel at:
13 Jolina Court P.O. Box 99
Richmond, VT 05477
United States .
 - Email to Mark Graveel at mgr@pbn.org
 - In person by arranging to meet with Mark Graveel
- If you want your comments to be confidential please notify us when you submit the comments.

If you provide comments, we will provide feedback to you within 30 days of the audit.

Midwest Hardwood Company LLC has written a summary document that lists:

- the risks they have identified that they may source unacceptable wood
- the measures they implement to mitigate those risks.

We have attached this summary document to this letter.

If you wish to dispute any aspect of this forest certification process or the decision we reach as to whether this company meets the Controlled Wood standard, you can access our Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/node/9284>.

Thank you for any help you are able to provide.

If you have any recommendations for contacting other stakeholders that may have an interest in providing comments on this company and audit, we would also gladly receive these from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mélanie Proulx
Supply Chains and Operations Specialist



FSC Controlled Wood Due Diligence Summary

Midwest Hardwood Corporation in Maple Grove, MN, USA

Prepared by Luciana Fonseca on November 24th, 2025

Note: as of October 5, 2019, all Controlled Wood Certificate Holders (CH) sourcing materials that they wish to control from the conterminous United States (excludes Alaska, Hawaii and US Territories) must have updated their DDS to incorporate the FSC US National Risk Assessment. Sourcing from Alaska, Hawaii or US Territories requires a company risk assessment. Sourcing from Canada, either directly, or indirectly due to logical supply area overlap, requires incorporation of the FSC CAN National Risk Assessment. When complete, this form will meet the requirements in Section 6 of FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1 “Publicly Available Information”.

1. Due Diligence System information:

| Description of Supply Area | Risk Designation | Indicator(s) for Supply Area Specified Risk Designation | Risk Assessment |
|----------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|
| Illinois | Low Risk | 1, 2, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Late Successional Bottomland Hardwoods | |
| Pennsylvania | Low Risk | 1, 2, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Mesophytic Cove Site Central Appalachian CBA Conversion | |
| West Virginia | Low Risk | 1, 2, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Mesophytic Cove Site Central Appalachian CBA Conversion | |
| Ohio | Low Risk | 1, 2, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Mesophytic Cove Site | |
| Kentucky | Low Risk | 2, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Mesophytic Cove Site Central Appalachian CBA | |
| New York | Low Risk | 1, 2, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Mesophytic Cove Site | |
| Tennessee | Low Risk | 1, 2, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| | Specified Risk | Central Appalachian CBA Mesophytic Cove Site Late Successional Bottomland Hardwoods | |
| Michigan | Low Risk | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| Indiana | Low Risk | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |
| Wisconsin | Low Risk | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | FSC-NRA-USA v.1-0 |

2. Control Measures

Mark the applicable box below:

All sourcing areas are **low risk**; therefore, the following items are not applicable:

- Control measures
- Company led stakeholder consultation
- Technical experts
- Field Verifications of the FMU or supply chain

X Some sourcing areas are **specified risk** areas; therefore, the following items may be applicable and are being implemented by the certificate holder as appropriate and necessary:

- Control measures **See Below**
- Company led stakeholder consultation (for CH-developed control measures) **See Below**
- Technical experts (for CH-developed control measures) **See Below**
- Field Verifications of the FMU or supply chain (for CH-developed control measures or further delineating supply area risk) **See Below**

