

PEFC Finland Standard
Criteria for Certification; Level of Forest
Holdings of Individual Owners

PEFC FI 1003:2009

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**Criteria for Certification;
Level of Forest Holdings of Individual Owners**

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1. Introduction

This standard is part of a series of seven Finnish PEFC forest certification standards. The series follows the SMS standard series drafted in 1997 and 1998 and FFCS standard series drafted in 2002 and 2003. Finnish PEFC standard series will be implemented after the endorsement of the PEFC Council taking into consideration the timelines of the transition periods.

Other standards of the Finnish PEFC standard series cover vocabulary, implementation and criteria, certification procedures and criteria setting.

PEFC Finland manages the Finnish PEFC standard series and owns the standards.

2. Purpose and Scope of Application

This English translation is based on the original Finnish PEFC forest certification standard PEFC FI 1002:2009 that was agreed upon by the PEFC Standard Setting Working Group on 15.4.2009 and by PEFC Finland on 17.6.2009. The Finnish original standard applies in case of interpretational dispute.

The original Finnish standard and its English and Swedish translations are available from PEFC Finland website or upon request.

The standard includes the criteria for the management and use of forests in certification of forest holding of individual owners.

Introduction to the standard describes the significance of forests and objectives of forest use as well as the existing information base and steering mechanisms in Finland.

The standard shall be used together with standard PEFC FI 1001:2009.

3. References

This standard is used together with other standards belonging to the Finnish PEFC certification system:

- 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. Terms and Definitions

The terminology on PEFC certification in Finland is included in standard PEFC FI 1000:2009; Forest Certification Vocabulary.

5. Introduction to Management and Use of Forests in Finland in 2008

5.1 Significance of Forests in Finland

Finland is the most forest covered country in the world

In Finland about three-quarters of the land area, which is equivalent to about 23 million hectares of land, is covered by forests. In addition, Finland has over three million hectares of low density forestry land area such as treeless mires and rocky terrains. Finland lies mostly in the boreal coniferous zone which explains the smaller number of natural forest species compared to more southern vegetation zones. Four coniferous tree species and nearly 30 broad-leaved tree species and woody shrubs grow wild in Finland. Coniferous trees are dominant in Finland's forests where broad-leaved trees often grow as associated species.

The total growing stock volume in Finnish forests is 2 200 million cubic meters and the total annual increment of growing stock is approximately 100 million cubic meters. Over the past 30 years the annual increment of growing stock has exceeded the drain with approximately one quarter. Finnish forests have currently more wood than ever since the systematic follow-up of forest resources started in 1920.

Forests have a long history of use

Human impact on forests in Finland has been extensive and long-lasting. Forests have had an impact on people's livelihood and spiritual well-being for longer than in any other place in Europe. This has had and still has an impact on Finnish culture and arts. Legislation regulating the use of Finnish forests dates back to the beginning of the 18th century. The use and exploitation of forests has gradually developed through hunting and fishing as well as slash-and-burn economy towards the current, multipurpose use of forests.

The long-term sustainable use of forests has been targeted in Finland since the 1940s. State authorities, legislation, national and regional forest programmes as well as the activities and cooperation of private forest owners have all supported sustainable forestry. Due to the long history of forest use, hardly any pristine forests remain in Finland. Pristine forests exist only in some peatlands in Lapland and Eastern Finland. Finnish forests are regenerated with natural, domestic tree species and the development of mixed stands is promoted in forest management operations. Intensively managed one-species tree plantations do not exist in Finland.

Forests are predominantly owned by private persons and families

In Finland private persons and families own the majority of forest as is the situation in many other Western European countries. Private forest ownership is mainly 'family forestry'. Privately owned forests are often small in size. There are 443 000 forest holdings with over two hectares of forest area. The amount of forest owners is higher than the amount of forest holdings since spouses often

own forest together and with their children. It is estimated that 920 000 persons own at least two hectares of forest. The average size of a forest holding is 36 hectares.

Table 1. Ownership of forests and growing stock in Finland

Group of forest owners	Forest land (%)	Growing stock (%)	Annual growth (%)	Harvest (%)
Private	60	64	69	86
State	26	20	14	8
Companies	9	10	11	6
Other (municipalities, congregations, communities)	5	6	6	(share included in private lands)

Forestry and forest industry are important sources of employment (Criterion 21–23)

Forestry, forest industry and related small entrepreneurship are significant employers and important to the vitality and regional economy of rural areas. The significance is even greater in sparsely populated areas outside population centres.

Forestry and forest industry employ approximately 89 000 people and three-quarters of them work for forest industry. Forestry and related businesses employ approximately 23 000 people out of which a considerable proportion work for small contract and transporting enterprises. In addition, forest owners and their family members give a considerable contribution to the forest management and silvicultural works.

Forest industry manufactures products for export markets

Finland is the most forest dependent country in the world and also leans the most on forest sector activities in its economy. Forestry and forest industry account for approximately six per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Forest industry enterprises own only nine per cent of forestry land and thus forest industry is not a significant land owner in Finland. Industrial wood is mostly procured from private forests.

The great majority of forest industry products are exported. The most important market area for forest industry products is the European Union where nearly 70 % of the products are exported to.

Importance of wood-based energy production increases (Criterion 5)

The share of wood-based fuel of Finnish energy consumption is approximately 20 % which is five times more than in other EU countries in general. Forest industry produces the largest share of wood-based energy and about 80 % of bioenergy. The side products of wood processing are used for energy production in forest industry. Wood, bark and wood chips originating from branches, stumps, crowns and wood from the first thinnings of young stands not suitable for wood processing are used for the same purpose. The aim is to triple the use of wood chips by 2020. Wood energy and forest industry have thus a significant role to play in achieving the production goals for renewable energy set in the EU. Energy wood is also used more than before especially in household heating.

5.2 Objectives of Forest Use in Finland

The main objective of forest management is sustainable wood production (Criterion 2–8)

The objective of forest management is to secure the production of high quality wood stocks, the biological diversity of forests and the preconditions for different forms of forest use.

Forest economy and management in Finland is based on forest stands which are characteristically grown in an even-aged structure. Growing period and regeneration period are clearly separated in forest management. The recommended growing period of a tree stand varies between 50 and 120 years depending on tree species, geographical location and site conditions.

In natural regeneration, seed and shelter trees are left in regeneration sites to provide natural seed rain. If a forest stand is regenerated by seeding or planting, tree stand is removed in the final harvest before artificial regeneration. The aim is to have within reasonable time a fully productive stand with tree species suitable for a specific site. The majority of forest regeneration in Finland takes place naturally. Approximately 30 % of Finland's forests have been regenerated artificially by seeding or planting and even in these forests there are plenty of natural seedlings.

Biodiversity of forests is protected in many ways (Criterion 9–16)

Special attention is currently paid to forest protection as well as safeguarding the biodiversity of production forests. Protected forests account for 9 % of the forest area in Finland which is altogether 2.1 million hectares. The total size of protected forests and forests in restricted commercial use is 2.9 million hectares which accounts for 12.6 % of the total forest area.

In Finland the Natura 2000 network of the European Union composes of 1 860 protected sites and the total area they cover is 4.9 million hectares. Three-quarters, or 3.6 million hectares of this area, is land. Natura 2000 sites in Finland have been approved by the European Commission in 2003 (alpine zone) and in 2005 (boreal zone).

The area of protected forests totally excluded from forestry use in Finland is the highest in Europe. The majority of these areas are located in Northern Finland. Between 2002 and 2007 a study on the voluntary methods for promoting the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity of forests was conducted in Southern Finland with the help of the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO Programme). In the first phase of this programme the focus was on studying the biodiversity of forests and in developing new and cost-effective measures for safeguarding it. After this pilot phase the Council of State decided to start a METSO Programme in 2008 and continue it until the end of year 2016. METSO Programme is establishing new procedures based on forest owners' voluntary initiatives for safeguarding forest biodiversity.

