A photograph of a forest with large, moss-covered tree trunks and branches. The ground is covered in green grass and small white flowers. The background is misty, creating a serene atmosphere.

Sainsbury's Pulp, Paper and Fibre-based Packaging Policy

Our Policy on Pulp, Paper and Fibre-based Packaging

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Our Scope

Sainsbury's we seek to build resilient supply chains by sourcing products ethically and sustainably.

This document details our position and sourcing requirements for all suppliers Food and General Merchandise across all product areas own-brand and licensed products which have no, paper or fibre-based packaging. This includes primary, secondary and tertiary packaging and instruction manuals.

The following products are out of scope of this document:

Branded products

Paper or pulp that is not packaging e.g. magazines and cards. Please see the timber policy for these products.

This sustainable sourcing policy should be read alongside our Supplier Handbook. Depending where in the business the products are sold, the General Merchandise Sustainability Guidelines, the Clothing Sustainability Guidelines, or the Responsible Sourcing Manual should be consulted.

The policy statements outlined in this document are in addition to all applicable legislation. Sainsbury's suppliers must ensure they meet all requirements laid down in law at the point of manufacture and where the products are finally sold to the customer.

Whilst this policy is intended to help suppliers provide packaging suitable for Sainsbury's own-brand, they do not absolve suppliers of their responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for their products.



Our Position

Across our business, paper and pulp is used for packaging. Production of pulp, paper and fibre-based packaging (PPP) can be linked to the clearance of native vegetation and forests due to unsustainable management practices. Responsible forest management aims to find a balance between timber production and forest protection and can help increase the value of standing forests by protecting them from illegal logging, conversion to other uses or other non-sustainable activities. More broadly, it is critical that forests globally are responsibly maintained and restored in order to limit the impact on climate change. This is particularly true for ancient and endangered forests.

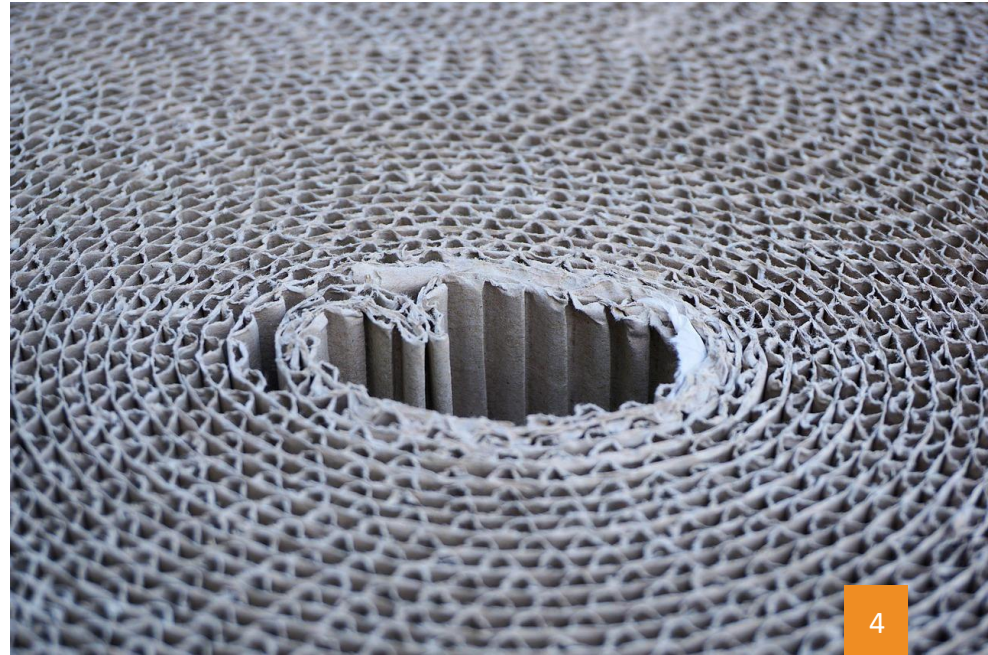
Sainsbury's uses large volumes of pulp, paper and fibre-based packaging (PPP) across its supply chains. The demand for forest products is anticipated to increase (particularly with the focus on plastic reduction), which emphasises the need to source sustainably produced materials. The most effective way to ensure this is by sourcing certified materials (FSC, PEFC) and/or using recycled materials.

