

Does Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc meet FSC's Controlled Wood standard?

December 12, 2025

We are carrying out an audit of Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc located in Georgia, USA 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 on January 20, 2026. 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 Andreanne Meley, Preferred by Nature staff member from US Office. Their phone number is 802-434-3420.
 - Writing to Andreanne Meley at 13 Jolina Court P.O. Box 99, Richmond, VT 05477
 - Email to Andreanne Meley at ameley@preferredbynature.org
 - In person by arranging to meet with Andreanne Meley
- 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.

Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc 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,

Andreanne Meley



Rayonier AM Certification Documented Control System

Document: RYAM-DOC-009 Due Diligence Summary	Date: September 23, 2021
	Version: 2

DDS Review Date: 10/30/2023	Certificate Number: BV-CW-128948
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Internal Audit Results <i>FSC-STD-40-005_V3.1; Sections 1.7-19</i>	
Scope of Internal Audit:	Confirm that suppliers are providing fiber from the identified supply area that meets the requirements of the FSC Controlled Wood & PEFC Chain of Custody standards.
Date of Internal Audit:	On-site audits are conducted throughout the year.
Staff Involved:	Gary Boyd, Gabe Sirmans
DDS Failure(s):	None

Supplier Information <i>FSC-STD-40-005_v3.1; Section 2.1</i>	
Supplier Name:	SEE ATTACHED LIST
Address:	
Material Supplied:	Pine & hardwood roundwood, Pine & hardwood chips
Quantity Purchased:	
Species:	<i>Acer negundo</i> (Box Elder); <i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red Maple); <i>Betula nigra</i> (Birch); <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (Hornbeam); <i>Carya glabra</i> (Pignut Hickory); <i>Carya ovata</i> (Shagbark Hickory); <i>Carya tomentosa</i> (Mockernut Hickory); <i>Celtis laevigata</i> (Sugarberry); <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (Hackberry); <i>Cornus florida</i> (Dogwood); <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> (Persimmon); <i>Fagus gradnifolia</i> (Beech); <i>Fraxinus americana</i> (White Ash); <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> (Green Ash); <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> (Honey Locust); <i>Gordonia lasianthus</i> (White Bay); <i>Juglans nigra</i> (Black Walnut); <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (Sweetgum); <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> (Yellow Poplar); <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> (Southern Magnolia); <i>Melia azedarach</i> (Chinaberry); <i>Morus rubra</i> (Red Mulberry); <i>Nyssa aquatica</i> (Water Tupelo); <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (Black Gum); <i>Persea aborbonia</i> (Red Bay); <i>Pinus echinata</i> (Shortleaf Pine); <i>Pinus elliotii</i> (Slash Pine); <i>Pinus palustris</i> (Longleaf Pine); <i>Pinus taeda</i> (Loblolly Pine); <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> (Sycamore); <i>Populus deltoides</i> (Cottonwood); <i>Prunus serotina</i> (Black Cherry); <i>Quercus acutissima</i> (Sawtooth Oak); <i>Quercus alba</i> (White Oak); <i>Quercus coccinea</i> (Scarlet Oak); <i>Quercus falcata</i> (Southern Red Oak); <i>Quercus laevis</i> (Turkey Oak); <i>Quercus laurifolia</i> (Laurel Oak); <i>Quercus lyrata</i> (Overcup Oak); <i>Quercus nigra</i> (Water Oak); <i>Quercus pagoda</i> (Cherrybark Oak); <i>Quercus phellos</i> (Willow Oak); <i>Quercus prinus</i> (Chestnut Oak); <i>Quercus shumardii</i> (Shumard Oak); <i>Quercus texana</i> (Nuttall Oak); <i>Quercus velutina</i> (Black Oak); <i>Salix nigra</i> (Black Willow); <i>Tilia Americana</i> (Basswood); <i>Ulmus alata</i> (Winged Elm); <i>Ulmus americana</i> (American Elm)
Purchase Documentation:	Purchase Orders, Scale Tickets