The Forest Act, guidelines and recommendations on good forest management practices, forest certification and training support the enhancement of biological diversity of production forests. In practice the diversity of forests is promoted in felling and forest management by leaving retention trees and decaying wood in forests as well as by managing habitats with high nature conservation value in such a way that their natural features are preserved. As defined in recommendations and guidelines, old broad-leaved trees, decaying trees and other trees with special natural value are left standing in harvesting. Forestry professionals, like forest machine operators, need to have a biodiversity conservation and environmental management card.

Nine protected natural habitat types are included in the Nature Conservation Act and three of these are found in forests. The Forest Act specifies that the typical features of the habitats of special importance in terms of forest biodiversity shall be preserved.

About half of the 43 000 known natural species in Finland are found in forests. The spread and occurrence of the endangered species is monitored regularly. The assessment of endangered species in Finland is carried out according to the international IUCN criterion. Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the monitoring of species composition and for defining the favourable conservation level. Knowledge of the species composition is on internationally high level in Finland. Species are protected by securing the characteristics of valuable habitats, and by maintaining and increasing the structural features of natural forests in production forests. Some species are also taken into consideration by protecting individual sites of their occurrence. This type of species specific protection is included both in EU legislation and Finnish national legislation.

The multipurpose use of forests and non-timber forest products are important (Criterion 26 and 27). Forests are an important recreational environment for Finnish people. Free access to forests (Everyman's rights) ensure the public access to forests in general. Everyman's rights give a possibility to walk, ski, bicycle or ride a horse on other person's land without special permission if the activity does not cause harm or disturbance. Landowner's permission is needed for driving a motor vehicle and for making a fire.

General recreational activities that take place in forests are e.g. walking, outdoor activities, backpacking, skiing and orienteering. Forests also offer a place for relaxation and for experiencing nature. Hunting is based on landowner's right and landowner's permission is needed for it.

Game, berries, mushrooms and lichen are the economically most important non-timber forest products. Game, mainly moose, is the economically most valuable non-timber forest product. The use of nature products is becoming more diversified. The most significant entrepreneurial activities are in nature tourism and berry processing sectors. The number of nature tourists and companies in nature tourism sector has increased substantially over the past years.

5.3 Regulation of Forest Use

Legislation secures the manifold values of forests (Criterion 1)

Forest Act has been valid since 1886. It has guaranteed long-term and sustainable wood production in Finnish forests. The basic principle of the Forest Act has been and still is the regeneration obligation after regeneration felling even though the principle has been revised over time whenever necessary to adapt to the prevailing circumstances. State authorities encourage forest owners to good forest management practices. State subsidies are available for securing sustainable wood production, for maintaining forests' biodiversity and for improving forest health.

Forest owner decides over all operations taking place in his/her forest within the limits of the legislation in force. In mid-1990s basically the whole forest legislation and Nature Conservation Act were revised. As a result of the revision of forest legislation the legislation concerning Metsähallitus (state enterprise administering state-owned land and water areas), forestry centres, and forest management associations was also revised. Besides wood production, the objective of preserving the biodiversity of forests has gained importance in forest legislation. In addition to

traditional forest management work, state subsidies are currently available for safeguarding the biodiversity of forests, for nature management works and for the harvest of wood energy as defined in the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry.

The Act on Trade in Forest Reproductive Material, the Act on the Prevention of Insect and Fungi Damages in Forests, and the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure set regulations for forestry activities.

Employment contracts as well as safety and security at work are regulated extensively by the Finnish legislation. Special legislation related to e.g. work safety in wood harvesting also applies to forestry. Nearly all forestry workers are covered by the collective labour agreements made by employer organisations and trade unions. Collective labour agreements are negotiated within the framework of labour legislation.

The Act on Reindeer Husbandry in Northern Finland safeguards the conditions for reindeer husbandry and for reindeer herding and secures wide grazing rights for reindeers.

The rights of indigenous people in Sámi Homelands are safeguarded by respective legislation. The constitutional regulations on cultural and linguistic rights of Sámi people (Constitution 17.3 and 141.4 §), the Act on Court of Sámi Affairs and the Act on Sámi Language and related international agreements ratified by Finland, e.g. the general convention (in Finnish: KP-sopimus, SopS 7-8/1976) and its 27th Article concerning civil and political rights – forest management in Sámi Homelands shall comply with all these regulations as referred to in Section 4 of the Act on Court of Sámi Affairs.

Planning the use of forest resources is based on dialogue

Good cooperation between public and private sectors is a precondition for sustainable management and use of forests since forest industry enterprises, small and medium-size enterprises, forest owners and forestry interest groups as well as other actors have a significant impact on the development of forest sector. These organisations participate in the planning and monitoring of forest policy at state level in National Forest Council and in Regional Forest Councils as well as in numerous forestry working groups.

Special regional characteristics are taken into consideration in regional forest programmes. In this context it is important to cooperate with organisations preparing other regional programmes, including Regional Councils, Regional Environment Centres, Employment and Economic Development Centres and organisations responsible for zoning and land-use planning.

Planning the use and allocation of land for different uses is done in zoning. Its objective is to create the preconditions for favourable and functional environment. The Act on Land Use and Building regulates zoning in Finland. The participatory procedure required by the Act on Land Use and Building secures citizens' opportunities for consultation and in that way aims at improving the quality of the environment. The ecological, economic and social impacts of land use are assessed in zoning. Zoning is implemented on various levels (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The different levels of zoning in Finland

Landscape work permit is required when e.g. felling trees in a city plan area, in a master plan area if so defined in master plan, and in areas under operational restriction defined in a plan. The permit is not needed for operations with low impact or if an operation is approved by another permit. Applicant must inform his/her neighbours about the pending work permit application unless, considering the small size or location of the activity, it is of no importance to the interest of the neighbour.

Ecological, economic and social sustainability are also relevant for the management of state forests. Natural resource planning is used as a tool in guiding and planning operations. Natural resource planning makes part of the planning of the use of state land and water areas. This participatory planning process aims at dovetailing different interests on the use of natural resources. Clients', stakeholder groups', and citizens' expectations on the use of state lands are reviewed and discussed in participatory planning process.

Non-governmental environmental and nature organisations take part in national and regional processes and actively participate in the discussion on forest use. Organisations have a significant role especially in focusing on issues related to biodiversity of forests and to their multiple use.

National Forest Programme directs forest use

Forest programmes have had an important role in Finland in the implementation of forest policy and in organizing financing for forestry. The new forest programme, National Forest Programme 2015 (NFP 2015), approved by the Finnish government in 2008 was prepared in cooperation with many stakeholders. Its objective is to safeguard work and livelihoods based on forests, diversity and vitality of forests and recreation values of forests.

In 2008 the Finnish government also approved a supplement to the National Forest Programme 2015 called the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2008–2016 (METSO Programme). The objective of METSO Programme is to improve the protection of areas important to biologically valuable forested habitats and endangered species, as well as other structural characteristics of forests.

The first regional target programmes for forestry (regional forest programmes) were completed in 1998 in line with the renewed Forest Act of 1997. They were revised in 2000, 2005 and 2008. The programmes give a holistic view of the situation and development needs of forests and forestry in each of the forestry centres.

The strategy for sustainable development approved by the Finnish government in 2006 aims at creating ecological sustainability and the economic, social and cultural preconditions supporting it. In 2006 the government also approved a strategy for the protection of the biodiversity and sustainable use of the Finnish nature 2006–2016. The aim is to maintain the favourable development of nature's state in the long term.

Importance of international cooperation is increasing

Finland participates actively in the formulation of international forest policy and cooperation and is committed to implement the international commitments. These and EU objectives are reconciled nationally in different policy programmes and strategies. The National Forest Programme 2015, the strategy for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of the Finnish nature, the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSU), the national climate and energy strategy as well as the implications of Finnish development policy in forestry are completely consistent with each other and support one another.

International agreements have been implemented in legislation and in other guidelines. The forest legislation regulating the sustainable management and use of forests pays special attention to protection of biodiversity. In addition to other citizen rights, Finnish constitution guarantees the linguistic and cultural rights of Sámi people (indigenous people). Economic policy instrument along with research and education play an important role in achieving the international objectives. Forest organisations and different stakeholders have paid more and more attention to international and EU level forest issues and thus they have been actively involved in preparing international forest policies and EU forest issues together with different ministries.

