



(PEFC FI 1000:2022)

## Forest certification vocabulary



PEFC STANDARD  
IN ENGLISH

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## Foreword

PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an international forest certification system promoting ecologically, socially, economically and culturally sustainable forest management through forest management certification, chain of custody certification and labelling of forest-based products originating in certified forests.

Forest certification verifies the sustainable management and use of forests. PEFC certification supports society's goals for the sustainable use of forests and offers citizens a wide range of opportunities to enjoy forests. For companies and consumers PEFC assures the responsible origin of forest products.

PEFC Finland - Finnish Forest Certification Council promotes and governs PEFC certification in Finland and organises the standard setting of sustainable forest management in an open, transparent, consultative and consensus-based stakeholder process.

The Finnish PEFC system has been approved by the international PEFC since 2000.

Acceptance by the international PEFC requires that the national forest certification system meets the requirements of PEFC's international standards and governance.

This standard is part of the series of PEFC FI standards owned by PEFC Finland.

This document replaces any previous versions of PEFC FI 1000 standard.

This standard is used in conjunction of PEFC FI 1001, PEFC FI 1002 and PEFC FI 1005 standards.

## Introduction

Forest certification confirms that management on the defined forest area is in compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management.

Together with certification of chain of custody of forest-based products the forest certification offers forest owners and other players of the supply chain opportunities to meet with the demands of the product markets.

Terms and definitions play an essential role in implementation of the PEFC requirements and their auditing by an impartial certification body.

## 1. Scope

- 1.1** This document specifies terms and definitions that relating to the PEFC Finland's scheme, its implementation and conformity assessment.
- 1.2** The terms and definitions that are specific to sustainable forest management are not included in this document and are presented in PEFC FI 1002.
- 1.3** The terms and definitions that are specific to standard setting are not included in this document and are presented in PEFC FI 1006.
- 1.4** The terms and definitions that are specific to chain of custody certification are not included in this document and are presented in PEFC ST 2002.
- 1.5** The definitions relating to conformity assessment defined in ISO/IEC 17000 and ISO /IEC 17021-1 apply for the PEFC Finland's scheme.

## 2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document.

- PEFC FI 1001
- PEFC FI 1002
- PEFC FI 1005
- PEFC FI 1006
- PEFC ST 2002
- ISO / IEC 17000
- ISO / IEC 17021-1

For both dated and undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendment) applies.

## 3. Terms and definitions

### **Accredited certificate**

A certificate issued by a certification body within the scope of its accreditation which bears the accreditation body's symbol.

### **Applicant**

An applicant is a legal person (an individual or an organisation) that applies for a forest management certificate or a certificate for the verification of chain of custody of forest based products.

### **Certification group**

A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification. A binding written agreement shall be established between a participant and the group entity.

NOTE 1: The term “certification group” is equivalent to the term “regional certification group” used in PEFC FI 1001.

### **Certification requirements**

Applicable requirements for sustainable forest management defined in PEFC FI 1002 standard and applicable requirements for group certification defined in PEFC FI 1001 standard.

### **Certified area**

An area of forestry land and other forested lands covered by forest certificate.

NOTE 1: Forestry land includes forest land (i.e. land with a high potential of annual increment of growing stock), poorly productive forest land (i.e. scrubland), unproductive land (i.e. nearly treeless forestry lands) and other forestry land (i.e. forest vehicle roads and other forestry maintenance areas). Individual categories of forestry land are defined by the Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE).

NOTE 2: Other forested lands cover e.g. Christmas tree plantations on agricultural land.

NOTE 3: In the (regional) group certification context, the certified area is the sum of areas of forest estates of the participating forest owners / managers that are covered by a (regional) group forest management certificate.

NOTE 4: The holder of the forest management certificate maintains the data concerning the certified area. Certification covers the whole forest area of each forest estate.

### **Continual improvement**

A process of enhancing the management system and performance to achieve improvements in economic, environmental and social aspects of forest management.

### **Confirmation of participation**

A document made available to a participant that refers to the forest management certificate of a certification group and that confirms the participant as being covered by the scope of the group forest management certificate.

