

# Standard PEFC Italia

## **PEFC - ITALY Annex 5 ITA 1004 - 1**

### **Criteria and Indicators for Individual and Group Certification of Sustainable Tree Plantation Management**

<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
6	15.05.2015	Integrations at the instance of PEFC and Proposals from the Bologna Forum WG
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## Summary

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## **Criteria and Guidelines of SFM and their application in certification standards for Sustainable Plantation Management in Italy**

The common basis for the verification of sustainability of forest management (**but also of plantations, as PEOLG promoters declared**) is the Pan-European Operative Guidelines adopted at the fifth Expert Level Preparatory Meeting of the Lisbon Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, in Geneva, April 27-29.

The Operational Level Guidelines form a common framework of recommendations that can be used on a voluntary basis and as a complement to national and/or regional instruments to further promote sustainable forest management at the field level, on forest areas both natural (woods) and artificial (plantations) in Europe. The indicators of the 6 Criteria are inferred from the "PEFC Technical standards for Sustainable Plantation Management". The standards were developed starting with the draft of the "PEFC Working Group Document", which was based on the results of the Ecopioppo Project of Regional Administration Piemonte. It was then integrated with the debates of three Forums, which took place in Udine (8<sup>th</sup> April 2004), Casale Monferrato (12<sup>nd</sup> May 2004) and Mantova (29<sup>th</sup> June 2004) and with the comments made in the course of the public consultation which was completed by the middle of September 2005. A Pilot study to verify the SPM scheme was carried out in winter 2005-2006 and the Certification body tested the existing documentation.

In this document, the Pan-European Operative Guidelines must be interpreted in a specific way, because the words "forest" and "forestry", in the original English document, also refer to artificial stands, including plantations. That is the reason why **they will be used, in Italy, with this interpretation for the verification of Sustainable Tree Plantation Management.**

### **Brief description of Pan-European Criteria and Guidelines**

At the Second Ministerial Conference, held in Helsinki in 1993, the ministers responsible for forestry in Europe embraced the internationally accepted UNCED Forest Principles, taking a further step in the history of the concept of sustainable forest management by adopting, *inter alia*, Resolution H1 "General Guidelines for Sustainable Management of European Forests" and Resolution H2 "General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests". These General Guidelines represent the political commitment of the signatory states of the Helsinki Resolutions by providing a general policy direction and a long-term goal to meet the demands on European forests for multiple goods and services in a manner that is consistent with their sustainable management, and conservation and enhancement of their biological diversity.

A new, common definition of "sustainable forest management" was laid down in Resolution H1: "the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems".

For the follow up and the implementation of the General Guidelines, the pan-European national level criteria and indicators were adopted at the expert level within the Follow-Up Process of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference in 1994. They are a policy instrument for evaluating and reporting progress towards sustainable forest management, as described in Resolution H1, in individual European countries and in Europe as a whole.

The Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines have been elaborated to further promote sustainable forest management in Europe by translating the international commitments down to the level of forest management planning and practices. They represent a common framework of

recommendations for reference at the field level that can be used on a voluntary basis. These Guidelines are directly based on Resolutions H1 and H2, and they follow the structure of the six pan-European criteria that were identified as the core elements of sustainable forest management. For clarity they are divided into "Guidelines for Forest Management Planning" and "Guidelines for Forest Management Practices", focusing on basic ecological, economical and social requirements for sustainable forest management and plantations within each criterion.

If the tree plantation is associated with herbaceous cultivation managed with agronomic techniques, it's allowed to certify only the existing products derived from the trees (eg: timber, veneer, pole, firewood, fascine, truffles, honey, silkworm, ...). Associated herbaceous cultivations are excluded from the requirements of this certification standard.

#### **Annex (Technical standards)**

PEFC Italy Working Group Document concerning poplar plantations: "Technical standards for Sustainable Poplar Plantation Management"

PEFC Italy Working Group Document concerning medium-long cycle plantations: "Technical standards for Sustainable medium-long cycle plantations Management"

PEFC Italy Working Group Document concerning polycyclic plantations: "Technical standards for Close to nature Sustainable polycyclic plantations Management"