Forest and environment organisations guide operations in practice

The highest forest authority is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that is responsible for creating preconditions for sustainable and multipurpose use of natural resources as well as securing the quality of goods derived from these resources. The Department of Forestry operating under the Ministry is responsible for the management and development of Finnish forest policy. Metsähallitus (state forests), the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Forestry Development Centre Tapio and regional forestry centres are under result-based steering of the Ministry. Forestry centres (13 centres on January 1st 2009) and Forestry Development Centre Tapio are responsible for promoting sustainable management and use of forests, maintenance of biodiversity and other forestry operations. Metsähallitus manages, uses and protects natural resources and other possessions on state land.

Ministry of the Environment is also responsible for some forest related activities, e.g. preserving natural biodiversity, preventing environmental deterioration and adverse atmospheric changes as well as result-based steering and financing related to nature conservation areas.

The Finnish Environment Institute, which studies environmental changes and develops solutions for managing these changes, as well as regional environment centres (13 centres in January 1st 2009)

work under the guidance of the Ministry of the Environment. Environment centres promote the improvement of the state of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

Forest management associations (113 associations in January 1st 2009) promote the profitability of forestry in private forests and other objectives that forest owners have set for forestry. Forest management associations have formed regional forest owners' unions (8 unions in January 1st 2009). The unions are members of a national organisation for forest owners, the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK).

In addition, many employers, employees, entrepreneurs or other interest groups of forest industry and wood product industry as well as numerous civic organisations operate in forest sector.

5.4 Information Base of Forest Use

Research produces new information concerning the state of forests

Approximately 650 forest researchers study forests and forestry in universities and research centres. Nearly half of the researchers work for the Finnish Forest Research Institute that operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Finnish Forest Research Institute has from 1920 onwards carried out regular inventories on forests in the country and the institute's results give up-to-date information about Finland's forests. In addition to the information on forest resources these inventories gather extensive information about, e.g. the health of forests, vegetation and the amount of decaying trees.

Since the 1990s biodiversity of forests and forest species has been in the focus of research in many wide-ranging research programmes conducted by the Finnish Forest Research Institute as well as by many universities, the Finnish Environment Institute and other research institutes. As a result of these research projects the knowledge of species in Finnish forests is at an internationally high level. Research information has been used actively e.g. in the planning of METSO programme.

Forest education and training of forest owners promote the use of forest knowledge (Criterion 6, 24 and 25)

Forest education is provided in the Universities of Helsinki and Joensuu as well as in many polytechnic schools and secondary schools around the country. Training designed for forest owners is arranged by non-industrial private forest organisations, forestry institutes, forest schools as well as civil and adult institutes, among others.

Forest management associations, forestry centres and other forest sector operators advice forest owners in all issues related to forestry. The counselling can be personal or take place in groups, or it can be arranged for forest owner groups together with different exhibitions, competitions and field excursions.

There are various forest sector specific magazines in Finland in which forest organisations distribute information for people interested in forests, especially for forest owners and forestry professionals.

The holding level forest management plans designed for private forest owners are an important tool for carrying on long-term forestry. Forest resources and valuable habitats of a specific forest

environment are depicted in a detailed manner in a forest management plan. In addition, in order to help the decision making of a forest owner, the plan gives proposals for forest management operations, possibilities for felling and other alternative forest uses.

6. Criteria for PEFC Certification on the Level of Forest Holdings of Individual Owners

Title	Criterion 1: Requirements enacted by legislation shall be complied with
Criterion	<p>Activities in the forests of individual owners shall comply with the forest, environmental and labour legislation in force and the related international agreements that Finland has ratified.</p> <p>However, in Åland Province the legislation of Åland and decrees of respective authorities shall be applied when under the jurisdiction of the autonomy of Åland Province.</p>
Indicators	<p>Forest organisations¹⁾ are obliged to inform when requested by the certification body (external auditor) the court resolutions and authority decisions²⁾, of the cases where the activity of a forest owner has been deemed to breach the forest, environmental or labour legislation during the validity of the certificate.</p>
Definitions	<p>1) <u>Forest organisations</u> consist of forestry centres, forest management associations, forest industry enterprises, Metsähallitus (Forest and Park Service), and other organisations committed to forest certification.</p> <p>2) <u>Court or competent authority has found in its resolution with a right to appeal</u> that a forest owner has acted contrary to the forest, environmental and labour legislation or to those relevant international agreements that Finland has ratified. The authority decisions contain, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agency for Rural Affairs' resolution on establishing a new tree stand enacted by Section 20, subsection 2 of the Forest Act (1093/1996); - Agency for Rural Affairs' resolution on the claim for recovery by Section 15, subsection 3 of the Act on Financing of Sustainable Forestry (1094/1996); - Regional environmental authority's order enacted by Section 57, subsection 1 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996); and - Order of authority on occupational safety enacted by Section 15 of the Act on Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement and Cooperation on Occupational Safety and Health at Workplaces (44/2006) or prohibition notice enacted by Section 16 of the Act.

Title	Criterion 2: Health of the stand shall be attended
Criterion	<p>The spreading of the infection of root rot (<i>Heterobasidion parviporum</i> attacking spruce and <i>Heterobasidion annosum</i> attacking pine) shall be prevented during the harvest of risk sites³⁾ of individual forest owners. The control of root rot shall be done with user-safe methods⁴⁾.</p> <p>During forest harvest, damages to remaining trees and soil that may deteriorate the growing conditions of the remaining stand, shall be avoided.</p> <p>Measures shall be taken to prevent insect damages in the storage of industrial and energy wood.</p>

Indicators	<p>The control measures of root rot have been implemented in all felling areas of risk sites.</p> <p>The average share of damaged trees⁵⁾ in industrial and energy wood thinning shall not exceed 4 % of the number of trees left growing⁵⁾. The share of damaged trees is annually calculated as a five-year period moving average of harvesting trace review results⁶⁾</p> <p>In intermediate thinnings of mineral soils⁷⁾, the average share of depressed tracks⁵⁾ caused by harvesting machines shall not exceed 4% of the length of the extract traces. The share of depressed tracks shall be calculated annually as a five-year period moving average of harvesting trace review results⁶⁾.</p> <p>A forest owner shall be aware of the importance of the pre-cut clearing of the undergrowth that might hamper the harvesting to the harvesting trace.</p> <p>The storage of industrial and energy wood shall comply with the Act on the Prevention of Insect and Fungi Damages in Forests (263/1991). A competent authority has not imposed a conditional fine defined in Section 9 nor has pronounced a sentence defined in Section 12 of the Act related to the neglect of control of insects in the interval storage of industrial and energy wood.</p>
Definitions	<p>3) <u>Risk sites</u> refer to harvested sites located to the south from the northern borders of the operational areas of the forestry centres of Northern Karelia, Northern Savo, Central Finland and Southern Ostrobothnia, if harvesting is carried out between May 1st and October 31st.</p> <p>4) <u>User-safe methods</u> refer to treating coniferous stumps with liquid <i>Phanerochaete gigantea</i> or urea solution and the removal of coniferous stumps causing the spreading of infection of fungal diseases from regeneration area. Regeneration areas from where stumps have been removed in order to prevent the spread of root rot are included in the area under control measures.</p> <p>5) <u>Damaged tree, tree left growing and depressed tracks</u> and other terms used in measuring damage are defined (what comes to thinning) in the land inspection guidelines of the harvest trace of thinning and energy wood thinning specified by the Forestry Development Centre Tapio (current one written in 2008).</p> <p>6) <u>Harvesting trace reviews</u> produce separate estimates for the proportions of damages and track depressions in pulp- and energy wood thinning. The share of stand damages and track depressions referred to in the criterion, is calculated based on the weighted average of the total area of annual pulp and energy wood thinning conducted in a forest owner's forests. All thinning where canopy biomass is collected is considered to be energy wood thinning regardless of the fact that also pulp wood may be harvested on the site.</p> <p>7) Harvested sites are divided into sites of mineral soil and peatland. A site where peat layer is below 30 cm is classified as a <u>mineral soil area</u>.</p>
Title	Criterion 3: Finnish native tree species shall be used in forest regeneration
Criterion	Forest regeneration shall be done with tree species native to Finland ⁸⁾ except for special cases ⁹⁾ .