### **Documented information**

Information required to be controlled and maintained by an organization using any format and media, from any source.

### **Environmental impact**

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services. [source: ISO/IEC 14004]

### **Environmental management system**

That part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy of an organization. [source ISO / IEC 14004]

### **Environment**

Surroundings in which an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation. [source ISO / IEC 14004]

### **Forest certification scheme**

Set of standards, guidelines and rules covering the use and management of forest, verification of chain of custody for wood (where applicable), certification arrangements and procedures and competence requirements for certification bodies.

### **Forest certification**

A procedure, including a written third-party assurance, on the conformity of forestry operations to the criteria of a forest management standard.

### **Forest management certificate**

A document confirming compliance with the requirements of a sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system.

NOTE 1: In case of (regional) group certification, the forest management certificate confirms compliance of the whole certification group and is issued to the group entity.

### **Forest owner / manager**

An individual or an organisation that has the registered property rights over a forest area and other similar bodies which have a right to make decisions regarding forest management.

### **Group entity**

A legal entity that represents the participants, with overall responsibility for ensuring the conformity of forest management in the certified area to the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system.

NOTE 1: The group entity becomes an applicant for forest management certification and a holder of the forest management certificate.

NOTE 2: A single group entity may represent several certification groups.

NOTE 3: The term “group entity” is equivalent to the term “regional group entity” used in PEFC FI 1001

### **Group forest certification**

Certification of the certification group under one group forest management certificate.

NOTE 1: The term “group forest certification” is equivalent to the term “Regional group forest certification” used in PEFC FI 1001.

### **Indicator**

A quantitative or qualitative parameter which can be assessed in relation to a criterion or a part of a criterion.

### **Labelling**

Usage of labels (on- or off-product labels) in connection with products in order to communicate their properties.

### **Label**

A label/logo (expressing a claim) attached to a product or product package with the purpose of promoting marketing (on-product label). A label not attached to a product (off-product label) conveys information on the quality and classification of a product batch through documents related to the product.

### **Origin**

The source of raw material, raw material type, product or similar (e.g. forest, logging site, storage site, organisation or country).

### **PEFC chain of custody**

Processes of an organisation for handling forest and tree based products and information related to their material category, and making accurate and verifiable PEFC claims.  
[source: PEFC ST 2002:2020]

### **PEFC notification**

An agreement between a certification body and PEFC organisation that indicates the recognition of a certification body for PEFC certification and specifies mutual responsibilities between a certification body and PEFC governing body.



### **PEFC recognized certificate**

- a) A valid accredited forest management certificate issued by a PEFC notified certification body against a forest management system/standard that is endorsed by PEFC.
- b) A valid accredited chain of custody certificate issued by a PEFC notified certification body against this standard or another chain of custody standard that is endorsed by PEFC.

NOTE 1: PEFC endorsed forest certification systems and chain of custody standards are found at the PEFC website.

NOTE 2: In case of a group or multi-site certificate where it is confirmed in a separate document, such as an appendix to the certificate or a sub-certificate, that a site or a group participant is covered by the certificate, the separate document and the certificate together are considered the site's/participant's PEFC recognised certificate.

[source: PEFC ST 2002:2020]

### **Participant**

A forest owner/manager covered by the group forest management certificate, who has the ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard in a certified area, and other actors affecting compliance with the sustainable forest management requirements and enabling implementation of the group certification.

NOTE 1: The term “ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard” requires the entity to have a long-term legal right, tenure right or traditional or customary tenure rights to manage the forest.

NOTE 2: Other actors, such as entrepreneurs or forest industry procuring raw material do not have the long-term rights to manage the forest but their activities and responsibilities on the certified area have direct impact on compliance with the SFM requirements. Participation of “other actors” in the group forest certification does not allow those entities to sell raw material as PEFC certified without a valid PEFC chain of custody certification.

### **Sustainable forestry**

Management and use of forests and forest lands in a way that preserves their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, and potential to implement relevant ecological, economic and social functions in local, national and global level today and in the future; as well as in a way that does not cause harm to other ecosystems. [source: MCPFE – Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe]