



## Apparel Labeling Solutions

### ANCIENT AND ENDANGERED FOREST CONSERVATION VISION AND FOREST FIBRE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Effective: 10.4.24

#### OUR VISION STATEMENT

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions is committed to demonstrating environmental and social leadership in the paper and paper packaging industry. To achieve this, we will eliminate sourcing from the world's Ancient and Endangered Forests and other controversial fibre sources. As a leading labelling manufacturer with a global sourcing and production footprint, we have held FSC certification at our plants for decades. Our commitment to Pack4Good and Canopy reinforces our dedication to sustainability and renewable wood-based materials.

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions recognizes that sustainable business leadership is a fundamental component of long-term transformation. We commit to use our influence in the market towards the development of both supply and demand environmental solutions. We will collaborate throughout the supply chain to ensure support for the creation of paper and paper packaging made from low footprint sources<sup>i</sup>.

As such, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions is committed to actively implement the goals noted below and to apply this model and principles to all our corporate paper and paper packaging production and use.

#### OUR IMPLEMENTATION GOALS

##### **Protect and Conserve Ancient and Endangered Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions recognizes the impact that paper and paper packaging production has on forests, species and the climate and, therefore, the need to ensure the adoption of environmentally and socially responsible paper and paper packaging production. We will work in partnership with other companies, our suppliers, customers, and Canopy to forward conservation of the world's critical high carbon value (HCS) and biodiverse (HCV) forest ecosystems.

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions commits to eliminate the use of all fibre from Ancient and Endangered Forests<sup>ii</sup> as identified in ForestMapper, as well as forest fibre from threatened and/or endangered species habitat<sup>iii</sup> and other controversial sources by 2025. Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will be a vocal advocate for conservation of Ancient and Endangered Forests globally.

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions also recognizes that certain forest regions have been identified as priority for conservation by scientists and other stakeholders. Until conservation solutions are in place, we will not source from these regions which include but are not limited to: Canada's Boreal Forests<sup>iv</sup>, Indonesia's Rainforests<sup>v</sup>, the Amazon, the Great Bear Rainforest<sup>vi</sup> on Canada's central and north coast and the Coastal Temperate Rainforests<sup>vii</sup> of Vancouver Island.

*Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions* will ensure that by the end of 2025 we are not sourcing from controversial sources including:

- Companies that are logging forests illegally<sup>viii</sup>.
- Areas that have been deforested, and natural forests that have been converted after 1994<sup>ix</sup>;
  - This is due to concern that although plantations can play an important role in supplying fibre for products, *Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions* recognizes that clearing natural forests for plantations has contributed significantly to the destruction of forests in many parts of the world.
- Genetically modified organisms.

If we find that any of our fibre sources or pulp contain fibre from such critical habitat or Ancient and Endangered Forests or other controversial sources, we will work either autonomously or with our suppliers to eliminate this fibre from the supply or find another source of supply.

### **Respecting Indigenous and Human Rights**

To respect the rights of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IP/LC)<sup>x</sup>, which are codified under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we will carry out operations - and require any of our upstream suppliers to be - consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which includes allowing impacted IP/LC to grant or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).<sup>xi</sup>

### **Maximize Recycled Content**

Industry-supported life cycle analyses (LCA)<sup>xii</sup> shows that sourcing recycled and post-consumer recycled fibre reduces pressure on forests and species and other important natural resources like water. It also significantly reduces the carbon footprint of the paper, especially when using fibres from post-consumer waste.

Therefore, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions commits:

- To be a leader in the development of 100% recycled and post-consumer recycled paper and paper packaging grades.
- To ensure that, by total volume, the paper and paper packaging we manufacture will contain a minimum of 50% post-consumer recycled content by 2025.

### **Develop Agricultural Residue Fibre Sources**

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will work with technology innovators, pulp producers and Canopy to encourage the development of agricultural residue fibres<sup>xiii</sup> as a commercially viable fibre source for paper and packaging. We anticipate there will be rapid advances in this area over the next few years that will lead to new alternative fibre developments and opportunities. Therefore, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will:

- Support research and development of commercial-scale production of pulp, paper and packaging from sustainable alternative fibre sources such as agricultural residues.
- Manufacture papers and packaging from alternative fibres such as wheat straw residues, flax and/or other verified low-footprint agricultural residues as soon as they are commercially available.
- Support investment in agricultural residue fibre pulps for paper and packaging, whether through direct investment or by providing letters of interest to purchase or off-take agreements.