Risk Assessment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Risk Assessment for the Conterminous United States of America (FSC-NRA-USA V1-0) RYAM-DOC-008 FSC Controlled Wood / PEFC Due Diligence Risk Assessment
Country of Harvest:	USA
Evidence of Origin:	<p>A regular audit process is implemented for verifying the county of origin for suppliers that deliver wood directly to a RYAM facility. Wood buyers are required to conduct one BMP inspection per month as part of the county of origin verification. RYAM keeps track of the roundwood purchased with the Purchase Orders.</p> <p>Residual chip suppliers are audited to verify their county or origin supply area for the wood they purchase used to make the residual chips sold to RYAM.</p>
Process for enforcement of supplier notification of changes that may affect risk designation or risk mitigation measure(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale tickets Purchase Orders Tract Inspections RYAM-DOC-DOC-017 Secondary Supplier Checklists Internal Audits

Risk Assessment				
Description of Supply Area:		RYAM’s district of origin is completely within the continental United States and within the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia & South Carolina as described in RYAM-DOC-008 FSC Controlled Wood / PEFC Due Diligence Risk Assessment.		
Reference to applicable Risk Assessment:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Risk Assessment for the Conterminous United States of America (FSC-NRA-USA V1-0)• RYAM-DOC-008 FSC Controlled Wood / PEFC Due Diligence Risk Assessment		
Date of changes to Risk Assessment:		September 20, 2021		
Risk Designation Summary				
1. Illegally harvested wood				
Overall Risk Designation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unspecified Risk
2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights				
Overall Risk Designation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unspecified Risk
3. Wood harvested from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities				
Overall Risk Designation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specified Risk
4. Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use				
Overall Risk Designation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specified Risk

5. Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

Overall Risk Designation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified Risk
Description of supply chain, including the assessment of risk of mixing material with non-eligible inputs in the supply chain during transport, processing or storage	RYAM purchases pine & hardwood roundwood and chips from suppliers within its defined supply area as either non-certified or certified with an FSC claim. Purchase Orders provide requirements of RYAM for suppliers that deliver wood to RYAM facilities.	
Risk related to mixing with non-eligible inputs in the supply chain	N/A; All wood is purchased within RYAM's defined supply area which is validated through ongoing supplier audits.	
Risk Mitigation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable; All risk designations are LOW RISK		
Risk Mitigation Measures		
Description of: The specified or unspecified risk related to origin, including an indication of which controlled wood category the risk relates to OR The risk related to mixing with non-eligible inputs in the supply chain	<p><u>Category 3. Wood harvested in forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities.</u></p> <p>The National Risk Assessment for the Conterminous United States of America (FSC-NRA-USA V1-0) has identified the following HCVs that are located within the Company's supply area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCV1: Species Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Florida CBA ○ Florida Panhandle CBA ○ Southern Appalachian CBA • HCV3: Rare Ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Late Successional Bottomland Hardwoods ○ Mesophytic Cove Sites ○ Native Longleaf Pine Systems <p><u>Category 4. Wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.</u></p> <p>The Company's supply area includes 250 counties in 4 states that have been identified as having "specified risk".</p>	
Control measure identified to mitigate risk	<p><u>Category 3. Wood harvested in forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities.</u></p> <p>Mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation at the 2018 FSC Controlled Wood Regional meetings. • The FSC CW Regional meeting findings were reviewed with Company personnel to review the recommended mitigation measures for these specified risk areas. • RYAM is completing the following outreach and education measures to communicate the social benefits & values of the CBAs, threats from forest management activities & related loss of values, and opportunities for conservation through management that restores or maintains the CBAs and reduces or eliminates these threats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member company of Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) & Florida Forestry Association (FFA); ○ Provides monetary support to Project Learning Tree (PLT); 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RYAM employees directly involved with teaching for PLT and other workshops / tours; o Provides monetary support to Georgia Forest Foundation aiding landowners in implementing management activities for natural and planted regeneration of forest systems. <p><u>Category 4. Wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.</u></p> <p>Mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation at the 2018 FSC Controlled Wood Regional meetings. • The FSC CW Regional meeting findings were reviewed with Company personnel to review the recommended mitigation measures for these specified risk areas. • RYAM is participating in programs and initiatives to communicate the social benefits of keeping forests as forests, and the value-enhancing alternatives to conversion and opportunities for the maintenance of forests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Member company of North American Forest Partnership; o Provides monetary support to North American Forest Partnership; o RYAM employees directly in planning and execution of #ForestProud programs.
Desired outcome of the control measure	The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of these HCVs within the specified risk area and the Company's' supply area.
Description of the implementation and final outcomes of the control measure	Outcomes of these mitigation measures are documented annually using evidence of financial contributions, meeting attendance and other participation evidence. Communications with suppliers are documented using the Company's Supplier Annual Audit Checklist.
Findings from field verification undertaken and steps taken to address nonconformities where they occurred. If confidential, justification for the exclusion of confidential information.	Not Applicable
Summary of stakeholder consultation process	Not Applicable
Information on engagement of experts in development of control measures and experts consulted (name, qualification, license/registration number, scope of services) If publicly available documents used list specific sources of information	Not Applicable