SECTION TWO

Statements of intent

Through our [Plan for Better](#) commitments we are committed to sourcing Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) forest-risk commodities by 2025, including non-timber forest products.

- All paper-based packaging will either be made of 100% recycled paper/ pulp or sourced to an independent sustainability standard by 31st December 2025.



Our Approach

Production of PPP can be linked to deforestation and land conversion which can lead to wider environmental consequences including biodiversity loss. Through certification and traceability data, we can ensure our supply chains do not contribute to these issues and monitor progress towards our DCF commitment. The below requirements in each section must be met to mitigate the associated risks:

	General requirements
1.	<p>Packaging made from timber pulp, paper or fibre-based material must be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made of 100% recycled paper/pulp <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virgin material should be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council – FSC 100% or FSC Mix or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) <p>Where packaging contains a mixture of virgin and recycled fibres, all virgin material should be FSC or PEFC certified.</p>
	Traceability requirements
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers of Food and non-food grocery products should submit traceability information to the Ecosurety Collect Tool. This includes FSC/PEFC certificates or a declaration the product is 100% recycled. Suppliers of General Merchandise and clothing products should submit traceability information on Evolve and the Ecosurety Collect Tool where applicable. This includes FSC/PEFC certificates or a declaration the product is 100% recycled. Further guidance can be found in the General Merchandise Sustainability Guidelines, the Clothing Sustainability Guidelines, or the Responsible Sourcing Manual.
	Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems*
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber pulp, paper or fibre-based packaging must not be harvested illegally in contravention of legislation in the country of harvest Only plantation material grown on land converted prior to 31st December 2020 will be accepted, unless preceded by existing standards or legislation There must be no deforestation of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests Species listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendices must be traded in compliance with the appropriate licencing system Species categorised on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as ‘CR – Critically Endangered’, ‘EN – Endangered’, or ‘VU – Vulnerable’ must not be sourced We will work with suppliers and support collaborative solutions that protect remaining ancient and endangered forests including Boreal, Indonesian and South American Rainforests, and temperate rainforests of the Pacific North West.
	Respect for human rights*
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before any activity that may affect indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights, land, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security, their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be secured
	Alternative & recycled raw material
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the use of new materials that might replace paper, pulp or fibre in packaging however it must be approved with the Packaging Manager at Sainsbury’s on an ad-hoc basis

*Based on definitions agreed by the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI). Requirements 3 & 4 are included within the [FSC Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#) if using an approved 3rd Party Scheme please refer to CR&S and Technical Team SME for advice on how to provide additional assurance on these requirements.

SECTION FOUR

Roles and Responsibilities

Suppliers:

- All suppliers must meet Sainsbury's corporate policy by either:
- Providing 100% recycled paper/pulp packaging and a declaration the packaging is made from 100% recycled paper/ pulp. This will be uploaded to the relevant section on Evolve Technical system (GM) or the Ecosurety Collect Tool (Food, Non-Food Grocery, and JS GM and Clothing).
- Providing FSC/PEFC packaging and uploading evidence of certification to the relevant section on the Evolve Technical system and for Food/Non-food Grocery, confirming the packaging is certified on the Ecosurety Collect Tool.

Sainsbury's:

- Sainsbury's is accountable for ensuring suppliers meet the policy, which will be enforced by Trading & Technical.

SECTION FIVE

Governance

This policy has been agreed by the GM Steering Committee and Director of Product and Innovation. It will be reviewed annually by the Head of Environment, Packaging Manager, GM or Packaging Innovations Managers as required. All changes will be communicated to the suppliers.



