

PEFC Council

**Conformity Assessment of the Revised Belgian Certification  
Scheme against the PEFC Council Requirements**

*Final Report*

Indufor Oy

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	RECOMMENDATION	3
3.	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	4
3.1	Standard-Setting Procedures	4
3.2	Standard-Setting Process	4
3.3	Forest Management Standard	5
3.4	Group Certification Model	7
3.5	Certification and Accreditation Arrangements	8
4.	MATERIAL AND METHODS	10
4.1	Material	10
4.2	Methods	11
5.	STRUCTURE OF THE APPLICANT SYSTEM	12
6.	STANDARD-SETTING PROCEDURES	14
6.1	Introduction	14
6.2	Findings of the Assessment	14
6.3	Assessment of Conformity	15
7.	STANDARD-SETTING PROCESS	16
7.1	Introduction	16
7.2	Findings of the Assessment	16
7.3	Assessment of Conformity	17
8.	FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD	18
8.1	Introduction	18
8.2	Findings of the Assessment	18
8.3	Assessment of Conformity	20
9.	GROUP CERTIFICATION MODEL	21
9.1	Introduction	21
9.2	Findings of the Assessment	21
9.3	Assessment of Conformity	24
10.	CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS	25
10.1	PEFC Belgium Requirements for Certification and Accreditation of Forest Management	25
10.2	Accreditation Requirements for Chain of Custody Certification and Logo Use	26
10.3	Notification of Certification Bodies	26
11.	STAKEHOLDER VIEWS	27
11.1	International Consultation	27
11.2	National Consultation on Standard-Setting	27

## LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1	PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist	
	– Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6)	30
	– Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)	42
	– Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)	96
	– Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)	193
Annex 2	Stakeholder Questionnaire Form	245

## ABBREVIATIONS

BELAC	Belgian Accreditation Body
BFCS	Belgian Forest Certification Scheme
CB	Certification body
COC	Chain of custody
FO	Forest operators
HCV	High conservation value
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
NA	Not applicable
PEFC	Programme for The Endorsement of Forest Certification
PEFCC	PEFC Council
SFM	Sustainable forest management
ST	Standard
TOF	Trees outside forests
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
WG	Working group



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Background**

The Belgian Forest Certification Scheme (BFCS) for Sustainable Forest Management was first launched in 2001 by PEFC Belgium and endorsed by PEFC International in 2002. Since then, the system has been re-endorsed two times, the last time being in 2012. The BFCS is governed and managed by PEFC Belgium, a non-profit organisation. In September 2021, there was a total of about 295.000 hectares of forest land certified under the BFCS<sup>1</sup>.

The BFCS includes requirements for the sustainable forest management (SFM) and group certification. In addition, it has a chain of custody standard and a trademark standard that refer to the PEFC international standards. The SFM and trees outside forests (TOF) management requirements of the BFCS are established on a regional level: at the moment, only the SFM standard for Walloon region has been established, while the TOF for Walloon and the SFM and TOF standards for the Flanders and Brussels regions are being developed. The standard for management system for group and SFM certification is established at national level.

Currently, the BFCS is seeking its third re-endorsement. The revision process started in May 2019 with a stakeholder mapping and gap analysis with the PEFC International's benchmarks and standards, followed by an information session held in June 2019 with stakeholders, and finally with an official opening of a forum (technical committee) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 in the region of Walloon. The revision process of the forum officially ended on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 and was submitted to the general assembly of PEFC Belgium on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 and approved.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, PEFC Belgium applied to the PEFC Council for the assessment of their certification system and the SFM standard of the Walloon Region against PEFC requirements. This report presents the conformity assessment of the BFCS standards against the international PEFC requirements.

### **Scope of this Report**

This Final Draft Report presents the findings of the assessor team. The report is submitted to the PEFC Secretariat for comments and will be developed into a Final Report based on the feedback from the PEFC Secretariat.

The structure of the report is as follows:

Chapter 1 describes the background and the scope of the independent assessment.

Chapter 2 states Indufor's recommendation on the maintenance of endorsement of the PEFC Belgium to the PEFC Council and specifies possible conditions the PEFC Council should take into consideration in the decision-making.

Chapter 3 describes a summary of findings for each element of the national scheme and gives justifications for the given recommendation.

Chapter 4 presents the assessment methods and material used.

Chapter 5 describes the structure of the applicant system.

Chapter 6 assesses the national scheme's procedures for standard development and the procedures for standard review and revision against the PEFC Council requirements.

Chapter 7 assesses how the standard review and revision process was implemented.

Chapter 8 assesses the scheme requirements for sustainable forest management and their compliance with the PEFC Council requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> PEFC Belgium Annual Report 2022

Chapter 9 assesses the scheme requirements for group certification and their compliance with the PEFC Council requirements.

Chapter 10 reviews the scheme requirements for certification and accreditation procedures including notification of certification bodies.

Chapter 11 gives a summary of the received stakeholder comments and explains their consideration in the assessment.

Annex 1 includes the PEFC benchmark checklists with Indufor's conclusions on the BFCS conformity with each PEFC benchmark requirement. It also lists the reference documents that provide the basis for the conclusions.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

Indufor recommends that the PEFC Council **endorses** the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme, **under the condition** that the remaining non-conformities are in the standards are addressed within a period of six (6) months.

The rationale of the recommendation derives from the following:

1. The Scheme does not involve major non-conformities with the PEFC requirements.
2. The PEFC Belgium has the possibility to address the remaining minor non-conformities within the given timeframe.

The remaining minor non-conformities to be addressed include the following:

1. **Two (2) minor non-conformities** in the Scheme's standard-setting procedures against the benchmark requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
2. **Five (5) minor non-conformities** in the Scheme's standard-setting process against the benchmark requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
  - a. We recommend that these five non-conformities are noted for correction during the next standard-setting process.
3. **16 minor non-conformities** in the Scheme's sustainable forest management requirements against the benchmark requirements set by the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
4. **Five (5) minor non-conformities** in the Scheme's requirements for group forest management against the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark requirements.
5. **One (1) minor non-conformity** in the certification and accreditation arrangements.



### 3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Standard-Setting Procedures

The standard-setting procedures of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme (BFCS) are defined in the PEFC B 1001 / V 1.0: Requirements for Forest Management Standards Setting Process (April 7, 2022). The document has been drafted using the PEFC benchmark PEFC ST 1001:2017 as the reference. Consequently, the two documents have major analogies and some identical contents, despite applying a partially different structure.

The PEFC B 1001 was assessed for conformity against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The assessment resulted with **two (2) minor non-conformities**.

##### Non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.3 (a). The PEFC B 1001 requirements for public consultation (clause 6.5.1 of the PEFC B 1001) concern an enquiry draft prepared by the working group (Forum). It is not explicitly stated that these requirements, which stipulate the consultancy duration, must be applied with the public consultation for determining standard revision need that is referred to in chapter 9 of the PEFC B 1001.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.4. The PEFC B 1001 requirements for a public announcement are given in the context of standard-setting (new standard drafting or standard revision), and not in the context of standard review.

##### Comments:

- Benchmark 6.1.2. The PEFC B 1001, clause 6.1.2 includes a numbering error. The standard is understood to refer to clause 6.1.1 instead of 4.1.1.
- Benchmark 9.1. It is recommended that more specific reference is made to those sections of the PEFC B 1001 that stipulate the requirements to be followed in a normal standard revision.

Due to the two identified minor non-conformities between PEFC B 1001 and the PEFC ST 1001:2017, the BFSC standard-setting procedures **do not yet fully comply** with the PEFC requirements.

#### 3.2 Standard-Setting Process

The implemented standard-setting process of BFCS was assessed against the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements based on supporting documentation and descriptions provided by PEFC Belgium.

Altogether, the PEFC Belgium standard-setting process can be considered of a high standard, with extensive public communication, stakeholder participation, pilot testing, process documentation and general transparency. Nevertheless, the assessment identified **five (5) non-conformities** against benchmark-level requirements.

##### Non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.3.1 (e, f). Feedback on the standard-setting process was only invited from the working group (i.e., Forum), after it had been nominated and it had started its work. Also, there was no explicit reference to the standard-setting procedures in conjunction with the public announcement of the standard-setting process. The non-conformity should be noted and both aspects should be corrected during the next standard-setting process.

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.5.1 (a). The announcement was made on the same day the public consultation began, which does not meet the benchmark requirement. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2.2. Feedback has been collected and documented in relation to multiple relevant occasions such as public consultations, working group meetings and pilot testing. However, it is not clear how feedback has been collected and considered outside of these occasions. The non-conformity should be noted, and feedback collection and consideration should be implemented and documented universally during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.4. The public announcement shared by PEFC Belgium concerned standard revision and not the preceding standard review. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 9.1. Minor non-conformities remain with the processes stipulated by benchmarks 6.3.1 (e, f) and 6.5.1 (a). These non-conformities should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

It is the assessor's view that the identified non-conformities did not compromise the integrity of the standard-setting process. All the identified non-conformities are recommended to be noted for correction during the next standard-setting process. Therefore, the assessor's conclusion is that the standard-setting process **complies to a satisfactory extent** with the PEFC requirements.

### 3.3 Forest Management Standard

The sustainable forest and TOF management requirements of BFCS are described in six regional standards: PEFC B 1003\_WL-F / V 1.1 PEFC Sustainable forest management standards for the Walloon Region (April 7, 2022), PEFC B 1003\_FL-F Sustainable forest management standards for Flanders, PEFC B 1003\_BX-F Sustainable forest management standards for Brussels, PEFC B 1003\_WL-T Sustainable TOF Management Standards for the Walloon Region, PEFC B 1003\_FL-T Sustainable TOF management standards for Flanders, and PEFC B 1003\_BX-T Sustainable TOF management standards for Brussels. Of these, only the first one, PEFC B 1003\_WL-F, has been established and thus, only it was assessed. Additionally, PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0 Requirements for the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification (April 7, 2022) covers many requirements of the SFM benchmark.

The PEFC B 1003\_WL-F and the PEFC B 1002 were assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 1003:2018.

Overall, the PEFC Belgium sustainable forest management standards cover the benchmark requirements relatively well. However, the assessment identified several non-conformities as listed below:

#### **Non-conformities:**

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 4.1 (i). The references to applicable legislation are incomplete in the standards.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.2.3. The underlined sentence does not currently communicate the requirement about including the average annual allowable cut into the management plan clearly enough: average is not equal to allowable or a rate that can be sustained in the long term (see also benchmark 8.3.4).
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.2.4. The underlined sentence does not in its current form communicate the requirement about including the average annual allowable use of non-wood forest products into the management plan clearly enough.

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.2.7. The BFCS does not require a summary of the management plan to be publicly available, only per external request. PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines “publicly available” as *generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request*.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.1.3. Climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions, are not required, and neither is the efficient use of resources encouraged.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.1.4 (b). The PEFC B 1003 requirement regarding the extent of forest conversion concerns the whole forest area, not forest type as in the benchmark.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.1.6 (a-h). Conversion of degraded forests to forest plantations is not prohibited in the BFCS. There is not enough information to determine whether the concept of ‘forest plantation’ is applicable in the context of Belgian forestry and thus, the benchmark cannot be ruled as ‘not applicable’ as suggested by PEFC Belgium.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2.1. Rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.3.2. Pursuing sound economic performance is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.3.4. It is not required to not exceed the sustainable harvesting levels of non-wood products. The requirement related to defining the average use of non-wood forest products cannot, as such, be interpreted to prevent exceeding sustainable harvest rates of non-wood forest products in the long term.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.3.5. The maintenance of infrastructure is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.6. The promotion of afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities contributing to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.1. Forest management planning is not required to respect all socio-economic functions of forest.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.3. The protection of sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.4. Management is not required to promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.5. Making the best use of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples is not required, and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge is not encouraged.

#### **Comments:**

- Benchmark 6.3.2.2. Benchmark requirements related to indigenous peoples are not applicable in the context of the Walloon region and generally in Belgium.
- Benchmark 7.3.1. Benchmark requirements related to indigenous peoples are not applicable in the context of the Walloon region and generally in Belgium.

- Benchmark 8.2.8. It is recommended to clarify in the standards whether the exceptions in the legislation include WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides.
- Benchmark 8.4.7. It is recommended to update the wording of the requirement. In its current form, it gives the impression that the requirement is applicable only in plantations and not in general for all silviculture activities.

The BFSC sustainable forest management requirements still involve several non-conformities: 16 minor non-conformities related to 16 benchmark requirements were identified between the PEFC B 1003\_WL-F and the PEFC B 1002 and the requirements set by the PEFC ST 1003:2018. **Therefore, the BFSC forest management standards do not fully comply with the PEFC requirements.**

### 3.4 Group Certification Model

The Belgium Forest Certification Scheme describes the group forest management certification in the document "Requirement of the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification" (PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0). In addition, definitions with relevance to the group forest management certification are described in the document "Terms and Definitions" (PEFC B 4001 / 3.1).

The PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0 include requirements for group certification of forest owners and group certification of companies and operators operating in certified forests. The assessment covers the group certification of forest owners.

The PEFC B 4001 / 3.1 defines both an organisation and a group organisation. In PEFC B 1002 / 1.0 the "Organisation" is the central entity in the management of the group certificate and the term "group entity" is not applied. Two different options for forest owners to be a part of the group certificate is defined, as individual forest owners participating in the Organisation or as members of a group of forest owners participating in the Organisation. The latter imply that a group of forest owners are managed by an entity and this entity is the one participating in the Organisation. Regardless of option, the forest owner is obliged to follow the requirements in the sustainable forest management/TOF standard.

The PEFC B 1002 / 1.0 is for the most part in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements. However, five minor non-conformities were identified, as listed below:

#### **Non-conformities:**

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 5.1.1 j). PEFC B 1002 required the organisation to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications but does not include requirements on ensuring implementation with all group members.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 5.2.1 a) and d). The PEFC B 1002 requirement on the commitment of the organisation is narrower than in PEFC ST 1002:2018, restricting the commitment only to the top senior management of the organisation and not to the whole organisation. This difference in requirement is of significance especially when it comes to commitment "to comply with the sustainable management standard" (a) and "to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants (d).
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2 a). The PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirement implies that processes need to be in place (with criteria), for planning, implementing and control on i) meeting the requirements of the group certification and SFM standards and ii) the group management plan. PEFC B 1002 defines requirements on the group management system and the group management plan, as well as the monitoring of the GMP, that fulfil the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark, with the exception that PEFC B 1002 does not include requirements on criteria for the processes.

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2 b). PEFC B 1002 does not include requirement on criteria for implementation of control of the processes. Consequently, it is not possible to “implement control of the processes in accordance with the criteria”.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 9.3.1.3. PEFC B 1002 allows preexisting groups to join the group certificate (this is implicitly coming from the requirement in 5.1.6.3.3). But the requirement on additional sampling in PEFC B 1002, in case a pre-existing group is joining, is not on standard level, but to be defined by the organisation (i.e., the group entity). PEFC B 1002 does not provide examples of which kind of groups that this could concern.

#### Comments:

- Benchmark 4.3.3. requires that “the standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable management standard that may be fulfilled on group level”. PEFC B 1002 require the organisation to comply with, as well as the Group Management Plan to respond to, any “requirements in the sustainable forest / TOF management standard that are applicable (i.e. to be fulfilled) on organisational level” (i.e. group). The PEFC B 1002 also require the organisation to have a long term action plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level. Therefore, although implicitly covering the requirements of the PEFC 1002:2018 benchmark, a requirement to define which requirements that may be fulfilled on group level is not explicitly stated.
- Benchmark 5.2.1 b) and c). See above for information on differences in requirements between PEFC B 1002 and PEFC ST 1002:2018. The significance of the difference in requirement is less when it comes to “to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system” (b) and “c) to continuously improve the group management system” (c).

Due to the five identified minor non-conformities, the PEFC B **does not fully comply** with the benchmark requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018.

### 3.5 Certification and Accreditation Arrangements

The BFCS standard PEFC B 2003 on *Requirements for Certification Bodies* sets the accreditation requirements to certification of (i) forest management, (ii) trees outside forests and (iii) forest operators. For chain of custody certification, the Scheme has adopted the international PEFC chain of custody standard and the accreditation requirements of the PEFC ST 2003:2020 on *Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard*.

In general, the standard PEFC B 2003 complies with the PEFC requirements, but it refers to wrong ISO standard in its requirements for accreditation bodies. It claims that accreditation bodies shall implement the procedures of ISO 17021 standard (*Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*) when the right reference should be made to ISO 17011 standard (*Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*).

The standard PEFC B 2003 was assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC Council Annex 6. The assessment identified **one (1) minor non-conformity** related to the benchmark:

#### Non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Scheme document does not require that accreditation body implement the procedures described in ISO 17011 (PEFC checklist question 20).

### **Accreditation to Chain of Custody Certification**

The BFCS has adopted the international PEFC chain of custody standard on *Chain of Custody of Forest-Based Products - Requirements* (PEFC ST 2002:2020) for the chain of custody certification. The BFCS standard PEFC B 2002 (*Requirements for the Implementation of the Chain of Custody*) lists that the PEFC standard as the only normative reference in BFCS chain of custody requirements.

It also specifies that the accreditation to chain of custody certification shall be done according to the international standard PEFC ST 2003:2020 on *Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard*. That standard also require that certification bodies procedures comply with ISO 17065 standard on *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*).

The standard PEFC B 2003 and PEFC B 2002 (*Requirements for the Implementation of the Chain of Custody*) were assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 2003:3030 and ISO 17065. No non-conformities were identified.

### **Notification of Certification Bodies**

The standard PEFC B 4003 on *PEFC Notification Procedure for Certification Bodies Operating Chain of Custody, Forest Management and TOF Certification* stipulate on notification procedures.

The notification is open to any CB that has accreditation from any national accreditation body to conduct certifications based on BFCS standards for sustainable forest management (SFM), trees outside forests (TOF), Forest Operators (FO) or chain of custody (COC). The notification requirements of PEFC B 4003 are not discriminatory.

The standard PEFC B 4003 was assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC Annex 6. The BFCS notification requirements for forest management certification conform to PEFC requirements. No non-conformities were identified.



## 4. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 4.1 Material

The conformity assessment was based on the following documentation concerning the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and the standard-setting processes:

#### Normative documents

PEFC Belgium normative document	Date of issuance	Received by assessor
PEFC B 0001 / V. 1.0: Belgian Forest Certification Scheme General Document	Apr 7, 2022	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC B 1001 / V 1.0: Requirements for Forest Management Standards Setting Process	Apr 7, 2022	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0: Requirements for the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification	Apr 7, 2022	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1: PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region	Apr 7, 2022	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC B 2002: Requirements for the Implementation of the Chain of Custody	Apr 7, 2022	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC B 2003: Requirements for Certification Bodies	Apr 7, 2022	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC B 4003: PEFC Notification Procedure for Certification Bodies Operating Chain of Custody, Forest Management and TOF Certification	Mar 30, 2022	Dec 19, 2022

#### Descriptive documents

Other documents	Received by assessor
Articles of association of PEFC Belgium (PEFC B 4002-2021), January 14, 2021	Feb 24, 2023
Questions et commentaires reçus lors de la consultation publique pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons (Avril 2022)	Feb 2023
Réponse à la consultation publique de PEFC Belgium pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons (Avril 2022)	Feb 2023
14102010_Liste des presences.pdf	Dec 19, 2022
14102019_PV_FORUM _PEFC.pdf	Dec 19, 2022
20190222_Self evaluation.xlsx	Feb 24, 2023
20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx	Feb 24, 2023
20191219_PV_FORUM _PEFC.pdf	Dec 19, 2022
20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf	Dec 19, 2022
PEFC- Cotations_document_draft 10_12_2019.pdf	Dec 19, 2022
PEFCBelgium 21062019 Session d'information.pdf	Feb 24, 2023
PVAGAV PEFC 07-04-2022.pdf	Dec 19, 2022

Questionnaire – réponses.xlsx	Dec 19, 2022
Questionnaire à l'attention de parties.pdf	Dec 19, 2022
Répertoire parties prenantes Forum PEFC.xlsx	Dec 19, 2022
STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx	Dec 19, 2022
Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf	Dec 19, 2022

## 4.2 Methods

The assessment was carried out as a desk study based on the documentation listed above and clarifications provided by the PEFC Belgium.

In addition, consultations with stakeholders were carried out in two separate processes. PEFC International announced public consultations on its website on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022, and they were open until the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022. The assessor sent out questionnaires in February 2023 to a total of 107 national stakeholders to enquire about their views on the standard-setting process and the resulting standards.

The following grading of conformity levels was used in the assessment (Box 4.1).

### Box 4.1 Assessment Scales Used in Conformity Assessment

#### **Conformity**

A procedure described by the Scheme documentation fully meets the particular requirement of PEFC Council.

#### **Minor non-conformity**

A minor non-conformity does not violate the integrity of the certification Scheme and is not a bar to endorsement. The assessor recommends appropriate corrective action. Generally, a minor non-conformity should be corrected within 6 months. The assessor may recommend a longer period if justified by particular circumstances.

#### **Major non-conformity**

A major non-conformity violates the integrity of the certification Scheme and must be corrected before the endorsement of the Scheme.

#### **NA**

Not applicable.

Only a positive conclusion on the conformity was considered to meet the PEFC requirements. The scheme elements indicating minor or major non-conformities were classified as not meeting the performance level set for the endorsed schemes. PEFC benchmark requirements were classified as not applicable if they related to a standard development phase or process not relevant for PEFC Belgium. These included, e.g., requirements specific to development of a new standard, as assessed process considered standard revision.



## 5. STRUCTURE OF THE APPLICANT SYSTEM

### PEFC Belgium

The PEFC Belgian Forest Certification Scheme (BFCS) is governed by PEFC Belgium, a non-profit organisation acting as the National Governing Body of PEFC in Belgium. The members of PEFC Belgium are any legal entity representing parties involved in sustainable forest management and whose application has been approved by the General Assembly.

The PEFC Belgium is responsible for the promotion, organisation, co-ordination and supervision of PEFC certification for Belgium in accordance with the rules laid down by the PEFC Council.

Under the terms of a contract with the PEFC Council, the PEFC Belgium is authorised to use the PEFC logo for educational purposes. It is also responsible for issuing licences on behalf of the PEFC Council, if appropriate, in accordance with PEFC ST 2001:2020 of the PEFC Council technical document (Requirements for use of the logo).

PEFC Belgium is also responsible for keeping an up-to-date register of all the on- and off-product logo users given licences by PEFC Belgium and of the certificate holders in the country, as well as for transferring the data to the PEFC Council in accordance with the specifications outlined in the PEFC Council Internal Rules on the Registration System.

PEFC Belgium is guided by a Board of Directors and its daily activities are managed by its staff members including the Secretary General.

Belgian Forest Certification Scheme – General Document (PEFC B 0001 / V. 1.0) provide an overview of the PEFC Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and its requirements.

