



## **Press Release**

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Continuous chain of custody from carton pack all the way back to forest

### **SIG Combibloc now has FSC Chain of Custody certification at all its production sites world-wide**

**January 2010.** SIG Combibloc is now the only manufacturer of carton packs that is certified for a continuous chain of custody (CoC) at all its production sites world-wide in accordance with the criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This certification means SIG Combibloc can now offer its customers all over the world carton packs that are permitted to bear the label 'FSC Mix'.

This FSC label proves that all the wood fibres used to manufacture the carton packaging, from the labelled carton pack right back to forest of origin, can be traced continuously in accordance with the CoC standards of the FSC. In addition, the label is a guarantee that appropriate quantities of the wood used to manufacture the unprocessed cardboard were bought from FSC-certified forests managed to the highest standards. 'FSC Mix' denotes the product group from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

In mid-2009, all of SIG Combibloc's European production sites were certified in accordance with the FSC criteria for a continuous chain of custody. And since the end of 2009, the company's plants in China, Thailand and Riyadh have also achieved the corresponding certification. Rolf Stangl, CEO of SIG Combibloc: "Acting with responsibility and foresight and ensuring that our packaging solutions for long-life foods continue to be among the most environmentally friendly food packaging systems is one of our paramount strategic business objectives. We are therefore extremely proud to be the first manufacturer in the industry to have implemented the FSC CoC certification of all our production sites world-wide. The end-to-end compliance with the demanding standards of the FSC gives a clear signal that the long-term safeguarding of resources and

the judicious selection of the natural resources we use according to the highest environmental standards, are important aspects of our corporate philosophy”.

Rodrigo Steinvorth, Head of Production and Supply Chain at SIG Combibloc in China: “Currently, according to information from the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), 13 million hectares of forest are lost every year. There are still vast areas with high biological diversity that remain unprotected. Forest certification is therefore receiving increasing endorsement from governments and companies all over the world. We are proud to support the expansion of exemplary forest management through the FSC Chain of Custody certification of our global production sites, thereby actively helping to ensure that wood as a renewable resource can continue to be used not only in an environmentally friendly way, but also well into the future”.

Carton packs from SIG Combibloc consist up to 75 per cent of wood pulp, which is obtained from wood, a renewable raw material. SIG Combibloc requires all its suppliers of unprocessed cardboard to operate production facilities that are certified according to the FSC CoC standard, in order to cover the value-added chain from forest to carton. This ensures that – for the manufacture of the unprocessed cardboard – controversial wood sources can be avoided. The traceability of the wood fibres back to the forest of origin is guaranteed and only wood from controlled sources or ecologically exemplary forest management is used.

The FSC CoC certification of SIG Combibloc’s production sites continues the chain of custody in accordance with the FSC criteria right up to the labelled carton pack. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, independent, non-profit organisation that works to promote responsible forest management. The council was founded in 1993 following the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and draws its membership from environmental organisations and development associations, trades unions and representatives from forestry and the wood industry. Its objective is to promote, world-wide, the responsible, exemplary use of forest resources. To do this, the FSC issues certificates for wood and wood products originating from socially and environmentally responsible forestry. The organisation has drawn up a rigorous checklist consisting of ten mandatory principles and 56 criteria for good forestry practice. Compliance with these principles is checked on an ongoing basis by independent certification organisations, and the outcomes are reported back to the FSC.

The certification is also documented in the FSC database ([www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)). SIG Combibloc has certification code SW-COC-004130.

**Caption:**

Forestry scientist Ulrich Müller (centre) checked compliance with the FSC standards on behalf of the Rainforest Alliance at SIG Combibloc's production plants world-wide – here, at the Chinese plant in Suzhou. The Rainforest Alliance is the world's leading FSC-accredited certification body for forests and wood products.

**Photo: SIG Combibloc**

*SIG Combibloc is one of the world's leading system suppliers of carton packaging and filling machines for beverages and food. In 2008 the company achieved a turnover of 1,249 million Euro with around 4,100 employees in 40 countries. SIG Combibloc is part of the New Zealand based Rank Group.*

Your contact:

**Heike Thevis – Press Officer**

**SIG Combibloc GmbH**

Rurstraße 58, D-52441 Linnich, Germany

Tel.: +49 2462 79 2608

Fax: +49 2462 79 17 2608

E-Mail: [heike.thevis@sig.biz](mailto:heike.thevis@sig.biz)