

## **PEFC Forest Certification Standard Setting Working Group PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council**

### **The revision of the PEFC forest certification criteria is completed**

The PEFC Forest Certification Standard Setting Working Group approved unanimously the revised forest management requirements for PEFC forest certification in Finland. The Working Group consisting of 40 different parties with an interest in forests and their sustainable management (annex 1) initiated the revision work in September 2008.

*”The new criteria on harvesting of energy wood, multiple use of forests and the employment of foreign workers reflect the recent changes in the operational environment for forestry sector. Also the role of forests in carbon sequestration has been emphasised (in the current standard)”* says Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi, the chairperson of the Standard Setting Working Group. The certification requirements are listed in 29 criteria (annex 2), which together define the standard for ecologically, socially, culturally and economically sustainable forest management in PEFC certified forests.

*”The finalisation of the criteria is an important benchmark in the revision of the Finnish PEFC system. The standard indicates explicitly the general objectives of forestry in Finland”* states Ms. Ritva Toivonen, the chairperson of PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council, who received the revised criteria from the Working Group.

The revised criteria and other system documents will be sent to the international PEFC in autumn 2009 for evaluation and re-endorsement. The revised standards will be implemented in forest management after the PEFC endorsement and independent certification bodies will assess the conformity to it in the audits of the year 2011.

More information:

Martti Kuusinen, Secretary of the Standard Setting Working Group  
Tel: +358 20 772 9050, [martti.kuusinen@tapio.fi](mailto:martti.kuusinen@tapio.fi)

Auvo Kaivola, Secretary General of the PEFC Finland  
Tel: +358 400 765 437, [auvo.kaivola@pefc.fi](mailto:auvo.kaivola@pefc.fi)

- the revised PEFC criteria in Finland:  
[www.pefc.fi](http://www.pefc.fi) -> News -> Standard revision 2008-09.

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) is an organisation for the international approval of national forest certification schemes. PEFC is the leading forest certification system, with over 222 million hectares of certified forests in 19 countries in Europe, North America, South America and Australia. More than 4 900 PEFC-certified chain-of-custody systems are in use covering processing and marketing of wood-based and paper products in different countries. ([www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org))

PEFC Finland is a member of the PEFC Council. In Finland independent certification bodies issued first PEFC certificates in 1999. More than 95 % of Finland’s forests are PEFC-certified. In Finland most of the pulp, paper and wood-based products are manufactured in plants that are covered by PEFC chain-of-custody certificates. ([www.pefc.fi](http://www.pefc.fi))