### BFCS

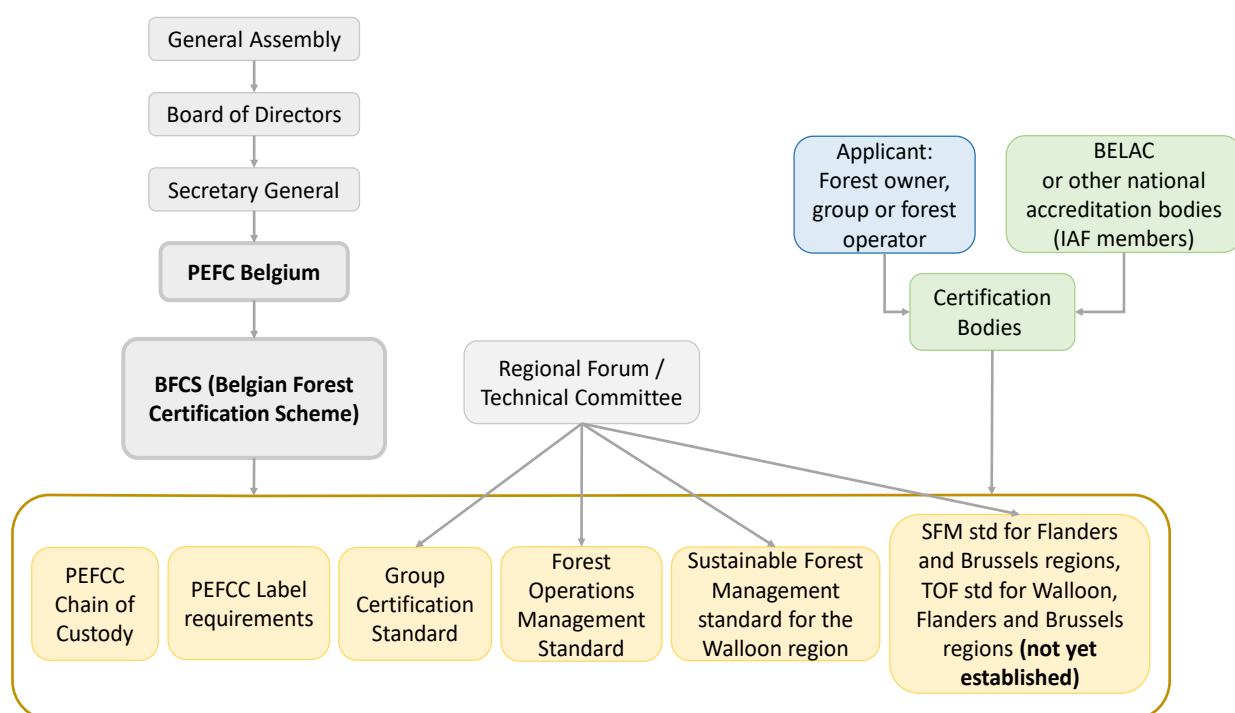
The BFCS consists of the following standards (inside the yellow ring in figure 5.1.):

- Group forest management standard established on a national level
  - o PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0 Requirements for the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification
- Forest operations management standard established on a national level
  - o PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0 Requirements for the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification
- Sustainable forest management standards and TOF standards established on a regional level
  - o PEFC B 1003\_WL-F / V 1.1 PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region
  - o *PEFC B 1003\_WL-T Sustainable TOF Management Standards for the Walloon Region* (not available at the time of the assessment)
  - o *PEFC B 1003\_FL-F Sustainable Forest Management Standards for Flanders* (not available at the time of the assessment)
  - o *PEFC B 1003\_FL-T Sustainable TOF Management Standards for Flanders* (not available at the time of the assessment)
  - o *PEFC B 1003\_BX-T Sustainable TOF Management Standards for Brussels* (not available at the time of the assessment)
  - o *PEFC B 1003\_BX-T Sustainable TOF Management Standards for Brussels* (not available at the time of the assessment)
- Label requirements
  - o PEFC B 2001 / V 1.0 Requirements for the Use of the Logo
- Chain of custody requirements
  - o PEFC B 2002 / V 1.0 Requirements for the Implementation of the Chain of Custody

The sustainable forest and TOF management standards are established on a regional level, other standards on a national level. PEFC B 2002 and PEFC B 2001 refer to the PEFC Council standards on chain of custody and logo use (PEFC ST 2002, and PEFC ST 2001 respectively).

The forest management standards are drawn up by a Forum open to any organisation with an obvious link to forest management in its multifunctional approach and wishing to take part in the development of the PEFC certification process. The Forum in charge of establishing the regional standards is organised by PEFC Belgium in line with the requirements of the PEFC B 1001 – Requirements for Forest Management Standards Setting Process. A Forum is also involved in the establishment of the group management standard and the forest operations management standard.

**Figure 5.1. Structure of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme**



### Organisations in Accreditation and Certification

The BFCS accreditation and certification procedures in forest management certification are described in the standard PEFC B 2003. The Scheme recognises accreditations of the national Belgian Accreditation Body (BELAC) and other national accreditation bodies (IAF members) meeting the accreditation requirements. The PEFC Belgium website<sup>2</sup> lists 14 certification bodies accredited by the BELAC, or accreditation bodies in their countries of origin, and notified by PEFC Belgium.

### Applicants

In principle, the certification applicants can be either individual forest owners, groups, or forest operators, as certification of these types is recognised by the BFCS. This assessment covers only individual and group certification against the group certification management system standard and the sustainable forest management standard of Wallonia region. The SFM standards for the regions of Flanders or Brussels are not yet available.

<sup>2</sup><https://pefc.be/fr/agir-en-tant-que/entreprise-coc/les-5-etapes-pour-obtenir-votre-certificat-pefc-de-la-chaine-de-controle/organismes-certificateurs>

## 6. STANDARD-SETTING PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Introduction

The standard-setting procedures of BFCS are defined in the normative document PEFC B 1001 / V 1.0: Requirements for Forest Management Standards Setting Process (April 7, 2022). The document has been drafted using the PEFC benchmark PEFC ST 1001:2017 as the reference. The PEFC B 1001 therefore has major analogies with the PEFC ST 1001:2017, down to wording of multiple individual requirements. The two documents have, however, also differences regarding their stipulated requirements as well as the document structure.

The PEFC B 1001 was assessed for conformity against the PEFC ST 1001:2017. A couple of individual benchmark requirements were also found to be addressed by another normative document, PEFC B 0001 / V. 1.0 (Belgian Forest Certification Scheme General Document) rather than the PEFC B 1001. This was referenced when relevant.

A summary of the main findings is provided below, following the structure of the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The checklist is included in Annex 1 (PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process, p. 43)

The assessment identified **two (2) minor non-conformities** in the BFCS standard-setting procedures.

### 6.2 Findings of the Assessment

#### Standardising Body

The PEFC B 1001 has a section labelled as *Standardising Body*, but it includes a definition for the standardising body, PEFC Belgium, rather than setting requirements regarding the responsibilities to be carried out by the standardising body like the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The corresponding contents of the PEFC B 1001 are found under other parts of the document, such as chapter 7 *Transparency and Advertising* (regarding record-keeping requirements) and chapter 8 *Management of feedback, complaints and appeals*.

Altogether, the PEFC B 1001 was found to be in line with the requirements of this benchmark document chapter.

#### Standard-setting process

The main counterpart for this benchmark document chapter is the PEFC B 1001 chapter 6 *Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps*. Multiple sections under these chapters are highly similar or identical between the two documents.

Consequently, the level of conformity between the two documents is also high. No non-conformities were identified regarding the requirements of this chapter of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

#### Comments:

- Benchmark 6.1.2. The PEFC B 1001, clause 6.1.2 includes a numbering error. The standard is understood to refer to clause 6.1.1 instead of 4.1.1.

#### Approval and publication

The PEFC B 1001 also has a section called *Approval and publication*. However, it is short and included under chapter 6 which concerns standard development and revision. The PEFC B 1001 contents corresponding with this benchmark chapter are found under section 6.3 *Public announcement of the process* in addition to section 6.7 *Approval and publication*.

No non-conformities were identified regarding requirements set by this benchmark chapter.

### Periodic review of standards

There is a separate chapter in the PEFC B 1001 for periodic review of standards. It is largely identical with the respective chapter of the PEFC ST 1001:2017. However, some scope-related issues lead to two minor non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.3 (a). The PEFC B 1001 requirements for public consultation (clause 6.5.1 of the PEFC B 1001) concern an enquiry draft prepared by the working group (Forum). It is not explicitly stated that these requirements, which stipulate the consultancy duration, must be applied with the public consultation for determining standard revision need that is referred to in chapter 9 of the PEFC B 1001.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.4. The PEFC B 1001 requirements for a public announcement are given in the context of standard-setting (new standard drafting or standard revision), and not in the context of standard review.

### Revision of standards

The PEFC B 1001 contents regarding revision of standards are merged into chapter 6 which concerns standard development in general. The procedures stipulated by the PEFC B 1001 conform with the benchmark set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

#### Comments:

- Benchmark 9.1. It is recommended that more specific reference is made to those sections of the PEFC B 1001 that stipulate the requirements to be followed in a normal standard revision.

### 6.3 Assessment of Conformity

The assessment identified two minor non-conformities between BFSC and the PEFC ST 1001:2017. Therefore, the BFSC standard-setting procedures **do not yet fully comply** with the PEFC requirements.

## **7. STANDARD-SETTING PROCESS**

### **7.1 Introduction**

The implemented standard-setting process of BFCS was assessed against the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements based on supporting documentation and descriptions provided by PEFC Belgium. The full list of documents and supporting files used as a reference is provided in conjunction with the checklist in Annex 1. All documentation is also included in the list provided under section 4.1.

The summary of the main findings from the assessment of the standard-setting process against the requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017 is presented below, following the structure of the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The checklist is included in Annex 1 (PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process, p. 43).

The assessment identified **five (5) minor non-conformities** in the standard-setting process.

### **7.2 Findings of the Assessment**

#### **Standardising Body**

The standardising body has kept the documented information required by the benchmark. The documentation is abundant and generally well-prepared. Processes for dealing with complaints and appeals cannot be assessed as no complaints or appeals were reportedly received by the PEFC Belgium.

No non-conformities in the process were identified in relation to the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements under this chapter.

#### **Standard-setting process**

The standard-setting process was implemented as a (normal) standard revision process. Benchmark requirements regarding creation of a new standard were deemed as not applicable in the assessment. The standard development was considered in the assessment to have been by large in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements, including, e.g., working group composition and operation, and the implemented public consultation. Minor non-conformities related to two benchmarks were identified in the assessment:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.3.1 (e, f). Feedback on the standard-setting process was only invited from the working group (i.e., Forum), after it had been nominated and it had started its work. Also, there was no explicit reference to the standard-setting procedures in conjunction with the public announcement of the standard-setting process. The non-conformity should be noted and both aspects should be corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.5.1 (a). The announcement was made on the same day the public consultation began, which does not explicitly meet the benchmark requirement. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

#### **Approval and publication**

The standard approval and publication process was found to have been in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.

#### **Periodic review of standards**

PEFC Belgium carried out an extensive review of the standard, including a detailed assessment of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 operational requirements in the Belgian context, a gap analysis, and

a public consultation to collect stakeholder feedback. The process pointed clearly towards revision of the standard. Despite the relatively comprehensive and participatory process, some minor non-conformities with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 were identified:

- **Minor-non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2.2. Feedback has been collected and documented in relation to multiple relevant occasions such as public consultations, working group meetings and pilot testing. However, it is not clear how feedback has been collected and considered outside of these occasions. The non-conformity should be noted, and feedback collection and consideration should be implemented and documented universally during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor-non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.4. The public announcement shared by PEFC Belgium concerned standard revision and not the preceding standard review. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

### **Revision of standards**

Only the requirements regarding normal revision of standards were applicable to be assessed under this chapter. Normal revision of standards is required to conform with the requirements stipulated under the PEFC ST 1001:2017 chapter 6 Standard-setting process. This caused an additional non-conformity under this chapter:

- **Minor-non-conformity:** Benchmark 9.1. Minor non-conformities remain with the processes stipulated by benchmarks 6.3.1 (e, f) and 6.5.1 (a). These non-conformities should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

### **7.3 Assessment of Conformity**

Altogether, the PEFC Belgium standard-setting process can be considered of a high standard, with extensive public communication, stakeholder participation, pilot testing, process documentation and general transparency.

The assessment nevertheless identified non-conformities related to five individual benchmarks. It is the assessor's view that these non-conformities did not compromise the integrity of the standard-setting process. All non-conformities were considered minor, and we recommend them to be noted for correction during the next standard-setting process. This means that the standard-setting process **complies to a satisfactory extent** with the PEFC requirements.

## 8. FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

### 8.1 Introduction

The PEFC Belgium has three regional sustainable forest management standards of which the PEFC B 1003\_WL-F/ V 1.1 PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region (April 7, 2022) (later PEFC B 1003) has been established thus far. In addition, PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0 Requirements for the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification (April 7, 2022) (later PEFC B 1002) covers many requirements of the sustainable forest management benchmark.

The PEFC B 1003 and the PEFC B 1002 have a relatively similar structure to that of the PEFC ST 1003:2018. However, the requirements corresponding or relevant to the individual benchmark requirements are in many cases scattered across and between the standards. The chapters in the Belgian standards are also different from the benchmark standard: the PEFC B 1003 requirements are presented under the chapters *4.1. The organisation shall*, *4.2. Planning*, and *4.3. Implementation*, while the PEFC B 1002 requirements relevant to the PEFC ST 1003:2018 are presented under the chapters *5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level*, *5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level*, *5.3 Group certification*, and *5.4 Withdrawal of the certificate and of the attestation of participation in regional certification*. It should be noted that the PEFC B 1002 chapter *6 Forest Operations certification standards* is not included in the assessment of the sustainable forest management standards as it is a standard of its own, concerning forest operator certification.

The requirements set by the PEFC B 1003 and the PEFC B 1002 were assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 1003:2018. A summary of the findings is presented below, following the structure of the PEFC ST 1003:2018. The checklist is in Annex 1 (Checklist: Sustainable Forest Management, p. 97).

The assessment identified **16 minor non-conformities** at the benchmark level.

### 8.2 Findings of the Assessment

#### **Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard**

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are mainly found in the PEFC B 1002 chapter *5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level*, but also partly in the PEFC B 1002 chapter *5.2 Management system standards applicable at individual level* and the PEFC B 1003 chapters *1. Objectives* and *2. Scope*.

The assessment identified one non-conformity:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 4.1 (i). The references to applicable legislation are incomplete in the standards.

#### **Leadership**

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are found in the PEFC B 1002 chapter *5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level*.

The BFCS was found to be in line with the requirements of this chapter.

#### **Planning**

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are found in the PEFC B 1002 chapter *5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level* and the PEFC B 1003 chapters *4.1. The organisation shall*, *4.2. Planning*, and *4.3. Implementation*.

The assessment identified the following non-conformities:



- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.2.3. The underlined sentence does not currently communicate the requirement about including the average annual allowable cut into the management plan clearly enough: average is not equal to allowable or a rate that can be sustained in the long term (see also benchmark 8.3.4).
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.2.4. The underlined sentence does not in its current form communicate the requirement about including the average annual allowable use of non-wood forest products into the management plan clearly enough.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 6.2.7. The BFCS does not require a summary of the management plan to be publicly available, only per external request. PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines “publicly available” as *generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request*.

#### Comments:

- Benchmark 6.3.2.2. Benchmark requirements related to indigenous peoples are not applicable in the context of the Walloon region of Belgium.

#### Support

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are mainly found in the PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1 *Management system standards applicable at organisational level*, but also partly in the PEFC B 1003 chapters 4.1. *The organisation shall*, 4.2. *Planning*, and 4.3. *Implementation*.

The BFCS was found to be in line with the requirements of this chapter.

#### Comments:

- Benchmark 7.3.1. Benchmark requirements related to indigenous peoples are not applicable in the context of the Walloon region of Belgium.

#### Operation

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are mainly found in the PEFC B 1003 chapters 4.2. *Planning* and 4.3. *Implementation* but also partly in the PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1 *Management system standards applicable at organisational level*.

The assessment identified the following non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.1.3. Climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions, are not required, and neither is the efficient use of resources encouraged.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.1.4 (b). The PEFC B 1003 requirement regarding the extent of forest conversion concerns the whole forest area, not forest type as in the benchmark.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.1.6 (a-h). Conversion of degraded forests to forest plantations is not prohibited in the BFCS. There is not enough information to determine whether the concept of ‘forest plantation’ is applicable in the context of Belgian forestry and thus, the benchmark cannot be ruled as ‘not applicable’ as suggested by PEFC Belgium.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2.1. Rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.3.2. Pursuing sound economic performance is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.3.4. It is not required to not exceed the sustainable harvesting levels of non-wood products. The requirement related to defining the average use of non-wood forest products cannot, as such, be interpreted



to prevent exceeding sustainable harvest rates of non-wood forest products in the long term.

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.3.5. The maintenance of infrastructure is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.4.6. The promotion of afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities contributing to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.1. Forest management planning is not required to respect all socio-economic functions of forest.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.3. The protection of sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance is not required.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.4. Management is not required to promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.6.5. Making the best use of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples is not required, and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge is not encouraged.

#### Comments:

- Benchmark 8.1.6 (c). In the context of Belgium, severely degraded primary forests are not converted into forest plantations as all Belgian forests are considered as semi-natural forests established through plantation at some point in time.
- Benchmark 8.2.8. It is recommended to clarify in the standards whether the exceptions in the legislation include WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides.
- Benchmark 8.4.7. It is recommended to update the wording of the requirement. In its current form, it gives the impression that the requirement is applicable only in plantations and not in general for all silviculture activities.

#### Performance evaluation

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are mainly found in the PEFC B 1002 chapter *5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level*, but also partly in the PEFC B 1003 chapters *4.1. The organisation shall*, *4.2. Planning*, and *4.3. Implementation*.

The BFCS was found to be in line with the requirements of this chapter.

#### Improvement

Contents addressing this PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter are found in the PEFC B 1002 chapter *5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level*.

The BFCS was found to be in line with the requirements of this chapter.

### 8.3 Assessment of Conformity

The assessment identified non-conformities related to 15 individual benchmarks. All 15 non-conformities were considered minor. The non-conformities were in the requirements related to the context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard, planning, and operation.

In the current state, the BFCS **does not comply** with the PEFC ST 1003:2018 requirements.

## **9. GROUP CERTIFICATION MODEL**

### **9.1 Introduction**

The BFCS Scheme describes the group forest management certification in the document *“Requirement of the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification”* (PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0). In addition, definitions with relevance to the group forest management certification are described in the document *“Terms and Definitions”* (PEFC B 4001 / 3.1).

The PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0 (hereafter PEFC B 1002) include requirements for group certification of forest owners (chapter 5) and group certification of companies and operators operating in certified forests (chapter 6). The assessment covers the group certification of forest owners and therefore does not consider chapter 6 of PEFC B 1002.

PEFC B 1002 chapter 5 is structured differently from PEFC 1002:2018. The first part (5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level) covers the obligations of the organisation, while the second part (5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level) covers the obligations of the participant) in group certification.

The term “participant” is having a wider definition in PEFC B than in PEFC 1002:2018, including in addition to the forest owner/manager, also forest operators or wood industry companies “covered by the certificate of the group, which is able to implement the requirements of the standard within its organisation”. The assessment considers requirements with regards to participants as defined in PEFC 1002:2018, i.e., forest owner/manager.

The requirements on group forest management in the PEFC B chapter 5 is assessed against the PEFC 1002:2018. A summary of the findings is presented below. The checklist is in Annex 1 (Checklist: Group Forest Management Certification, p. 184).

The assessment identified **five (5) minor non-conformities** at the benchmark level.

### **9.2 Findings of the Assessment**

#### **Context of the group organisation**

The PEFC B 4001 defines both an organisation<sup>3</sup> and a group organisation<sup>4</sup>. In PEFC B 1002 The “Organisation” is the central entity in the management of the group certificate. Although PEFC B 4001 defines a “group entity”, the term is not applied in PEFC B 1002.

The Organisation is to be a legal regional entity, or several legally associated regional entities and the geographical perimeters of the group certificate is to be defined within one Region of Belgium. The scope of the group management system is defined.

PEFC B 1002 define two different options for forest owners to be a part of the group certificate, as individual forest owners participating in the Organisation or as members of a group of forest owners participating in the Organisation. The latter imply that a group of forest owners are managed by an entity and this entity is the one participating in the Organisation. Regardless of option, the forest owner is obliged to follow the requirements in the sustainable forest management/TOF standard.

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<sup>3</sup> Organisation: “Person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives. (PEFC ST 1002)”

<sup>4</sup> Group organisation: “A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification. (PEFC ST 1002). The term “group organisation” is equivalent to the term “regional organisation” if the group is defined by regional borders, or any other term used by the relevant forest certification scheme and complying with the content of this definition.

In addition to the Organisation and the participants, PEFC B 1002 requires the organisation to set up a stakeholder consultation board<sup>5</sup>. The PEFC B 1002 defines that stakeholder consultation board participate in the decision-making process, but the final decision is taken by the Organisation.

#### **Comments:**

- Benchmark 4.3.3. requires that “the standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable management standard that may be fulfilled on group level”. PEFC B 1002 require the organisation to comply with, as well as the Group Management Plan to respond to, any “requirements in the sustainable forest / TOF management standard that are applicable (i.e. to be fulfilled) on organisational level” (i.e. group). The PEFC B 1002 also require the organisation to have a long term action plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level. Therefore, although implicitly covering the requirements of the PEFC 1002:2018 benchmark, a requirement to define which requirements that may be fulfilled on group level is not explicitly stated.

#### **Leadership**

The PEFC B 1002 defines the leadership of the group management certificate to be under the “Organisation”. The Organisation is responsible for the functions defined for the group entity in PEFC ST 1002:2108.

The PEFC B 1002 assigns requirements on the Organisation that goes beyond the PEFC ST 1002:2018, which mirrors the recognised potential role of the Organisation in fulfilling the sustainable forest management standard<sup>6</sup>. These include e.g.: i) requirements with regards to the inventory and mapping of forest / TOF resources, ii) identification of legislation relevant to its forest /TOF management and determination on how compliance obligations apply to the Organisation, and iii) the requirement to develop, implement, supervise and evaluate a five-year action plan in response to sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable on organisational level.

The responsibilities of the participants are clearly outlined.

The assessment identified the following non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 5.1.1 j). PEFC B 1002 required the organisation to address non-conformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications but does not include requirements on ensuring implementation with all group members.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 5.2.1 a) and d). The PEFC B 1002 requirement on the commitment of the organisation is narrower than in PEFC ST 1002:2018, restricting the commitment only to the top senior management of the organisation and not to the whole organisation. This difference in requirement is of significance especially when it comes to commitment “to comply with the sustainable management standard” (a) and “to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants (d).

#### **Comments:**

- Benchmark 5.2.1 b) and c). See above for information on differences in requirements between PEFC B 1002 and PEFC ST 1002:2018. The significance of the difference in requirement is less when it comes to “to integrate the group certification requirements

<sup>5</sup> The board is to be based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992.

<sup>6</sup> Requirements of the sustainable forest management standards that are fulfilled on group level.

in the group management system” (b) and “c) to continuously improve the group management system” (c).

## **Planning**

PEFC B 1002 requires the Organisation to establish and implement a group management plan. The group management plan is to be established in response to the Sustainable Management / TOF standards applicable on organisational level and is to include any planned changes of the group management system.

## **Support**

With regards to the group management system, the PEFC B 1002 requires the Organisation to identify and make needed resources available for the system as well as defining the necessary competence of the person doing work with the system.

The communication process is well outlined and in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 both when it comes to communication with participants to raise awareness and internal and external communication relevant to the group management system. Mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes are required as well as requirement on documentation of information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard.

## **Operation**

PEFC B 1002 does not include a separate chapter on operations. Instead, the requirements on the Organisation with regards to operations is defined through the requirements in various chapters on the group management system, the group management plan, the five-year action plan<sup>7</sup> as well as the monitoring covering forest / TOF resources, the group management plan and the internal audit of the organisation and the participants.

The assessment identified the following non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2 a). The PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirement implies that processes need to be in place (with criteria), for planning, implementing and control on i) meeting the requirements of the group certification and SFM standards and ii) the group management plan. PEFC B 1002 defines requirements on the group management system and the group management plan, as well as the monitoring of the GMP, that fulfil the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark, with the exception that PEFC B 1002 does not include requirements on criteria for the processes.
- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 8.2 b). PEFC B 1002 does not include requirement on criteria for implementation of control of the processes. Consequently, it is not possible to “implement control of the processes in accordance with the criteria”.

## **Performance evaluation**

PEFC B 1002 defines two aspects with regards to the internal monitoring programme, a “monitoring of the forests / TOF resources” and a “monitoring of the group management plan”. The first one requires the establishment, implementation and maintaining a monitoring plan for the forests and TOF, while the second requires the establishment and implementation a monitoring program to ensure that the group management plan is implemented effectively.

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<sup>7</sup> The Organisation is required to develop, implement, supervise and evaluate a five-year action plan in response to sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable on organisational level.

The internal audit and management review are outlined in separate chapters. The former includes requirements on objectives, organisation, determination of sample size and selection of participants, while the latter cover requirements on what to include in the review and its documentation and how to use for continual improvement of the management system.

