

**ADV-STD-20-007-28\_V1-0 D1-0 Minimum audit duration for forest management evaluations**

**Normative reference** FSC-STD-20-007 V4-1, Clause 6.3

**Scope** This Advice Note applies to all accredited certification bodies evaluating The Organization’s conformity against forest management requirements.

**Approval date** V1-0: TBD [3 months prior to effective date]

**Effective date** V1-0: TBD

**Transition end date** V1-0: TBD [18 months after effective date]

**Background** FSC-STD-20-007 V4-1, Annex 6 lists the audit aspects and factors for calculating the audit time of forest management organizations. This Advice Note introduces a matrix that determines the minimum onsite or remote audit duration times.

**ADVICE** 1. The certification body shall determine the audit duration in accordance with Annex 2, Annex 3, and Annex 6 of FSC-STD-20-007 V4-1 as well as Table 1 below, which illustrates the minimum audit duration for the total certified area under the scope of certification.

NOTE: The minimum audit duration may not be considered the default, sufficient or expected audit time. The actual duration of the audit still needs to be calculated by the certification body and justified in the evaluation report.

**Table 1. Minimum audit duration (in days)**

Certification scope	Total certified area under the scope certification	Main and re-evaluations	Surveillance evaluations
Applicable Forest Stewardship Standard; or International Generic Indicators (CFM with no applicable FSS)	< 1.000 ha	1 day	1 day
	1.001-10.000 ha	1.5 days	1 day
	10.001-100.000 ha	3.5 days	2 days
	100.001-1.000.000 ha	8.5 days	6 days
	> 1.000.000 ha	16.5 days	12 days