



Paper policy guidance

for suppliers of
Springer Nature

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PAPER POLICY: GUIDANCE FOR SUPPLIERS

In support of the commitments made in our Code of Conduct and Business Partner Code to sustainability and environmental protection, Springer Nature’s Environment Committee have confirmed the company is committed to only use paper from sustainable sources. By this, we mean paper with certified content, starred 3 or 5 in the PREPs database wherever possible. This has now been formalised as policy applying across the Springer Nature Group.

In this document we explain what this means, how our suppliers can comply and what information we need from our suppliers to monitor compliance with the policy.

BACKGROUND

Springer Nature takes its responsibilities as a Responsible Business seriously.

As set out in the [Springer Nature Business Partner Code of Conduct](#) we consider sustainability and social responsibility to be an essential part of the way we work and they are among the principal factors we will take into account of in our procurement decisions, together with cost, quality and reliability. Our Business Partners are required to meet all legal standards and are encouraged to exceed them in the areas of human rights, labour conditions, health and safety, anti-corruption and environmental protection. Business Partners are also expected to take steps to ensure compliance with these standards within their own supply chains

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Springer Nature is committed to conducting our business in an environmentally responsible manner and to minimizing our environmental impact. Our Business Partners are expected to use natural resources responsibly and to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and standards to protect the environment.

RESPONSIBLY SOURCED PAPER

As a publisher, the paper used in our products is deemed a relevant environmental impact of our business.

Springer Nature recognises the impact that deforestation has on biodiversity and on carbon emissions. We aim to positively contribute to a more sustainable market for timber and paper to avoid these negative impacts.

We do not manufacture products ourselves and much of the paper used in our products is not directly sourced by us; our books and journals are printed by our third-party suppliers. We will work with our suppliers to assure ourselves that the paper used in our products comes from sustainable sources.

Springer Nature is a member of the Book Chain Project, a joint initiative of more than 20 publishers, which supports publishers in understanding the origins of, and forest-management practices for, the wood fibre used in papers and boards. We use this to guide compliance with our commitments. The Book Chain Project uses a database called PREPs, to assess responsible forest sources for paper brands, using analysis to link paper back to trees from which the source timber was harvested.

Springer Nature's policy is to buy paper with certified content, starred 3 or 5 in the PREPs database wherever possible. The next section of this document explains what this means and how our suppliers can comply with this below.

We are working with our current printers and paper suppliers and will be reporting on the proportion of paper used that meets this standard.

WHAT OUR PAPER POLICY MEANS

We want to ensure that the paper used in our products comes from certified and well-managed forests and not from unsustainable sources that may contribute to deforestation or biodiversity destruction. This is why we require that paper used in our products meets relevant standards.

As members of the Book Chain Project, we make use of their PREPs database to identify whether papers that are used for our products meet the standards we expect. We will use papers graded 3* or 5* in the PREPs database wherever possible and seek to report on the proportion of paper that meets this standard on an annual basis. Some papers are not yet graded by PREPs and we will work towards reducing the use of ungraded papers.

HOW WE WILL ASSESS WHETHER A PAPER COMPLIES WITH THE POLICY?

Paper certified by the following schemes automatically meet our policy and can be used in our products:

- The Forest Stewardship Council schemes (FSC)
- The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC)
- The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and other PEFC recognised schemes.

Any papers that do not meet these standards must be reported to your usual Springer Nature contact so they can be checked for compliance with the policy before printing begins. We will then use the PREPs database to confirm if the paper can be used.

If you are also a member of the Book Chain Project you can also use the database to do this check.

- If the paper is graded 3* or 5* in the PREPs database we will confirm that it can be used for our products.
- If the paper is graded 1* in the PREPs database it is not compliant and we will ask you to propose an alternative paper. If this is not possible within the required timescales, we will follow a process of 'exception and approval', which requires the use of this paper to be signed off at a senior level within Springer Nature before it is used. This may result in the paper not being approved for use in our product.
- If the paper is not yet graded by PREPs we will ask you for alternatives that may already be graded or if this is not possible, we will follow the 'exception and approval' process, which requires the use of this paper to be signed off at a senior level within Springer Nature before it is used. We will then work with you to get the paper assessed by PREPs and added to the database. The grading may find that the paper is not compliant with the policy and cannot be used in future.

For more information about the Book Chain Project and PREPs see here:

<https://bookchainproject.com/how>

Consider becoming a member of PREPs so that you can have direct access to the PREPs database.

More information here: <https://bookchainproject.com/participate>

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM PRINT SUPPLIERS

So that we can assess compliance with the paper policy, we need to collect data from our suppliers so that we can assure ourselves that the paper comes from sustainable sources.

Information we will request from suppliers includes:

- Information about the paper brand names used for products you supply
- Information about the volume (in tons) of each paper type used for our products
- Information about the suppliers of paper to you – i.e. mill/mill group.
- Information about the sustainability credentials of this paper, where this is available (note: if this information is not available, we will work with you to ensure our paper policy is followed).

Your usual contact at Springer Nature will request this information from you, annually.

If your systems do not hold all of this information, please contact us (via your usual Springer Nature contact) and we will work with you to agree the best way to provide the information we need.

IN SUMMARY

- Use paper certified by a recognised scheme where possible (e.g. a paper that is certified by the following schemes: FSC, PEFC or other PEFC recognised schemes such as SFI).
- Where paper is not certified we will need additional information from you so we can see if it complies with policy.
- Provide us with information as requested so that we can confirm the sustainability credentials of the paper used for our products.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Any questions about this policy should be directed to your usual Springer Nature contact, or can be forwarded to centralpurchasing@springernature.com