



About the Green Press Initiative Overseas Paper Risk Assessment Tool

Risk assessment tool is available to download at

<http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/documents/riskassessment.xls>

How to Use the Tool

This assessment of papers available overseas is meant to be a starting point for those involved in paper procurement and should not be a substitute for asking direct questions of paper suppliers. All data is believed to be accurate as of when the research was conducted (2009-2010), but much of the information is subject to change. While Green Press Initiative will attempt update the information in the tool, the accuracy cannot be guaranteed and **all information should be verified with the supplier prior to making a purchase.**

Color Ratings

Papers are given two ratings. A Lacey Act risk rating which indicates the risk of the paper having or potentially having fiber that is sourced illegally from its country of origin, and a High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) risk rating which indicates the risk that of the paper will contain that is damaging to critical ecosystems (See below for more details on HCVFs).

Ratings are based on the country of origin of the fiber in the paper and the type of fiber in the paper as detailed in the charts below. Most papers contain fiber from various sources and in these cases the papers are awarded the risk rating associated with the fiber that has the greatest risk.

For each risk assessment (Lacey Act and HCVF) a paper can receive green, yellow or red ratings which are defined as follows:

- **Green-Lowest Risk**
- **Yellow – Moderate Risk**
- **Red-Highest Risk**

When all the necessary information was not provided by the supplier and this information was not available from other sources the precautionary principle was used and the paper was rated as having the highest risk possible based on whatever information was available. It is therefore possible that some papers may in fact have a lower risk than is indicated but it was not possible to make that determination based on the information available.

Lacey Act Risk Ratings

	<u>Country of Origin of Fiber</u>	
<u>Type of Fiber</u>	High Risk Country	Low Risk Country
Uncertified Fiber	Red	Yellow
PEFC Certified Fiber	Yellow	Green
FSC Controlled Wood Fiber	Green	Green
FSC Certified Fiber	Green	Green
Recycled Fiber	Green	Green

High Conservation Value Forest Risk Ratings

	<u>Country of Origin of Fiber</u>	
<u>Type of Fiber</u>	High Risk Country	High Risk Country
Uncertified Fiber	Red	Yellow
PEFC Certified Fiber	Red	Yellow
FSC Controlled Wood Fiber	Yellow	Green
FSC Certified Fiber	Green	Green
Recycled Fiber	Green	Green

High Risk Countries

High risk countries are based on PREPS Process document (See page 9 of http://prepsgroup.com/_media/documents/preps-procedures.pdf)

List of High Risk Countries

Bolivia, Brazil, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Congo, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Latvia, Liberia, Malaysia,

Nicaragua, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

About the Lacey Act

While the Lacey Act is one of the oldest wildlife protection laws in the United States, but it did not address illegal logging until it was amended in May of 2008. With the new amendments it is now illegal to trade, possess or transfer imported forest products that were harvested illegally in their country of origin. Penalties include forfeiture of goods, fines and even the possibility of imprisonment in cases where illegally harvested forest products were knowingly imported or where “due care” was not exercised. For certain forest products, the law also requires that documentation be submitted to customs declaring the tree species and country of origin of the wood or fiber. At this time no such declaration is required for finished books. For more information see

<http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/documents/LaceyActFAQ.pdf>

About High Conservation Value Forests

The concept of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) was originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to carry out forest certification. However the concept is now more widely used to identify areas where special consideration is necessary to avoid damage to forests which are critical to wildlife and local communities. Specifically HCVFs are forests that meet at least one of the criteria below:

- Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).
- Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).
- Areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

For more information about HCVFs see www.hcvnetwork.org