Indicators	A summary of the area regenerated with species other than those native to Finland is calculated annually.
Definitions	<p>8) Siberian larch (<i>Larix sibirica</i>) is considered equal to <u>tree species native to Finland</u>.</p> <p>9) <u>Special cases</u> include the establishment of urban forest stand, growing Christmas trees, production of conifer branches, forest stands and trees planted for landscape purposes and cultivation of hybrid aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>).</p>

Title	Criterion 4: Sustainable methods shall be used in energy wood harvesting
Criterion	<p>When removing canopy biomass and stumps from harvested sites the applied methods shall take into consideration the wood production capacity of the site, its biodiversity as well as aspects related to water protection.</p> <p>Harvest of energy wood shall not substantially deteriorate the protection values of protected areas or areas belonging to Natura 2000 network or endanger the preservation of monuments of antiquity specified in the Act on Ancient Monuments (295/1963).</p> <p>The features of valuable habitats and the previously known habitats of endangered species shall be safeguarded in the harvest of energy wood.</p> <p>Peatlands in their natural state shall not be transferred into energy wood cultivations.</p>
Indicators	<p>The organisation harvesting energy wood shall have in use guidelines¹⁰⁾ prepared by actors and research bodies operating in the field. The guidelines shall address sustainable harvest of energy wood in final harvesting and thinning sites. The guidelines shall specify, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the selection criteria for harvest sites; - the minimum target amount of biomass left in the sites of final harvest; and - the water protection measures needed. <p>The harvest of energy wood in the area has been done according to the criterion when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I The proportion of sites considered as excellent or good in relation to the above-mentioned evaluation criteria (selection of harvest sites, minimum amount of biomass left in final harvest areas and water protection measures) shall be at least 90 % of the total harvest area based on the results from the quality control of nature management; II The protection values of protected areas defined in Criterion 2.7 have been safeguarded in a manner specified in the criterion; III The features of valuable habitats defined in Criterion 2.8 have been preserved in a manner specified in the criterion; IV The previously known habitats of endangered species have been preserved according to Criterion 2.10; and V Peatlands that are in their natural state have not been drained for energy wood cultivations.
Definitions	10) <u>The guidelines</u> specified in the criterion can be e.g. Harvest of Energy Wood – guidebook published in 2006 by the Forestry Development Centre Tapio.

Title	Criterion 5: Forest management planning shall promote sustainable use and management of forests
Criterion	A holding-level forest management plan ¹¹⁾ shall be valid for the forests of individual forest owners. The forest management plan shall include previously known valuable natural sites and monuments of antiquity ¹²⁾ in addition to wood production aspects. The drafting of the plan shall take into account alternative uses of forests ¹³⁾ according to the management objectives of the forest owner.
Indicators	Valid holding-level forest management plan.
Definitions	<p><u>11) Holding-level forest management planning</u> contains the forest resource data of the forest stand specific inventory and of holding specific data drawn from the regional summary data on forest resources. This data is compiled into a holding level forest management plan. Continuously updated holding-level forest management plans, which have been updated annually according to completed measures and other relevant information, are included in the area of holding-level forest management planning. Web-based forest management plan is also considered as a holding-level forest management plan. Holding-level forest management plan must include, as forest production factors, stand specific data on trees and soil, needs of silvicultural treatments, and allowable cut.</p> <p><u>12) Natural sites and monuments of antiquity</u> included in forest management plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natura 2000 areas; - Valuable habitats of forest nature as defined in Criterion 2.8 and previously known habitats of endangered species as defined in Criterion 2.10; - Nature management and environmental sites funded by the State; and - Monuments of antiquity registered in the respective register and that have reliable site specific data on their location. <p><u>13) Important areas from the point of view of alternative forest uses</u> contain e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important game management areas, e.g. capercaillie mating sites; and - Trails for outdoor recreation and hiking.

Title	Criterion 6: Seedling stands shall be tended to safeguard wood production
Criterion	Tendings of seedling stand considered urgent ¹⁴⁾ have been carried out or contracted out in the forests of an individual owner.
Indicators	The workload of seedling stand tending is followed yearly and it is compared with the proposals for forest management operations made in the holding-level forest management plan.
Definitions	<u>Tending of seedling stand considered urgent</u> includes proposed seedling stand tendings (tending of seedling stand to be implemented in the following 5-year period and overdue tending) specified in holding-level forest management plan. The following tasks are included in the tending of seedling stands: cleaning and tending of seedling stand, and improvement of sapling stands and young forest.

Title	Criterion 7: Conservation value of protected areas shall be safeguarded
Criterion	Conservation value of protected areas ¹⁵⁾ or areas belonging to Natura 2000 network located in the forests of individual owner or in their immediate vicinity shall not be deteriorated by forestry measures.
Indicators	<p>Forest owner is aware of the locations of protected areas and areas belonging to Natura 2000 network located in his forests or in their immediate vicinity.</p> <p>Regional environmental authorities have not discovered significant deterioration of conservation values of protected areas originating from forestry operations taking place outside protected areas.</p> <p>Regional environmental authorities have not discovered significant deterioration originating from forestry operations of conservation values of Natura 2000 areas. Forestry operations in Natura areas are bound by the law under which the Natura area is established. In addition, the use and management plan, or equivalent, prepared by an environmental authority together with a forest owner shall be complied with.</p>
Definitions	<u>15) Protected areas</u> referred to in the criterion are the nature conservation areas established according to the Nature Conservation Act.

Title	Criterion 8: Typical features of valuable habitats shall be preserved
Criterion	<p>Forest management measures shall be planned and carried out respecting the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The forest-covered natural habitat types, defined in Section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), being in their natural state or equivalent to natural state, of which forest owner has been informed of by an environmental authority according to Section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act, shall not be altered in such a way that the preservation of their characteristic features is endangered. b) The management measures on sites in their natural state or equivalent to natural state as well as habitats of special importance and easily recognizable from their surroundings – sites defined in Section 10 of the Forest Act (1093/1996) – shall be carried out in such a way that preserves the typical features of these sites. The measures on sites, for which a forest authority has given a permit based on Section 11 of the Forest Act, are allowed. c) In addition, the most important features of the biological diversity in the habitats with high conservation value, listed below, shall be preserved in forest management operations in the majority of the habitat area. Regarding the most typical features the habitats shall be in their natural state and be distinctly observable and recognizable in field <p>Habitats that cover an area of one hectare or less and that meet the requirements of the criterion shall be covered in their full extend by operational restrictions. Of the sites that are larger than one hectare, an area of one hectare shall be covered by operational restrictions.</p> <p>If the share of the valuable habitats specified in this criterion covers over 5 percent of the total area of forest and scrub land owned by a forest owner, the operational restriction do not apply on the area exceeding the above mentioned</p>

