

PEFC Finland Document
Introduction to PEFC Standards
Review in 2008–2009

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Review in 2008–2009

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 incentives, and thus also promote the marketing of forest products.

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 reviewed in 2002–2003 and published as Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS) Standards that were introduced in practice in 2005.

FFCS 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. Review of standards in 2008–2009

PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council initiated the review of standards and related requirements used in PEFC forest certification system for sustainable management and use of forests. On June 10th 2008 PEFC Finland called for the parties interested in sustainable management and use of forests to form a Standard Setting Working Group to review the forest management criteria.

The review was done based on the experience gained from the standard implementation during 2005–2008 as well as by taking into consideration the latest relevant research findings and the development of forest and forestry related international processes.

PEFC Finland 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 document.

A total of 39 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). 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 independently, based on a consensus. Specific issues were prepared by a working committee nominated by the Standard Setting Working Group. The working committee was formed by six members of the Standard Setting Working Group as well as a chair and a secretary.

Minutes of working group meetings, draft versions of standards and other materials were available on the Internet. The public was informed regularly on the work of the Standard Setting Working Group for forest certification. Draft versions prepared by the working group were publicly available for comments at the end of 2008 and in February – May 2009, for 60 days altogether. An open seminar was held in Helsinki on December 4th 2008 where 104 people participated and commented the draft. The working group took notice of all comments it received and responded in writing to the comments received from people and other parties not belonging to the Standard Setting Working

Group. The comments received from the working group members were discussed in the working group meetings.

The Standard Setting Working Group for forest certification unanimously approved of the final draft standards of PEFC FI 1002:2009 and PEFC FI 1003:2009 on April 15th 2009 and submitted the standard drafts and other documents related to standard setting to PEFC Finland on April 16th 2009.

PEFC Finland updated the documents on vocabulary, implementation guidelines, regional committees and requirements for certification procedures to ensure a compatibility with standards prepared by the Standard Setting Working Group.

PEFC Finland concluded in a meeting held on June 17th 2009 that the Standard Setting Working Group had completed its work according to the requirements set for standard setting and decided to submit the standards of sustainable forest management and other updated PEFC standards to the international evaluation and approval process.

3. Finnish PEFC standards

Finnish PEFC forest certification system includes seven updated standards:

- PEFC FI 1000:2009; Forest Certification Vocabulary
- PEFC FI 1001:2009; Implementation Levels of the Forest Certification System
- PEFC FI 1002:2009; Criteria for Group Certification; Level of a Forestry Centre or a Forest Management Association
- PEFC FI 1003:2009; Criteria for Certification; Level of Forest Holdings of Individual Owners
- PEFC FI 1004:2009; Regional Committees of Forest Certification
- PEFC FI 1005:2009; Qualification Criteria for Certification Bodies and Certification Procedures
- PEFC FI 1006:2008; Standard Setting Process for Forest Certification

4. Standards for forest certification and their use

The standards for group certification on the level of a forestry centre or a forest management association are PEFC FI 1001:2009 and PEFC FI 1002:2009.

The standards for certification of forest holdings of individual owners are PEFC FI 1001:2009 and PEFC FI 1003:2009.

International PEFC approval for the revised Finnish PEFC standards is the precondition for the application of the standards in certification audits.

Regarding certificates issued before January 1st 2010, the revised standards shall be used as a reference base in re-audits and yearly audits no later than a year after their endorsement by PEFC Council.

Annex 1. Forest certification Standard Setting Working Group in 2008–2009

Members of the Standard Setting Working Group

Organisations that took part in the work of the PEFC Standard Setting Working Group between September 23rd 2008 and April 15th 2009 on the basis of invitation on June 10th 2008 and on Standard Setting Working Group's own decisions.	Representative of the organisation
FINBIO – The Bioenergy Association of Finland	Pekka-Juhani Kuitto
Federation of the Printing Industry	Anne Mähönen
Printing Manufacturers' Federation	Maija Piiparinen
Church Council	Harri Palo
The Trade Association of Finnish Forestry and Earth Moving Contractors	Simo Jaakkola
Organic Farmers' Union of Finland	Visa Vilkuna
L&T Biowatti Oy (joined the working group on January 28th 2009)	Tomi Vartiamäki
The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners	Timo Nyrhinen
METO - Forestry Experts' Association	Jarmo Sulopuisto
Association of Forest Industry Road Carriers	Kari Palojärvi
Metsähallitus (Forest and Park Service)	Juhani Karjalainen
Metsäliitto Group	Janne Soimasuo
The Society of Finnish Professional Foresters	Jukka Sippola
Hunters' Central Organization	Jari Pigg
Finnish Forest Industries Federation	Antti Otsamo
Reindeer Herders' Association	Pertti Viik
The Finnish Paper Workers' Union	Sauli Kovanen
Finnish Wood Energy Association	Tage Fredriksson
The Wood and Allied Workers' Union	Sakari Lepola
The Association of Finnish Furniture and Joinery Industries	Ari Ilomäki
The Association of Finnish Woodworking and Furniture Industries	Tapani Tuohiniemi
Finnish Hardware Association (DIY)	Kari Kulmala
Sámi Parliament	Klemetti Näkkäläjärvi
The Association of Finnish Small-scale Sawmilling Entrepreneurs	Eero Koskela
Stora Enso Wood Supply Finland	Pekka Kallio-Mannila
The Finnish Consumers' Association	Juha Beurling
Central Association for Recreational Sports and Outdoor Activities of Finland	Anne Rautiainen
The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	Vesa Koskikallio
Finnish Nature-based Entrepreneurship Association	Juha Rutanen
Finnish Hunters' Association	Anna Tuhti
The Finnish Society of Forest Science	Anne Toppinen
Association of Finnish Forest Estate Owners	Rauno Numminen
Finnish Sawmills Association	Hannu Virranniemi
The Finnish Orienteering Federation	Mika Kulmala
The Finnish 4H Federation	Juha Ruuska
The Central Union of Swedish-speaking Agricultural Producers in Finland (SLC)	Magnus Wiksten
Tornator Oy	Maarit Sallinen
UPM Kymmene Forest	Timo Lehesvirta
The Finnish Union of Environmental Professionals (FUEP)	Kati Vierikko

Chair, secretary and external experts
in the Standard Setting Working Group

<p>Chair: Sirkka Hautojärvi (former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment in Finland)</p>
<p>Secretary: Martti Kuusinen, Forestry Development Centre Tapio</p>
<p>External experts (no voting right): Antti Koskimäki, Forestry Centre of Häme-Uusimaa Auvo Kaivola, PEFC Finland</p>

Other organisations invited on June 10th to participate
in the Standard Setting Working Group:

BirdLife Finland
Greenpeace
Kuluttajat-Konsumenterna ry (Consumer organization)
Nature League
Finnish Tourist Board
The Finnish Society for Nature and Environment
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Finnish Scouts
WWF Finland