

New PEFC Forest Certification Standard

Keeping up with the times and changes

Presentation of the Main Changes to the Revised Finnish PEFC Standard



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Contents of presentation

1. Background
2. 40 organizations involved
3. Updated PEFC criteria
4. Keeping up with the times and changes
5. Legislation
6. Mitigating climate change
7. Multipurpose use of forests
8. Sustainable harvesting of energy wood
9. Human welfare
10. Additional information



1 Background

- The Finnish PEFC Forest Certification Standard has been updated
- Updates are made every five years; the previous update was in 2003
- Indufor Oy, a forestry and environmental sector consulting firm, has assessed the new standard, comparing
 - The impact of the standard's revisions on the sustainability of forestry in practice
 - The requirements of the standard with respect to legislation



2 Revision work involving all interested stakeholders

- In line with PEFC regulations, the update was made in broad and transparent collaboration with all interested stakeholders
- The revision work involved 40 different stakeholders from different forestry organizations, including
 - Organizations of forest owners, professionals, commercial interests, consumers and youth organizations
 - Organizations manufacturing and marketing forest industry products
 - Forest researchers
 - Groups representing special issues, like indigenous people



3 The titles of the revised PEFC criteria (16.4.2009) 1/2

*) 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 in forest management operations
- 14 Genetically-modified seed and plant material must not be used
- 15 Forest road plans include an environmental assessment



3 The titles of the revised PEFC criteria (16.4.2009) 2/2

- 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 multipurpose use of forests are promoted
- 28 Preconditions for reindeer husbandry are safeguarded
- 29 Sámi culture and the traditional livelihoods are safeguarded in Sámi homelands in accordance with sustainable development defined by the Sámi



4 Keeping up with the times and changes

Key results of the comparison

- The criteria of the standard have been further defined and specified in a way that facilitates interpretations in practice
- 76% of the criteria exceed the requirements imposed by legislation and 24% require statutory-level performance
- The standard takes forestry's changed and changing operating environment into consideration very well
 - Forests and the mitigation of climate change
 - Criteria for the sustainable harvesting of energy wood
 - Criteria ensuring human welfare

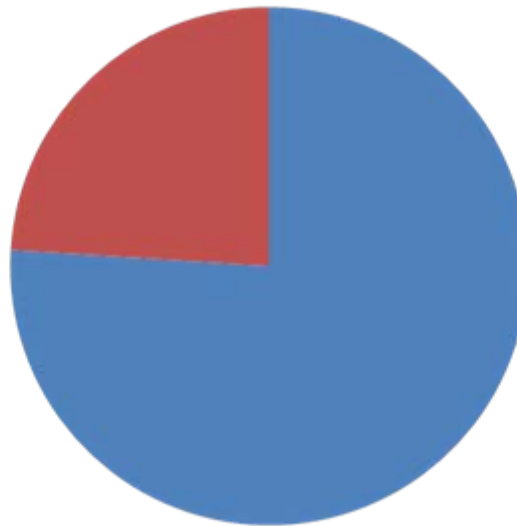


5 PEFC significantly more demanding than legislation

- The basic requirement of PEFC forest certification is compliance with existing legislation
- 76% of the criteria exceed the requirements imposed by the law and 24% require statutory-level performance

Criteria at the statutory level (24%):

1, 9, 12, 14, 20, 23, 26



Criteria exceeding the statutory level (76%):

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29



6 Sustainable forestry management produces wood and provides a carbon sink

- A key improvement in the new standard is consideration to the inter-linkage between climate change and sustainable forest management.
- A standard premise is that healthy forest resources shall both provide good-quality timber and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.
- The standard recognizes the importance of forests as carbon stocks and requires the maintenance of forests as viable carbon sinks.



7 Multipurpose use of forests promoted

- The updated standard emphasizes the multipurpose use of forests and recognizes new use modes alongside industrial wood production.
- The standard gives support to multi-functional use of forests and related new business activities as it promotes:
 - The use of forests for outdoor activity and recreational purposes
 - Hunting and game management possibilities
 - Agreement-based collection of organic forest products with commercial importance



8 Sustainable harvesting of energy wood

- The new standard is the first in the world to define criteria for sustainable harvesting of energy wood
 - Clarifies sustainable forest management requirements related to the production of fast-growing tree species
 - Instructs producers to operate in a way that minimizes adverse environmental impacts
 - Specifies that root rot abatement measures and prevention of harvesting damages apply not only to industrial wood but also to energy wood harvesting



9 Human welfare a priority 1/2

- The standard's social criteria are now clearly more diverse
- The standard recognizes, for example, the estimated increase in foreign labour in forestry work, and includes new requirements related to the needs of multicultural labour
 - Work instructions must be given in a language understood by each employee
 - When necessary, employees must be able to use an interpreter



9 Human welfare a priority 2/2

- The updated standard includes stringent requirements to respect the needs of Sámi culture and reindeer herding in forestry operations on state land.
- It's important to note that the definition 'local people' includes a wide group of people, e.g. forest owners, recreational forest users, collectors and traders of non-wood forest products, reindeer herders as well as indigenous Sámi people.
- The standard also identifies participatory planning procedures in more detail than before.



Additional information

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The complete report can be read and downloaded at www.pefc.fi