	<p>minimum surface areas.</p> <p>The habitats of high conservation value listed in point c), their most important typical features and the measures to be taken for preserving these features are the following:</p> <p><i>1. Kettle holes and treeless or sparsely treed sunny eskers</i></p> <p>The kettle holes referred to in the criterion shall be at least 10 meters in depth and the micro climate in the lower parts shall be distinctly moist and cool (cellar microclimate). Vegetation typical to the special micro climate and distinct from the surrounding vegetation is the most important feature to be preserved. Logging shall be limited only to the uppermost part of the edges of the kettle hole.</p> <p>The treeless or sparsely treed sunny eskers referred to in the criterion situate in the south-east, south, south-west and west slopes of eskers. Typical species is the feature to be preserved on these sites. The sites shall not be reforested.</p> <p><i>2. Un-drained hardwood-spruce swamp</i></p> <p>The natural depth of water table shall be maintained as the typical feature in un-drained¹⁶⁾, usually spruce dominated swamp which have at least 20 cubic meters per hectare of decaying and dead wood. The protection measures shall not limit to the swamps protected by the Forest Act, Section 10 on habitats of special importance. Water table level is maintained by restraining from any ditching on these sites. Allowed harvesting methods include thinnings and removal of individual trees.</p> <p><i>3. Un-drained eutrophic fens</i></p> <p>In un-drained eutrophic fens the typical features to be preserved include alteration of flark and hummock formations as well as the rich nutrient content of peat. These are maintained by restraining from ditching and forestry activities on eutrophic fens.</p> <p><i>4. Un-drained eutrophic fens in the province of Lapland</i></p> <p>High nutrient content in peat, natural water tables and diverse peatland vegetation are the main typical features of treeless or sparsely wooded, un-drained eutrophic fens in calciferous areas and in areas of high water table in the province of Lapland. These eutrophic fens shall be protected by restraining from ditching in these areas.</p> <p><i>5. Broad-leaf dominated herb-rich forests</i></p> <p>Diversity of hardwood species is the most important typical feature to protect in the broad-leaf dominated herb-rich forests¹⁷⁾ exceeding the age of a sapling stand. The hardwood dominance shall be maintained through intermediate harvesting.</p> <p><i>6. Old-growth forests</i></p> <p>An old-growth forest is a forest that has the following characteristics:</p> <p>I The age of the dominant tree stand exceeds by 1.5 the upper age limit recommended for final harvesting;</p> <p>II The tree stand is composed of trees of different size or of several canopy layers and tree species or it is a spruce stand of a late succession stage;</p>
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	<p>III The tree stand has not been treated with selective cutting, intermediate thinning or preparatory felling for the past 60 years. Earlier, selective cutting, intermediate thinning or preparatory felling have not changed the natural stand structure and the number of stumps originating from these felling operations do not exceed 20 stumps per hectare;</p> <p>IV The stand is composed of old board-leaved species and includes also decaying wood, dead wood and ground wood at least 15% of the stand volume in Southern Finland¹⁸⁾ and 20% in Northern Finland¹⁸⁾;</p> <p>Restraining from forestry operations on these sites preserves the typical features.</p> <p><i>7. Alluvial forests and flood meadows in their natural state</i></p> <p>The most important characteristic of alluvial forest stands of mineral soils and flood meadows of peat lands caused by natural flooding and variation of surface water level of sea, lakes, rivers, and streams is the natural variation of surface water level, which is protected by restraining from ditching and soil scarification on these areas. Wood stand can be harvested by thinning and shelter wood harvesting and by removing individual stems while safeguarding the presence of decaying wood.</p>
Indicators	<p>The preservation of valuable habitats in forestry operations:</p> <p>a) Court decisions on the cases, where the preservation of characteristic features of the sites (based on the Nature Conservation Act, Section 29) has been endangered.</p> <p>b) Court decisions on the cases, where the typical features of habitats of special importance (based on the Forest Act, Section 10) have not been preserved.</p> <p>In points a) and b) the characteristic features are not preserved according to the criterion if operations carried out violate either on purpose or by negligence the Nature Conservation Act or the Forest Act.</p> <p>Habitats of high conservation value specified in point c) have remained unchanged or nearly unchanged based on the results of the quality control of nature management “Nearly unchanged” means that the most important features to be preserved in the habitats listed in point c) have been preserved in more than 90% of the total area of sites.</p> <p>Regarding the forest owners that have over 10 000 hectares of certified forests in the certified region, all forests fulfilling the above mentioned features of old-growth forest are considered as old growth regardless of stand size. Protection of old-growth forests as defined in this criterion does not apply if the share of protected forests exceeds 5 per cent of the certified forest area or if a forest owner has more than 5 per cent of his/her forest area already protected.</p>
Definitions	<p><u>16)</u> The criterion covers un-drained <u>spruce mires</u> and those ditched spruce mires where no draining effect prevails any more.</p> <p><u>17)</u> <u>Broad-leaved dominated herb rich forest</u> is a forest where the share of broad leaved species exceeds 50% of the stand volume.</p> <p><u>18)</u> <u>Northern Finland</u> includes Kainuu, North Ostrobothnia and the operational areas of forestry centres in Lapland. <u>Southern Finland</u> includes the operational areas of other forestry centres.</p>

Title	Criterion 9: Peatland nature shall be preserved
Criterion	The survival of peatland types in their natural state ¹⁹⁾ and rare peatland types ²⁰⁾ shall be safeguarded.
Indicators	<p>First-time ditching²¹⁾ is not carried out on peatlands in their natural state.</p> <p>Drainage maintenance is implemented only in areas, where ditching has increased significantly the tree growth²²⁾.</p> <p>The rare peatland types and the possibility of their restoration into natural state are especially taken into consideration in drainage maintenance as well as in other arrangements related to water management.</p>
Definitions	<p>19) <u>A peatland type in its natural state</u> is a peat accumulating ecosystem, where there are no human induced changes on the natural water balance or any other significant traces of human activity. The site is peatland if the ground is covered with a peat layer, or if over 75% of the ground vegetation consists of peatland vegetation. Forests, regularly tended by thinnings, and not included in the habitats of special importance (as defined in Criterion 2.8), are not considered as natural peatlands as defined in this criterion.</p> <p>20) <u>Rare peatland types</u> refer to peatland types that are listed in Annex 3 of the Environmental Guidelines to Practical Forest Management (from year 2004) of Metsähallitus (Annex 1 of the standard).</p> <p>21) <u>Ditching of new (first-time ditching) areas</u> does not include opening of isolated main drainage ditch on peatlands in their natural state due to reasons related to drainage techniques. Sections of un-drained peatlands can be drained if it is essential for organizing the water level management in the drained area and if it does not hamper significantly the biodiversity of peatlands and forests. The criterion does not restrict the organization of water management, if required under the Forest Act, to ensure good forest regeneration on peatland sites. It does not either restrict the ditching needs identified according to the law on support to land restitution (24/1981).</p> <p>22) <u>Drainage maintenance</u> must be economically efficient and take into consideration the nutrient content, heat sum (number of growing degree days) and the volume of tree stand. Appropriate drainage maintenance sites are the sites that fulfil the valid legal requirements for financing sustainable forestry (Degree 44/2001, Section 7 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry).</p>

Title	Criterion 10: Previously known habitats of endangered species shall be safeguarded
Criterion	<p>Forest management procedures implemented in the forests of an individual owner shall safeguard,</p> <p>I the previously known habitats of the strictly protected endangered species²³⁾, if they are demarcated and informed to the land owner/manager by the Regional Environment Centre,</p> <p>II the previously known habitats of other endangered species²³⁾ by taking them into consideration according to the site specific guidelines²⁴⁾ of regional environmental authority.</p>
Indicators	The habitats of species under strict protection that the Regional Environment Centre has demarcated and informed to the landowner and/or manager according to Section 47 of the Nature Conservation Act, and the related management guidelines or recommendations provided to the land owner and/or manager.