The assessment identified the following non-conformities:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Benchmark 9.3.1.3. PEFC B 1002 allows preexisting groups to join the group certificate (this is implicitly coming from the requirement in 5.1.6.3.3). But the requirement on additional sampling in PEFC B 1002, in case a pre-existing group is joining, is not on standard level, but to be defined by the organisation (i.e., the group entity). PEFC B 1002 does not provide examples of which kind of groups that this could concern.

### **Improvement**

PEFC B 1002 include requirements on how to react to non-conformities, the retaining of documented information, rules for allowing excluded participants to re-enter into the group certificate as well as continued improvements on both the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest.

## **9.3 Assessment of Conformity**

The assessment identified non-conformities related to five individual benchmarks. All non-conformities were considered minor. Due to the identified minor non-conformities, the PEFC B **does not fully comply** with the benchmark requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018.

## 10. CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 10.1 PEFC Belgium Requirements for Certification and Accreditation of Forest Management

Accreditation requirements for forest management certification in BFCS cover the Scheme's certification options for forest management (SFM), trees outside forests (TOF) and forest operator (FO) certifications. At the time of the assessment, only the SFM standard for Walloon region is finalised and implemented. Although the BFCS does not have the standards or other procedural documents available for the implementation of TOF or FO certifications, the BFCS standard B 2003 on *Requirements for the Certification of SFM, TOF, Forest Operations and Chain of Custody Management* is also applicable to these pending certification options. Thus, this assessment on the certification and accreditation procedures also covers accreditation procedures for TOF and FO certifications. Accreditation requirements for chain of custody certification are discussed in Section 10.2.

BFCS requires that accreditation is issued by a national accreditation body that is part of IAF or its special recognition regional group. BFCS recognises accreditations issued by any national accreditation body that complies with the IAF and BFCS requirements. Accreditation bodies that are part of IAF shall operate their management system that conform to the ISO 17011 standard (*Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*). However, BFCS does not refer to this standard in its accreditation requirements, but it refers to the standard ISO 17021 (*Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*), that defines the management procedures for certification bodies. This is raised as a non-conformity.

BFCS standard B 2003 specifies that certification bodies conducting forest management certification shall implement procedures described in the ISO 17021-1 standard on *Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*. Compliance with the ISO 17021 standard and BFCS standard B 2003 set adequate provisions for certification bodies on planning and implementation of audits, resource allocation, competence building and independent, impartial decision making. In addition, certification bodies are responsible for controlling PEFC logo use and consulting of relevant external stakeholders during audits. BFCS also specifies that applicants have the responsibility to publish the summaries to audit reports. The Scheme does not, however, specify how this requirement is endorsed to ensure that all types of forest owners comply with the requirement. This is raised as a comment.

The standard PEFC B 2003 was assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC Council Annex 6. The assessment identified **one (1) minor non-conformity** related to the benchmark:

- **Minor non-conformity:** Scheme document does not require that accreditation body implement the procedures described in ISO 17011 (PEFC checklist question 20).

The following four comments describe special conditions in BFCS implementation and/or aspects that deserve attention in Scheme implementation.

#### Comments:

- The Scheme requires that applicant to certification publish the summaries to the audit reports. BFCS does not specify how this requirement is endorsed to ensure that all types of forest owners comply with the requirement (PEFCC Annex 6 Checklist question 15).
- The CB takes all necessary measures to ensure that the consultation of external stakeholders and in particular members of the organisation (e.g., certification group) take place during the audit. It is unclear if the requirement to consult ...'in particular members of organisation' refers to the applicant. Applicant is not an external party (PEFCC Annex 6 Checklist question 16).
- The Scheme sets additional requirements for audit procedures (PEFCC Annex 6 Checklist question 17).



- The PEFC B 2003 requirements on audit time are very detailed and binding and do not encourage adaptation in line with the characteristics and conditions of the applicant organisation and audited forest areas.

## **10.2 Accreditation Requirements for Chain of Custody Certification and Logo Use**

BFCS has adopted the international PEFC ST 2002:2020 *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements* as the reference standard for chain of custody certification. Accordingly, BFCS adopted the international accreditation standard PEFC ST 2003:2020 on *Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard* for certification bodies performing chain of custody certifications. The standard PEFC B 2003 section 4.1. makes adequate reference to this approach.

PEFCC requires that certification bodies auditing chain of custody shall apply procedures defined in the standard ISO 17065 on *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*. This requirement is included in the standard PEFC ST 2003:2020.

The standard PEFC B 2003 and PEFC B 2002 (*Requirements for the Implementation of the Chain of Custody*) were assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 2003:3030 and ISO 17065. No non-conformities were identified.

## **10.3 Notification of Certification Bodies**

The standard PEFC B 4003 on *PEFC Notification Procedure for Certification Bodies Operating Chain of Custody, Forest Management and TOF Certification* stipulate on notification procedures.

The notification is open to any CB that has accreditation from any national accreditation body to conduct certifications based on BFCS standards for SFM, TOF, Forest Operators or CoC. The notification requirements of PEFC B 4003 are not discriminatory.

The standard PEFC B 4003 was assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC Annex 6. The BFCS notification requirements for forest management certification conform to PEFC requirements. No non-conformities were identified.

### **Comments:**

- Currently the Scheme only includes forest management certification for Walloon region and chain of custody certification. If it, in the future, will also include forest operators' certification and certification of trees outside forests, these certifications should also be included in the obligation for notification. (PEFCC Annex 6 Checklist question 11)

## 11. STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

### 11.1 International Consultation

An international stakeholder consultation was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 on the website of PEFC International. No comments from stakeholders were received through this process by the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022.

### 11.2 National Consultation on Standard-Setting

Indufor sent questionnaires in French language to a total of 107 stakeholders in February 2023 to inquire about their views on the standard-setting process and on its performance. A total of 9 answers were received. Their distribution by stakeholder category is shown in Table 1. Please note that some respondents market several categories.

**Table 1**                      **Number of Responses Received by Stakeholder Category**

#	Stakeholder category	No. of responses
1	Administration	2
2	Government Authority	2
3	Forest and timber industry	1
4	Industry association/lobbying organisation	1
5	Forest owner / manager	5
6	Trade Union	1
7	Environmental NGO	2
8	Social NGO	2
9	Consumer organisation	1
10	Other (private forestry extension organisation)	1
Total		18

In addition to the above, one environmental NGO representative presented in their email message general criticism of forest certification schemes but did not respond to the questionnaire itself.

Out of the nine responses, seven participated in the standard revision process (either as member organisations of the Working Group or Steering Group or by submitting feedback) and one replied they had not. The two respondents who did not participate in the standard revision process indicated that they would have wanted to participate. The participating stakeholders reported that they had received an invitation to participate from the PEFC Belgium.

The following aspects came out in the responses concerning the stakeholders' main interest to participate in the standard development process:

- PEFC certificate is currently the only proof of sustainability of the forest products.
- To integrate the citizen in the process of a more sustainable forestry.
- To develop forest management towards sustainability, especially improve the forest's biological quality and their resilience against climate change, and responding to human needs without impacting the resource.
- The label is essential for wood production, and the certified forest owners set an example to other forest owners.
- To ensure that the interests of the organisation in question are considered in the standard revision.
- Public administration is responsible for the forest management.
- To maintain the diversity of forest functions, including timber production.



Out of the 7 participating stakeholders, 6 stated that in their opinion all parties relevant to standard development had been proactively identified, invited and given the possibility to participate in the standard development. One participant replied “I don’t know” and mentioned that although there were a lot of participants, their representation was not balanced.

Six stakeholders that participated in the standard development process agreed that the organiser had provided adequate material before the process, and that all aspects of the standard or its development process were covered (i.e., did not deserve further considerations). One respondent did not know about the procedures, and one pointed out that the revision process had not followed the procedures that were communicated with participants in advance because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One respondent did not agree with these points. The respondent mentioned that little documentation was shared before the meetings, and that there was not enough time to reflect on the documentation received. In this respondent’s view, the discussions were supposed to be confidential and based on personal conscience, the secretariat contacted different associations to have their views. Also, this respondent presented a detailed comment on the standard development process indicating how the discussions were often cut short by referring to the revision methodology, and the national and international standards, especially when there were different views.

All but one respondent that participated in the process were aware of the dispute settlement procedures in case of conflicting views in standard development. Three respondents were aware of any substantive or procedural complaints by stakeholders during the standard development. However, it seems that the complaints were not substantive or procedural, and the comments refer to the discussions cut short when there was no consensus.

Five stakeholders participating in the standard revision process thought that no aspects of the standard or its revision process deserve further consideration. Two respondents answered “yes” and one mentioned that the standards, in general, do not go beyond the legislation. The other indicates the installation of wind turbines in certified forest as an aspect that requires further consideration.

According to the results from the questionnaire:

- The stakeholders participating in the standard formulation were given meaningful opportunity to contribute to standard formulation and to submit comments for further consideration.
- Views and comments submitted by participants were considered in an open and transparent way. However, one respondent refers to the discussions being cut short.
- Five respondents agreed that all comments received in public consultations were discussed and addressed in an objective and transparent way. One said “no” and mentioned that some reactions were ignored. One did not know.
- A general view was that the requirements in the standard were agreed through consensus, two participants responded “I don’t know”; one was not present in the last stages and one questions the process and the discussions in general.

Other comments received included the following:

- *The facilitation of the process lacked positive charisma. The result is disappointing. On the substance, the standards do not go beyond the legislation. Many of the recommendations are formulated in a complicated manner and therefore seem off-putting and difficult to implement.*
- *Our socio-recreational group, mandated by the main associations representing the sector, was handicapped in its work by the presence of two hunters' associations classified in the same group and considered as "users" of the forest in the same way as walkers. The objectives of the hunting sector and the serious consequences for biodiversity in the field run counter to the objectives of the citizens and have blocked many intentions and measures.*

## Annex 1

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### **PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist**

## PEFC Checklist (1) - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6)

### 1 Scope

This is the checklist describing the Indufor assessment results on the conformance of Belgian PEFC Forest Certification Scheme (BFCS) to the PEFC requirements on certification and accreditation procedures as presented in the PEFC Council Technical Document Annex 6.

The BFCS standards on certification and accreditation cover certification of sustainable forest management (SFM), trees outside forests (TOF) and activities of Forest Operators'. The Indufor endorsement assessment addresses only the SFM standard for Walloon region, but the BFCS certification and accreditation requirements cover all three types of certifications and thus the assessment scope covers them all.

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
PEFC B 2003 / V1.0 (2022)	Requirements for the Certification of Sustainable Forest Management, TOF Management, Forest Operations and Chain of Custody Management (Indufor note: this checklist assessment does not cover chain of custody certification)
PEFC B 4003 / V 4.0 (2022)	PEFC Notification Procedure for Certification Bodies Operating Chain of Custody, Forest Management and TOF Certification
ISO 17021-1 (2015)	Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements
ISO 17011 (2017)	Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
IAF MD 1 (2018)	IAF Mandatory Document for the Audit and Certification of a Management System Operated by a Multi-Site Organisation

## 2 Checklist

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Certification Bodies</b>			
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	Y  PEFC B 2003 – 4.2 Competencies of CB <i>PEFC certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that are not involved in the standards setting process as governing or decision-making bodies, or in forest management, and that are independent from the certified entity.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 3.1	Y  PEFC B 2003 – 4.2, 1. <i>Certification bodies carrying out forest management, TOF and / or Forest operators' certification will fulfil the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17021-1.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic, social and environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?	Annex 6, 3.1	Y  PEFC B 2003 – 4.2, 2. <i>The certification body carrying out forest management, TOF, and / or Forest operators' certification will have technical competence in the field of forest management, TOF and / or Forest Operations management, as regards its economic, social and environmental impact, as well as on forest certification criteria.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Comment:</b> The Scheme does not specify the requirements for technical competence any further and leave it up to certification and accreditation bodies to conclude what is the satisfactory level of technical competence.
4.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a	Annex 6, 3.1	Y  PEFC B 2003 – 4.2, 3. <i>The certification body will be fully familiar with the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme</i>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management certification?			<i>on the basis of which it carries out forest, TOF, Chain of Custody or Forest operators' certification.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	Y	PEFC B 2003 – 4.3 Qualification criteria for auditors <i>Certification bodies shall appoint competent auditors with adequate technical know-how regarding the certification process and issues related to forest management, TOF and / or Forest Operations management.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> The Scheme requirement is a copy of PEFC Annex 6
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?	Annex 6, 3.2	Y	PEFC B 2003 – 4.3 Qualification criteria for auditors <i>The auditors shall fulfil the general criteria for quality and environmental management systems auditors as defined in ISO 19 011.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>
7.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [*1]	Annex 6, 3.2	Y	PEFC B 2003 – 4.3 Qualification criteria for auditors <i>The auditors carrying out the field audits (SFM, TOF and Forest Operations) shall have a degree in forestry. They shall be fluent in the language used in the region of the audited party and be able to write the reports in this language.</i>  <i>The auditor in charge of the evaluation of sustainable forest management, TOF and Forest Operations standards shall have a good knowledge of forest management and forestry legislation in the region being audited.</i>  <i>The certification body can fulfil the technical competences defined for auditors by means of the presence of a technical expert(s) in a group of auditors carrying out forest management audits.</i>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<p><i>Compliance of the certification body with the above requirements shall be verified by an accreditation body in accordance with the requirements described in Chapter 6.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>
<b>Certification procedures</b>				
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 5 Certification procedure  <i>The certification body shall establish internal procedures for forest management and / or TOF management and / or Forest Operations certification. The procedures shall fulfil the ISO 17021-1 and ISO 19011 requirements.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>
9.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 5 Certification procedure  <i>The certification body shall establish internal procedures for forest management and.... The procedures shall fulfil the ISO 17021-1 and ISO 19011 requirements.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 5 Certification procedure  <i>The certification body shall establish internal procedures for forest management and ... The procedures shall fulfil the ISO 17021-1 and ISO 19011 requirements.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 7 Notification of certification bodies  <i>The certification body informs PEFC Belgium of all forest management and chain of custody certificates issues and changes concerning validity and scope of these certificates in accordance with the requirements of the chapter 5.7 of this document.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Comment:</b> Currently the Scheme only includes forest management certification for Walloon region and chain of custody certification. If it in the future will also include forest operators' certification and certification of trees outside forests, these certifications should also be included in the obligation for notification.
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Y	PEFC B 2003 – 5.5 Assessment <i>In addition to the requirements set out above, the certification body monitors use of the PEFC logo if the organisation is a PEFC logo user under group B in accordance with the PEFC B 2001- Requirements for the use of the logo.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Y	PEFC B 2003 – 5.2.1 Forest and TOF management certification <i>Each certification cycle is made of one (re)certification audit and two surveillance audits. The surveillance visits have to be organised during the first and second year after the certification decision and the renewal audit has to be organised during the 3rd year before the expiry date of the certificate.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> The Scheme requires annual surveillance audits
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Y	PEFC B 2003 – 5.2.1 Forest and TOF management certification <i>the renewal audit has to be organised during the 3rd year before the expiry date of the certificate.</i> PEFC B 2003 – 5.7 Certification decision <i>...effective date of certification and certificate expiry date (3 years after the certification or renewal decision date),</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> The certification cycle is three years.



No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	Y <p>PEFC B 2003 – 5.7 Certification decision  A summary of the forest certification report, including the findings on the conformity of the organisation with the forest management standards, is prepared by the certification body. The organisation endorses the summary report and makes it available to the public.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The Scheme requires that applicant to certification publish the summaries to the audit reports.</p> <p>BFCS does not specify how this requirement is endorsed to ensure that all types of forest owners comply with the requirement.</p> <p>Standard ISO 17021 requires that CBs publish basic information on issued certificates, but it does not require publishing of any part of the audit report.</p>
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	Y <p>PEFC B 2003 – 5.5 Assessment  <i>Audit evidence to determine compliance with the forest management and / or TOF management and / or works conducted in forests includes relevant information from third parties (e.g., government agencies, community groups, conservation bodies, etc.). The CB takes all necessary measures to ensure that the consultation of external stakeholders and in particular members of the organisation take place during the audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> It is unclear if the requirement to consult ...'in particular members of organisation' refers to the applicant. Applicant is not an external party.</p>
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [1]	Annex 6, 4	Y <p>PEFC B 2003 5.2 Audit duration, 5.2.1 Forest and TOF management certification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Detailed guidance on the use of audit time in document review and field audit and in surveillance audits for follow-up of non-conformities.</i></li> </ul>



No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirement for risk-based sampling procedures: CB may adjust the sample size (upwards or downwards) according to the results of previous external audits.</li> <li>- The sample will be drawn as follows 50% of owners who have been audited within the last five years and 50% who have not been audited in the last five years.</li> <li>- The certification body shall take into account the sales of wood over the last five years based on the information provided by the organisation.</li> <li>- Definition of sampling requirements for FMUs below and over 50 ha.</li> </ul> <p>5.2.2 Forest operators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audit duration of the Forest Operators management systems shall be based on... the documents IAF MD 1 and 5 for Quality Management systems and multisite certification, ...</li> <li>- The audit has to be based on the local Sustainable Forest Management Standards applicable to the organisation that conduct Forest Operations and on the specific requirements related to the works conducted in a PEFC certified forest. The documents are specific to the area of organisation...in its scope of certification (Walloon Region, Flanders, Brussels, France, Germany, ....).</li> </ul> <p>Indufor Note: Forest operators' certification or the regional standards are not part of this PEFC endorsement assessment.</p> <p><i>The certification body may plan the supervision of an internal auditor during one of the audit of a property, i.e., certification body may join internal audits to verify the quality of the audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p>The Scheme sets additional requirements for audit procedures.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<b>Comment:</b> Requirements on audit time are very detailed and binding and do not encourage adaptation in line with the characteristics and conditions of the applicant organisation and audited forest areas.
<b>Accreditation procedures</b>				
18.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 6 Accreditation procedures  <i>Certification bodies carrying out sustainable forest management, TOF management and / or Forest Operations management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body ....</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p>The Scheme accepts accreditations for SFM and CoC certification bodies that are issued by any national accreditation body that meets the requirements.</p>
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 6 Accreditation procedures</p> <p><i>All certificates issued shall be accompanied by information on accreditation, including the accreditation number and the name of the accreditation body</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 2003 – 5.7 Certification decision</i></p> <p><i>In drafting the certification documents, the following elements will appear:  ... the logo and accreditation number of the accreditation body</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>
20.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and	Annex 6, 5	N	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 6 Accreditation procedures</p> <p><i>Accreditation bodies shall be part of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella organisations and implement procedures described in ISO/IEC 17021-1 and other documents recognised by the above organisations.</i></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?		<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Accreditation bodies shall have the management system and implement procedures defined in standard ISO 17011 (2017): <i>Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.</i></p> <p>The Scheme refers in this context to the standard ISO 17021-1: <i>Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements, that applies to certification bodies.</i></p>
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as “accredited certification” based on ISO 17021 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 5 Certification procedure</p> <p><i>The certification body shall establish internal procedures for forest management and / or TOF management and / or Forest Operations certification. The procedures shall fulfil the ISO 17021-1 and ISO 19011 requirements.</i></p> <p>5.5 Assessment</p> <p><i>Each audit will be conducted in line with the requirements of the ISO 17021-1 standard.</i></p> <p>5.6 Audit report</p> <p><i>The content of the audit report shall be compliant with the requirements of the ISO 17021-1 standard.</i></p> <p>5.7 Certification decision</p> <p><i>The certification decision shall be taken in line with the requirements of the ISO 17021-1 standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 2003 – 6 Accreditation procedures</p> <p><i>The certification body shall undertake certification as “accredited certifications”.</i></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>The scope of application of the accreditation shall explicitly cover the PEFC Belgium Sustainable Forest Management, TOF Management and / or Forest Operations with, when relevant, the name of the region(s) covered by the accreditation.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 4003 Notification, 7 Obligations of the PEFC notified certification body</p> <p><i>For Forest management, TOF Management or Forest operations certification, the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include the Belgian Forest Certification Standards PEFC B 1002 and PEFC B 1003, the latest specific to the type of wood (forest or TOF) and region(s) where the certification body is active.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p>The Scheme requires that certification procedures conform to ISO 17021 standard and that CBs have an accreditation to conduct certification against the relevant sections of the BFCS.</p>
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Y	<p>PEFC B 2003 – 7 Notification of certification bodies</p> <p><i>Certification bodies issuing sustainable forest management, TOF management and / or Forest Operations certificates in accordance with the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme shall be notified by the PEFC Belgium.</i></p> <p><i>To ensure the independence of certification bodies, the conditions of notification decided on by the PEFC Belgium only cover the following aspects:</i></p> <p><i>Administrative conditions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. The certification body agrees to attend information meetings dedicated to certification bodies organised by the PEFC Belgium or PEFC International (maximum three a year).</i></li> <li><i>2. The certification body informs PEFC Belgium of all forest management and chain of custody certificates issues and changes concerning validity and scope</i></li> </ol>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>of these certificates in accordance with the requirements of the chapter 5.7 of this document.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Financial situation that allows certification to be fully independent, sustainable and credible at any time.</i></p> <p>4. <i>The certification body undertakes to comply with the certification requirements laid down in the BFCS through its accreditation.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 4003 document on notification of CBs:</p> <p>7 Obligations of the PEFC notified certification body: <i>The PEFC notified certification body ... Sign a PEFC notification contract with the PEFC Belgium and fill in the application form</i></p> <p>8 Validity of the PEFC notification: <i>PEFC notification is valid for the period of the validity of the certification body's accreditation.</i></p> <p>PEFC Belgium charges notification fee from CBs for CoC certificates, for SFM certificates the procedure is described but it is not applicable for time being.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p>The standards PEFC B 2003 on accreditation and PEFC B 4003 on notification set detailed and satisfactory requirements for the notification process. The appendices to PEFC B 4003 lists templates for contract and forms and describe PEFC database requirements.</p>
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	<p>Y</p> <p>PEFC B 2003 – 7 Notification of certification bodies</p> <p><i>This notification requirement is described in a specific procedure available in the PEFC B 4003 document. The PEFC's notification conditions are not discriminatory for the certification bodies and do not create trade barriers.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



**Indufor**

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				The notification is open to any CB that has accreditation from any national accreditation body to conduct certifications based on BFCS standards for SFM, TOF, Forest Operators or CoC. The notification requirements of PEFC B 4003 are not discriminatory.

## PEFC Checklist (2) - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers the requirements for standard setting procedures and process as defined in the revised 2017 issue of PEFC ST 1001, *Standard Setting – Requirements*.