## CRITERION 1

### Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles

#### Management Planning:

Guidelines	Assessment Parameters	Threshold
<p>a - Forest management planning should aim to maintain or increase forest and other wooded area, and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This should be done by making full use of related services such as land-use planning and nature conservation.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate having taken into consideration the legislative and administrative provisions at Community and National, Regional level regarding sustainability, paying particular attention to soil, water, and environment management.</li> <li>• Report applications made to public administration bodies for grants/contributions for establishing/management of the plantation.</li> <li>• Establish objectives regarding the above matters.</li> </ul>	<p>to refer to documents and/or to records in the planning document (see ITA 1004 par. 3.2)</p>
<p>b - Inventory and mapping of forest resources should be established and maintained, adequate to the local and national conditions, and in correspondence with the topics described in these Guidelines.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must have an inventory and map of his own plantations.</p>	<p>Presence of an updated and comprehensive inventory system , complete land registry information and records.</p>
<p>c - Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, should be elaborated and periodically updated. They should be based on legislation as well as existing land use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must establish, file, keep and update a document as provided in ITA 1004 par. 3.2 concerning the matters indicated in guideline a). <i>Note: the inventory must be updated yearly, reporting any changes in cultivation.</i></p>	<p>Presence, completeness and continuous update of planning document (see ITA 1004 par. 3.2)</p>
<p>d - Monitoring of the forest resources and evaluation of their management should be periodically performed, and their results should be fed back into the planning process.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor – at appropriate intervals based on the size of the company – and</li> <li>• keep – for planning purposes – records of the results from monitoring activity</li> </ul>	<p>Presence of a register with a chronological record of precise information about all treatments carried out and an evaluation.of their effect.</p>

## Management Practices:

Guidelines	Assessment Parameters	Threshold
<p>a - Forest management practices should safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must adopt techniques of cultivation consistent with what has been planned (see guideline for planning in Criteria 1). <i>Note: while spreading phytosanitary products it is necessary to take precautions to reduce harm to the operators and to environment. This is why the following conduct is necessary: to respect active ingredient dosage rates and the indications concerning water volume; to carry out the treatments when there is no wind and during the coolest hours of the day; to choose the products with the lowest toxicity in relation to their effectiveness; to carry out periodic maintenance of the equipment, to use protective clothing.</i></p>	<p>Presence of a system for recording treatments with phytosanitary products.</p>

<p>b - Appropriate silvicultural measures should be taken to maintain the growing stock of resources at - or bring to - a level that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.</p>	<p>The owner/manager, in order maintain the plantation at a high level, from an economic and quality standpoint , must adopt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adequate pruning schemes, following the indications set out at paragraph 6 of the documents "PEFC technical standards";</li> <li>• tillage operations following the indications set out at paragraph 7 of the documents "PEFC technical standards";</li> <li>• an action plan for weed control in poplar plantations, following the indications set out at paragraph 8 of the documents "PEFC technical standards".</li> </ul>	<p>Respecting the pruning schemes indicated in "PEFC technical standards" and keeping the relevant records. Keeping records regarding tillage operations (see "PEFC technical standards" document, par. 1.1, par. 2.1, par. 4., par 5, par. 6. par. 7.1. For poplar: establishing an improvement plan for weed control, which includes proposals for testing suitable clones (see "PEFC technical standards" 2.1)</p>
<p>c - Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land should be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.</p>	<p>In the case of conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into plantations, the owner/manager must provide a plan of related activities and analyses of any potential economic, environmental, social and/or cultural impact.</p>	<p>Presence of a improvement plan or an investment plan supplemented by analyses of any potential economic, environmental, social and/or cultural impact.</p>

## CRITERION 2

### Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

Management Planning:

Guidelines	Assessment Parameters	Threshold
a - Forest management planning should aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.	Not pertinent	
b - Health and vitality of forests should 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.	The owner/manager must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor – at appropriate intervals based on the size of the company– the damage caused by biotic and abiotic factors and by management activities;</li> <li>• keep records of resulting data.</li> </ul>	Presence records of damage caused by biotic (animals and management activities) and abiotic factors.
c - Forest management plans or their equivalents should specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning should make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.	The owner/manager must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specify in the document – indicated at par. 3.2 ITA 1004– managerial aims, managerial measures and action to minimize damage with reference to the matters referred to in Guideline b);</li> <li>• adopt a suitable planning system consistent with policy and the indications specified in “PEFC technical standards” Documents par. 2.</li> </ul>	Presence of planning document (see ITA 1004 par. 3.2). See “PEFC technical standards” Par. 1.1, Par. 2.1, Par. 3.1, Par. 4, Par. 5, Par. 6, Par. 7.1.