	The site specific guidelines ²⁴⁾ issued by the environmental authority to protect the previously known habitats of other endangered species have been implemented in harvest and forest management operations.
Definitions	<p>23) A list of <u>strictly protected and other endangered species</u> is specified in Annex 4 of the Council of State decree (913/2005) on changing the nature protection decree.</p> <p>24) <u>Site specific guidelines</u> that the regional environmental authority has given to the information of the owner and/or manager of the site.</p>

Title	Criterion 11: Retention trees and decaying wood shall be left in forestry operations
Criterion	Retention trees ²⁵⁾ and decaying wood ²⁶⁾ shall be left on site in thinning and regeneration harvesting to safeguarding the biodiversity of forest nature.
Indicators	The average number of retention and decaying trees left in forest regeneration sites in the forests of an individual owner is at least 5 -10 trees per hectare.
Definitions	<p>25) Larger trees and trees with special form from previous tree generation as well as broad-leaved woods, nest trees of raptorial birds, large junipers, larger aspen, treelike sallows, and trees with fire scars and decaying wood are preferred as <u>retention trees</u>.</p> <p>If trees with the above mentioned qualities are not present on site, retention trees may include trees with biodiversity values that exceed 10 cm in diameter at breast height and have a good potential to develop into old trees. These trees shall be standing, alive at the time of harvesting and belong to the natural species of the country.</p> <p>Retention trees are primarily left in groups, in close vicinity to the habitats of special importance listed in Criterion 2.8 and in the buffer-zones of water ecosystems. Soil is not scarified under the groups of retention trees. Retention trees must not be left in close vicinity to important constructions, such as traffic lanes or electric and telephone lines or on monuments of antiquity. A share of retention trees can be made into man-made snags. Retention trees are not removed from the site in any future harvesting.</p> <p>The trees left on buffer-zones defined in Criterion 2.15 are counted to the total number of retention trees. Trees with biodiversity value, e.g. larger trees from previous tree generation, trees with unexpected form, broad-leaved woods, large alder trees and other broad-leaved species are left growing on buffer-zones.</p> <p>26) <u>Decaying wood</u> includes snags with a diameter exceeding 20cm and other dead standing trees, hollow trees and ground wood. The decaying wood under this criterion does not include standing snags that are dried for commercial purposes or dead conifer trees that should be harvested based on the Act on the Prevention of Insect and Fungi Damages in Forests (263/1991).</p>

Title	Criterion 12: Gene modified seed and plant material shall not be used
Criterion	Gene modified material or other material, which is not approved by the authority ²⁷⁾ , shall not be used in seeding and planting.
Indicators	Information from the authorities responsible for the enforcement of the Act on Trade of Forest Reproductive Material (241/2002) indicates that gene modified material has not been used in seeding and planting.
Definitions	<u>27)</u> The <u>authority</u> responsible for monitoring the trade of forest reproductive material and for the approval of forest reproductive material in Finland is the Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira).

Title	Criterion 13: Forest road plans shall include an environmental impact assessment
Criterion	The plans for new, permanent forest roads ²⁸⁾ include a study on environmental values.
Indicators	The environmental impact assessment must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An assessment of the impacts of road construction on the preservation of the characteristic features of the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protected areas; - valuable habitats of forest nature (Criterion 2.8); - habitats of endangered species (Criterion 2.10); - sites reserved and demarcated on forest owner's decision or in municipal planning for game management, recreation, etc.; and b) An assessment of the impacts of road construction on water ecosystems in the area of impact and the necessary water protection measures.
Definitions	<u>28)</u> <u>Forest road</u> is a private road that is constructed mainly for the purpose of forestry related transportation and to be used throughout the year. Cutting and winter trails are not forest roads as referred to in this criterion.

Title	Criterion 14: Biodiversity of nature shall be promoted through controlled use of fire
Criterion	The habitats of species dependent on forest fires shall be maintained through prescribed rehabilitation burnings. This criterion shall not be applied in the Åland Province, or when the forest area of an individual owner is smaller than 10 000 hectares.
Indicators	An individual owning over 10 000 hectares of forest shall burn an area at least equivalent to the area ²⁹⁾ or number of burnings ³⁰⁾ burnt during 2003–2008 in his/her forests during the certification period. However, this area must be at least 20 hectares or 20 prescribed rehabilitation burning areas. In case weather conditions for prescribed rehabilitation burning have been unexceptionally unfavourable, this will be taken into consideration when estimating the conformity to the required level of prescribed rehabilitation burnings.

Definitions	<p>29) Prescribed rehabilitation burning of sunny eskers, regeneration and retention tree groups as well as slash and burn, forest fires and rehabilitation burnings on protected areas are included in the <u>area</u> managed with prescribed rehabilitation burning.</p> <p>30) <u>The number of burnings with prescribed rehabilitation burning</u> includes the above mentioned area based burnings except forest fires (the number of which is not included into the number of <u>burnings</u> with prescribed rehabilitation burning).</p>
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Title	Criterion 15: All operations taking place close to watercourses and small water bodies shall safeguard water protection
Criterion	<p>A buffer-zone is left along watercourses and small water bodies³¹⁾ for capturing solid and nutrient run-off.</p> <p>Tree harvesting is allowed on buffer-zones, but retention trees as defined in Criterion 2.11, must not be removed. Seedling and sapling stand tending works are allowed on buffer-zones.</p> <p>Soil scarification for regeneration, fertilization, stump removal, clearing of shrub layer vegetation³²⁾ or use of chemical pesticides or herbicides³³⁾ shall not take place on buffer-zones. Canopy biomass is removed from buffer-zones if possible.</p>
Indicators	Buffer-zone is considered to be preserved as required by the criterion when the soil is undisturbed on over 90 per cent of a buffer-zone with a minimum width of 5 meters.
Definitions	<p>31) <u>Watercourses</u> include seas, lakes, ponds and rivers. <u>Small water bodies</u> in this criterion are streams, brooks and springs.</p> <p>32) The shrub layer along water courses may be cleared for aesthetic reasons.</p> <p>33) <u>Chemical pesticides and herbicides</u> are products that contain one or several active agents and that have been developed to (i) protect plants or plant products from damaging agents, (ii) influence in plant metabolism (in other forms than nutrients), (iii) destroy harmful plant species or plant parts or (iv) prevent unintentional, harmful plant growing (Act on Plant Protecting Agents 1259/2006, Section 4).</p>

Title	Criterion 16: Water protection shall be safeguarded in drainage maintenance sites
Criterion	Drainage maintenance plans shall include a water protection plan. The planned water protection measures shall be implemented as appropriate.
Indicators	<p>Guidelines for planning of drainage maintenance require the elaboration of a water protection plan. The water protection plan contains, among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impacts of the measures related to drainage maintenance on the water levels of watercourses; - consideration of valuable habitats as defined in Criterion 2.8 and consideration of peatland habitats that are rare and that have become rare as defined in Criterion 2.9; - risks for erosion in drainage maintenance; - slope if the terrain and water conduct away from drainage maintenance area; and <p>water protection measures and their extent.</p>
Definitions	

Title	Criterion 17: The quality of groundwater shall be safeguarded in forestry operations
Criterion	<p>Chemical pesticides or herbicides shall not be used³⁵⁾ in groundwater areas³⁴⁾ that are important (Class 1) or suitable (Class 2) sources of water supply.</p> <p>Fertilizers shall not be used in groundwater areas that are important (Class 1) sources of water supply.</p> <p>Stumps shall not be removed in Class I groundwater areas.</p>
Indicators	<p>A forest owner uses or has access to the information on the locations of the groundwater areas that are important (Class 1) and suitable (Class 2) sources of water supply in his/her own forest area.</p> <p>Stump removal sites are not encountered in Class I groundwater areas.</p>
Definitions	<p><u>34)</u> <u>Groundwater</u> in Finland is classified as an important source of water supply (Class 1), suitable source of water supply (Class 2) and other ground water area (Class 3) based on the water's suitability and protection needs.</p> <p><u>35)</u> Treatment of seedlings in nurseries with pesticides and herbicides against pine weevil is not considered to be the <u>use</u> of pesticides and herbicides as referred to in this criterion. The same also applies to the use of chemical or biological stump treatment to prevent root rot infections. Any treatment shall be done according to the instructions given by the Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira).</p>

Title	Criterion 18: Forest management shall be implemented only with biodegradable pesticides and herbicides
Criterion	<p>Only biodegradable³⁶⁾ pesticides and herbicides³³⁾ shall be used in forest management and wood harvesting.</p> <p>Broad-leaved coppice shall not be treated in forest regeneration areas or in seedling and sapling stands with chemical foliage sprays, unless it is required to control the fungal diseases infecting young Scots pine stands from aspen coppice.</p> <p>No chemical pesticides or herbicides shall be used in valuable habitats defined in Criterion 2.8.</p> <p>Chemical pesticides or herbicides shall be used only when unavoidable as, for instance, for the control of ground vegetation on forest regeneration areas; stump treatment of broad-leaved trees; controlling the pine weevil; and for treatment of coniferous timber storages in the vicinity of forest areas to prevent spreading of insect damages into forests.</p> <p>The use of control agents in stump management for prevention the spreading of root rot is allowed in general but not in the valuable habitats specified in Criterion 2.8. Pesticides and herbicides are used in conformity to the official guidelines.</p>

Indicators	
Definitions	<u>36)</u> Evira (Finnish Food Safety Authority) approves all pesticides and herbicides in the market. Evira's registering process includes, e.g. the verification of a product's biodegradability. In this context the products registered by Evira for a specific defined purpose are considered as <u>biodegradable</u> .