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	Belgian Forest Certification Scheme General Document (PEFC B 0001 / V. 1.0), April 7, 2022 PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region (PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1), April 7, 2022 Requirements for Forest Management Standards Setting Process (PEFC B 1001 / V 1.0), April 7, 2022
Descriptive documents	Articles of association of PEFC Belgium (PEFC B 4002-2021), January 14, 2021 Questions et commentaires reçus lors de la consultation publique pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons (April 2022) Réponse à la consultation publique de PEFC Belgium pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons (April 2022)
Supporting files	14102010_Liste des presences.pdf 14102019_PV_FORUM _PEFC.pdf 20190222_Self evaluation.xlsx 20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx 20191219_PV_FORUM _PEFC.pdf 20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf PEFC- Cotations_document_draft 10_12_2019.pdf PEFCBelgium 21062019 Session d'information.pdf PVAGAV PEFC 07-04-2022.pdf Questionnaire – réponses.xlsx Questionnaire à l'attention de parties.pdf répertoire parties prenantes Forum PEFC.xlsx STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf



## 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Standardising Body</b>			
5.1.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
(a) its legal status and organisational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1),	Procedures	Y	<p>Articles of association of PEFC Belgium (PEFC B 4002-2021) describe the legal status and organisational structure of PEFC Belgium, i.e., the standardising body.</p> <p>The PEFC B 1001 section 6.4 includes procedures for working group and section 6.7 includes procedures for formal adoption of the standard.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 4002-2021 and the PEFC B 1001 meet the benchmark requirements set in the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 chapter 7 <i>Transparency and Advertising</i> describes the procedures of the standardising body for keeping documented information.</p>
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 subsections 6.4.1–6.4.3 describe procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 describes the standard-setting process.
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 subsection 6.4.5 describes the mechanisms for reaching consensus.
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 chapter 9 describes the procedures for review and revision of standards.
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 5. Bodies responsible for standards development and revision. 5.1 Standardising body: ... The standardising body makes its standard-setting procedures publicly available and regularly reviews its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The standard-setting procedures of PEFC Belgium were reviewed as part of the gap analysis (20190222_Self evaluation.xlsx, 20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx). The procedures were made publicly available on the PEFC Belgium website ( <a href="https://pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1?filter_category%5B0%5D=10000991">https://pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1?filter_category%5B0%5D=10000991</a> ) and also shared with the Forum (i.e., working group) participants representing stakeholders. The working

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			group participants had an opportunity to give feedback on and affect to the procedures.
5.2.1 The standardising body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:			
(a) Standard-setting procedures,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... PEFC Belgium keeps documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:</i> a. Standard-setting procedures, <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Standard-setting procedures are documented in the PEFC B 1001.
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i> b. Stakeholder identification mapping, <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Stakeholder identification mapping is documented in <i>STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx</i>
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i> <i>c. Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Documented in <i>STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx</i>
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i> <i>d. Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion:</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Stakeholders involved in standard-setting are documented in <i>répertoire parties prenantes Forum PEFC.xlsx</i> . Working group (i.e., Forum) participants are documented in meeting minutes (e.g., <i>14102019_PV_FORUM_PEFC.pdf</i> ) supported by signed participant lists (e.g., <i>14102010_Liste des presences.pdf</i> )
(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>e. Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Public feedback was compiled in the following document: <i>Questions et commentaires reçus lors de la consultation publique pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons</i> (April 2022).</p> <p>The synopsis of how feedback was addressed was compiled in: <i>Réponse à la consultation publique de PEFC Belgium pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons</i> (April 2022).</p>
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>f. All drafts and final versions of the standard,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Drafts and final versions are kept by PEFC Belgium. Dropbox folder indicated.
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i> <i>g. Outcomes from working group considerations,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The outcomes are documented in the working group (Forum) meeting minutes.
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i> <i>h. Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Included in the working group (Forum) meeting minutes (20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf) and PEFC Belgium General Assembly meeting minutes (PVAGAV PEFC 07-04-2022.pdf).
(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i> <i>i. Evidence relating to the review process, and</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Documented in the gap analysis files: 20190222_Self evaluation.xlsx, 20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx. Also, PEFC- Cotations_document_draft 10_12_2019.pdf that includes PEFC Belgium detailed assessment of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 operational requirements in the Belgian context. Additionally, stakeholder views were collected to support the review (e.g., Questionnaire à l'attention de parties.pdf, Questionnaire – réponses.xlsx).
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes: ...</i>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<i>j. Final approval by the standardising body.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Documented in the PEFC Belgium General Assembly meeting minutes ( <i>PVAGAV PEFC 07-04-2022.pdf</i> ).
5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> Process conformity with the benchmark requirement can only after the required time period has passed.
5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 7. Transparency and Advertising. ... Documented information is available to interested parties upon request.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> There is no indication or evidence of withholding of the information.
5.3.1 The standardising body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardising body shall:			
(a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 8. Management of feedback, complaints and appeals. 8.2 Complaints and appeals. ... On receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat of PEFC Belgium must:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide confirmation in writing to the complainant that their complaint was received,</li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC Belgium reportedly received no complaints or appeals.
(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 8. Management of feedback, complaints and appeals. 8.2 Complaints and appeals. ... On receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat of PEFC Belgium must: ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather and check all information required to validate the complaint, objectively and impartially evaluate the reason for the complaint, and forward the complaint to the Board of Directors,</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC Belgium reportedly received no complaints or appeals.
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 8. Management of feedback, complaints and appeals. 8.2 Complaints and appeals. ... On receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat of PEFC Belgium must: ...</i> • Formally communicate the decision with an explanation to the complainant, <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC Belgium reportedly received no complaints or appeals.
5.3.2 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 8. Management of feedback, complaints and appeals. 8.2 Complaints and appeals. ... Complaints and claims made against PEFC Belgium about the revision procedure for regional sustainable forest or TOF management standards will be recorded by the Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium.</i> <i>Complaints and claims must be submitted by letter or e-mail to the Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium within fifteen days after the adoption and publication of the revised scheme by the General Meeting of PEFC Belgium. ...</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>Appeals must be submitted by letter or e-mail to the Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium within fifteen days after the adoption and publication of the revised standards by the General Meeting of PEFC Belgium.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> A contact point is indicated on the PEFC Belgium website (<a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/contact">https://www.pefc.be/fr/contact</a>) and also in the public announcement of the process (<i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i>).</p>
<b>Standard-setting process</b>			
6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardising body shall develop a proposal including:			
(a) the scope of the standard,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Belgium develops a proposal including:</i></p> <p><i>a. the scope of the standard (forest management, TOF, forest operators, Chain of Custody, standard setting, certification, logo usage),</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The scope of the standard was practically set by the previous operational version of the standard. The scope was furthermore adjusted by the gap analysis (20190222_Self evaluation.xlsx, 20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx).
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Belgium develops a proposal including: ...</i> <i>b. justification of the need for the standard,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium did not create a new standard in the process.
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Belgium develops a proposal including: ...</i> <i>c. a clear description of the intended outcomes,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium did not create a new standard in the process.
(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively,</li> <li>• unintended consequences of implementation,</li> <li>• actions to address the identified risks, and</li> </ul>	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Belgium develops a proposal including: ...</i>  <i>d. a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively,</li> <li>• unintended consequences of implementation,</li> <li>• actions to address the identified risks, and</li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium did not create a new standard in the process.
(e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.  NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Belgium develops a proposal including: ...</i>  <i>e. a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Timeline was developed and presented, e.g., in the initial public information session of June 2019 ( <i>PEFCBelgium 21062019 Session d'information.pdf</i> ).
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal covers at least (a) and (e) of clause 4.1.1.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.1 Standard proposal. 6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Belgium develops a proposal including:</i></p> <p><i>a. the scope of the standard (forest management, TOF, forest operators, Chain of Custody, standard setting, certification, logo usage), ...</i></p> <p><i>e. a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The PEFC B 1001, clause 6.1.2 includes a numbering error. The standard is understood to refer to clause 6.1.1 instead of 4.1.1.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 6.1.1 (a) and (e) above.
6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.2 Stakeholder identification and consultation. 6.2.1 PEFC Belgium identifies stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It defines which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group PEFC Belgium identifies the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Key issues raised by stakeholders were identified through an initial stakeholder consultation prior to the standard-setting process. Stakeholders were invited to a public information session of June 2019 and later contacted for proposed nominations to the working group. Contacted stakeholders were also invited to spread the word through their contact network.
6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.2 Stakeholder identification and consultation. 6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups is based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and industry,</li> <li>• indigenous people,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p>			<p><i>(UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups are included in the stakeholder mapping:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and forest industry,</li> <li>• local populations,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Other groups are added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The benchmark requirement is reflected in the stakeholder identification mapping documented in <i>STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx</i>.</p>
<p>6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.2 Stakeholder identification and consultation. 6.2.3 PEFC Belgium identifies disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Hybrid meetings were organised in order to allow participants to come on site or participate via ZOOM. This should provide for sufficient participation opportunities to all stakeholders in the context of Belgium.
<p>6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 <i>Through suitable media</i> means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 PEFC Belgium makes a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement is made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Announced in a newsletter with an invitation for stakeholders to participate: <i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i></p>
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 ... The announcement and invitation includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>d. overview of the standard-setting process,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Overview of the process was included in the public announcement ( <i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i> ). The process was also recapitulated in the in the initial public information session of June 2019. The recording of is available online: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PEFCBelgium/videos/462527234539747">https://www.facebook.com/PEFCBelgium/videos/462527234539747</a>
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 ... The announcement and invitation includes: ...</i> <i>e. access to the proposal for the standard,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> A separate proposal document was not developed but the corresponding contents required in the case of a standard revision (scope and timeline) can justifiably be considered to have been included in the announcement and the subsequent public communication (e.g., <i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i> , <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PEFCBelgium/videos/462527234539747">https://www.facebook.com/PEFCBelgium/videos/462527234539747</a> ).

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 ... The announcement and invitation includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>f. information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Stakeholder participation opportunities were described in the public announcement: <i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i></p>
(d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 ... The announcement and invitation includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>g. requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the Forum. The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders is made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Request for stakeholders to nominate representatives was included in the public announcement: <i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i>
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 ... The announcement and invitation includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>h. explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Feedback on the standard-setting process was only invited from the working group (i.e., Forum), after it had been nominated and it had started its work. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.</p>
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 ... The announcement and invitation includes: ...</i></p> <p><i>i. access to the standard-setting procedures.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The standard-setting procedures have been accessible on the PEFC Belgium website. However, there was no explicit reference to the procedures in conjunction with the public announcement of the standard-setting process. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
6.3.2 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.2 PEFC Belgium reviews the standard-setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium did not receive feedback on the standard-setting process.
6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.1 PEFC Belgium establishes a temporary Forum based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations are justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Forum, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.</i>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The working group (i.e., Forum) composition (documented in, e.g., <i>répertoire parties prenantes Forum PEFC.xlsx</i> ) is based on the results of the stakeholder mapping ( <i>STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx</i> ) and reflects the benchmark requirements.
6.4.2 The working group shall:			
(a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.2 The Forum shall:</i>  <i>a. have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The working group (i.e., Forum) composition reflects the benchmark requirements. Documentation: <i>répertoire parties prenantes Forum PEFC.xlsx</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.2 The Forum shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>b. include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The working group (i.e., Forum) composition reflects the benchmark requirements. Documentation: <i>répertoire parties prenantes Forum PEFC.xlsx</i></p>
<p>6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</p> <p>NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Belgium strives to have all identified stakeholder groups represented. PEFC Belgium sets targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seeks their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The working group (i.e., Forum) composed of 24 associations representing all aspects of forestry in the Walloon region. Member applications were requested by PEFC Belgium proactively by phone, mails etc. Priority was given to associations that cover the whole region.
6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
(a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.4 Activities of the Forum are organised in an open and transparent manner where: ...</i> <i>c. working drafts are available to all members of the Forum,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Working group (i.e., Forum) meeting minutes indicate that working drafts were available to all working group members.
(b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.4 Activities of the Forum are organised in an open and transparent manner where: ...</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<i>d. all members of the Forum are given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Working group (i.e., Forum) meeting minutes indicate that working group members were given meaningful opportunities to contribute and provide feedback.
(c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.4 Activities of the Forum are organised in an open and transparent manner where: ...</i>  <i>e. feedback and views given by any member of the Forum are considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Working group (i.e., Forum) meeting minutes document the views and feedback presented by the working group members and record the

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			outcomes of their consideration. The process can be considered open and transparent.
6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilise the following methods:			
(a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.5 The decision of the Forum to recommend the final draft for formal approval is taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Forum can utilise the following methods:</i></p> <p><i>a. face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Voting for the final approval by the standard was done by the working group on a face-to-face meeting according to the guidelines presented by the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.5 ... In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Forum can utilise the following methods: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<i>b. telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> Not applied during the standard-setting process.
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.5 ... In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Forum can utilise the following methods: ...</i> <i>c. e-mail request to the Forum for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote), or</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> Not applied during the standard-setting process.
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.5 ... In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Forum can utilise the following methods: ...</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<i>d. combinations of these methods.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> Not applied during the standard-setting process.
6.4.6 Where a vote is used in decision-making, the standard-setting procedures shall determine and include decision-making thresholds that quantifies consensus. The threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee.</i> <i>6.4.6 ... If unanimity cannot be reached on a topic after discussions and negotiations, PEFC Belgium will consider a proposal resulting from a consensus by vote of the chambers, each chamber being entitled to one vote. A proposal will be accepted in the following instances:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>When four out of five chambers agree to the proposal</i></li> <li>• <i>When three chambers out of five agree to the proposal, with one or two abstentions.</i></li> <li>• <i>A majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus</i></li> </ul> <i>There is no vote within the chambers. They must abstain in case there is no consensus within the chamber.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The stipulated voting procedures were also followed in the process (e.g., standard approval voting documented in 20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf).
6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:			
(a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue is resolved using the following methods:</i></p> <p><i>a. finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the Forum,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Sustained opposition was resolved through negotiation within the working group (i.e., Forum).</p>
(b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue is resolved using the following methods: ...</i></p> <p><i>b. finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> There was no need for application of the method during the standard-setting process.
(c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The standardising body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue is resolved using the following methods: ...</i> <i>c. additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC Belgium determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> There was no need for application of the method during the standard-setting process.
6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.4 Requirements related to the Forum / Technical committee. 6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC Belgium initiates dispute resolution in accordance with its</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<i>procedures for impartial and objective action as defined in document PEFC-B 2004.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> There was no need for application of the method during the standard-setting process.
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, NOTE <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that:</i> <i>a. the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The announcement was made on the same day the public consultation began, which does not explicitly meet the benchmark requirement. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Announcement on the PEFC Belgium website: <a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/news/consultation-publique-sur-les-nouveaux-standards-de-gestion-forestiere-durable-en-region-wallonne">https://www.pefc.be/fr/news/consultation-publique-sur-les-nouveaux-standards-de-gestion-forestiere-durable-en-region-wallonne</a>
(b) a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that: ...</i></p> <p><i>b. a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The invitation was emailed to the those identified in the stakeholder mapping.</p>
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that: ...</i></p> <p><i>c. invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The invitations and documentation were sent in French. Email communication can be considered as adequate in relation to the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirement in the context of Belgium.
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that: ...</i> <i>d. the enquiry draft is made publicly available,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The document was provided in conjunction with the announcement: <a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/news/consultation-publique-sur-les-nouveaux-standards-de-gestion-forestiere-durable-en-region-wallonne">https://www.pefc.be/fr/news/consultation-publique-sur-les-nouveaux-standards-de-gestion-forestiere-durable-en-region-wallonne</a>
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that: ...</i> <i>e. public consultation is for at least 60 days,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The public consultation was for 61 days, from December 17, 2021, to February 15, 2022 (start and end dates included).
(f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that: ...</i> <i>f. all feedback is considered by the Forum in an objective manner, and</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Working group (i.e., Forum) consideration of the public feedback is documented in the working group meeting minutes, 20191219_PV_FORUM_PEFC.pdf and 20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf.
(g) a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.  NOTE For clarity the standardising body's synopsis may aggregate responses on material issues where there was similar feedback from different stakeholders. However, best practice would be to publish each piece of original feedback and the response, to allow each stakeholder to identify its own feedback.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.1 PEFC Belgium organises public consultation on the enquiry draft and ensures that: ...</i> <i>g. a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Public feedback was compiled in the following document: <i>Questions et commentaires reçus lors de la consultation publique pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons</i> (April 2022). The synopsis of how feedback was addressed was compiled in: <i>Réponse à la consultation publique de PEFC Belgium pour la révision des standards régionaux wallons</i> (April 2022). The documents were made available on the PEFC Belgium website ( <a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1">https://www.pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1</a> ) and reportedly emailed to those who gave feedback.
6.5.2 For new standards the standardising body shall organise a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.5 Public consultation. 6.5.2 For new standards PEFC Belgium organises a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium did not create a new standard in the process.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.6 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The working group shall consider the outcome of pilot testing.</p> <p>NOTE Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.6 Pilot testing of new standard. PEFC Belgium organises pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The Forum shall consider the outcome of pilot testing.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Pilot test is only required for new standards. However, PEFC Belgium did organise a pilot testing, the results of which were considered by the working group (20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf).</p>
<b>Approval and Publication</b>			
<p>7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.7 Approval and publication. 6.7.1 Formal approval of standards. The General Assembly of PEFC Belgium approves the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the Forum.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The working group (i.e., Forum) consensus and the subsequent standard approval by the PEFC Belgium General Assembly is documented in</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			meeting minutes: 20220321_PV_Forum PEFC 9.3.22.pdf and PVAGAV PEFC 07-04-2022.pdf, respectively.
7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardising body.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.7 Approval and publication. 6.7.2 Publication and availability of standards. 6.7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) are published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Made available on the PEFC Belgium website: <a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1">https://www.pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1</a></p>
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:			
(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.3 While drafting the standards, PEFC Belgium shall ensure that the document includes</i></p> <p><i>a. identification and contact information for the standardising body</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Identification and contact information for PEFC Belgium was included in the standard, PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1.
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.3 While drafting the standards, PEFC Belgium shall ensure that the document includes ...</i></p> <p><i>b. official language of the standard</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1 does not indicate the official language of the standard. However, the official language of the certification system documentation is indicated in the PEFC B 0001 / V. 1.0, Belgian Forest Certification Scheme General Document, and concerns all normative system documentation.</p>
(c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.3 While drafting the standards, PEFC Belgium shall ensure that the document includes ...</i></p> <p><i>c. a note that when there is inconsistency between version, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The required note is not included in the PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1, but it is featured in the PEFC B 0001 / V. 1.0, Belgian Forest Certification Scheme General Document, and concerns all normative system documentation.
(d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review  NOTE The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.3 While drafting the standards, PEFC Belgium shall ensure that the document includes ...</i> <i>d. the approval date and the date of next periodic review</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The approval date and the date of next periodic review are included in the PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1.
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.7 Approval and publication. 6.7.2 Publication and availability of standards. 6.7.2.2 Printed copies are available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> Reportedly, no printed copies have been requested.
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.5 PEFC Belgium shall make the development report publicly available.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The development report document is available on the PEFC Belgium website: <a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1?filter_category%5B0%5D=10000984">https://www.pefc.be/fr/documents-techniques-1?filter_category%5B0%5D=10000984</a> . The supporting files referred to in the development report document have been published together with system documentation during the re-endorsement process.
<b>Periodic review of standards</b>			
8.1 The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium carried out extensive standard review including a detailed assessment of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 operational requirements in the Belgian context, a gap analysis, and a public consultation for stakeholder feedback on revision needs. Documentation includes, e.g.: <i>Cotations_document_draft 10_12_2019.pdf</i> <i>20190222_Self evaluation.xlsx</i> <i>20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx</i> <i>Questionnaire à l'attention de parties.pdf</i> <i>Questionnaire – réponses.xlsx</i>
8.2.1 The standardising body shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the website of the standardising body and/or PEFC National Governing Body with clear directions for providing feedback.  NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 8. Management of feedback, complaints and appeals. 8.1 Feedback. PEFC Belgium has established and maintains a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism is accessible on the website of PEFC Belgium with clear directions for providing feedback.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Feedback can be submitted through a dedicated contact point provided on the PEFC Belgium website ( <a href="https://www.pefc.be/fr/contact">https://www.pefc.be/fr/contact</a> ).

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 8. Management of feedback, complaints and appeals. 8.1 Feedback. ... All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. are recorded by the General Secretary and considered in line with relevant procedure.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Feedback has been collected and documented in relation to multiple relevant occasions such as public consultations, working group meetings and pilot testing. It is not fully clear how additional feedback received outside of these specific occasions has been recorded and considered. The non-conformity should be noted, and feedback collection and consideration implemented and documented universally during the next standard-setting process.</p>
8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... At the start of the review, for existing standards, PEFC Belgium shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium carried out a detailed assessment of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 operational requirements in the Belgian context</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			( <i>Cotations_document_draft 10_12_2019.pdf</i> ) and a gap analysis ( <i>20190913_Self evaluation updated_follow-up critical aspects.xlsx</i> ).
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. The standards and provisions for implementation must be re-examined at least once every five years in light of new scientific discoveries and practical experience given that continuous improvement is one of PEFC Belgium's objectives.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Considered in the review process (<i>Cotations_document_draft 10_12_2019.pdf</i>).</p>
8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, the standardising body shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardising body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC Belgium shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC Belgium shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Stakeholder consultation, implemented as a public consultation, was carried out as an additional element despite the gap analysis already demonstrating the need to revise the standard.
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.2 Stakeholder identification and consultation. 6.2.1 PEFC Belgium identifies stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Stakeholder mapping was carried out and documented in <i>STAKEHOLDER MAPPING.xlsx</i>.</p>
8.4.3 The standardising body shall organise:			
(a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or,	Procedures	N	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC Belgium shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC Belgium shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, The</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>PEFC Belgium General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 requirements for public consultation (clause 6.5.1 of the PEFC B 1001) concern an enquiry draft prepared by the working group (Forum). It is not explicitly stated that these requirements, which stipulate the consultancy duration, must be applied with the public consultation for determining standard revision need that is referred to in chapter 9 of the PEFC B 1001.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Stakeholder consultation, implemented as a public consultation, was carried out as an additional element despite the gap analysis already demonstrating the need to revise the standard.</p>
(b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 does not involve stakeholder meetings for determining standard revision need. However, this is alternative for the public consultation option (benchmark 8.4.3 a) and thus not mandatory.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Substituted by the public consultation (8.4.3 a). Also, the gap analysis already demonstrated the need to revise the standard.</p>
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	N	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 6. Forest and TOF regional standards development and revision process steps. 6.3 Public announcement of the process. 6.3.1 PEFC Belgium</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>makes a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement is made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 requirements for a public announcement are given in the context of standard-setting (new standard drafting or standard revision), and not in the context of standard review.</p>
	Process	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The public announcement shared by PEFC Belgium (e.g., <i>Website news newsletter_Call for information session_PEFC Belgium.pdf</i>) concerned standard revision and not the preceding standard review. The non-conformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.</p>
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, The PEFC Belgium General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> A decision was made by PEFC Belgium based on the gap analysis to revise the standard.
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... The PEFC Belgium General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The standard has been approved by the General Assembly.
8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardising body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, PEFC Belgium shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The decision was to revise the standard.
8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardising body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. ... Where the decision is to revise the standard, PEFC Belgium shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial)</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Normal revision was decided for due to the gaps.
<b>Revision of standards</b>			
9.1 Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.1 Normal revision. Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in this document.</i>  <i>A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017. <b>Comment:</b> It is recommended that more specific reference is made to those sections of the PEFC B 1001 that stipulate the requirements to be followed in a normal standard revision.
	Process	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Minor non-conformities remain with the processes stipulated by benchmarks 6.3.1 (e, f) and 6.5.1 (a). These non-conformities should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
9.2 Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardising body shall	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.2 Editorial revision. Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.			<i>General Assembly of PEFC Belgium shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:			
(a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:</i> <i>a. Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
(b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations: ...</i> <i>b. Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:			
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:</i> <i>a. PEFC Belgium shall draft the revised standard,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: ...</i> <i>b. PEFC Belgium may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: ...</i> <i>c. The revised standard shall be approved formally by the General Assembly of PEFC Belgium,</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.
(d) The standardising body shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.3 Time-critical revision. 9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: ...</i></p> <p><i>d. PEFC Belgium shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> A normal revision was carried out.</p>
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.4 Application and transition of revised standards. 9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/ normative document(s).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Defined and included in the standard.</p>
9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative	Procedures	Y	<p><i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.4 Application and transition of revised standards. 9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.			<i>revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The standard was adopted by the PEFC Belgium General Assembly meeting on April 7, 2022, which is also the standard publishing date. The application date was September 15, 2022, which is within six months since the standard publishing,
9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardising body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.	Procedures	Y	<i>PEFC B 1001: 9. Periodic review of standards. 9.4 Application and transition of revised standards. 9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. PEFC Belgium may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1001 is identical with the PEFC ST 1001
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The transition period is until September 15, 2023, which is one year from the application date.