Management Practices:

Guidelines	Assessment Parameters	Threshold
<p>a - Forest management practices should make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity should be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adopt poplar pest and disease control techniques; "PEFC technical standards" par. 2 (points 5 and 6), 3 (point 3), 8 and 10;</li> <li>• limit mineral fertilizer use in good site conditions "PEFC technical standards" par. 5 (point 1);</li> <li>• limit the setting up of mono-clonal plantations, "PEFC technical standards" par. 2 (points 5 and 6).</li> </ul>	<p>According to "PEFC technical standards" Documents for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice of the poplar in poplar plantation: adoption of certificated clones chosen according to criteria in table 1 and 2 in appendix of the PEFC technical standards for the "Sustainable management of poplar plantation"</li> <li>• Limit for monoclonal plantation: Par 2 and 3 of the document "Sustainable management of poplar plantation"</li> <li>• For the Integrated pest control "PEFC technical standards" Document par. 10;</li> <li>• For fertilizers: "PEFC technical standards" Document par. 5</li> </ul>
<p>b - 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 should be applied. The spillage of oil through forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land should be strictly avoided.</p>	<p>Consistent with the site conditions, the owner/manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adopt measures and techniques of cultivation (for example spacing plantation layout, pruning, tillage), par. 2 (point 6), 4.1 e 4.2; 7</li> <li>• use motor vehicles for hauling and transportation suitable for the soil conditions;</li> <li>• use biodegradable lubricating</li> </ul>	<p>Availability of related records. See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "PEFC technical standards" Document par. 4, 6 and 7;</li> <li>• use motor vehicles for hauling and transportation suitable for the soil conditions;</li> <li>• presence of records on the</li> </ul>

	<p>products;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid dumping of non-wood waste.</li> </ul> <p>If cultivation operations are contracted out, the contract for services or contract by tender must include the conditions that the contractors use biodegradable lubricating products, motor vehicles for hauling and transportation suitable for the soil conditions and avoid dumping non-wood waste.</p>	<p>characteristics of products used;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• absence of waste materials.</li> </ul>
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<p>c - The use of pesticides and herbicides should be minimised, taking into account appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures.</p> <p>In any case are excluded the WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides, those pesticides whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use and any pesticides banned by international agreement. For biotechnologies and GMO the approach must be precautionary implementing them only after experimentation has shown the absence of their impact on the ecosystem.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specify the purposes and dates (period) of application of active ingredients and the quantities used; "PEFC technical standards" Documents;</li> <li>• register and keep records of purchase of commercial products used.</li> </ul> <p>If cultivation operations are contracted out, the contract for services or contract by tender must include the treatment indications specified in the action plan and in the "PEFC technical standards" Document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See "PEFC technical standards" Documents Par 8 and 10</li> <li>• For poplar plantations: see "PEFC technical standards for sustainable poplar plantation management" tab. 5, 7 and 8</li> <li>• Presence of records.</li> </ul>
<p>d - In case fertilisers are used they should be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration to the environment.</p>	<p>The owner/manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specify the purposes and dates (period) of application of fertilizers and the quantities used; "PEFC technical standards" Documents par. 5 points 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, e 8;</li> <li>• register and keep records of purchase of commercial products used.</li> </ul> <p>If fertilizing operations are contracted out, the contract for services or contract by tender must include the treatment indications specified in the action plan and in the "PEFC technical standards" Documents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See "PEFC technical standards" Documents par. 5 points 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, e 8;</li> <li>• Presence of records.</li> </ul>

## CRITERION 3

### Maintenance and encouragement of forest products (both wood and non-wood)

#### Management Planning:

Guidelines	Assessment Parameters	Threshold
a - Forest management planning should aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	The owner/manager must indicate the obtainable assortments during the planning phase;	Presence of planning document (see ITA 1004 par. 3.2).
b - Forest management planning should aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	At the planning phase, the owner/manager must indicate the potential markets for the obtainable assortments.	Presence of planning document (see ITA 1004 par. 3.2).
c - Forest management plans or their equivalents should take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning should make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of merchantable and non-merchantable forest goods and services.	At the planning phase, the owner/manager must indicate the potential funds (Regional, National and Community sources) for the activities and the obtainable assortments from the plantation.	Presence of planning document (see ITA 1004 par. 3.2).

#### Management Practices:

Guidelines	Assessment Parameters	Threshold
a - Forest management practices should be ensured in quality with a view to maintain and improve the forest resources and to encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.	At the moment of utilization, the owner/manager must specify the assortments obtained. In the case of standing sales (the most frequent type of sale) the owner/manager need only specify the quantity obtained, making no distinction as to assortments.	Presence of a record of wood and non-wood assortments obtained (typology and quantity).
b - Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations should be carried out in time, and in a way that do not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage	The owner/manager must adopt a plantation layout consistent with what is established in "PEFC technical standards"	See "PEFC technical standards" Document par 4.3 and Criteria 2,

to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.	Documents par 4.3 and in Criteria 2, Management Practice Guideline point b).	Management Practice Guideline point b).
c - Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products should not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use should be made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient offtake.	Not pertinent	
d - Adequate infrastructure, such as roads, skid tracks or bridges should be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while at the same time minimising negative impacts on the environment.	Not pertinent	