## Annex 1. Participation in the Standard Setting Working Group

### Organisations that registered and participated in the Standard Setting Working Group in 2008-2009 (name in Finnish):

- FINBIO Finnish Bioenergy Association (FINBIO – Suomen Bioenergiayhdistys)
  - Federation of the Printing Industry (Graafinen teollisuus ry)
  - KTT Finnish printing industry's employers union (Kirjapainoteollisuuden työnantajaliitto ry KTT)
  - Ecclesiastical Board / Church of Finland (Kirkkohallitus)
  - Trade Association of Finnish Forestry and Earth Moving Contractors (Koneyrittäjien Liitto ry)
  - League of Organic Farming (Luomuliitto ry)
  - L&T Biowatti Oy
  - Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners MTK
  - METO - Forestry Experts Association (METO - Metsäalan Asiantuntijat ry)
  - Timber Truck Transport Entrepreneurs (Metsäalan Kuljetusyrittäjät ry)
  - State Enterprise Metsähallitus
  - Metsäliitto Group (Metsäliitto Osuuskunta)
  - Society of Finnish Professional Foresters (Metsänhoitajaliitto ry)
  - Hunters' Central Organization (Metsästäjien Keskusjärjestö)
  - Finnish Forest Industries Federation (Metsäteollisuus ry)
  - Reindeer Herders' Association (Paliskuntain yhdistys)
  - Finnish Paper Workers' Union (Paperiliitto ry)
  - Finnish Wood Energy Association (Puuenergia ry)
  - Wood and Allied Workers Union (Puu- ja erityisalojen Liitto)
  - Association of Finnish Furniture and Joinery Industries (Puusepänteollisuuden Liitto ry)
  - Wood Working Entrepreneurs (Puuteollisuusyrittäjät ry)
  - Finnish Hardware Association, DIY (RASI ry)
  - Sámi Parliament (Saamelaiskäräjät)
  - Sawing Entrepreneurs (Sahayrittäjät ry)
  - Stora Enso Oyj, Forest (Stora Enso Oyj Metsä)
  - Finnish Consumers' Association (Suomen Kuluttajaliitto ry)
  - Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (Suomen Kuntaliitto)
  - Finnish Ski Track (Suomen Latu ry)
  - Finnish Nature-based Entrepreneurship Association (Suomen luontoyrittäjäyysverkosto ry)
  - Finnish Hunters' Federation (Suomen Metsästäjälitto ry)
  - Finnish Society of Forest Science (Suomen metsätieteellinen seura)
  - Association of Finnish Forest Estate Owners (Suomen metsätilanomistajien liitto ry)
  - Finnish Sawmills (Suomen Sahat ry)
  - Finnish Orienteering Federation (Suomen Suunnistusliitto)
  - Finnish 4 H Federation (Suomen 4H-liitto)
  - Central Union of Swedish Speaking Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners SLC
  - Tornator Oy
  - UPM-Kymmene Oyj, Forest
  - Finnish Union of Environmental Professionals FUEP (Ympäristöasiantuntijoiden Keskusliitto YKL ry)
- 
- Chairperson of the Standard Setting Working Group:**
- Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi, former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment in Finland
- 
- Secretary of the Standard Setting Working Group:**
- Mr. Martti Kuusinen/Forestry Development Centre Tapio
- 
- Invited experts:**
- Mr. Antti Koskimäki/ Häme-Uusimaa Forestry Centre
  - Mr. Auvo Kaivola/ PEFC Finland

## **Annex 2. The titles of the revised PEFC criteria (16.4.2009).**

\*) the criterion applies only to group certification of forest owners

- 1 Legal requirements are complied with
- 2 Tree stands as vital carbon sinks are preserved \*)
- 3 Health of tree stands is safeguarded
- 4 Finnish native tree species are used in forest regeneration
- 5 Energy wood is harvested in a sustainable manner
- 6 Sustainable forest management is promoted through forest management planning
- 7 Seedling stands are tended to secure timber production
- 8 First thinnings and delivery logging in private forests are promoted to improve the growth potential of the tree stands \*)
- 9 Conservation values of protected areas are safeguarded
- 10 Typical features of habitats of special importance are preserved
- 11 Peatland nature is preserved
- 12 Known habitats of endangered species are safeguarded
- 13 Retention and decaying tree stock are left behind the forest management operations
- 14 Genetically modified seed and plant material must not be used
- 15 Forest road plans include an environmental assessment
- 16 Prescribed burning is used to promote biological diversity
- 17 Water protection is safeguarded when working along watercourses and small water bodies
- 18 Water protection is safeguarded in ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching sites
- 19 Quality of groundwater is safeguarded in forest management operations
- 20 Only biodegradable herbicides and pesticides are used in forest management
- 21 Competence of employees is maintained and enhanced
- 22 Occupational health, employees' well-being and equal rights are safeguarded
- 23 Employers adhere to statutory labour obligations
- 24 Forest owners' know-how and skills are enhanced
- 25 Knowledge on forests among children and adolescents is improved \*)
- 26 Rights of access to forests is safeguarded
- 27 Preconditions for multiple use of forests is promoted
- 28 Preconditions for reindeer husbandry is safeguarded
- 29 Sámi culture and the traditional livelihoods is safeguarded in Sámi homelands in accordance with sustainable development defined by the Sámi