

**Introduction to PEFC Standards
Revision in 2013–2014**

27.10.2014

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PEFC Finland

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1. Background

The objective of forest certification is to guide forest management and use towards economic, ecological and cultural sustainability through market-driven mechanisms, and thus also promote the marketing of products made out of wood of a legal sustainably managed origin.

Forest certification started in Finland in 1999 with the introduction of the first forest certification criteria (SMS standards) contributing to sustainable forest management. The criteria were developed by a broad-based stakeholder process. The criteria were revised in 2002–2003 and published as Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS) Standards, as well as in 2008–2009 and published as PEFC FI standards that entered into force in 2011.

Finnish Forest Certification System has been managed since 1999 by an advisory board of forest certification. In 2000 Finnish Forest Certification Council was established to continue the board's work and since 2008 the council has been called PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council.

2. Revision of standards in 2013-2014

PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council initiated the revision of standards and related requirements used in PEFC forest certification system for sustainable management and use of forests and on 13.2.2013 called for the parties interested in sustainable management and use of forests to form a Standard Setting Working Group to revision the forest management criteria (Annex 1). The invited parties were identified on the basis of a survey of stakeholders and of the key stakeholders' opportunities for participation.

The revision of standards was preceded by a public PEFC work shop focusing on general expectations on forest use and on services forests can provide. The work shop was organized by PEFC Finland in March 2013. In May 2013 PEFC Finland organized a briefing session about the revision of standards and informed on the possibility of all the parties interested in forest management to participate in standard development.

PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council gave an assignment to the forest certification Standard Setting Working Group which included Working Group's task, and set the deadline and intermediate goals for the assignment. The working group worked according to the action plan conforming to the requirements set for standard setting in PEFC FI 1006:2008 standard.

The aim of the standard revision was to conform to the substantive requirements of the related international PEFC standards and to form a balanced standard on sustainable forest management comprising ecological, economic and social elements and reflecting visions of various interest groups in such a way that a final result would be viable in the operational environment of the Finnish forest sector of the second half of 2010s.

A total of nearly 50 actors participated in the work of the forest certification Standard Setting Working Group and these actors represented well the different interest groups of forest management (Annex 1). During the course of its work the working group carried out expert consultations about forest ecology and biodiversity, economic aspects of wood production, social aspects and multiple use of forests. The working group had members from different occupational groups, age groups and from both sexes. It worked according to the assignment given to it and made decisions based on a consensus. Issues were prepared by a working committee nominated by the Standard Setting

Working Group. The working committee was formed by eight members of the Standard Setting Working Group as well as a chair and a secretary. Theme-specific issues (Northern Finland, working life, multiple use of forests and environmental criteria) were prepared in four sub-groups.

Minutes of working group meetings, draft versions of standards and other materials were displayed on the Internet page designated for the use of the Standard Setting Working Group. The materials were accessible also for other users. The Standard Setting Working Group regularly informed the public on different phases and progress of the work with a total of eight newsletters. Draft standard versions prepared by the working group were publicly available for public consultation in December-January 2013-14 and April 2014 for 60 days altogether. A public seminar was held during the first consultation period.

The working group took notice of all comments it received and responded in writing to the comments received from individual people and other parties not belonging to the Standard Setting Working Group. The comments received from the Standard Working Group members were discussed in the working group meetings.

The Standard Setting Working Group for forest certification unanimously approved of the final draft standard of PEFC FI 1002:2014 on 12.6.2014 and submitted the standard drafts and other documents related to standard setting to PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council on 23.6.2014.

PEFC Finland updated the documents on vocabulary, implementation and requirements for certification.

The revision work resulted that the number of PEFC FI standards was cut from seven to five because standards for group certification (PEFC FI 1002:2009) and certification of individual forest owners (PEFC FI 1003:2009) earlier described in different standards, were combined into a single document (PEFC FI 1002:2014). The requirements related to regional councils of forest certification (PEFC FI 1004:2009) were also included into the standard on implementation of forest certification (PEFC FI 1001:2014).

PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council concluded in the meeting held on 27.10.2014 that the Standard Setting Working Group had completed its work according to the requirements set for revision of criteria for forest certification and decided that PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council would submit documents of the Finnish PEFC system to the international evaluation and approval process of the PEFC Council.

3. Finnish PEFC standards

The Finnish PEFC forest certification system includes five updated standards:

- PEFC FI 1000:2014; PEFC Forest Certification Vocabulary
- PEFC FI 1001:2014; Implementation of the PEFC Forest Certification System
- PEFC FI 1002:2014; Criteria for PEFC Forest Certification
- PEFC FI 1005:2014; PEFC's Qualification Criteria for Certification Bodies and Certification Procedures
- PEFC FI 1006:2014; Standard Setting Process for PEFC Forest Certification

4. Standards for forest certification and their use

The standards for certification of individual forest holdings, group certification and regional group certification are PEFC FI 1001:2014 and PEFC FI 1002:2014.

International approval by PEFC Council for the revised Finnish PEFC FI standards is the precondition for the use of the standards in certification audits.

The transition period for the use of the revised standards is one year, at the maximum, after publishing the endorsement of the PEFC Council.

Annex 1. Forest certification Standard Setting Working Group in 2013-2014

Standard Setting Working Group member organisations – Participation on the basis of invitation on 13 February 2013 and Standard Setting Working Group's own decisions.	Organisation's representative / deputy
The Bioenergy Association of Finland	Tage Fredrisson / Jyrki Peisa
Finnish Energy Industries	Jukka Makkonen / -
Association of Jointly Owned Forests of Southern Finland	Pauli Sibakov / Juha Simola
Association of Finnish Forest Estate Owners	Jaakko Temmes / Rauno Numminen / Juha Nikula
Federation of the Printing Industry	Lasse Krogell / -
Infra ry	Eija Ehrukainen / Magnus Frisk
Finnish Christmas Tree Growers Association	Päivi Rajakari / Heini Katajisto
The Chemical Industry Federation of Finland	Petri Kortejärvi / -
Church Council (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland)	Harri Palo / Ilkka Sipiläinen
The Trade Association of Finnish Forestry and Earth Moving Contractors	Ville Manner / Aku Mäkelä
The Consumers' Union of Finland	Juha Beurling / Jenni Vainioranta
Local government sector	Risto Laukas / Kari Tornainen
The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners	Lea Jylhä / Anssi Kainulainen
The Martha Organization	Asta Kuosmanen / -
METO - Forestry Experts' Association	Erkki Eteläaho / Ilpo Puputti
METO – Forestry Entrepreneurs' Association	Tuomo Turunen / Timo Rajajärvi
Metsä Group	Janne Soimasuo / Jussi Ripatti
Association of Forest Industry Road Carriers	Kari Palojärvi / Jouni Bergroth
Metsähallitus	Juhani Karjalainen / Antti Otsamo
The Society of Finnish Professional Foresters	Jukka Sippola / Tapio Hankala
Forest Management Associations Services MHYP Oy – Forest Management Associations	Petri Pajunen / Petra Huupponen
Finnish Forest Industries Federation / The Association of Finnish Furniture and Joinery Industries	Anu Islander / Karoliina Niemi
MTK's forest delegation / Forest Owners' Unions	Auvo Heikkilä / Jukka Hujala
Reindeer Herders' Association	Sanna Hast / Anne Ollila
Association of Jointly Owned Forests of Northern Finland	Jarmo Korhonen / Markus Laatikainen
The Wood and Allied Workers' Union	Harri Häkkinen /Aleksi Kuusisto
The Association of Finnish Woodworking and Furniture Industries	Tapani Tuohiniemi / Janne Liias
Finnish Hardware Association (DIY)	Kari Kulmala (until 31.7.2013), Harri Fagerlund (from 1.8.2013) / -
Sámi Parliament	Klemetti Näkkäljärvi / -
The Association of Finnish Small-scale Sawmilling Entrepreneurs	Eero Koskela / Heikki Rytönen
Stora Enso Wood Supply Finland	Pasi Lehtosaari / Tuukka Kataja
The Finnish 4H Federation	Juha Ruuska / Helena Herttuainen
The Outdoor Association of Finland	Anne Rautiainen / -
The Finnish Nature-based Entrepreneurship Association	Juha Rutanen / Anne Matilainen
Finnish Hunters' Association	Tero Saarikko / -
The Guides and Scouts of Finland	Panu Räsänen / -
Hunters' Central Organization	Marko Svensberg / -
Finnish Sawmills Association	Kai Merivuori / -
Finnish Federation for Recreational Fishing	Ilkka Mäkelä / Juha Ojajarju
The Central Union of Swedish-speaking Agricultural Producers in Finland (SLC)	Stefan Borgman / Fredrik Granberg
Tornator Oyj	Tuija Luukkanen / Maarit Sallinen
UPM Kymmene Forest	Juha-Matti Valonen / Matti Yläne
Finnish Curly Birch Society	Antti Koskimäki / Antti Sipilä
The Finnish Union of Environmental Professionals	Pekka Ihalainen / Tero Sipilä

External expert organisations (with no voting rights)	Organisation's representative / deputy
National Board of Antiquities	Päivi Maaranen / -
The Finnish Forest Centre	Jouni Rantala / -
PEFC Finland	Auvo Kaivola / Simo Jaakkola

Chair of the Standard Setting Working Group:	Jarmo Ratia, former Director General of National Survey of Finland
Secretary of the Standard Setting Working Group:	Kalle Vanhatalo, Forestry Development Centre TAPIO
Working Committee members / deputies:	Ville Manner / Aku Mäkelä Lea Jylhä / - Juhani Karjalainen / - Anu Islander / - Erkki Eteläaho / - Anne Rautiainen / Juha Rutanen Tage Fredriksson / Jouko Rämö Pauli Sibakov / Juha Simola

Other organisations invited on February 13th 2013 to participate in the Standard Setting Working Group:
BirdLife Finland
Dodo ry
Finnish Business & Society (FiBS)
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
L&T Biowatti Oy
Nature League
Organic Farmers' Union of Finland
Technology for Life
The Association for Finnish Work
The Finnish Association for Environmental Education
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
The Finnish Orienteering Federation
The Finnish Paper Workers' Union
The Finnish Society of Forest Science
The Finnish Society for Nature and Environment
WWF Finland