### **FSC Forest Certification**

Where virgin forest fibre is required in our papers or packaging, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will ensure that it is not derived from Ancient and Endangered Forests or controversial sources. We will also work with our pulp suppliers to ensure this fibre it is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and will preference pulp with FSC Forest Management certification.

### **Reduce Greenhouse Gas Footprint**

Considering emissions from biogenic carbon sources, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will reduce its greenhouse gas footprint and consequent impacts on the climate by addressing our fibre sourcing as outlined above. Further to this end, we will work develop smarter, resource-efficient product design.

As appropriate, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will work with Canopy to purchase credits from a credible carbon offset program or invest in programs that advance conservation of Ancient and Endangered Forests.

### **Prevent Pollution**

Paper manufacturing is a resource-intensive process that can lead to air emissions and water pollution. To address this:

- Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will give preference to pulp that is unbleached or has been processed utilizing responsible bleaching technologies such as Process and Totally Chlorine Free (PCF and TCF) bleaching.
- Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will preference suppliers that adopt the latest technologies and practices to minimize their air and water pollution.

### **Transparency and Reporting**

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions is committed to transparency in implementing this policy and will publish annual progress reports publicly. Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will use the Global Reporting Initiative Reporting Guidelines.

Additionally, Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will request that our pulp suppliers publish information on their fibre sourcing publicly. Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will work with suppliers and 3rd party auditors to validate compliance.

### **Setting Benchmarks, Timelines, and other Accountability Mechanisms**

Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions will establish benchmarks, timelines, and other accountability mechanisms to implement this policy, and will review and adapt these annually.



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Bethan Taylor – Global Sustainability Manager  
Checkpoint Apparel Labeling Solutions  
17.4.24

### **ENDNOTES**

<sup>i</sup> Environmentally friendly, lower footprint fibre sources include:

- Post-consumer recycled waste fibre
- Pre-consumer recycled fibre
- Agricultural residue defined below
- Fibre from FSC certified tenures (no controlled wood from controlled wood tenures)

<sup>ii</sup> Ancient and Endangered Forest Ancient and endangered forests are defined as intact forest landscape mosaics, naturally rare forest types, forest types that have been made rare due to human activity, and/or other forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity. Ecological components of endangered forests are: Intact forest landscapes; Remnant forests and restoration cores; Landscape connectivity; Rare forest types; Forests of high species richness; Forests containing high concentrations of rare and endangered species; Forests of high endemism; Core habitat for focal species; Forests exhibiting rare ecological and evolutionary phenomena. As a starting point to geographically locate ancient and endangered forests, maps of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and of intact forest landscapes (IFL), can be used and paired with maps of other key ecological values like the habitat range of key endangered species and forests containing high concentrations of terrestrial carbon and High Carbon Stocks (HCS). (The Wye River Coalition's Endangered Forests: High Conservation Value Forests Protection – Guidance for Corporate Commitments. This has been reviewed by conservation groups, corporations, and scientists such as Dr. Jim Stritholt, President and Executive Director of the Conservation Biology Institute, and has been adopted by corporations for their forest sourcing policies). Key endangered forests globally are the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests of British Columbia, Alaska and Chile; Tropical forests and peat lands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa. For more information on the definitions of Ancient and Endangered Forests, please go to: <http://canopyplanet.org/solutions/ancient-forest-friendly/ancient-forest-friendly-defined/> and [ForestMapper](#)

<sup>iii</sup> A good source to identify endangered, threatened and imperiled species is NatureServe's Conservation Status rankings for imperiled species that are at high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines in populations, or other factors.

<sup>iv</sup> Protection of Boreal Forests where the largest remaining tracts of forests are located worldwide is critical. Canada's Boreal Forest contain the largest source of unfrozen freshwater worldwide and are part of the world's largest terrestrial carbon sink – equivalent to 26 years worth of global fossil fuel use. Canopy is committed to working collaboratively on the establishment of new protected areas, the protection of endangered species and the implementation of sustainable harvesting in Canada's Boreal Forest.