**Indufor**

## PEFC Checklist (3) - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2018, *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*. Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region (PEFC B 1003_WL-F / V 1.1), April 7, 2022 Requirements for the Implementation of Forest, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification (PEFC B 1002 / V 1.0), April 7, 2022

### 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard</b>		
4.1 General		
The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall:		
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level;	Y	PEFC B 1003: 1. Objectives: <i>The criteria for sustainable forest management defined for the Walloon Region contain the requirements for ensuring the economic, ecological and social functions of the forests.</i>  <i>The criteria include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level, and at the Organisational level to ensure that</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Note: An example of a situation where a requirement can be defined as being at another level (e.g. group/regional) is monitoring of forest health. Through monitoring of forest health at regional level, and communicating of results at the FMU level, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring of each forest management unit.		<p><i>all requirements are achieved at the FMU level, [and] to forest operators who wish to be certified to operate in PEFC certified forests or in forests certified under an endorsement recognised by PEFC Belgium.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.2 Management system standards implementation levels:</p> <p><i>With respect to the region, sustainable forest / TOF management conformity is evaluated against the standards defined at the regional level (in function of the region and the type of certification – forest or trees outside forests (TOF) – PEFC B 1003 WL-F, B 1003 WL-T, B 1003 FL-F, B 1003 FL-T, B 1003 BX-F and B 1003 BX-T).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The sustainable forest management requirements of the PEFC B 1003, as well as any additional requirements/specifications of the PEFC Belgium, are generally clear, performance-based and auditable.</p>
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 1. Objectives: <i>The criteria for sustainable forest management defined for the Walloon Region contain the requirements for ensuring the economic, ecological and social functions of the forests.</i></p> <p><i>The criteria include management and performance requirements that are applicable ... to forest operators who wish to be certified to operate in PEFC certified forests or in forests certified under an endorsement recognised by PEFC Belgium.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 2. <i>Scope: The sustainable forest management standards for the Walloon region apply to the Public and Private owned forests located in the Walloon region , as well as to workers who carry out work in certified forests.</i></p> <p><i>Four levels of application can be considered: ... Forest operator level: forest operators who wish to be certified to operate in PEFC-certified forests; Forest operations licensing system: owner of a licensing system of forest operators who want to be endorsed by PEFC Belgium.</i></p> <p>GFSC: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.2 Management system standards implementation levels:</p> <p><i>There are four different implementation levels: The Organisation submitting its candidacy to obtain certification: ... Operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements ...</i></p> <p><i>With respect to the region, sustainable forest / TOF management conformity is evaluated against the standards defined at the regional level (in function of the region and the type of certification – forest or trees outside forests (TOF) – PEFC B 1003 WL-F, B 1003 WL-T, B 1003 FL-F, B 1003 FL-T, B 1003 BX-F and B 1003 BX-T).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The outputs of the management review shall be documented and shall include decisions related to continual improvement and any need for changes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;</p> <p>Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim “100% PEFC certified”, and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website <a href="http://www.pefc.org">www.pefc.org</a>.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level: ...</p> <p><i>h. Participants shall specify “100% PEFC certified” as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody. This claim will be accompanied by the specific certificate attestation number associated with the certified area from which the products are issued. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim “100% PEFC-certified” or a system specific claim;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level: ...</p> <p><i>h. Participants shall specify “100% PEFC certified” as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody. This claim will be accompanied by the specific certificate attestation number associated with the certified area from which the products are issued. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.2 Individual Commitment: ...</p> <p><i>Only forest products from certified areas can carry the PEFC logo.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.4 Management of participants to the Organisation's certification, 5.1.4.2 Management of the certificate and attestations of participation:</p> <p><i>Once it has successfully passed the certification process, the Organisation will receive a sustainable forest / TOF management certificate issued by the certification body.</i></p> <p><i>The certificate stipulates which management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards are being complied with for the Organisation in question. The certificate is valid for a period of three years.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall issue an attestation for each individual participant who has signed the individual commitment and fulfils the defined requirements. This attestation demonstrates their participation in the Organisation's certification. ...</i></p> <p><i>Only owners in possession of a valid attestation of participation in the certification of the Organisation will benefit from the coverage of the certificate.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level: ...</p> <p><i>h. Participants shall specify "100% PEFC certified" as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody. This claim will be accompanied by the specific certificate attestation number associated with the certified area from which the products are issued. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level: ...</p> <p><i>h. Participants shall specify "100% PEFC certified" as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody. <u>This claim will be accompanied by the specific certificate attestation number associated with the certified area from which the products are issued.</u> ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.	N	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Legal requirements: the Organisation shall maintain a documented overview of applicable legislation ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The references to applicable legislation are incomplete in the standards.</p>
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Composition: The Organisation shall set up a stakeholder consultation board based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping: forest /TOF owners, business and industry, indigenous people, non-government organisations, scientific and technological community, workers and trade unions.</i></p> <p><i>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of forest / TOF management activities. Specific attention shall be given to a balanced representation of the affected and non-affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall represent all types of forest / TOF ownership in the Organisation and other affected stakeholders. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall identify the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the management system		
4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 1. Objectives: <i>The criteria for sustainable forest management defined for the Walloon Region contain the requirements for ensuring the economic, ecological and social functions of the forests.</i></p> <p><i>The criteria include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level, and at the Organisational level to ensure that all requirements are achieved at the FMU level, [and] to forest operators who wish to be</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>certified to operate in PEFC certified forests or in forests certified under an endorsement recognised by PEFC Belgium.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Scope: the geographical perimeter (sum of the forest areas of the individual forest / TOF owners who are member of the Organisation) shall be defined and documented by the Organisation within one Region of Belgium (as the sustainable forest / TOF management standards are defined at regional level). The forest and TOF management standards apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
4.3.2 The standard requires that forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Improvement: the Organisation shall implement the different steps of continuous improvement, both at Organisation and Individual level: inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social, environmental and economic impacts of forest /TOF management principles. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
5. Leadership		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to comply with the management system standards, the applicable regional sustainable forest / TOF management standards and legal requirements to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to comply with the management system standards, the applicable regional sustainable forest / TOF management standards and legal requirements to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system ... to continuously improve the sustainable forest / TOF management system ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation: ...</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to comply with the management system standards, the applicable regional sustainable forest / TOF management standards and legal requirements to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system ... This commitment shall be publicly available.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities:</p> <p><i>The structure and responsibilities within the Organisation shall be established and documented.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a committee in charge of the issuance of the attestation of participation to the Organisation's sustainable forest / TOF management certification.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall raise the awareness of participant concerning their contribution to effectiveness of the system and the implications of not conforming. The Organisation shall provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest / TOF management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall develop, implement, supervise, and evaluate a five-year action plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The Organisation shall request a licence for use of the PEFC logo.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6. Planning		
6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities		
6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.3 Risks and opportunities:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest / TOF management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.3 Risks and opportunities: ...</p> <p><i>Inventory and mapping of forest / TOF resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions, both at organisational and individual level.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.2 Management plan		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:		
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.1 Group management plan:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The Group Management Plan shall be:</i></p> <p><i>a. Elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.1 Group management plan:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The Group Management Plan shall be: ...</i></p> <p><i>b. Appropriate to the size and use of the certified area; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.1 Group management plan:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The Group Management Plan shall be: ...</i></p> <p><i>c. Based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) adequately covering forest resources.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.1 Group management plan:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The Group Management Plan shall be: ...</i></p> <p><i>d. Adequately coveringresources [sic]; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.1 Group management plan:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The Group Management Plan shall be: ...</i></p> <p><i>c. Based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as <u>existing land-use or other official plans</u>; ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan, if necessary using a tool to help with the writing of the Management Document / Management Plan made available by the organisation, and send a copy to the organisation within one year after signature of the commitment. as [sic] the document shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation on the cultural value of the forest as heritage. ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.1.3. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The Organisation shall:</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that each member of the certified entity has a Simple Management Document / Management Plan that meets the predefined requirements and carry out an initial audit concerning the membership procedure of the organisation to verify that this document is available and meets the requirements. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan, if necessary using a tool to help with the writing of the Management Document / Management Plan made available by the organisation, and send a copy to the organisation within one year after signature of the commitment. as [sic] the document shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon:</i></p> <p><i>An initial inventory of his forest property, taking into account the different functions of the forest, including: A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features; A presentation on the cultural value of the forest as heritage.; An appropriate presentation of the infrastructure (operation and reception) present on the property.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the forest area.</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity.; A presentation of measures</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>to take landscape aspects into account in management operations.; A presentation of the measures taken to ensure the protection of water and the soil, particularly during management activities (exploitation and regeneration) along watercourses in bodies of water, in areas with springs, on sensitive soils (peat, peaty, hydromorphic with a permanent water table), in zones with steep inclines, etc. If applicable: integrate the management of “non-wood” forest products into the management plan.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the <u>planning policy for woodland management activities and the average annual volumes harvested, including explanations</u>, and, if applicable, definitions of the average use of “non-wood” forest products.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures allowing the maintenance or evolution towards a diversified, resilient forest that is appropriate for climate and global changes, taking into account the genetic aspects of the existing and regenerated stands.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The underlined sentence does not currently communicate the requirement about including the average annual <u>allowable</u> cut into the management plan clearly enough: average is not equal to allowable or a rate that can be sustained in the long term (see also benchmark 8.3.4).</p>
6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan, if necessary using a tool to help with the writing of the Management Document / Management Plan made available by the organisation, and send a copy to the organisation within one year after signature of the commitment. as [sic] the document shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner’s commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: ... If applicable: integrate the management of “non-wood” forest products into the management plan.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the planning policy for woodland management activities and the average annual volumes harvested, including explanations, and, <u>if applicable, definitions of the average use of “non-wood” forest products.</u> ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The underlined sentence does not in its current form communicate the requirement about including the average annual <u>allowable</u> use of non-wood forest products into the management plan clearly enough.</p>
6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan, if necessary using a tool to help with the writing of the Management Document / Management Plan made available by the organisation, and send a copy to the organisation within one year after signature of the commitment. as [sic] the document shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner’s commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon:</i></p> <p><i>An initial inventory of his forest property, taking into account the different functions of the forest, including: A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features; ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity.; A presentation of measures to take landscape aspects into account in management operations.; A presentation of the measures taken to ensure the protection of water and the soil, particularly during management activities (exploitation and regeneration) along watercourses in bodies of water, in areas with springs, on sensitive soils (peat, peaty, hydromorphic with a permanent water table), in zones with steep inclines, etc. If applicable: integrate the management of “non-wood” forest products into the management plan.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the planning policy for woodland management activities and the average annual volumes harvested, including explanations, and, if applicable, definitions of the average use of “non-wood” forest products.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures allowing the maintenance or evolution towards a diversified, resilient forest that is appropriate for climate and global changes, taking into account the genetic aspects of the existing and regenerated stands.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest:</i></p> <p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document to ensure, based on the risks relating to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage to (1) roads, (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soil and (4) water resources. The document will stipulate the ban on dumping exogenous waste and the obligation to inform those involved about forest safety instructions.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land: 4.2.1.4.1. For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Ensure that his plan has no negative impacts on forests of ecological importance (particularly on rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems, on genetic reserves or on endangered species – particularly in migration corridors) and on areas of cultural and social interest or other protected areas. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land: 4.2.1.4.2. Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Ensure that the plan has no negative impacts on endangered non-forest ecosystems, areas of cultural and social interest, endangered species and habitats or other protected areas. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Information provided by PEFC Belgium:</p> <p><i>Belgian legislation covers the requirement (15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1)). Title 3 of the Code contains provisions common to all woods and forests, concerning the five-year forestry research plan; the permanent forest resources inventory unit (which is maintained within the Ministry of the Walloon Region in order to collect and make available data on the state and evolution of quantitative and qualitative parameters relating to wood production, stand health, biodiversity and ecological conditions of the environment); forest genetics; subsidies to persons under public and private law with a view to promoting woodland and forest conservation.</i></p> <p><i>These different tools made available by the organisation to foresters such as 'fichier ecologique des essences' and other information provided by the groups and they also have</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<i>to form and inform themselves about sustainable forestry etc. 4.2.1.1.1. and 4.1.3.2 of PEFC B 1003"</i>
6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.1.2. Information - training – communication: The organisation shall: ...</p> <p><i>Make a summary available to the public, in accordance with the data protection legislation, containing the non-confidential elements and, if necessary, aggregated elements of the simple management document / management plan. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1. The forest owner shall: 4.2.1.1.1. Make a commitment to the organisation to meet the standards of sustainable management and: ...</p> <p><i>Agree for an executive summary of the Simple Management Document / Management Plan, containing non-confidential elements, to be made available to the public when requested to the organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The BFCS does not require a summary of the management plan to be publicly available, only per external request. PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines “publicly available” as <i>generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request.</i></p>
6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.1.2. Information - training – communication: The organisation shall: ...</p> <p><i>Make a summary available to the public, in accordance with the data protection legislation, containing the non-confidential elements and, if necessary, aggregated elements of the simple management document / management plan. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1. The forest owner shall: 4.2.1.1.1. Make a commitment to the organisation to meet the standards of sustainable management and: ...</i></p> <p><i>Agree for an executive summary of the Simple Management Document / Management Plan, containing non-confidential elements, to be made available to the public when requested to the organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.3 Compliance requirements		
6.3.1 Legal compliance		
<p>6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation.</p> <p>Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the "legislation applicable to forest management" is defined by the VPA agreement.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. <i>Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to forest / TOF management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for users, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to forest / TOF management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for users, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Belgium has robust anti-corruption legislation.</p>
6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not explicitly cover this requirement, but it is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>"15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008); 12 July 1973 - Nature Conservation Act (M.B. 11.09.1973); Code of Territorial Development CoDT - version applicable from 30 January 2023 (v.33.2) and by compliance obligation of PEFC B 1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation."</i></p>
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to forest / TOF management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for users, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The Belgian legislation requires property rights to be clearly established and recognised, in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018 requirements.</p>
<p>6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to forest / TOF management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for users, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.  <b>Comment:</b> Benchmark requirements related to indigenous peoples are not applicable in the context of Walloon.
6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The benchmark requirement is covered by requirements set by the Belgian legislation.
6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions		
6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.  Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Belgium has ratified the fundamental ILO conventions referred to by the benchmark.
6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions		
6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:  <i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to ... health, labour and safety issues; ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1. The forest owner shall: 4.2.1.1.1. Make a commitment to the organisation to meet the standards of sustainable management and:</i></p> <p><i>Train and/or inform forest managers and other forest workers regarding sustainable forest management. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest,</i></p> <p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document ... The document will stipulate ... the obligation to inform those involved about forest safety instructions. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.2. Information and training: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Inform non-professional forest workers about safety at work and ensure that they are trained where applicable. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of ... non-compliance with safety conditions. ...</i></p> <p><i>Provide information and training to operatives on working safely in the forest. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall: ...</p> <p><i>Provide information and training to operatives on working safely in the forest. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 or the PEFC B 1003 do not explicitly place requirements for forest operations to be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be <u>identified</u>, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>“covered by law - Reference Code du Bien-Etre au Travail (<a href="https://emploi.belgique.be/fr/themes/bien-etre-au-travail/principes-generaux/code-du-bien-etre-au-travail">https://emploi.belgique.be/fr/themes/bien-etre-au-travail/principes-generaux/code-du-bien-etre-au-travail</a>) Code du bien être au travail ( Livre 1 Principes généraux-Titre 4-Chapitre II-Art. 1.4-3 and following but also by compliance obligation. 4.3.1.1. Legislation. It is enforced by the SPF emploi et santé. In le Décret relatif au Code forestier (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008) titre 3 chapitre 6 art 51) the gouvernement will soon set up an approval system for purchasers, harvesters of timber or forest products and forestry contractors. which has been included in the 1003.”</i></p>
<p>6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to ... health, labour and safety issues; ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1. The forest owner shall: 4.2.1.1.1. Make a commitment to the organisation to meet the standards of sustainable management and:</i></p> <p><i>Train and/or inform forest managers and other forest workers regarding sustainable forest management. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest,</i></p> <p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document ... The document will stipulate ... the obligation to inform those involved about forest safety instructions. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.2. Information and training: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Inform non-professional forest workers about safety at work and ensure that they are trained where applicable. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of ... non-compliance with safety conditions. ...</i></p> <p><i>Provide information and training to operatives on working safely in the forest. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Provide information and training to operatives on working safely in the forest. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to ... health, <u>labour</u> and safety issues; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 requires compliance with applicable local, national, and international legislation. The minimum wage in Belgium is fixed on the national level by collective agreements concluded by the National Labour Council. Joint committees of the National Labour Council set different minimum wage levels for different sectors.</p>
<p>6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.</p>	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Belgian legislation prohibits direct and indirect discrimination and workplace bullying and harassment and promotes equal opportunities and gender equality.</p>
7. Support		
7.1 Resources		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.5 Support process, 5.1.5.1 Resources:</p> <p><i>The management of the organisation shall identify and make available the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
7.2 Competence		
7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall raise the awareness of participant concerning their contribution to effectiveness of the system and the implications of not conforming. The Organisation shall provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest / TOF management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.1.2. Information - training – communication: The organisation shall: ...</p> <p><i>Ensure that the personnel, contractors and members of the certified entity are trained in: The requirements that must be met at the individual level; The operation, procedures and requirements of PEFC. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1. The forest owner shall: 4.2.1.1.1. Make a commitment to the organisation to meet the standards of sustainable management and:</p> <p><i>Train and/or inform forest managers and other forest workers regarding sustainable forest management. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation: 4.3.1.1. Legislation, 4.3.1.2. Information and training: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Undertake regular training in sustainable forest management. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
7.3 Communication		
7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Composition: The Organisation shall set up a stakeholder consultation board based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- forest /TOF owners,</li> <li>- business and industry,</li> <li>- indigenous people,</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>- non-government organisations, - scientific and technological community, - workers and trade unions.</p> <p><i>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of forest / TOF management activities. Specific attention shall be given to a balanced representation of the affected and non-affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall represent all types of forest / TOF ownership in the Organisation and other affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall identify the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC Belgium shall be invited as an observer to the Organisation's Stakeholders' meetings. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.5 Support process, 5.1.5.3 Communication:</p> <p><u><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented procedure for internal and external communication (including on what, when, with whom and how to communicate).</i></u></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall raise the awareness of participants concerning:</i></p> <p><i>a. the group management policy;</i></p> <p><i>b. the requirements of the sustainable forest / TOF management standard;</i></p> <p><i>c. their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest / TOF management, including the benefits of improved group performance;</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>d. the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall have appropriate mechanisms in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management, forest / TOF management operations, land use rights and work conditions.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall make the results of the certification audit report written by the certification body available to the public.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification bodies, accreditation body, PEFC International or PEFC Belgium for relevant data, statistics, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest/TOF areas covered by the Organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.</i></p> <p><i>In accordance to the PEFC GD 1008, the organisation shall inform PEFC Belgium and its certification body in case of change of participants: new, suspended, removed. The information communicated to these stakeholders regarding the participants for their grouped certification shall be in compliance with the applicable chapters of the PEFC GD 1008.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Benchmark requirements related to indigenous peoples are not applicable in the context of Walloon.</p>
7.4 Complaints		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.5 Support process, 5.1.5.3 Communication: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall have appropriate mechanisms in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management, forest / TOF management operations, land use rights and work conditions. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
7.5 Documented Information		
7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.5 Support process, 5.1.5.2 Documented information: ...</p> <p><i>The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest / TOF management system. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.5 Support process, 5.1.5.2 Documented information: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain documented procedures for the management of documentation and records to ensure documents are up to date, available and suitable for use, adequately protected (confidentiality, improper use, integrity). ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8. Operation		
8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.3 Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions.</i></p> <p><i>Monitor the health and vitality of his forest and inform the organisation if significant health and climate problems are identified ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has no negative impacts on forests of ecological importance (particularly on rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems, on genetic reserves or on endangered species – particularly in migration corridors) and on areas of cultural and social interest or other protected areas. ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has positive long-term economic, social and environmental impacts.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features. ... A presentation on the cultural value of the forest as heritage ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity. ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures allowing the maintenance or evolution towards a diversified, resilient forest that is appropriate for climate and global changes, taking into account the genetic aspects of the existing and regenerated stands.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.5 Mixing: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Diversify his forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or compartments, or tree by tree), ages and structures, as far as the site conditions and the structure of the property allow this.</i></p> <p><i>Give priority to rare or supporting species during clearing, thinning and cutting.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.12. Socio-recreational forest: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Take into account elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of the forest.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.	y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.3 Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.3 Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure a long-term balance between the growth of the forest and the cutting that takes place there, as long as the size of the property and health-related conditions allow it. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of damage to ... (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soils ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Avoid removing organic horizons and consider ways of harvesting stumps, residues or fine fractions to avoid degrading the soil balance. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall:</p> <p><i>Respect the forest owner's requirements as set out in specifications or equivalent making it possible to ensure, depending on the risks related to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage ... (2) to remaining trees and stands, (3) to soil ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions, or encourage efficient use of resources.</p>
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Comply with the relevant legislation.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure integration of his plan in the relevant regional plans. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.1. Legislation: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Respect the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to his forest.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	N	PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ... <i>Convert no more than 5% of the area of his forest. ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 requirement regarding the extent of forest conversion concerns the whole forest area, not forest type as in the benchmark.
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	Y	PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ... <i>Ensure that his plan has no negative impacts on forests of ecological importance (particularly on rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems, on genetic reserves or on endangered species – particularly in migration corridors) and on areas of cultural and social interest or other protected areas. ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Y	PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ... <i>Ensure that his plan does not destroy areas with high carbon storage. ...</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Y	PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</i> <i>Ensure that his plan has positive long-term economic, social and environmental impacts.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and	Y	PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i> <i>Comply with the relevant legislation.</i> <i>Ensure integration of his plan in the relevant regional plans.</i> <i>Ensure that the affected stakeholders were consulted during the decision-making process.</i> ... <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that the affected stakeholders were consulted during the decision-making process.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place explicit requirements for the consultation process to be transparent and participatory, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>"Protected by law - Reference (15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008); 12 July 1973 - Nature Conservation Act (M.B. 11.09.1973) Chapter II. Protection of animal and plant species] + list annex 1 &amp; 2, Code of Territorial Development CoDT - version applicable from 30 January 2023 (v.33.2) and by compliance to PEFC B 1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the region has implemented environmental impact assessments (EIAs) as a mandatory tool for evaluating the potential effects of projects on the environment, including ecosystems and biodiversity. These assessments consider a wide range of factors, including the ecological impact of the project and the potential impact on key species.</i></p> <p><i>There are procedures and legal instruments to agree on the afforestation of non-forest ecosystems in forest land to minimise damages to ecosystems, a urbanisation or environmental permit is requested and a change of affectation of land is always subject to stakeholder consultation.</i></p> <p><i><a href="http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/TRANSV%202.html#:~:text=Il%20s'agit%20d'une%20%C3%A9tude%20scientifique%20r%C3%A9alis%C3%A9e%20par%20un,incidences%20notables%20sur%20l'environnement.">http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/TRANSV%202.html#:~:text=Il%20s'agit%20d'une%20%C3%A9tude%20scientifique%20r%C3%A9alis%C3%A9e%20par%20un,incidences%20notables%20sur%20l'environnement.</a></i>"</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that the plan has no negative impacts on endangered non-forest ecosystems, areas of cultural and social interest, endangered species and habitats or other protected areas.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place explicit requirements for avoiding negative impacts on vulnerable and rare non-forest ecosystems and species, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see 8.1.5 b).</p>
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Convert only a small part of the important non-forest ecosystems on his property. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan does not destroy areas with high carbon storage. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has positive long-term economic, social and environmental impacts.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place explicit requirements for making a contribution to long-term conservation benefits, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see 8.1.5 b).</p>
8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Conversion of degraded forests to forest plantations is not prohibited in the BFCS. There is not enough information to determine whether the concept of 'forest plantation' is applicable in the context of Belgian forestry and thus, the benchmark cannot be ruled as 'not applicable' as suggested by PEFC Belgium.</p>
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)</p>
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 8.1.6 (a)
<b>8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</b>		
8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p>Ensure that his plan has no negative impacts on forests of ecological importance (particularly on rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems, on genetic reserves or on endangered species – particularly in migration corridors) ...</p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.3 Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions.</i></p> <p><i>Monitor the health and vitality of his forest and inform the organisation if significant health and climate problems are identified (particularly the main biotic and abiotic factors that can affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overstocking, fires and damage caused by climatic factors, atmospheric pollutants or forest management operations).</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity. ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures allowing the maintenance or evolution towards a diversified, resilient forest that is appropriate for climate and global changes, taking into account the genetic aspects of the existing and regenerated stands.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.2 Monitoring, 5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process.</i></p> <p><i>Health and vitality of forests / TOF shall be part of the monitoring process and periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by management operations. ...</p> <p>The organisation shall communicate the monitoring results to the owners, including the recommendations related to the improvement of the forest / TOF management and operations practices.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 or PEFC B 1003 do not place explicit requirements for the rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems.</p>
8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.5 Mixing: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Diversify his forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or compartments, or tree by tree), ages and structures, as far as the site conditions and the structure of the property allow this.</i></p> <p><i>Give priority to rare or supporting species during clearing, thinning and cutting.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ... Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</p> <p><i>A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity. ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures allowing the maintenance or evolution towards a diversified, resilient forest that is appropriate for climate and global changes, taking into account the genetic aspects of the existing and regenerated stands.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognised practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not Applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> Fire is not used in Belgium in the context of forest management.
8.2.4 The standard requires that appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.4 Regeneration: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Plan and carry out natural regeneration and/or planting using appropriate species for the site. Use diversified provenances and/or origins on his property and keep certificates of origin. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of damage to ... (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soils and ... dumping of exogenous waste ...</i></p> <p><i>Avoid removing organic horizons and consider ways of harvesting stumps, residues or fine fractions to avoid degrading the soil balance.</i></p> <p><i>Take action if damage is caused during operations and manage the situation in accordance with the complaints and non-compliance procedure as defined by the organisation.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Respect the forest owner's requirements as set out in specifications or equivalent making it possible to ensure, depending on the risks related to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage ... (2) to remaining trees and stands, (3) to soil ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.3 Forestry operations and harvesting: <i>The forest owner shall...</i></p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest, Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document to ensure, based on the risks relating to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage to (1) roads, (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soil and (4) water resources. The document will stipulate the ban on dumping exogenous waste ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: <i>The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of ... dumping of exogenous waste ...</i></p> <p><i>For forest owner's own operations: Remove waste produced during these operations ... Put in place and implement the necessary emergency procedures to minimise the risks of pollution relating to accidental hydrocarbon spillage.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall: ...</p> <p><i>Remove waste produced during these operations. ...</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Put in place and implement the necessary emergency procedures to minimise the risks of pollution relating to accidental hydrocarbon spillage.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018. The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for storing non-organic waste and litter in designated areas, but that is covered by legislation (see below):</p> <p><i>"Protected and forbidden by law - 27 June 1996 - Decree on waste (M.B. 02.08.1996) and 24 November 2021 - Decree amending the decree of 6 May 2019 on environmental crime art 31 §4 2° and various other decrees by compliance obligation PEFC B 1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation."</i></p>
8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.6 Inputs: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Prohibit all use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, with the exceptions defined by the Walloon Government. Within the framework of these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use these products only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. Do not use pesticides within 12 metres of watercourses, bodies of water or springs. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for documenting the use of pesticides, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>"Forbidden by law - 15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) Art. 42. In forests, the use of pesticides is generally prohibited, except in certain cases where it is necessary to control pests or diseases that pose a threat to the health and survival of the trees. In such cases, the use of pesticides must be authorized by the competent authorities and must comply with strict conditions, including the use of the least harmful pesticide available, the use of the pesticide only when other measures have failed or are ineffective, the use of the pesticide in a manner that minimizes its impact on the environment and human health, the use of the pesticide by qualified professionals who have the necessary training and equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the Walloon Forest Code also provides specific rules for the use of pesticides in the forest. The use of pesticides must be authorized by the competent authorities, and the person using the pesticide must comply with the conditions and restrictions imposed by the authorization.</i></p> <p><i>Since 25 November 2015, all professional users, distributors and advisors of phytopharmaceutical products in the European Union must hold a certificate proving that they have mastered the knowledge and skills necessary to select/purchase/use/manage/sell and advise on these products and thus by compliance to the obligation of PEFC B1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation."</i></p>
<p>8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.1. Legislation: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Respect the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to his forest.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.6 Inputs: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Prohibit all use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, with the exceptions defined by the Walloon Government. Within the framework of these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use these products only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>alternative methods. Do not use pesticides within 12 metres of watercourses, bodies of water or springs.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018. Belgian legislation prohibits the use of pesticides with certain exceptions: The decree of 15 July 2008 relating to the Forestry Code prohibits all use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides in forests while allowing the Government to set exceptions. The Walloon Government decree of 27 May 2009 specifies the exceptions which have to be in line with the Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> It is recommended to clarify in the standards whether the exceptions in the legislation include WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides.</p>
