

INT-FSC-STD-VN-01-2018-01

Normative reference	FSC-STD-VN-01-2018, Indicator 10.5.1 and 10.11.3
	FSC-STD-RAP-VNM-01-2022, Indicator 10.5.1 and 10.11.3
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1. Do burning activities by smallholders in regions of Vietnam, where fires do not belong to the natural ecosystem, always constitute a violation of the FSC requirements on ecologically appropriate silvicultural practices and left-over decaying biomass?

No, burning activities by smallholders do not always constitute a violation of indicators 10.5.1 and 10.11.3 in <FSC-STD-VN-01-2018> and in <FSC-STD-RAP-VNM-01-2022>.

Burning for site preparation is not considered a violation of FSC requirements provided that:

- 1) Burning activities are not prohibited by national law or by the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard;
- 2) Burning activities are applied by a small-scale smallholder belonging to a certified forest management group;
- 3) The Group entity and respective authorities are informed about burning activities in advance;
- 4) Burning activities are conducted under the supervision of the Group entity;
- 5) Burning activities follow the guidance issued by the local recognized institutions (e.g. ministries);
- 6) The small-scale smallholder has received adequate training to apply controlled burning methods;
- 7) Burning is applied only once at the beginning of the rotation period;
- 8) Burning is only applied on production forests and not in any protected area;
- 9) Conservation of environmental values is not threatened by the extent of the burned area (in hectares), nor by the intensity of burning in terms of retained biomass;
- 10) Functional protection measures are in place to prevent the fire entering buffer zones, riparian zones, representative sample areas, and human residential area such as houses and villages;
- 11) Damage to other products and services is avoided; and
- 12) The Group entity is aiming at minimizing and avoiding burning activities where possible.