<sup>v</sup> Indonesia experiences the second highest rate of deforestation among tropical countries, with the island of Sumatra standing out due to the intensive forest clearing that has resulted in the conversion of 70% of the island's forested area (FAO Forest Assessment 2010; Margono, B.A. et al. 2012). Canopy and our NGO partners are focused on forwarding lasting protection of the Leuser Ecosystem – the last place on earth where orangutans, tigers, elephants, rhinoceros and sun bears still co-exist.

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<sup>vi</sup> A legal conservation plan is now finalized for the Great Bear Rainforest. On February 1st, 2016 the Government of British Columbia, First Nations, environmental organizations and the forest industry announced an Ecosystem-based Management framework that sets 85% of this region off limits to logging and stringent logging rules in the other 15%. Provided these agreements are fully implemented – sourcing from this ancient and endangered forest region can be considered to be within sustainable levels. We encourage ongoing verification of this through renewal of Forest Stewardship Council certification.

<sup>vii</sup> Coastal temperate rainforests are rare and only ever covered 0.2% of the planet. On Vancouver Island only 10% of Vancouver Island’s productive old growth rare coastal temperate rainforest remain. These stands of 1,000-year old trees continue to be harvested despite their immense value to local communities for tourism. Their accessibility and beauty is a remarkable global asset and Canopy is working to see these last stands protected.

<sup>viii</sup> Legal forest management: Management that complies with all applicable international, national, and local laws, including environmental, forestry, and civil rights laws and treaties.

<sup>ix</sup> Canopy uses the definitions of deforestation and conversion developed by the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI). They can be found here: <https://accountability-framework.org/use-the-accountability-framework/definitions/>

<sup>x</sup> There is not one universal definition of Indigenous Peoples, however in accordance with international legal agreements such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 and the Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Indigenous Peoples share certain characteristics. Please see Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), *Free Prior and Informed Consent: An indigenous peoples’ right and a good practice for local communities*. <https://www.fao.org/3/i6190e/i6190e.pdf> page 12. Note that other bodies respect and uphold this definition including, for example, the FSC. <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/332> page 22. In addition, the term “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” and its acronym “IPLC” are widely used by international organizations and conventions to refer to individuals and groups who self-identify as indigenous *or* as members of distinct local communities. We adopt this terminology in this assessment, with particular emphasis on those who maintain an inter-generational historical connection to place and nature through livelihoods, cultural identity, languages, worldviews, institutions, and ecological knowledge. A local community can be long-standing (‘traditional’) or relatively new, include a single or multiple ethnic identities and be permanently settled or mobile. A local community should have a form of political identity that enables it to exercise its rights and responsibilities with respect to its territory and neighbors. <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities>

<sup>xi</sup> For operational guidance for producers and buyers, please see the High Carbon Stock Approach Social Requirements (SRs) and Implementation Guidance (IG) in the Toolkit, and the Accountability Framework Operational Guidance on Free, Prior and Informed Consent

- High Carbon Stock Approach Implementation Guide: <https://highcarbonstock.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/HCSA-Toolkit-V2.0-Module-2.pdf>
- Accountability Framework Operational Guidance on Free, Prior and Informed Consent [https://accountability-framework.org/fileadmin/uploads/afi/Documents/Operational\\_Guidance/OG\\_FPIC-2020-5.pdf](https://accountability-framework.org/fileadmin/uploads/afi/Documents/Operational_Guidance/OG_FPIC-2020-5.pdf)

<sup>xii</sup> Paper Task Force Report and the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator. “The scientific basis for these conclusions is the analysis of the Paper Task Force, a three-year research project convened by Environmental Defense and involving Duke University, Johnson & Johnson, McDonald’s, Prudential Insurance, and Time Inc. The Paper Task Force examined environmental impacts through the full lifecycle of paper, along with economic and functional issues across major paper grades. Its findings were extensively peer-reviewed by scientists, academics, environmental experts, and government and industry representatives.”

<sup>xiii</sup> Agricultural Residues are residues left over from food production or other processes and using them maximizes the lifecycle of the fibre. Fibres include: cereal straws like wheat straw, rice straw, seed flax straw, corn stalks, sorghum stalks, sugar cane bagasse, and rye seed grass straw. Where the LCA (life cycle analysis) shows environmental benefits and conversion of forestland to on purpose crops is not an issue, kenaf and other on purpose crops can also be included here. (Agricultural residues are not from on purpose crops that replace forest stands or food crops.)