Title	Criterion 19: Employees' competence to work shall be safeguarded
Criterion	Employees' adequate professional competence shall be ensured.
Indicators	<p>Forest owner shall have a document or another piece of evidence which indicates that the employer has been assured on the required and adequate professional competence³⁷⁾ of the employee for the task needed, and that the employer has taken care of the capacity building during the employment.</p> <p>Forest owner shall have a procedure to ensure that his/her employees have an adequate professional competence and ability to work in each designated task.</p> <p>Forest owner shall make sure that the contractors/employees have access to the general guidelines needed for conducting work.</p> <p>Contractors/employees shall be given site specific, task related guidelines that include quality, environmental and other requirements³⁸⁾.</p>
Definitions	<p><u>37) Adequate professional competence</u> can be achieved by either professional education or work experience.</p> <p><u>38) Other requirement</u> includes, among other, removal of canopy biomass from those hiking paths which are defined in the agreement between forest owner and a party maintaining a hiking route.</p>

Title	Criterion 20: Work safety, well-being and equal opportunities at work shall be attended
Criterion	Contractors and employees shall be provided with the conditions for safe and high quality work.
Indicators	<p>Forest owner or an employer³⁹⁾ contracted him/her shall make sure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contractor/employee is aware of and follows the general safety guidelines related to his/her work; - contractor/employee is aware of the aspects and field sites possibly endangering the work safety at a work site; - the working guidelines are given in the language the worker understands⁴⁰⁾; and - when needed, worker can get help from a person who speaks his/her language and can be an interpreter in work related issues. <p>Forest owner has documents on the first and check-up examinations as stipulated in the Act on Occupational Health Service (1383/2001) in organisation's occupational health and safety documentation.</p>

Definitions	<p><u>39)</u> The term <u>employer</u> refers to either an employer or a contracting party listed in the Trade Register, a manager of timber harvesting site or an employer to a subcontractor. Information on the registered employers is available in the Finnish Business Information System (BIS), www.ytj.fi.</p> <p><u>40)</u> When employer is a public employer or contracting party as defined in the Language Act (423/2003) the Act applies and in the Sámi Homeland, the Sámi Language Act (1086/2003) applies.</p>
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Title	Criterion 21: Statutory obligations of employers shall be adhered to
Criterion	<p>Forest owner or employers and parties contracted by a forest owner⁴¹⁾ shall comply with labour/employment legislation, collective labour agreements and legislation in force on employment of foreign labour. They shall also require the same compliance from their sub-contractors and companies renting labour to work for third parties.</p> <p>Forest owner or employers and parties contracted by a forest owner shall provide local shop stewards with the information requested in the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out⁴²⁾</p> <p>Forest owner or employers and parties contracted by a forest owner shall pay taxes, social security fees and employment pension fees and shall expect their sub-contractors to do the same.</p>
Indicators	<p>Forest owner or an employer contracted by a forest owner is aware of the binding regulations in collective agreements, labour and employment legislation and legislation on the use of foreign labour when relevant. Employer has procedures that ensure the conformity to the legislation in force. The documentation of working hours is organized according to the regulations of the Working Hours Act (605/1996) for the employees covered by the Act.</p> <p>Employee and employer organizations are requested to give statements on possible regional violations of collective labour agreements⁴³⁾ or on the above mentioned legislation⁴⁴⁾.</p> <p>Forest owner or employers contracted by a forest owner shall make the contract⁴⁵⁾ and work agreements in a written form and file them.</p> <p>Forest owner or an employer/party contracted by a forest owner has a register on those subcontractors from whom they have purchased forestry services⁴⁵⁾ during the previous two years</p>
Definitions	<p><u>41)</u> The terms <u>employer/contracting party</u> refer to employers registered in the Trade Register. Information on the registered employers is available in the Finnish Business Information System (BIS), www.ytj.fi.</p> <p><u>42)</u> <u>Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out (1233/2006)</u></p> <p><u>43)</u> <u>Collective labour agreements</u> refer to collective labour agreements effective in Finland.</p> <p><u>44)</u> <u>Legislation</u> refers to Finnish legislation.</p> <p><u>45)</u> <u>Contract agreement</u> refers to an agreement made in one or many pieces and is worth more than 8500 Euros per year.</p>

Title	Criterion 22: Forest owners' know-how shall be improved
Criterion	Forest owner has adequate know-how on forestry and the forest service provider he/she has contracted and that operates in his/her forests has the adequate professional expertise for forestry work.
Indicators	
Definitions	

Title	Criterion 23: Everyman's rights shall be safeguarded
Criterion	Opportunities for free access to and stay in forests as well as for collecting forest products according to everyman's rights ⁴⁶⁾ shall be safeguarded.
Indicators	There is not a significant amount of verified restrictions to the everyman's rights.
Definitions	<p>46) <u>Everyman's rights</u> include among others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e.g. walking, skiing or bicycling; - temporary camping on other person's land; - gathering of berries, mushrooms and some other nature products; and - gathering of dried twigs, brushwood, fallen cones and nuts <p>The following activities are not included in everyman's rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting fire; - damaging trees or bushes; - driving in motor vehicles on terrain; - gathering of protected plants, lichens and mosses; - making feeding places for game; - damaging seedling stands and cultivated land; and - littering the environment. <p>Nesting boxes for birds and artificial nests may be placed in forests only with the permission of land owner. Everyman's rights can be limited based on legal grounds.</p> <p>Everyman's rights are not limited on private roads or forest roads. Act on Private Roads (358/1962) enacts on the use rights and restrictions on private roads. Regarding the use of forest roads the decision of the Supreme Court 1991/819 shall be taken into consideration.</p>

Title	Criterion 24: The preconditions for multipurpose use of forests shall be promoted
Criterion	Accessibility on recreational trails ⁴⁷⁾ , possibilities for hunting and game management and agreement based collection of organic forest products shall be enhanced in order to safeguard the preconditions for multiple use of forests.
Indicators	<p>No soil scarification or stump removal shall take place on recreational trails⁴⁷⁾. Canopy biomass shall not be left on trails. Any permanent constructions on the trails shall be safeguarded in forestry operations.</p> <p>The information needed⁴⁸⁾ on the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides required in collecting organic products is available for those estates where forest owner, or the person he/she has authorized, has made an agreement regarding the</p>

	compliance with the guidelines for production of organic products.
Definitions	<p>47) <u>Recreational trails</u> established and marked by recreational trail planning according to the Act on Recreation (606/1973) or by separate agreements with a land owner.</p> <p>48) <u>The information needed</u> includes (i) the location of the fertilized sites for which state financing have been issued based on the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry (1094/1996) and (ii) the location of fertilized sites in the forests managed by Metsähallitus or forest companies.</p>

Title	Criterion 25: Preconditions for reindeer husbandry shall be secured
Criterion	<p>Forest management activities in state forests, under the administration of Metsähallitus, and reindeer husbandry shall be integrated in a local level cooperation so that the conditions for reindeer husbandry are safeguarded in forest management activities on a broad and long-term basis in the region designated for reindeer herding.</p> <p>The criterion applies only for Metsähallitus.</p>
Indicators	To reach this target Metsähallitus should cooperate with the representatives of reindeer husbandry when carrying out such activities that might have a significant impact on reindeer herding. The significant activities and need for cooperation shall be determined in cooperation so that the target will be achieved. The cooperation observes the Agreement ⁴⁹⁾ signed on 27 February 2002 by Metsähallitus and the Reindeer Herders' Association as well as the sections of Metsähallitus natural resources planning addressing the integration of forestry and reindeer husbandry.
Definitions	49) <u>The Agreement</u> from 2002, however, does not apply in the Sámi Homelands. The content and scope of the agreement may be changed on the basis of a mutual agreement between Reindeer Herders' Association and Metsähallitus. This criterion refers to the agreement valid at the time.