| Assessment Indicator Requiring Control Measure(s) | Control Measures Per Indicator |
|---|--|
| 3.1 Wood harvested from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities | <p><i>3.1 HCV 1: Central Appalachian CBA, Cheoah Bald Salamander, Southern Appalachian CBA, Patch-nosed Salamander</i></p> <p><i>3.1 b. Educational materials, and landowner outreach or coordination with a local conservation organization, as determined by the specified risk area.</i></p> <p><i>3.1 a.i. - American Green attendance at all required FSC-US mitigation meetings</i></p> |
| 3.1 Wood harvested from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities | <p><i>3.1 HCV 3: Mesophytic Cove Sites, Late Successional Bottomland Hardwoods, Old Growth</i></p> <p><i>3.1 b. Educational materials, and landowner outreach or coordination with a local conservation organization, as determined by the specified risk area.</i></p> <p><i>3.1 a.i. 3.3 - American Green attendance at all required FSC-US mitigation meetings</i></p> |
| 4.1 Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use | <p><i>4.2: Conversion</i></p> <p><i>4.2.a. Certificate holder attends FSC US-coordinated Controlled Wood Regional Meetings when they occur. This is done either through representation from American Green Consulting and/or through direct company representation.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.b. Educational materials, and landowner outreach or coordination with a local conservation organization, as determined by the specified risk area.</i></p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplier outreach using educational materials sharing for their review and use. The intent is that education and outreach-related actions result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve restoration or maintenance of forested areas to benefit species or habitats of concern. - Attendance at regional meetings keeps company aware of progress made by the control measures used and any updates in CM guidance. |
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| Assessment Indicator Requiring Control Measure(s) | Control Measures for Addressing Risk of Supply Chain Mixing of Unacceptable or Non-eligible Sources |
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| 3.1 Wood harvested from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities and 4.1 Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use | <p>Risk of Mixing Material with Non-eligible Inputs into Supply Chain During Transport, Processing, and Storage: The organizations assessed this risk by site visits and/or confirmation of supplier procurement and operational policies.</p> <p>Mixing of Non-eligible inputs has been determined as No Risk for all suppliers.</p> <p>--</p> <p>There is no risk of mixing controlled and unacceptable material in our wood basket during transport, processing, and storage because the entirety of our wood basket is either low risk, or we have implemented mitigation measures required by FSC-US NRA, as appropriate to the situation.</p> |

| Stakeholder Consultation, Technical Experts, and Field Verifications |
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| <p>Company utilizes the American Green Consulting Group’s Mitigation Action Plan, which is based on suggested mitigation from the FSC-US NRA Mitigation Guidance documents as well as FSC-US notes from regional meetings.</p> <p>While the information included in American Green educational materials is all based on publicly available research, the following experts are partnering with AGC in creating the noted materials.</p> <p>The Forest Stewards Guild – <i>Central Appalachian CBA, Conversion, Late Successional Bottomland Hardwoods, Old Growth Forests, Southern Appalachian CBA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas where the Forest Stewards Guild is active may be found here: https://foreststewardsguild.org/where-we-work/ • Qualifications of Forest Stewards Guild staff may be found here: https://foreststewardsguild.org/meet-the-team/ <p>Ecoforesters - <i>Mesophytic Cove Sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecoforesters is active throughout Appalachia. Information about their work may be found here: https://www.ecoforesters.org/positive-impact-forestry/ • Qualifications of Ecoforesters staff may be found here: https://www.ecoforesters.org/about-us/meet-the-team/ <p>The Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy – <i>Cheoah Bald Salamander, Patch Nosed Salamander</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles. Information about their work may be found here: https://amphibianandreptileconservancy.org/what-we-do/ |

- Qualifications of ARC staff may be found here:
<https://amphibianandreptileconservancy.org/about/arc-directors/>

3. Complaints

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| <p>Procedure for filing complaints</p> | <p>Our complaints procedure consists of the following steps and will be completed within two weeks of receiving the initial complaint:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will acknowledge receipt of the complaint via email whenever possible. When an email address is not provided (or refused by request) by the complainant, we will send a written acknowledgement via US postal mail <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Anonymous complaints, or complaints where a mailing address or email address are not provided, will be considered invalid and will not be acknowledged. 2. We will conduct a preliminary assessment to determine the substance of any comment or complaint. Complaints will be defined as “substantial” or “not substantial”. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This assessment will include, but not be limited to, the breadth and/or specificity of the complaint, and the standing of the complainant. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lack of specificity and standing will automatically be considered “not substantial” |
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| | <p>ii. Complaints not related to our risk assessment or supply area will automatically be considered “not substantial” High specificity and standing complainants, with complaints that are related to our risk assessment or supply area, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for substance.</p> |
| Contact information of the person or position responsible for addressing complaints | American Green Consulting Group 888-662-8854 |