Stakeholder Input and Complaints Procedure

Comments and complaints from stakeholders regarding RYAM's DDS may be submitted to:



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Chris Marsh
Rayonier Advanced Materials
4470 Savannah Hwy.
Jesup, GA 31545

Interested stakeholders may contact the RYAM contact person for general information regarding this procedure.

Complaints must be:

- Submitted in writing;
- Contain the name of the complainant and information for a designated contact person;
- Explain the nature and details of the complaint;
- Reference the specific section and requirement of the Controlled Wood standard relative to the complaint;
- Include or identify the supporting facts and substantial evidence relative to the complaint.

RYAM's complaint procedure is given immediately below (except in cases where the applicable NRA states otherwise):

- a) The Management Representative will enter the concern on the company's Public Comment Log if, and when, a complaint is received.
- b) The Management Representative will acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant in writing via email or hard copy letter as soon as practicable but within two (2) weeks.
- c) If the complaint is related to risk designations in a relevant FSC risk assessment, the Management Representative will forward it to the responsible FSC body that oversees such risk assessment within two (2) weeks of complaint receipt.
- d) A preliminary assessment will be conducted to determine whether evidence provided in the complaint is or is not substantial by assessing the evidence provided against the risk of using material from unacceptable sources.
- e) The complainant will be contacted to engage in dialogue that aims to solve any complaints assessed as substantial before further actions are taken.
- f) Complaints assessed as substantial by RYAM will be forwarded to its certification body and the relevant FSC National Office for the supply area within two (2) weeks of receipt of the complaint. Information on the steps to be taken by RYAM in order to resolve the complaint, as well as how a precautionary approach will be used, will be included with the complaint communication.
- g) The precautionary approach will be employed towards the continued sourcing of the relevant material while a complaint is pending, including a description of how the precautionary approach is employed by RYAM while a complaint is active. A complaint will be classified as pending if it has been considered to be substantial (according to item d), and effective corrective action (according to items h-k) has not yet been taken.
- h) If a complaint is assessed as substantial by RYAM, a verification process will be implemented (e.g. field verification and/or desk verification) within two (2) months of receipt of the complaint.
- i) If a complaint is assessed and verified as substantial by RYAM, a determination will be made regarding the corrective action to be taken by suppliers and the means to enforce implementation by suppliers. If a corrective action cannot be determined and/or enforced, then RYAM will exclude the relevant material and/or suppliers from its supply chain.
- j) RYAM will verify whether corrective action has been taken by suppliers and whether it is effective.



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- k) RYAM will exclude the relevant material and suppliers if no appropriate corrective action is taken.
- l) The Management Representative will inform the complainant, its certification body, and the relevant FSC National Office of the results of the complaint investigation and assessment and any actions taken towards resolution of the complaint. All copies of relevant correspondence will be maintained.

Appropriate records and files will be maintained for all complaints received, including actions taken.