Title	Criterion 26: Preconditions for Sámi culture and for the traditional means of livelihood shall be safeguarded in Sámi Homelands in accordance with Sámi definition of sustainable development
Criterion	<p>In the Sámi⁵⁰⁾ Homelands the management and use of areas and natural resources administered by the State shall be organized in such a way that they ensure the facilities for Sámi culture and traditional livelihoods.</p> <p>The criterion applies only for Metsähallitus.</p>
Indicators	<p>1) The management of state forests is carried out in compliance with the international laws, article 8j in Biodiversity Convention⁵¹⁾ and the rights of Sámi as defined in the Constitution, as well as in such a manner that the engagement of the Sámi Parliament in preparation and decisions on the issue is secured.</p> <p>2) Sámi cultural landscapes and heritage sites are taken into consideration and protected in forestry operation by consulting the Sámi Parliament and the Skolt</p>

	<p>Council in the region of Skolt people.</p> <p>3) The Sámi Parliament and the Skolt Council negotiate on the nature resource plans and on the level of sustainable allowable cut in Sámi Homeland. Local natural conditions and Sámi culture and livelihoods are taken into consideration when defining the level of the allowable cut. Nature resource plans include: the measures to implement sustainable development, the proposals of Sámi people and how these are taken into consideration in the plan. The levels of allowable cut, and harvesting plans are calculated and reviewed specifically for each reindeer herding cooperative and municipality.</p> <p>4) The interests of reindeer herding are integrated in forest use according to the consultations with the Sámi Parliament, reindeer herding associations and their siidas/ local units of reindeer herding cooperatives. Harvesting operations shall not cause significant harm to reindeer herding. Soil scarification is not applied on dry heath types or on barren heath type soils. On other lichen pastures soil scarification is avoided, when possible, and the lightest measures possible complying with the Forest Act are used. The forest management regimes applied are defined in negotiations between the Sámi Parliament, the Skolt Council and Metsähallitus.</p> <p>5) Manager of state forests makes the forest management plans in Sámi Homeland. The plans include the most important horse hair lichen and lichen pasture lands of reindeer herding cooperatives and their local units as well as relevant trails and constructions.</p> <p>6) The manager of state forests maintains reindeer maps and statistics on lichen lands by herding cooperatives and develops reporting on other areas important for Sámi reindeer herding.</p> <p>7) Environmental impact assessment of forest road construction in Sámi Homeland includes an estimate on the impacts of construction to Sámi culture and traditional livelihoods. Construction of forest roads on Sámi Homeland shall be integrated with the interests of Sámi culture, livelihoods and nature values as consulted with the Sámi Parliament and in Skolt region with the Skolt Council.</p> <p>8) Manager of state forests shall not prevent reindeer herding in Sámi area by fencing if a reindeer herding cooperative has not given its consent on fencing.</p> <p>9) Travel expenses are compensated to the representatives of the Sámi Parliament and to the Skolt Council and to the reindeer herders that participate in the preparation of nature resource plans or plans for reindeer herding cooperatives.</p> <p>10) The Sámi Parliament and the Skolt Council shall always be consulted in forest certification audits.</p>
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Definitions	<p><u>50)</u> Sámi people referred to in the criterion mean the persons that comply with the definitions of the Sámi Parliament Act (Section 3). The municipalities belonging to the Sámi Homeland are listed in the Section 4 of the Act, the Skolt area in the Section 2 of the Act on Skolt. Traditional Sámi livelihoods include the livelihoods listed in Section 17, subsection 3 of the Finnish Constitution.</p> <p><u>51) Biodiversity Convention</u> 8j: ... in conformity to the national legislation respects, protects and maintains such knowledge, inventions and practices of indigenous people and local communities that in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are part of significant traditional ways of living. It also promotes and widens the application of such knowledge, inventions and practices in cooperation with the societies referred to, as well as encourages the fair distribution of benefits gained from them.</p>
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Annex 1: Rare peatland types

Whole country (zones 1–6)

Whole country (zones 1-6)

Thin peated eutrophic spruce mires

Fern spruce swamp

Eutrophic spring spruce mires

Flood meadow rich fens

Eutrophic spring fens

Eutrophic hardwood-spruce fen

Eutrophic birch swamps

Meso-eutrophic sedge fens

Black alder flood

meadows

Seepage areas

Mesotrophic springs and spring mires

Meso-eutrophic springs and spring mires

Eutrophic springs and spring mires

Aapa mire areas (zones 3-5)

Herb-rich *Vaccinium myrtillus* spruce mires

Carex nigra-sedge birch swamps

Birch flood meadows

Hummock-hollow pine bogs

Hollow bogs

Raised bog areas (zones 1 and 2)

Herb-rich and grass birch-spruce mires

Sphagnum papillosum fenpine gogs

Flark sedge pine swamps

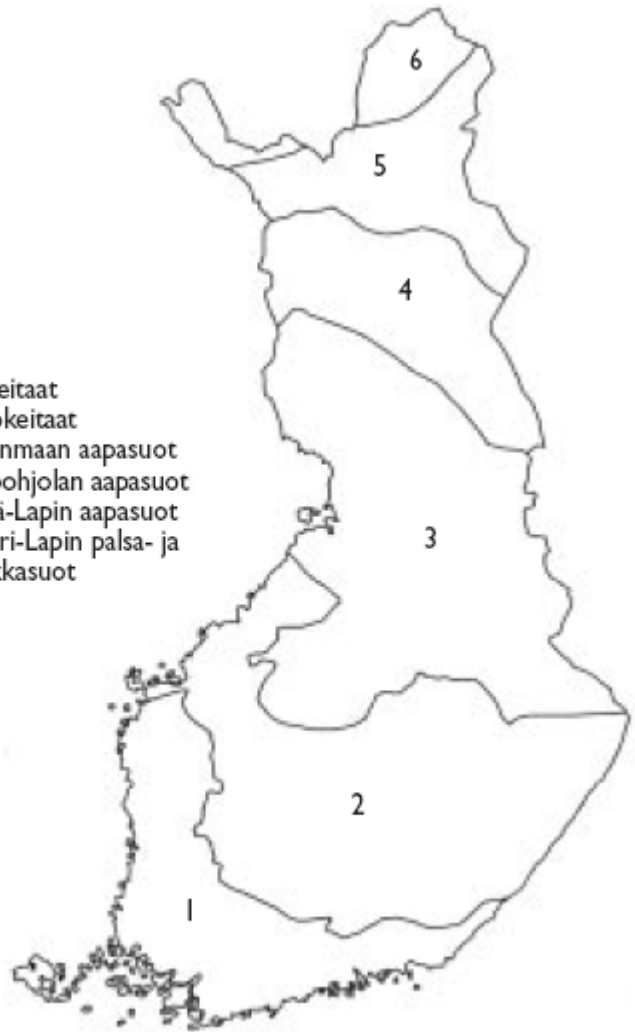
South from Forest and Mountain Lapland area (zones 1-4)

Thin peated eutrophic spruce mires

Eutrophic pine swamps

Eutrophic flark fens

- 1 = kilpiketaat
- 2 = viettokeitaat
- 3 = Pohjanmaan aapasuot
- 4 = Peräpohjolan aapasuot
- 5 = Metsä-Lapin aapasuot
- 6 = Tunturi-Lapin palsa- ja paljakkasuot



Ruuhijärvi, R. 1988: Peatland vegetations. Maps of Finland, Booklet 141–143, pp. 2–6. National Land Survey of Finland, Helsinki.