<p>8.2.9 The standard requires that pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.</p> <p>Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.1. Legislation: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Respect the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to his forest.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.6 Inputs: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Prohibit all use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, with the exceptions defined by the Walloon Government. Within the framework of these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use these products only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. Do not use pesticides within 12 metres of watercourses, bodies of water or springs.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018. Belgian legislation prohibits the use of pesticides with certain exceptions: The decree of 15 July 2008 relating to the Forestry Code prohibits all use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides in forests</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		while allowing the Government to set exceptions. The Walloon Government decree of 27 May 2009 specifies the exceptions which have to be in line with the Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009. Belgium has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, engaging the Walloon region, the Flemish region, and the Brussels-Capital region.
8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for following the instructions given by the pesticide producer in the use of pesticides or implementation with proper equipment by trained personnel, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>“Forbidden by law - 15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) Art. 42. In forests, the use of pesticides is generally prohibited, except in certain cases where it is necessary to control pests or diseases that pose a threat to the health and survival of the trees. In such cases, the use of pesticides must be authorized by the competent authorities and must comply with strict conditions, including the use of the least harmful pesticide available, the use of the pesticide only when other measures have failed or are ineffective, the use of the pesticide in a manner that minimizes its impact on the environment and human health, the use of the pesticide by qualified professionals who have the necessary training and equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the Walloon Forest Code also provides specific rules for the use of pesticides in the forest. The use of pesticides must be authorized by the competent authorities, and the person using the pesticide must comply with the conditions and restrictions imposed by the authorization.</i></p> <p><i>Since 25 November 2015, all professional users, distributors and advisors of phytopharmaceutical products in the European Union must hold a certificate proving that they have mastered the knowledge and skills necessary to</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<i>select/purchase/use/manage/sell and advise on these products and thus by compliance to the obligation of PEFC B1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation."</i>
8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. fertiliser use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.6 Inputs: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Use improvement products appropriately and based on a reliable soil analysis demonstrating a need to correct mineral imbalances that are impairing the health of the stand.</i></p> <p><i>Refrain from using fertilisers in his forest.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.3 Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>In case of a clear-cut, ensure the areas are suitable in view of risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, ground water upwelling or impacts on the landscape.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.3 Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall:</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (<u>production</u>, protection, social function, conservation) ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. <i>Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.3 Risks and opportunities: ...</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall take into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 does not place explicit requirements for pursuing sound economic performance. According to PEFC Belgium, the production function of the forests mentioned in PEFC B 1003 requirement 4.2.1.2 can be interpreted to cover the benchmark requirement. However, the requirement should be stated more explicitly.</p>
8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall...</i></p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document to ensure, based on the risks relating to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage to (1) roads, (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soil and (4) water resources. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.7. Wet areas: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Limit high-pressure ground traffic to periods of frost or «dry» ground (sufficiently settled) except for operational enclosure. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall: ...</p> <p><i>Respect the forest owner's requirements as set out in specifications or equivalent making it possible to ensure, depending on the risks related to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage (1) to roads, (2) to remaining trees and stands, (3) to soil and (4) to water resources. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.3.4 The standard requires that harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3 Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Ensure a long-term balance between the growth of the forest and the cutting that takes place there, as long as the size of the property and health-related conditions allow it. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall:</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: ... If applicable: integrate the management of “non-wood” forest products into the management plan. ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the planning policy for woodland management activities and the average annual volumes harvested, including explanations, and, if applicable, definitions of the average use of “non-wood” forest products. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.3. Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place explicit requirements for not exceeding the sustainable harvesting levels of non-wood products. The requirement related to defining the average use of non-wood forest products cannot, as such, be interpreted to prevent exceeding sustainable harvest rates of non-wood forest products in the long term.</p>
8.3.5 The standard requires that adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>An appropriate presentation of the infrastructure (operation and reception) present on the property. ...</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for the maintenance of infrastructure.
8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas.  Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Improvement: The Organisation shall implement the different steps of continuous improvement, both at Organisation and Individual level: inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social, environmental and economic impacts of forest /TOF management principles. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.3 Risks and opportunities: ...</p> <p><i>Inventory and mapping of forest / TOF resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions, both at organisational and individual level.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.2 Monitoring, 5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 are in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p> <p>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.1 Legislation: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Respect the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to his forest.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1 For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has no negative impacts on forests of ecological importance (particularly on rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems, on genetic reserves or on endangered species – particularly in migration corridors) ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that the plan has no negative impacts on ... endangered species and habitats or other protected areas. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to ... nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 or the PEFC B 1002 do not explicitly prohibit the exploitation of protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species for commercial purposes, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>"Protected by law - Reference (15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008); 12 July 1973 - Nature Conservation Act (M.B. 11.09.1973) Chapter II. Protection of animal and plant species] + list annex 1 &amp; 2, and by compliance to PEFC B 1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation"</i></p>
8.4.4 The standard requires that successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.4 Regeneration: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Plan and carry out natural regeneration and/or planting using appropriate species for the site...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.3 Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2. Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Comply with the relevant legislation. ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that the plan has no negative impacts on endangered non-forest ecosystems, areas of cultural and social interest, endangered species and habitats or other protected areas. ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has positive long-term economic, social and environmental impacts.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.4 Regeneration: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Plan and carry out natural regeneration and/or planting using appropriate species for the site...</i></p> <p><i>Undertake not to use ... invasive species (from list A of invasive species in Belgium) in his plantations.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.2 Regarding reforestation of important non-forest ecosystems: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has positive long-term ... environmental impacts.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for the promotion of afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities contributing to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity. According to PEFC Belgium, the requirement is covered by legislation:</p> <p><i>“This is covered by the legislation and is subject to a permit integrating and environmental impacts analysis - reference made to the CODT article D.IV.4, 10°”.</i></p> <p>A more detailed reference to the legislation should be provided.</p>
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3 Implementation, 4.3.1.4 Regeneration: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Undertake not to use GMOs ... in his plantations.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> It is recommended to update the wording of the requirement. In its current form, it gives the impression that the requirement is applicable only in plantations and not in general for all silviculture activities.</p>
8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.5. Mixing: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.		<p><i>Diversify his forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or compartments, or tree by tree), ages and structures, as far as the site conditions and the structure of the property allow this.</i></p> <p><i>Give priority to rare or supporting species during clearing, thinning and cutting.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.2 Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity; A presentation of measures to take landscape aspects into account in management operations ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of measures allowing the maintenance or evolution towards a diversified, resilient forest that is appropriate for climate and global changes, taking into account the genetic aspects of the existing and regenerated stands.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Supporting traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems is not relevant for the Walloon region.</p>
8.4.10 The standard requires that tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2 Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
measures shall be taken to maintain or improve biological diversity.		<p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document to ensure, based on the risks relating to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage to (1) roads, (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soil and (4) water resources. The document will stipulate the ban on dumping exogenous waste and the obligation to inform those involved about forest safety instructions. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.7. Wet areas: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Limit high-pressure ground traffic to periods of frost or «dry» ground (sufficiently settled) except for operational enclosure.</i></p> <p><i>Refrain from creating new drainage ditches.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.8. Other areas of special biological interest: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Preserve or even restore areas of special biological interest (e.g. forest margins, clearings, ponds and lakes).</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.9. Dead wood and trees of biological interest: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>In deciduous stands, as far as the characteristics of the property allow, maintain a network of dead wood in the forest (standing and/or on the ground), hollow trees and old trees, within the required phytosanitary and safety limits.</i></p> <p><i>Keep and designate: during thinning, at least one such tree that is more than 125 cm in circumference per hectare; and/or areas of older or senescent trees covering 2% of the property.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.10 Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall:</i> ...</p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of damage to (1) roads, (2) remaining trees and stands, (3) soils and (4) water resources, dumping of exogenous waste or non-compliance with safety conditions.</i></p> <p><i>Avoid removing organic horizons and consider ways of harvesting stumps, residues or fine fractions to avoid degrading the soil balance.</i></p> <p><i>Take action if damage is caused during operations and manage the situation in accordance with the complaints and non-compliance procedure as defined by the organisation. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.2 Those working in the forest shall:</i></p> <p><i>Respect the forest owner's requirements as set out in specifications or equivalent making it possible to ensure, depending on the risks related to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage (1) to roads, (2) to remaining trees and stands, (3) to soil and (4) to water resources.</i></p> <p><i>Remove waste produced during these operations. ...</i></p> <p><i>Put in place and implement the necessary emergency procedures to minimise the risks of pollution relating to accidental hydrocarbon spillage.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.5. Mixing: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Diversify his forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or compartments, or tree by tree), ages and structures, as far as the site conditions and the structure of the property allow this.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Give priority to rare or supporting species during clearing, thinning and cutting.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>8.4.11 The standard requires that infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>An initial inventory of his forest property, taking into account the different functions of the forest, including: A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features ... An appropriate presentation of the infrastructure (operation and reception) present on the property. ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not explicitly place requirements for the planning and construction of infrastructure in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems and takes threatened or other key species into consideration, but the requirement is covered by legislation and regional procedures (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>“Protected by law - Reference (15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008); 12 July 1973 - Nature Conservation Act (M.B. 11.09.1973) Chapter II. Protection of animal and plant species] + list annex 1 &amp; 2, Code of Territorial Development</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>CoDT - version applicable from 30 January 2023 (v.33.2) and by compliance to PEFC B 1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation</p> <p>Moreover, the region has implemented environmental impact assessments (EIAs) as a mandatory tool for evaluating the potential effects of projects on the environment, including ecosystems and biodiversity. These assessments consider a wide range of factors, including the ecological impact of the project and the potential impact on key species.</p> <p>There are procedures and legal instruments to agree on the afforestation of non-forest ecosystems in forest land to minimise damages to ecosystems, a urbanisation or environmental permit is requested and a change of affectation of land is always subject to stakeholder consultation.</p> <p><a href="http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/TRANSV%202.html#:~:text=II%20s'agit%20d'une%20%C3%A9tude%20scientifique%20r%C3%A9alis%C3%A9e%20par%20un,incidences%20notables%20sur%20l'environnement.">http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/TRANSV%202.html#:~:text=II%20s'agit%20d'une%20%C3%A9tude%20scientifique%20r%C3%A9alis%C3%A9e%20par%20un,incidences%20notables%20sur%20l'environnement.</a>”</p>
8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.5. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates, 4.2.1.5.1. General: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p>Ensure balanced forest-large game management using all the resources at his disposal so that he can meet his obligations under the PEFC standards. ...</p> <p>Carry out an initial inventory of damage linked to large ungulates in his forest when he enters group certification, in collaboration with his stakeholders and in particular with the hunting rights concession holder / his hunter. Carry out a periodical update/revision of the inventory at least once every three years.</p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.5. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates, 4.2.1.5.2. In regard to forest management: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p>Take into account the reception capacity in the management of his territory.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.5. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates, 4.2.1.5.3. In regard to collaboration with the holder of the hunting rights concession for his property (NB: if the owner hunts himself, these requirements apply to him directly): The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p>... if the property amounts to more than 50 contiguous hectares: ... Use the organisation's standard hunting rights concession contract template or at least the compulsory clauses to guarantee: ... Management of game populations to prevent or reduce unacceptable negative impacts related to excess populations. ...</p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.11. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates, 4.3.1.11.1 In regard to forest management: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p>Take reception capacity into account in his woodland management operations to ensure dilution of the pressure from major ungulates.</p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.11. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates, 4.3.1.11.2 If unacceptable negative impacts are observed: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p>If negative impacts are observed that are detrimental to biodiversity and/or regeneration and/or the quality of woody and non-woody regeneration: Inform the following about the situation: the hunting rights holder; the organisation responsible for group certification; if the problem is confirmed after three years, inform the local hunting council (for owners of more than 50 contiguous hectares). ...</p> <p>Implement the overall strategy defined in consultation with affected stakeholders to take various measures from a panel of tools that are appropriate for the situation and context of his property in order to reduce the negative impacts to an acceptable level.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.9. Dead wood and trees of biological interest: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>In deciduous stands, as far as the characteristics of the property allow, maintain a network of dead wood in the forest (standing and/or on the ground), hollow trees and old trees, within the required phytosanitary and safety limits.</i></p> <p><i>Keep and designate: during thinning, at least one such tree that is more than 125 cm in circumference per hectare; and/or areas of older or senescent trees covering 2% of the property.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.5. Mixing: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Diversify his forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or compartments, or tree by tree), ages and structures, as far as the site conditions and the structure of the property allow this.</i></p> <p><i>Give priority to rare or supporting species during clearing, thinning and cutting.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not explicitly place requirements for leaving old groves in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, but the requirement is covered by legislation and regional procedures (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>"Protected by law - Reference (15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) (M.B. 12.09. 2008) art 57 §1 and art 71; The Law of 12 July 1973 on Nature Conservation specifies that forest reserves are established "with the aim of safeguarding characteristic or remarkable facies of native species stands and of ensuring the integrity of the soil and the environment" (Law on Nature Conservation, art. 20) and by the obligation to comply with the PEFC B1003 standard 4.3.1.1. Legislation.</i></p> <p><i>but also in PEFC B 1003 4.2.1.2. An identification of old-growth forests for which it must provide special protection in its management activities. but also 4.3.1.9. Deadwood and trees of biological interest."</i></p>
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: ... A presentation of the measures taken to ensure the protection of water and the soil, particularly during management activities (exploitation and regeneration) along watercourses in bodies of water, in areas with springs, on sensitive soils (peat, peaty, hydromorphic with a permanent water table), in zones with steep inclines, etc. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>In case of a clear-cut, ensure the areas are suitable in view of risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, ground water upwelling or impacts on the landscape.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.3. Appropriate woodland management: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Guarantee the quality and quantity of woodland productivity in terms of area and over time, in conditions appropriate for the site and taking into account the evolution of climatic conditions. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum, taking into account the specific context of the property, and the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p> <p><i>An initial inventory of his forest property, taking into account the different functions of the forest, including: A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil and for the conservation of characteristic or rare features. ...</i></p> <p><i>An identification of old-growth forests for which he has to provide special protection in his management activities. ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, social function, conservation) and in particular: A presentation of measures to promote biodiversity. ... A presentation of the measures taken to ensure the protection of water and the soil, particularly during management activities (exploitation and regeneration) along watercourses in bodies of water, in areas with springs, on sensitive soils (peat, peaty, hydromorphic with a permanent water table), in zones with steep inclines, etc. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>An initial inventory of his forest property, taking into account the different functions of the forest, including: A presentation of the ecological value, in particular identification of priority areas for the protection of water and soil ...</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A presentation of the measures taken to ensure the protection of water and the soil, particularly during management activities (exploitation and regeneration) along watercourses in bodies of water, in areas with springs, on sensitive soils (peat, peaty, hydromorphic with a permanent water table), in zones with steep inclines, etc. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest,</i></p> <p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document to ensure, based on the risks relating to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage to ... (3) soil and (4) water resources. ...</i></p> <p><i>Make use of: A forestry contractor licensed under a scheme endorsed by PEFC Belgium as being equivalent to these standards, on the basis of procedure PEFC B 4005; A forest contractor licensed based on the forestry management standards that apply to him; Failing this, take responsibility for the damage caused ... (3) to soil and (4) to water resources. ...</i></p> <p><i>In case of a clear-cut, ensure the areas are suitable in view of risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, groundwater upwelling or impacts on the landscape.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.5. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates, 4.2.1.5.3. In regard to collaboration with the holder of the hunting rights concession for his property (NB: if the owner hunts himself, these requirements apply to him directly): The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>In addition to the requirements set out above, if the property amounts to more than 50 contiguous hectares: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Use the organisation's standard hunting rights concession contract template or at least the compulsory clauses to guarantee: ...</i></p> <p><i>Management of game populations to <u>prevent or reduce unacceptable negative impacts related to excess populations</u>. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.7. Wet areas: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Limit high-pressure ground traffic to periods of frost or «dry» ground (sufficiently settled) except for operational enclosure. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.8. Other areas of special biological interest: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Preserve or even restore areas of special biological interest (e.g. forest margins, clearings, ponds and lakes).</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of damage to ... (3) soils and (4) water resources ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall:</p> <p><i>Respect the forest owner's requirements as set out in specifications or equivalent making it possible to ensure, depending on the risks related to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage ... (3) to soil and (4) to water resources. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
8.5.4 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.3. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>For work carried out in the forest,</i></p> <p><i>Use a document made available by the organisation or an equivalent document to ensure, based on the risks relating to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage to ... (4) water resources. ...</i></p> <p><i>Make use of: A forestry contractor licensed under a scheme endorsed by PEFC Belgium as being equivalent to these standards, on the basis of procedure PEFC B 4005; A forest contractor licensed based on the forestry management standards that apply to him; Failing this, take responsibility for the damage caused ... (4) to water resources. ...</i></p> <p><i>In case of a clear-cut, ensure the areas are suitable in view of risks of soil erosion on slopes, ... groundwater upwelling ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.6. Inputs: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>not use pesticides within 12 metres of watercourses, bodies of water or springs. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.10. Forestry operations and harvesting: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Monitor to ensure that forest operations are conducted in line with his requirements and take action in case of damage to ... (4) water resources ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.2. Those working in the forest shall:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Respect the forest owner's requirements as set out in specifications or equivalent making it possible to ensure, depending on the risks related to the type and location of the intervention, avoidance of damage ... (4) to water resources. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>8.5.5 The standard requires that construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.</p>	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for the construction of roads, bridges or other infrastructure in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for installing and maintaining proper road drainage facilities, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>"Protected by law - Reference (15 July 2008 - Decree on the Forestry Code (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008); 12 July 1973 - Nature Conservation Act (M.B. 11.09.1973) Chapter II. Protection of animal and plant species] + list annex 1 &amp; 2, Code of Territorial Development CoDT - version applicable from 30 January 2023 (v.33.2) and by compliance to PEFC B 1003 4.3.1.1. Legislation</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the region has implemented environmental impact assessments (EIAs) as a mandatory tool for evaluating the potential effects of projects on the environment, including ecosystems and biodiversity. These assessments consider a wide range of factors, including the ecological impact of the project and the potential impact on key species.</i></p> <p><i>There are procedures and legal instruments to agree on the afforestation of non-forest ecosystems in forest land to minimise damages to ecosystems, a urbanisation or environmental permit is requested and a change of affectation of land is always subject to stakeholder consultation.</i></p> <p><a href="http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/TRANSV%202.html#:~:text=">http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/TRANSV%202.html#:~:text=</a></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<i>Il%20s'agit%20d'une%20%C3%A9tude%20scientifique%20r%C3%A9alis%C3%A9e%20par%20un, incidences%20notables%20sur%20l'environnement."</i>
8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions		
8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the management aims and the relative importance of the various forest management functions (production, protection, <u>social function</u>, conservation) ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.4. Conversion of forest to non-forest land, 4.2.1.4.1. For all plans for conversion to non-forest land: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has no negative impacts ... on areas of <u>cultural and social interest</u> or other protected areas. ...</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that his plan has positive long-term <u>economic, social</u> and environmental impacts.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for the forest management planning to respect <u>all</u> socio-economic functions of forest. According to PEFC Belgium, the requirement is covered by legislation:</p> <p><i>"Covered by the legislation - Article 1 of the Forest Code."</i></p> <p>A more detailed reference to the legislation should be provided.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.1. Legislation: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Respect the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to his forest.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.12. Socio-recreational forest: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Do not hinder or dissuade access to legally accessible public forest roads crossing or skirting your property, except temporary prohibitions imposed for safety reasons.</i></p> <p><i>Allow access to private forest roads on the property under conditions at the owner's discretion, in the context of leisure, cultural or educational activities, in a way that respects forest ecosystems, particularly when there is a clear advantage in terms of safety or the footpath network to using a slow route that is not open to traffic.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the legal stipulations, do not allow motorised recreational activities to take place off the roads and paths.</i></p> <p><i>Take into account elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of the forest.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	N	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan, if necessary using a tool to help with the writing of the Management Document / Management Plan made available by the organisation, and send a copy to the organisation within one year after signature of the commitment. as [sic] the document shall contain a [sic] minimum,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>taking into account the specific context of the property, and the owner's commitment to improve the quality of forest resources and their ability to store and sequester carbon: ...</i></p> <p><i>A presentation on the cultural value of the forest as heritage. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.12. Socio-recreational forest: The forest owner shall: ...</p> <p><i>Take into account elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of the forest.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for the <u>protection</u> of sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance.</p>
8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.	N	<p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for the management to promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area. According to PEFC Belgium, the requirement is covered by legislation:</p> <p><i>"Covered by the legislation - Article 1 of the Forest Code."</i></p> <p>A more detailed reference to the legislation should be provided.</p>
8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge shall be encouraged.	N	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.3 The Organisation: ...</p> <p><i>Composition: The Organisation shall set up a stakeholder consultation board based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping: forest /TOF owners,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>business and industry, indigenous people, non-government organisations, scientific and technological community, workers and trade unions.</i></p> <p><i>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of forest / TOF management activities. Specific attention shall be given to a balanced representation of the affected and non-affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall represent all types of forest / TOF ownership in the Organisation and other affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall identify the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not encourage equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge.</p>
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 does not place requirements for giving due regard to the role of forestry in local economies and special consideration to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>“Covered by the legislation: forestry code 12/09/2008 modified by the programme decree of 17 July 2018 containing various measures relating to the employment, training, the economy, industry, research, innovation, digital, the environment, ecological transition, regional planning, public works, mobility and transport, energy, climate, airport policy, tourism, agriculture, nature, forestry, local authorities and housing.”</i></p>
8.6.7 The standard requires that forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.		<b>Justification:</b> The requirement is not applicable in the context of Belgium (see PEFC Belgium justification below):  <i>"Given the fact that the public forest are managed by regional authorities and that the other group contributes with its members to research and vulgarisation of sustainable forest management it has been considered not significant."</i> See also benchmark requirement 6.2.6 justification.
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.2 Monitoring, 5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources:  <i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process. ...</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
9.1.2 The standard requires that health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.	Y	PEFC B 1003: 4. PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.1.2. Information - training – communication: The organisation shall: ...  <i>Ensure the availability of the health and vitality monitoring results covering the entirety of its members' forests (and in particular the main biotic and abiotic factors that can affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overstocking, fires and damage caused by climatic factors, atmospheric pollutants or forest management operations). ...</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.2. Planning, 4.2.1.2. Simple Management Document / Management Plan: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Write or commission a Simple Management Document / Management Plan ... [which] shall contain a [sic] minimum ...</i></p> <p><i>If applicable: integrate the management of “non-wood” forest products into the management plan.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the planning policy for woodland management activities and the average annual volumes harvested, including explanations, and, if applicable, definitions of the average use of “non-wood” forest products. ...</i></p> <p>The following PEFC B 1003 chapters place the requirements for the forest owner in relation to the hunting of large ungulates in his/her forest:</p> <p><i>4.1.5. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.5. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.11. Prevention and management of damage due to overpopulation by large ungulates</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1003 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1003: 4. <i>PEFC sustainable Forest management standards for the Walloon Region, 4.3. Implementation, 4.3.1.1. Legislation: The forest owner shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>Respect the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to his forest.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.2 Leadership, 5.1.2.4 Compliance obligations:</p> <p><i>The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest / TOF management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest / TOF management, including but not limited to ... health, labour and safety issues ...</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.5 Support process, 5.1.5.3 Communication: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall have appropriate mechanisms in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management, forest / TOF management operations, land use rights and work conditions. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 and the PEFC B 1003 do not explicitly place requirements for monitoring and adapting working conditions regularly, but the requirement is covered by legislation (see PEFC Belgium justification below):</p> <p><i>“covered by law - Reference Code du Bien-Etre au Travail (<a href="https://emploi.belgique.be/fr/themes/bien-etre-au-travail/principes-generaux/code-du-bien-etre-au-travail">https://emploi.belgique.be/fr/themes/bien-etre-au-travail/principes-generaux/code-du-bien-etre-au-travail</a>) Code du bien être au travail ( Livre 1 Principes généraux-Titre 4-Chapitre II-Art. 1.4-3 and following but also by compliance obligation. 4.3.1.1. Legislation. It is enforced by the SPF emploi et santé. In le Décret relatif au Code forestier (1) (M.B. 12.09.2008) titre 3 chapitre 6 art 51) the gouvernement will soon set up an approval system for purchasers, harvesters of timber or forest products and forestry contractors. which has been included in the 1003.”</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system		
<p>a) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the organisation's requirements for its management system;</li> <li>the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard</li> </ul>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities:</p> <p><i>A documented procedure shall be established for internal audits, notably requirements related to audit programme, the qualification of internal auditors, the definition of the sampling method, the reporting requirements and the results communication. The audit criteria and scope shall be defined for each audit. ...</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and [sic] an <b>internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards</b> defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.2 Internal audits of the organisation:</p> <p><i>Regarding the Organisation, an internal audit will be conducted on a yearly basis in order to ensure: that the documented procedures respect the requirements of this management system standard and are implemented in compliance with this standard; That the Organisation respects the sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The internal audit programme shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.1 Context and Stakeholders, 5.1.1.2 Management system standards implementation levels:</p> <p><i>There are four different implementation levels: the Organisation submitting its candidacy to obtain certification; the individual forest / TOF owner participating in the Organisation and; group of forest /TOF owners participating in the Organisation; operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.</i></p> <p><i>With respect to the region, sustainable forest / TOF management conformity is evaluated against the standards defined at the regional level (in function of the region and the type of certification – forest or trees outside forests (TOF) – PEFC B 1003 WL-F, B 1003 WL-T, B 1003 FL-F, B 1003 FL-T, B 1003 BX-F and B 1003 BX-T).</i></p> <p><i>Individual forest / TOF owners can voluntarily join the Organisation. In this case, their compliance with the individual standards (management system standards and sustainable forest / TOF management standards, including legal requirements) is evaluated during internal audits carried out by the Organisation.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities:</p> <p><i>A documented procedure shall be established for internal audits, notably requirements related to audit programme, the qualification of internal auditors, the definition of the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>sampling method, the reporting requirements and the results communication. The audit criteria and scope shall be defined for each audit.</i></p> <p><i>The competence criteria shall be defined for the internal auditors (forest knowledge for the audits of participants and / or normative knowledge for auditors of the organisation and of the participants). Qualification of internal auditors shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and impartiality of the audit process. The audit reports shall be reported to the relevant management of the Organisation.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.2 Internal audits of the organisation:</p> <p><i>Regarding the Organisation, an internal audit will be conducted on a yearly basis in order to ensure:</i></p> <p><i>That the documented procedures respect the requirements of this management system standard and are implemented in compliance with this standard.</i></p> <p><i>That the Organisation respects the sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The internal audit programme shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants:</p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest /TOF owners.</i></p> <p><i>The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>9.2.2 Organisation</p> <p>The standard requires that the organisation shall:</p>		
<p>a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities:</p> <p><i>A documented procedure shall be established for internal audits, notably requirements related to audit programme, the qualification of internal auditors, the definition of the sampling method, the reporting requirements and the results communication. The audit criteria and scope shall be defined for each audit.</i></p> <p><i>The competence criteria shall be defined for the internal auditors (forest knowledge for the audits of participants and / or normative knowledge for auditors of the organisation and of the participants). Qualification of internal auditors shall be documented.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The organisation shall select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and impartiality of the audit process. The audit reports shall be reported to the relevant management of the Organisation.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and [sic] an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.2 Internal audits of the organisation:</p> <p><i>Regarding the Organisation, an internal audit will be conducted on a yearly basis in order to ensure: That the documented procedures respect the requirements of this management system standard and are implemented in compliance with this standard; That the Organisation respects the sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>The internal audit programme shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants:</p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest / TOF owners.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard.</i></p> <p><i>The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);</i></li> <li><i>b. size of management units (different size classes);</i></li> <li><i>c. biogeographic region;</i></li> <li><i>d. operations, processes and products of potential group participants;</i></li> <li><i>e. deforestation and forest conversion;</i></li> <li><i>f. rotation period(s);</i></li> <li><i>g. richness of biological diversity;</i></li> <li><i>h. recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;</i></li> <li><i>i. dependence of and interaction with local communities;</i></li> <li><i>j. available resources for administration, operations, training and research;</i></li> <li><i>k. governance and law enforcement.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;</i></li> <li><i>b. results of internal audits or previous certification audits;</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>c. <i>quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;</i></p> <p>d. <i>use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements;</i></p> <p><i>Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.</i></p> <p>e. <i>based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground.</i></p> <p><i>Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.</i></p> <p><i>The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the results of the risk assessment. At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.</i></p> <p><i>Additional sampling requirements shall be defined in the event that a group is incorporated into the organisation.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish an internal audit form in order to help the internal auditors in the realisation of the internal audits and standardise the audit approach.</i></p> <p><i>The audit shall be focused on the most significant aspects of the forest, based on a preliminary analysis of the available information (recent plantations or harvests, sensitive areas like historical forests, classified areas, sensible soils, wet zones, ...)</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. <i>Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards</i>, 5.1 <i>Management system standards applicable at organisational level</i>, 5.1.6 <i>Improvement</i>, 5.1.6.3 <i>Internal audit</i>, 5.1.6.3.1 <i>Generalities</i>:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>... The audit criteria and scope shall be defined for each audit. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities:</p> <p><i>... The organisation shall select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and impartiality of the audit process. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities:</p> <p><i>... The audit reports shall be reported to the relevant management of the Organisation. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.3 Internal audit, 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities:</p> <p><i>... The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
9.3 Management review		
9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review: <i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. The management review shall include an evaluation of:</i> <i>the status of actions from previous management reviews ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review: <i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. The management review shall include an evaluation of: ...</i> <i>the changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the Organisation's management system (evolution of the context) ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
<p>c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nonconformities and corrective actions;</li> <li>• monitoring and measurement results;</li> <li>• audit results;</li> </ul>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. The management review shall include an evaluation of: ...</i></p> <p><i>the performances against the objectives,</i></p> <p><i>the results of the internal audits; the certification body's certification and surveillance audit reports,</i></p> <p><i>the status of the corrections and corrective actions and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken, ...</i></p> <p><i>monitoring and measurement results,</i></p> <p><i>information on the group performance, including trends in: non-conformities and corrective actions, monitoring and measurement results, audit results. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) opportunities for continual improvement	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. The management review shall include an evaluation of: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<i>opportunities for continual improvement ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review: ... <i>The outputs of the management review shall be documented ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.5 Management review: ... <i>The outputs of the management review ... shall include decisions related to continual improvement and any need for changes.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement,

