

► Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)



What is PEFC

PEFC is the world's largest forest certification system. PEFC's credible standards seek to transform the way forests are managed globally – and locally - to ensure that all of us can enjoy the environmental, social and economic benefits that forests offer.

Why should I get PEFC certified

Forests are among the most biodiverse and valuable terrestrial ecosystems on the planet and vital for our livelihoods. Sustainable forest management helps maintaining and enhancing the values forests provide - now and for the future. The simple act of sourcing or purchasing a product with the PEFC labels can have far-reaching positive implications, not least in terms of sustainable consumption. If you are interested in making the right ethical choice, you should always choose PEFC-certified products to promote the sustainable management of our forests globally.

Whether you are a forest manager, a print company, a company producing or procuring timber or timber-based products, you can choose to become PEFC certified and show that you are making a positive difference socially, ethically, and environmentally.

The PEFC logo and labels are globally trusted trademarks. They assist businesses, consumers, forest owners and managers to identify and promote merchandise and goods from forests that are managed sustainably.

Demand for PEFC certification has increased incrementally in recent years, an increase matched by growing awareness of the potential role of forests in tackling societal challenges such as climate change.

About PEFC

As the world's largest forest certification system, PEFC remains the certification system of choice for small, non-industrial private forests, with hundreds of thousands of family forest owners certified to comply with our sustainability benchmark and offering tens of thousands PEFC-certified products globally.

While there are alternative, credible forest and chain of custody certification options available, there are good reasons why so many companies are choosing PEFC for their responsible sourcing, and so many consumers are looking out for the PEFC label when buying wood and wood-based products.

The aim of PEFC

PEFC works throughout the entire forest supply chain to promote good practice in the forest and to ensure that timber and non-timber forest products are produced with respect for the highest ecological, social and ethical standards. Thanks to its eco-label, customers and consumers are able to identify products from sustainably managed forests.

Through innovative mechanisms for group and regional certification, PEFC supports small land owners to gain recognition in the market place thereby making a lasting contribution to livelihoods and rural development.

To date, several hundred-thousand family- and community-owned forests have acquired PEFC certification.

PEFC certification is also favoured by numerous public and private timber procurement policies worldwide.

Under this definition, to achieve sustainability, forest management practices must result in outcomes that are

- Economically viable
- Ecologically sound, and
- Socially just

These three pillars cannot be divided, compartmentalized, or addressed individually. They are a unified whole. Without all three, forests cannot be protected, family foresters cannot thrive, forest- dependent communities cannot exist, illegal logging will not be abated, and carbon emissions will not be mitigated.

Forest certification provides a mechanism to address these and ensure that wood and wood-based products reaching the marketplace have been sourced from sustainably managed forests.

Who can become PEFC

Whether you are a forest manager, a company producing or procuring timber or timber-based products, or a consumer. You can get involved and make a positive difference.

How do i get PEFC certified?

In order to obtain PEFC chain of custody certification, certain key requirements must be fulfilled.

The management systems in place outlining procedures must ensure compliance with the PEFC international chain of custody standard. This information can be integrated into existing systems your company may have already implemented, such as ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 procedures.

The personnel responsible for performing the tasks which will affect the implementation and maintenance of the chain of custody, e.g., Buyers, marketing and sales personnel, must be identified, briefed and trained. It is vital to ensure that everyone involved has appropriate knowledge of the purpose and requirements of Chain of Custody certification.

The necessary checks need to be implemented to verify that sourced material is certified – production of certified goods requires procurement of certified material. The PEFC product database is a good resource for identifying suppliers of certified material.

The processes must be implemented to ensure that the production of certified goods meets the requirements for chain of custody certification. Proof may be required at any stage of the process.

The records to prove that all systems comply with requirements must be properly maintained.

Internal audits must be conducted on an annual basis. These internal audits are in addition to external third-party audits.

▶ PEFC Certification (continued)

Key stages

What follows is a description of some of the key stages required to obtain chain of custody certification:

Set up the chain of custody system and train staff; ensure compliance with PEFC's strict requirements.

Arrange for Telarc to assess your company against the international PEFC chain of custody standard and check that all requirements are fulfilled.

This is done by making a formal application for chain of custody certification with Telarc. Based on this application, you will receive a proposal, including a cost estimate. Costs of PEFC chain of custody certification are fixed by individual certification bodies; due to the competitive nature of the certification business prices may vary by country and certification body.

A site visit by your Telarc auditor is undertaken to assess compliance with the PEFC international chain of custody standard.

Resolve, if necessary, any non-compliance issues. This is a pre-requisite before a chain of custody certificate can be issued.

If your chain of custody system is found to be compliant with certification requirements, you will be issued PEFC certification. The chain of custody certificate is usually valid for a period of five years. An annual surveillance audit is required to confirm that your operation continues to comply with chain of custody requirements.

Renew chain of custody certification. In order to renew your chain of custody certification upon expiry, you will be required to undergo a new assessment.

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