Definitions

What other definitions might be relevant to your commodity?

Where relevant, our definitions align with [Accountability Framework Initiative \(Afi\)](#)

- **Deforestation:** The loss of natural forest as a result of (i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; (ii) conversion to a plantation; or (ii) severe or sustained degradation.
- **Conversion:** Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in the natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function
- **Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF):** a volume of commodity produced on land that was not subject to conversion or deforestation past a defined cut-off date.

External links

- [FSC and FSC Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)
- [CITES/IUCN](#)
- [PEFC and PEFC Forest Management Requirements](#)



FAQs

Q. Are stickers and labels included?

A. Yes, stickers and labels will need to be made of 100% recycled paper/ pulp or be certified.

Q. Who should teams contact if they need further advice?

A. Speak to either the packaging or environment teams if you have any questions.

Q. Can I use the FSC/PEFC trademark on my product?

A. Sainsbury's and Argos has an FSC and PEFC license. Use of these logos on packaging is not mandatory but does demonstrate we are delivering on our sustainability commitments. For further guidance on the FSC trademark please see: [Use the FSC trademarks | Forest Stewardship Council UK](#), [Standards and Guides - PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) and consult the supplier guide.

Q. The PPP used in the product is sustainably sourced as FSC or PEFC, however the supplier to Sainsbury's Argos does not have their own chain of custody licence because they produce the product but not the packaging, is this acceptable?

A. If the packaging manufacturer places the FSC or PEFC label on the packaging, then the supplier buying that packaging and producing the product for sale does not need certification or a licence. In other cases where the supplier produces their own packaging, we would require a complete chain of custody, from forest to the end supplier.

FAQs

Q. I am using recycled PPP, what chain of custody do I need to provide?

A. For recycled content, we only require the supplier to upload a declaration to Evolve/ Ecosurety Collect Tool. Please refer to the CR&S and Technical Team SME for advice.

Q. What are the requirements if the PPP contains a mixture of virgin and recycled content?

A. All virgin content should be FSC or PEFC certified. Evidence of certification and the declaration that the remainder of the PPP is made of recycled content will need to be uploaded to Evolve/ Ecosurety Collect Tool.

Q. If the product is also certified by FSC or PEFC, how should we show the logos to indicated both the product and packaging are sourced in line with the policy?

A. Products with both a certified product and certified packaging should have two logos on pack: one for the product and one for the packaging.



Our Policy on Paper, Pulp and Fibre based packaging

The information in this document may be supported by other Sainsbury’s Documents.
The information outlined in this document is in addition to all applicable UK and EU legislation.

Sainsbury’s suppliers must ensure they meet all legal and regulatory requirements both at the point of manufacture and where the products are sold to the consumer. Whilst this document is intended to help you supply products suitable for the Sainsbury’s brand (i.e. all brands owned by Sainsbury’s), they do not absolve you of your responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for your products or the products you supply.

For the purpose of this document Sainsbury’s means Sainsbury’s Supermarkets Limited and Argos Limited only. Sainsbury’s Argos is the trading name of both:

- 1) Argos Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA.. Registered number: 01081551
- 2) Sainsbury’s Supermarket Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA. and Sainsbury’s Supermarkets (NI) Ltd, Upper Galwally, Belfast, BT8 6FX Registered number: 03261722

Document Reference	Document Owner	Amendment History	Date
PL017-V1	Deforestation Lead, CR&S, Packaging Manager, GM and Packaging Innovations Manager, Food	Creation of policy	July 2024
PL017- V2	Deforestation Lead, CR&S, Packaging Manager, GM and Packaging Innovations Manager, Food	Update to clarify cut off and sunset dates, inclusion of new FAQs	Oct 2024
PL017-V3	Deforestation Lead, CR&S, Packaging Manager, GM and Packaging Innovations Manager, Food	Updated to reflect change in head office location	June 2025