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;		<p>5.1.6.4 <i>Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions:</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement documented procedures for the management of non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall maintain documented information on the evidence of the nature of the nonconformities, actions taken and result of corrective action.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall:</i></p> <p><i>a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</i></p> <p><i>I. take action to control and correct it;</i></p> <p><i>II. deal with the consequences; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 <i>Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions:</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>b. evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:</i></p> <p><i>I. reviewing the nonconformity;</i></p> <p><i>II. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</i></p> <p><i>III. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
c) implement any action needed;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>c. implement any action needed; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>d. review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions:</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>e. make changes to the group management system, if necessary ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions: ...</p> <p><i>Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:</i></p> <p><i>a. the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) the results of any corrective action.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions: ...</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of: ...</i></p> <p><i>b. the results of any corrective action.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.
10.2 Continual improvement  The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	Y	PEFC B 1002: 5. Sustainable Forest and TOF Management system standards, 5.1 Management system standards applicable at organisational level, 5.1.6 Improvement, 5.1.6.6 Continuous improvement:  <i>The Organisation shall continuously improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest / TOF management system and the sustainable management of the forest / TOF.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC B 1002 is in line with the PEFC ST 1003:2018.

## PEFC Checklist (4) - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements*.

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

### 2 Checklist

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	Belgian Forest Certification Scheme Requirements for the Implementation of Forests, TOF and Forest Operations Management Certification (PEFC B 0002 / V. 1.0), April 7, 2022 Terms and definitions (PEFC B 4001/V 3.1)

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>4. Context of the group organisation</b>		
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context.		
The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:		
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and b) other groups and/or c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.1.1 Management system requirements applicable at organisational level <i>... The Organisation shall submit its candidacy for certification in a specific region (as the standards are defined at regional level). The Organisation shall provide voluntary access to individual forest / TOF owners (= participants). Only owners involved in the Organisation benefit from the certificate's coverage and are issued an attestation of participation.</i>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
management system.		<p>5.1.1.3 <i>The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Composition:</i> The Organisation shall set up a stakeholder consultation board based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-forest /TOF owners,</li> <li>-business and industry,</li> <li>-indigenous people,</li> <li>-non-government organisations,</li> <li>-scientific and technological community,</li> <li>-workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of forest / TOF management activities. Specific attention shall be given to a balanced representation of the affected and non-affected stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Scope:</i> the geographical perimeter (sum of the forest areas of the individual forest / TOF owners who are member of the Organisation) shall be defined and documented by the Organisation within one Region of Belgium (as the sustainable forest / TOF management standards are defined at regional level). The forest and TOF management standards apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.</p> <p><i>Documentation:</i> Since sustainable forest / TOF management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, a management system shall be developed and documented by the Organisation in order to implement the regional and individual standards.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC Belgium define a general framework for group organisation.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:		
<p>a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and</p> <p>b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.1.3 The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Composition: The Organisation shall set up a stakeholder consultation board based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>-forest /TOF owners,</i></li> <li><i>-business and industry,</i></li> <li><i>-indigenous people,</i></li> <li><i>-non-government organisations,</i></li> <li><i>-scientific and technological community,</i></li> <li><i>-workers and trade unions.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of forest / TOF management activities. Specific attention shall be given to a balanced representation of the affected and non-affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall represent all types of forest / TOF ownership in the Organisation and other affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall identify the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC Belgium requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system		
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:		
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant), b) the certified area, c) the group certificate and d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	Y	<p>PEFC B 4001</p> <p><i><u>Group organisation:</u> A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification. (PEFC ST 1002)</i></p> <p><i>the term “group organisation” is equivalent to the term “regional organisation” if the group is defined by regional borders, or any other term used by the relevant forest certification scheme and complying with the content of this definition.</i></p> <p><i><u>Regional entity (or group entity):</u> A legal entity (individual or organisation) that represents the participants, with overall responsibility for ensuring the conformity of forest management in the certified area to the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme. For this purpose the group entity is using a group management system.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The structure of the group entity should follow the operations, number of participants and other basic conditions for the group organisation. The group entity may be represented by one person. (PEFC ST 1002)</i></p> <p><i><u>Certified area:</u> The forest area covered by a sustainable forest management system according to the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standard. (PEFC ST 1003).</i></p> <p><i>In the group certification context, the certified area is the sum of forest areas of the participants covered by a group forest certificate.</i></p> <p><i><u>Group certificate:</u> Document that confirms that the organisation of the group fulfils the requirements of the standard for sustainable management of forests and the other requirements applicable to the certification system. (PEFC ST 1002)</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>5.1.2.2 <i>Individual Commitment</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall develop and make available an individual commitment document for forest participants who want to join the certification.</i></p> <p><i>The document shall contain the following information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Name, address and status of the forest / TOF owner, contact person, location and area of the forest property(s).</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC Belgium requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
<p>4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>5.1.1.3 <i>The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Scope: the geographical perimeter (sum of the forest areas of the individual forest / TOF owners who are member of the Organisation) shall be defined and documented by the Organisation within one Region of Belgium (as the sustainable forest / TOF management standards are defined at regional level). The forest and TOF management standards apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Documentation: Since sustainable forest / TOF management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, a management system shall be developed and documented by the Organisation in order to implement the regional and individual standards.</i></p> <p>5.1.2.1 <i>Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>... The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to comply with the management system standards, the applicable regional sustainable forest / TOF management standards and legal requirements to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system, to</i></p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>continuously improve the sustainable forest / TOF management system, to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests or TOF by the participants. This commitment shall be publicly available.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 4001</p> <p><i>Regional entity (or group entity): A legal entity (individual or organisation) that represents the participants, with overall responsibility for ensuring the conformity of forest management in the certified area to the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme. For this purpose the group entity is using a group management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC Belgium requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
<p>4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.1.1 Management system requirements applicable at organisational level</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall comply with the requirements of the management system standards and of the sustainable forest / TOF management standard that are applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.1 Group management plan</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall develop, implement, supervise, and evaluate a five-year action plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p>





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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>PEFC B 1003_WL-F</i></p> <p><i>4.1 The Organisation shall:</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><i>4.2.Planning</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 The forest owner shall:</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><i>4.2.2 The forest owner may</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><i>4.3 Implementation</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1 The forest owner shall:</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><i>4.3.2 The forest owner may</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 require the organisation to comply with, as well as the Group Management Plan to respond to, any “requirements in the sustainable forest / TOF management standard that are applicable (i.e. to be fulfilled) on organisational level” (i.e. group). The PEFC B 1002 also require the organisation to have a long term action plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</p> <p>Therefore, although the requirement on “defining” which requirements that may be fulfilled at group level is not explicitly stated in PEFC B 1002, it is implicitly covered in the requirements in the PEFC B 1002.</p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		PEFC B 1003_WL-F defines which requirements that are to be fulfilled on organisation level and which on forest owner level.
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002 5.1.1.3 The Organisation <i>Scope: the geographical perimeter (sum of the forest areas of the individual forest / TOF owners who are member of the Organisation) shall be defined and documented by the Organisation within one Region of Belgium (as the sustainable forest / TOF management standards are defined at regional level). The forest and TOF management standards apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Documentation: Since sustainable forest / TOF management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, a management system shall be developed and documented by the Organisation in order to implement the regional and individual standards.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Belgium requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
4.4 Group management system		
4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.	Y	<p>PEFC B 4001 <i>Participants: Owner/manager of forests or of trees outside forests, forest operators or wood industry company covered by the certificate of the group, which is able to implement the requirements of the standard within its organisation.</i></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 5.1.1.2 Management system standards implementation levels <i>Individual forest / TOF owners can voluntarily join the Organisation. In this case, their compliance with the individual standards (management system standards and sustainable</i></p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>forest / TOF management standards, including legal requirements) is evaluated during internal audits carried out by the Organisation.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process.</i></p> <p><i>Health and vitality of forests / TOF shall be part of the monitoring process and periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by management operations.</i></p> <p><i>When it exists, the organisation can use the results of the regional forest inventory as an input for the monitoring of the forest resources.</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall communicate the monitoring results to the owners, including the recommendations related to the improvement of the forest / TOF management and operations practices.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.3 Internal audit</i></p> <p><i>A documented procedure shall be established for internal audits, notably requirements related to audit programme, the qualification of internal auditors, the definition of the sampling method, the reporting requirements and the results communication.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>/TOF owners.</p> <p><i>The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>“Individual forest / TOF owners can voluntarily join” refers to all participants in the organisation. This implies that all participants are subject to internal audits. The “monitoring plan” is equivalent to “internal monitoring”. 5.1.1.2 and 5.1.6.2.1 refers to the internal monitoring.</p> <p>The requirements on the Internal Audit implicitly implies that all participants are subject to the internal audit programme.</p> <p>Therefore, PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p> <p>Note: The term “participant” is having a wider definition in PEFC B, including in addition to the forest owner/manager, also forest operators or wood industry companies “covered by the certificate of the group, which is able to implement the requirements of the standard within its organisation”. The assessment considers requirements with regards to participants as defined in PEFC 1002:2018, i.e., forest owner/manager.</p>
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest-based material not covered by group certificate.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>2. Scope</p> <p><i>PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest-based material not covered by group certificate.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
5. Leadership		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities, and authorities		
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:		
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p> <p>Note: The “organisation” in PEFC B 1002 is equivalent to the group entity in PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
b) to represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall represent its members (= group Organisation) in the certification process.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall send its candidacy for certification and shall be contractually tied to an accredited and notified certification body. The latter must comply with the requirements defined in PEFC B 2003.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall communicate general information about itself and provide a complete list of participants.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.1.3 The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Documentation: Since sustainable forest / TOF management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, a management system shall be developed and documented by the Organisation in order to implement the regional and individual standards.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities</i></p> <p><i>The structure and responsibilities within the Organisation shall be established and documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.4.1 Management of the participants</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement documented procedures for the management of participant registries, including acceptance of new participants, suspension/exclusion of participants who don't meet the requirements, management of dues to cover certification audit expenses.</i></p> <p><i>Registries shall include participants' proof of commitment, contact details, identification of their forest / TOF property and its size.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.4.1 Management of the participants</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement documented procedures for the management of participant registries, including acceptance of new participants, suspension/exclusion of participants who don't meet the requirements, management of dues to cover certification audit expenses.</i></p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>f. Participant shall inform Organisation about previous participation in an Organisation. Participant excluded from a certified Organisation cannot apply for Organisation membership within 12 months after exclusion. In this case, participant shall be internally audited by the Organisation before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.</i></p> <p><i>5.4 Withdrawal of the certificate and of the attestation of participation in regional certification</i></p> <p><i>A participant in the Organisation's certification can be excluded by the Organisation if a major non-conformity with certification requirements is found by the Organisation and/or by the certification Group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
f) to keep documented information of: i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system,	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.1.3 The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Scope: the geographical perimeter (sum of the forest areas of the individual forest / TOF owners who are member of the Organisation) shall be defined and documented by the Organisation within one Region of Belgium (as the sustainable forest / TOF management</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),</p> <p>iii. the certified area,</p> <p>iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;</p>		<p><i>standards are defined at regional level).</i></p> <p><b>5.1.4.1 Management of the participants</b></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement documented procedures for the management of participant registries, including acceptance of new participants, suspension/exclusion of participants who don't meet the requirements, management of dues to cover certification audit expenses.</i></p> <p><i>Registries shall include participants' proof of commitment, contact details, identification of their forest / TOF property and its size.</i></p> <p><b>5.1.6.3 Internal audit</b></p> <p><b>5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</b></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p><b>5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources</b></p> <p><i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process.</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall communicate the monitoring results to the owners, including the recommendations related to the improvement of the forest / TOF management and operations practices.</i></p> <p><b>5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</b></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.4 non-conformities, corrections, and corrective actions</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement documented procedures for the management of non-conformities, corrections, and corrective actions.</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall maintain documented information on the evidence of the nature of the nonconformities, actions taken and result of corrective action.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p> <p>Note: PEFC B 1002 defines two aspects with regards to the internal monitoring programme, a “monitoring of the forests / TOF resources” and a “monitoring of the group management plan”. The first one requires the establishment, implementation and maintaining a monitoring plan for the forests and TOF, while the second requires the establishment and implementation a monitoring program to ensure that the group management plan is implemented effectively.</p>
<p>g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants’ commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard.</p> <p>Note: The requirements for “participant’ commitment” and “written contract or other written agreement with all participants”</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.2 Individual Commitment</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall develop and make available an individual commitment document for forest participants who want to join the certification.</i></p> <p><i>A sustainable management individual commitment (policy) (standards applicable at forest /TOF management unit (FMU) level) for individual owners. The individual commitment (policy) shall comply with the management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable at individual level.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.4.1 Management of the participants</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.		<p><i>The organisation shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest / TOF management standard.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest /TOF owners'/managers' association, a sustainable forest / TOF management programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.4.2 Management of the certificate and attestations of participation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall issue an attestation for each individual participant who has signed the individual commitment and fulfils the defined requirements. This attestation demonstrates their participation in the Organisation's certification.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall raise the awareness of participant concerning their contribution to</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;		<p><i>effectiveness of the system and the implications of not conforming. The Organisation shall provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest / TOF management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p>
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	N	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall address non-conformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 required the organisation to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications but does not include requirements on ensuring implementation with all group members.</p>
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.2 Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process.</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall communicate the monitoring results to the owners, including the recommendations related to the improvement of the forest / TOF management and operations practices.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p>Note: PEFC B 1002 defines two aspects with regards to the internal monitoring programme, a “monitoring of the forests / TOF resources” and a “monitoring of the group management plan”. The first one requires the establishment, implementation and maintaining a monitoring plan for the forests and TOF, while the second requires the establishment and implementation a monitoring program to ensure that the group management plan is implemented effectively.</p>
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3 Internal audit</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with. The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.5 Management review</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system.</i></p> <p><i>The outputs of the management review shall be documented and shall include decisions</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>related to continual improvement and any need for changes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p>Note: PEFC B 1002 defines in detail (nine bullet points) what the management review is to include</p>
<p>n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.5.3 Communication</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification bodies, accreditation body, PEFC International or PEFC Belgium for relevant data, statistics, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest/TOF areas covered by the Organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<p>5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants</p> <p>The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:</p>		
<p>a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.2 Individual Commitment</i></p> <p><i>Note: The requirements for “participant” commitment” and “written contract or other written agreement with all participants” may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a</i></p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.</p> <p>Note: The requirement for “written agreement” and participants’ “commitment” is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.</p>		<p><i>forest /TOF owners’/managers’ association, a sustainable forest / TOF management programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.</i></p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>a. Individual forest / TOF owners (private or public) shall participate in certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the Organisation. The commitment can also be signed by the manager if he is not the owner and if he has received a mandate to do so from the forest / TOF owner.</i></p> <p><i>f. Participant shall inform Organisation about previous participation in an Organisation. Participant excluded from a certified Organisation cannot apply for Organisation membership within 12 months after exclusion. In this case, participant shall be internally audited by the Organisation before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<p>b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>f. Participant shall inform Organisation about previous participation in an Organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>Individual forest / TOF owners (private or public) shall participate in certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the Organisation. The commitment can also be signed by the manager if he is not the owner and if he has received a mandate to do so from the forest / TOF owner.</i></p> <p><i>By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest /TOF Certification Scheme and by the Organisation and, in particular, forest / TOF management standards applicable at individual level (individual standards).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
d) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the group entity, or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.4.1 Management of the participants</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest / TOF management standard;</i></p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>c. Owners shall provide the Organisation and the certification body with all documents required for audits, answer all requests for relevant data or documentation, authorise access to the forest / TOF and other installations related to audits.</i></p> <p><i>g. Participants shall inform Organisation about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	Y	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i> <i>g. Participants shall inform Organisation about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	Y	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i> b. In the event of a non-conformity identified by the internal/external auditor, the owner must implement suitable corrective and preventive actions established by the Organisation. <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
5.2 Commitment and policy		
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	N	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i>





**Indufor**

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to comply with the management system standards, the applicable regional sustainable forest / TOF management standards and legal requirements, ...</i></p> <p><i>5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities</i></p> <p><i>The structure and responsibilities within the Organisation shall be established and documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The "organisation" is in PEFC B equivalent to the group entity. The top senior management includes the Chairman and Board of Directors as well as the CEO (or equivalent in public organisations). In the organisation, the top management provides for the leadership, are legally responsible and is allocating the resources for the operations. Therefore, for the commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system, the top management is key.</p> <p>However, PEFC ST 1002:2018 require a commitment of the organisation (implies the whole organisation) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system. The PEFC B 1002 requirement on the commitment of the organisation is more narrow in PEFC B, restricting the commitment only to the top senior management of the organisation and not to the whole organisation.</p>
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to ...to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p>



**Indufor**

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>The top senior management provide the leadership and management of the organisation and hence direct the operations, that include the integration of the group certification requirements in the group management system.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The PEFC B 1002 requires the top senior management only, not the whole organisation, to commit to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system.</p>
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management..., to continuously improve the sustainable forest / TOF management system....</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The top senior management provide the leadership and management of the organisation and hence direct the operations, that include the continuous improvement of the group management system .</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The PEFC B 1002 requires the top senior management only, not the whole organisation, to commit to continuously improve the group management system.</p>
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	N	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to...to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests or TOF by the participants.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p>



**Indufor**

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		PEFC ST 1002:2018 require a commitment of the organisation (implies the whole organisation) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants. The PEFC B 1002 requirement on the commitment of the organisation is more narrow in PEFC B, restricting the commitment only to the top senior management of the organisation and not to the whole organisation.
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to comply...</i></p> <p><i>This commitment shall be publicly available.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC ST 1002:2018 requires the commitment to be publicly available as documented information, which also is a requirement in PEFC B 1002. "May be part of a group management policy" is compulsory ("may").</p>
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.2 Individual Commitment</i></p> <p><i>A sustainable management individual commitment (policy) (standards applicable at forest /TOF management unit (FMU) level) for individual owners. The individual commitment (policy) shall comply with the management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable at individual level.</i></p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p>



**Indufor**

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>a. Individual forest / TOF owners (private or public) shall participate in certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the Organisation.</i></p> <p><i>By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest /TOF Certification Scheme and by the Organisation and, in particular, forest / TOF management standards applicable at individual level (individual standards).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.2.2 Individual Commitment</i></p> <p><i>A sustainable management individual commitment (policy) (standards applicable at forest /TOF management unit (FMU) level) for individual owners. The individual commitment (policy) shall comply with the management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards applicable at individual level.</i></p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>a. Individual forest / TOF owners (private or public) shall participate in certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the Organisation. The commitment can also be signed by the manager if he is not the owner and if he has received a mandate to do so from the forest / TOF owner.</i></p> <p><i>By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest /TOF Certification Scheme and by the Organisation and, in particular, forest / TOF management standards applicable at individual level (individual standards).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
6. Planning		



**Indufor**

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.1 Group management plan</i></p> <p><i>If the organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.1 Group management plan</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
7. Support		
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.5.1 Resources</i></p> <p><i>The management of the organisation shall identify and make available the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities The Organisation shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system. <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2018.
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning: a) the group management policy; b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard; c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance; d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.5.3 Communication <i>The Organisation shall raise the awareness of participants concerning:</i> <i>a. the group management policy;</i> <i>b. the requirements of the sustainable forest / TOF management standard;</i> <i>c. their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest / TOF management, including the benefits of improved group performance;</i> <i>d. the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2018.
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
a) on what to communicate; b) when to communicate; c) with whom to communicate; d) how to communicate.	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.5.3 <i>Communication</i> <i>The Organisation shall establish a documented procedure for internal and external communication (including on what, when, with whom and how to communicate).</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2018.
7.5 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.5.3 <i>Communication</i> The Organisation shall have appropriate mechanisms in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management, forest / TOF management operations, land use rights and work conditions. <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:		
a) up to date; b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed; c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.5.2 <i>Documented information</i> <i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain documented procedures for the management of documentation and records to ensure documents are up to date, available and suitable for use, adequately protected (confidentiality, improper use, integrity). The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest / TOF management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
8. Operation		
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:		
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.1.3 The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Documentation: Since sustainable forest / TOF management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, a management system shall be developed and documented by the Organisation in order to implement the regional and individual standards.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.2 Leadership</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.3 Roles and responsibilities</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall develop, implement, supervise, and evaluate a five-year action plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.1 Group management plan</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a Group Management Plan in response to the Sustainable forest / TOF Management Standards applicable at organisational level.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The Group Management Plan shall be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;</i></li> <li><i>b. Appropriate to the size and use of the certified area;</i></li> <li><i>c. Based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans;</i></li> <li><i>d. Adequately covering resources;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources...</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.2.2 Monitoring of the Group Management Plan...</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.3 Internal audit...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 include requirements on planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls with regards to the group management system, requirement on the five-year action plan and the group management plan as well as the and requirements of the monitoring covering forest / TOF resources, the group management plan and the internal audit of the organisation and the participants. Combined, these requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark 8.1 a).</p>
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.2.2 Monitoring of the Group Management Plan</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement a monitoring program in order to ensure that its Group Management Plan is implemented and effective.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>



**Indufor**

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	N	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>5.1.1.3 <i>The Organisation</i></p> <p><i>Documentation: Since sustainable forest / TOF management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, a management system shall be developed and documented by the Organisation in order to implement the regional and individual standards.</i></p> <p>5.1.2 <i>Leadership</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group.</i></p> <p>5.1.2.3 <i>Risks and opportunities</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest / TOF management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.</i></p> <p>5.1.5.2 <i>Documented information</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain documented procedures for the management of documentation and records to ensure documents are up to date, available and suitable for use, adequately protected (confidentiality, improper use, integrity). The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest / TOF management system.</i></p> <p>5.1.6.2.2 <i>Monitoring of the Group Management Plan</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement a monitoring program in order to ensure that its Group Management Plan is implemented and effective.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring program shall determine:</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>a. what shall be monitored and measured;</i></p> <p><i>b. the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;</i></p> <p><i>c. when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;</i></p> <p><i>d. when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;</i></p> <p><i>e. what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirement implies that processes need to be in place (with criteria), for planning, implementing and control on i) meeting the requirements of the group certification and SFM standards and ii) the group management plan.</p> <p>PEFC B 1002 defines requirements on the group management system and the group management plan (GMP) as well as the monitoring of the GMP, that fulfil the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark, with the exception that PEFC B 1002 does not include requirements on criteria for the processes.</p>
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	N	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 does not include requirement on criteria for implementation of control of the processes. Consequently it is not possible to “implement control of the processes in accordance with the criteria”.</p>
c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.5.2 Documented information</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish, implement and maintain documented procedures for the management of documentation and records to ensure documents are up to date, available and suitable for use, adequately protected (confidentiality, improper use, integrity). The</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest / TOF management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:		
<p>a) what shall be monitored and measured;</p> <p>b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;</p> <p>c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;</p> <p>d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;</p> <p>e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.2.1 Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan of forest / TOF resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects. Results of the monitoring shall be fed back into the planning process.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.2.2 Monitoring of the Group Management Plan</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish and implement a monitoring program in order to ensure that its Group Management Plan is implemented and effective.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring program shall determine:</i></p> <p><i>a. what shall be monitored and measured;</i></p> <p><i>b. the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;</i></p> <p><i>c. when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC B 1002 are in line with PEFC SR 1002:2108. Note: The “monitoring plan” in PEFC B 1002 is equivalent to “internal monitoring”. 5.1.1.2 and 5.1.6.2.1 refers to the internal monitoring.
9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements.	Y	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.1.6.3.2 Internal audits of the organisation</i> <i>Regarding the Organisation, an internal audit will be conducted on a yearly basis in order to ensure:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• That the documented procedures respect the requirements of this management system standard and are implemented in compliance with this standard.</i></li> </ul> <i>5.1.6.5 Management review</i> <i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:		
a) conforms to	Y	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.1.6.3 Internal audit</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system;</p> <p>ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;</p>		<p>5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself ... with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with...</i></p> <p>5.1.6.3.2 Internal audits of the organisation</p> <p><i>Regarding the Organisation, an internal audit will be conducted on a yearly basis in order to ensure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That the documented procedures respect the requirements of this management system standard and are implemented in compliance with this standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>For the i): the "management system" in PEFC B 1002 is equivalent to the requirement in PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p>For the ii): the "sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level" and the in PEFC B 1002 is equivalent to the requirement in PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p>Note: PEFC B 1002 defines the audit as an annual internal audit and hence separate it from the monitoring of the forests/ToF resources and monitoring of the group management plan, which are equivalent to the internal monitoring programme in PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<p>b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</p> <p><i>The Organisation shall document and implement and an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by ...the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018. See also above.
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	Y	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</i> <i>The Organisation shall document and implement and an internal audit programme to ensure that the commitments made by the Organisation itself and the participants with respect to management system and sustainable forest / TOF management standards defined at organisational level and management unit level are complied with.</i> <i>5.1.6.5 Management review</i> <i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements with regards to the annual internal audit does not include the requirement to provide information on whether the group management system is "effectively implemented and maintained". However this is required by the yearly management review, which may be interpreted as complementing the annual audit due to its nature (yearly, carried out internally)
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	Y	PEFC B 1002 <i>5.1.6.3.2 Internal audits of the organisation...</i> <i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i> <i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest /TOF owners.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 requirements on the internal audit programme include both the organisation and the participants. The latter based on sampling
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.1.3 <i>The Organisation</i> <i>Improvement: the Organisation shall implement the different steps of continuous improvement, both at Organisation and Individual level... monitoring and evaluation of social, environmental and economic impacts of forest /TOF management principles.</i> 5.1.6.2.1 <i>Monitoring of the forest / TOF resources</i> <i>The organisation shall establish, implement and maintain a monitoring plan...</i> 5.1.6.2.2 <i>Monitoring of the Group Management Plan</i> <i>The Organisation shall establish and implement a monitoring program...</i> 5.1.6.3.1 <i>Generalities</i> <i>A documented procedure shall be established for internal audits, notably requirements related to audit programme, ....., the definition of the sampling method, the reporting requirements and the results communication...</i> <i>The organisation shall select auditors and conduct audits...</i> 5.1.6.3.2 <i>Internal audits of the organisation</i> <i>Regarding the Organisation, an internal audit will be conducted on a yearly basis...</i> <i>The internal audit programme shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits.</i>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>5.1.6.3.3 <i>Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year...</i></p> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators:</i></p> <p><i>b. results of internal audits or previous certification audits;</i></p> <p>5.2. <i>Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>c. Owners shall provide the Organisation and the certification body with all documents required for audits, answer all requests for relevant data or documentation, authorise access to the forest / TOF and other installations related to audits.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The PEFC B include requirements on what the internal audit programme is to include. The requirements on maintaining and responsibilities in the internal audit programme are implicitly covered through the responsibilities defined for the organisation and the participants.</p>
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>5.1.6.3.1 <i>Generalities</i></p> <p><i>... The audit criteria and scope shall be defined for each audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are equivalent to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</p> <p><i>The competence criteria shall be defined for the internal auditors (forest knowledge for the audits of participants and / or normative knowledge for auditors of the organisation and of the participants). Qualification of internal auditors shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are equivalent to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</p> <p><i>The organisation shall select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and impartiality of the audit process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are equivalent to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</p> <p><i>... The audit reports shall be reported to the relevant management of the Organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are equivalent to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002 5.1.6.3.1 Generalities</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are equivalent to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme		
9.3.1 General		
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme. These requirements shall include the following procedures for:	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest /TOF owners.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 include procedures for determining the sample size.</p>
a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);		
b) determination of sample categories(9.3.3);	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 include procedures for determining sample categories.</p>
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators:</i></p> <p><i>a. results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;</i></p> <p><i>The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the results of the risk assessment. At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 include procedures for distribution of the sample into categories.</p>
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the results of the risk assessment. At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.</i></p> <p><i>Additional sampling requirements shall be defined in the event that a group is incorporated into the organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 include procedures for selection of participants including similar requirements (9.3.5) as PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	N/a	<p>PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 include procedures for defining additional requirements taking into consideration different levels. PEFC ST 1002:2018 9.3.1.2 wording “may” imply that this is not a requirement but guidance.</p>
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a	N	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.		<p><i>Additional sampling requirements shall be defined in the event that a group is incorporated into the organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor Non-Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 allows preexisting groups to join the group certificate (this is implicitly coming from the requirement in 5.1.6.3.3). But the requirement on additional sampling in PEFC B 1002 in case a pre-existing group is joining, is not on standard level, but to be defined by the organisation (i.e., the group entity).</p> <p>PEFC B 1002 does not provide examples of which kind of groups that this could concern.</p>
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size		
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest /TOF owners.</i></p> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 include procedures for calculating the sample size for the participants.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ( $y=\sqrt{x}$ ), rounded to the upper whole number.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 include requirements on size of the sample being calculated based upon square root of the number of participants</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> PEFC B 1002 does not include the requirement on “rounded to the upper whole number”.</p>
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:		
<p>a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;</p> <p>b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;</p> <p>c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;</p> <p>d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements;</p> <p>Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators:</i></p> <p><i>a. results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;</i></p> <p><i>b. results of internal audits or previous certification audits;</i></p> <p><i>c. quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;</i></p> <p><i>d. use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements;</i></p> <p><i>Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the</i></p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground.</p> <p>Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.</p>		<p><i>risk based sampling.</i></p> <p><i>e. based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground.</i></p> <p><i>Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 include guidance on adapting the size of sample that are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
9.3.3 Determination of sample categories		
9.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:		
<p>a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);</p> <p>b) size of management units (different size classes);</p> <p>c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);</p> <p>d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;</p> <p>e) deforestation and forest conversion;</p> <p>f) rotation period(s);</p> <p>g) richness of biological diversity;</p> <p>h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard.</i></p> <p><i>The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:</i></p> <p><i>a. ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);</i></p> <p><i>b. size of management units (different size classes);</i></p> <p><i>c. biogeographic region;</i></p> <p><i>d. operations, processes and products of potential group participants;</i></p> <p><i>e. deforestation and forest conversion;</i></p> <p><i>f. rotation period(s);</i></p> <p><i>PEFC B 1002 Requirements for the implementation of forest and TOF management</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;</p> <p>j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;</p> <p>k) governance and law enforcement.</p>		<p><i>certification_V 1.0 13</i></p> <p><i>g. richness of biological diversity;</i></p> <p><i>h. recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;</i></p> <p><i>i. dependence of and interaction with local communities;</i></p> <p><i>j. available resources for administration, operations, training and research;</i></p> <p><i>k. governance and law enforcement.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 include guidance on indicators that may be used for the risk assessment for adapting the size of sample that are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<p>9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators:</i></p> <p><i>a. results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<p>9.3.4 Distribution of the sample</p> <p>The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.3.3 Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the results of the risk</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>assessment.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2108</p>
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>5.1.6.3.3 <i>Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2108</p>
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p>5.1.6.3.3 <i>Internal audits of certification participants</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the participants (individual forest / TOF owners), the evaluation shall be risk based and internal audit carried out every year based on a sampling of the individual forest /TOF owners.</i></p> <p><i>The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment.</i></p> <p><i>The size of the sample should be the square root of the number of participants, but may be adapted (i.e. increased or reduced) by the organisation taking into account one or more of the following indicators:</i></p> <p><i>a. results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC B 1002 chapter 5.1.6.3.3 (Internal audits of certification participants) defines a risk based procedure for selection of participants into the audit.
9.4 Management review		
9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews; b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system; c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results; e) opportunities for continual improvement.	Y	PEFC B 1002 5.1.6.5 Management review <i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. The management review shall include an evaluation of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the status of actions from previous management reviews,</li> <li>• the changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the Organisation's management system (evolution of the context),</li> <li>• the performances against the objectives,</li> <li>• the results of the internal audits,</li> <li>• the certification body's certification and surveillance audit reports,</li> <li>• the status of the corrections and corrective actions and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken,</li> <li>• opportunities for continual improvement,</li> <li>• monitoring and measurement results,</li> <li>• information on the group performance, including trends in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- non-conformities and corrective actions,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>monitoring and measurement results,</i></li> <li>- <i>audit results.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> PEFC B 1002 does not explicitly mention the internal monitoring programme (i.e., “Monitoring of forests/TOF”). However, this is implicitly covered in the requirements.</p>
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.5 Management review</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall conduct a yearly management review in order to evaluate the compliance and effectiveness of its management system. The management review shall include an evaluation of...</i></p> <p><i>The outputs of the management review shall be documented and shall include decisions related to continual improvement and any need for changes.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.5 Management review</i></p> <p><i>The outputs of the management review shall be documented...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
<p>a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</p> <p>i. take action to control and correct it;</p> <p>ii. deal with the consequences;</p> <p>b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:</p> <p>i. reviewing the nonconformity;</p> <p>ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</p> <p>iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;</p> <p>c) implement any action needed;</p> <p>d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;</p> <p>e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall:</i></p> <p><i>a. react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</i></p> <p><i>I. take action to control and correct it;</i></p> <p><i>II. deal with the consequences;</i></p> <p><i>b. evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:</i></p> <p><i>I. reviewing the nonconformity;</i></p> <p><i>II. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</i></p> <p><i>III. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;</i></p> <p><i>c. implement any action needed;</i></p> <p><i>d. review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;</i></p> <p><i>e. make changes to the group management system, if necessary</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; b) the results of any corrective action.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.6.4 Non-conformities, corrections and corrective actions</i></p> <p>The Organisation shall maintain documented information on the evidence of the nature of the nonconformities, actions taken and result of corrective action.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are identical to PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.2. Management system standards applicable at individual level</i></p> <p><i>f. ... Participant excluded from a certified Organisation cannot apply for Organisation membership within 12 months after exclusion. In this case, participant shall be internally audited by the Organisation before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
10.2 Continual improvement  The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	Y	<p>PEFC B 1002</p> <p><i>5.1.1.3 The Organisation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• <u>Improvement</u>: the Organisation shall implement the different steps of continuous improvement, both at Organisation and Individual level: inventory and planning,</i></li> </ul>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social, environmental and economic impacts of forest /TOF management principles.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.2.1 Commitment of the organisation</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall establish a documented commitment of the Organisation's top senior management to...to continuously improve the sustainable forest / TOF management system, to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests or TOF by the participants.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.5.1 Resources</i></p> <p><i>The management of the organisation shall identify and make available the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system..</i></p> <p><i>5.1.6.6 Continuous improvement</i></p> <p><i>The Organisation shall continuously improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest / TOF management system and the sustainable management of the forest / TOF.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>PEFC B 1002 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>

Annex 2

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## **Stakeholder Questionnaire Form**

Helsinki, February 23, 2023

## **Stakeholder Questionnaire on the Revision of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme**



**In 2022 PEFC Belgium completed the revision process of its forest management standard.**

This questionnaire is prepared by Indufor as the 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant to collect stakeholders' views on the development of **the revised scheme of PEFC Belgium**.

The questionnaire focuses on stakeholder engagement in the forest management standard revision and the information sharing and decision-making processes. Your view is important because:

*PEFC requires, among others, that standard development shall be transparent and open to all interested stakeholders; different views shall be discussed and documented and decisions on certification criteria shall be made in consensus.*

The questionnaire will be sent to all invited and participating parties having an interest in forest certification standard revision, and potentially to other key interest groups. All answers will be treated as strictly confidential. The identity of the replier will not be disclosed in any instance.

We hope you can share your views on the standard revision process and thus improve the quality and value of impartial scheme assessment under the PEFC framework.

We highly appreciate your contribution and thank you in advance for your effort!



*Preliminary Question*

**Please indicate the stakeholder category that best describes you and/or your organisation:**

<b>I represent:</b>	<b>Stakeholder categories</b>
	Administration
	Authority
	Forest and timber industry
	Industry association/lobby organisation
	Forest owner/manager
	Research institute
	Environmental NGO
	Social NGO
	Trade Union
	Retailer
	Media
	Consumer organisation
	Financial sector
	Member Organisation
	Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):

## Questionnaire on the Revision of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme

### 1. Did you participate in the standard revision?

Standard	Yes	No	Comments (If no – why not?)
PEFC Belgium revised scheme (2022)			
<b>Would you have been interested to participate?</b>			

### 2. By whom and when were you invited to participate in the standard revision?

By whom:	Comments
When:	Comments

### 3. What was your main interest to consider participation in standard revision?

Comments

### 4. In your view, have all interested parties relevant to standard development been proactively identified and invited and given the possibility to participate and contribute to the process? <sup>1)</sup>

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments

<sup>1)</sup> Including also disadvantaged interest groups

### 5. Did the organiser provide you with adequate material before the process?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments

6. Did the stakeholders in the standard-setting working group represent the different interests in a balanced way?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

7. Did the revision process follow the procedures that were communicated with participants in advance?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

8. Were you aware of any substantive or procedural complaints by any stakeholder on standard revision?

Yes	No	Comments

9. Are you aware of any dispute settlement procedures in case of conflicting views in standard revision?

Yes	No	Comments

10. Do you believe any aspects of the standard or its revision process deserve further consideration?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments

**If you participated in standard development, please continue to questions 11 to 15.**

11. Have you been given a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the standard formulation and to submit comments for further consideration?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

12. **Were the views and comments submitted by any participant in the Standard Setting Working Group considered in an open and transparent way?**

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

13. **Have all comments received in public consultations been discussed and addressed in an objective and transparent way?**

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

14. **Were the criteria (requirements) in the standard agreed on in consensus?**

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

15. **Other comments and/or remarks:**

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Thank you for your time and contribution!

Please send your replies preferably by **March 17, 2023**, to [anni.blasten@induforgroup.com](mailto:anni.blasten@induforgroup.com)

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