

# PEFC Italy Re- Endorsement 2016–2021

Application presented in May 2016

Re-endorsement of the Italian  
PEFC Certification Scheme  
for Sustainable Forest  
Management and Sustainable  
Plantation Management

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# Introduction

This document describes the Italian PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) certification system for the certification of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and for the certification of Sustainable Plantation Management (SPM).

Together with its annexes, this is PEFC Italy's official reference for the certification of Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Plantation Management and for Chain of Custody of forest based products, concerning the principles, targets and requirements for the participation and certification procedures and requirements.

The Italian PEFC system was approved during the PEFC Italy Board of Directors meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015, which took place in Bologna; this is its third time re-endorsement process.

## Description of the scheme

### *The PEFC and PEFC Italy*

PEFC is a voluntary initiative, which is based on the wide agreement of interested parties, relating to the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Sustainable Plantation Management (SPM) certification. Within this framework, the PEFC provides an international point of reference for the creation of nationally compatible certification schemes and for their mutual recognition. PEFC is based on third-party certification, which is undertaken by independent and accredited bodies.

PEFC Italy is a "not for profit" organization, which was founded on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2001 (Annex 7, PEFC Italy Statutes). It joined the PEFC Council (PEFCC) during the General Assembly at Santiago de Compostela, Spain which took place on the 19th June 2001.

All interested parties of the Wood-Forest Sector can join PEFC Italy.

PEFC Italy has developed the *Italian PEFC certification system*, based on the PEFCC Technical Documents that are described in PEFC GD 1001:2008, which was adopted by the PEFC Council

on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The Italian PEFC scheme was re-endorsed during the PEFC Italy Board of Directors meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015, which took place in Bologna.

The *Italian PEFC certification scheme* determines the relationship amongst all entities.

### ***Participants of the process of PEFC Italy***

The following entities participate in the Italian PEFC certification scheme:

- a) The applicants;
- b) PEFC Italy (including the PEFC Italy secretary);
- c) The Certification Bodies (CB); and
- d) The Accreditation Body (AB).

A short description of the other entities is provided:

### ***The Applicants***

The applicants are the candidates for certification.

Regarding the SFM/SPM certification scheme, the following subjects are recognised as applicants:

- 1) The legal agent of the Territorial Association (TA) or its delegate for the territorial certification; or
- 2) The legal agent of the Group or its delegate for the group certification; or
- 3) The Company (Owner, the manager or their delegates) for the individual certification.

Regarding the Chain of Custody (CoC) certification scheme, the following subjects are recognised as applicants:

- 1) The legal agent of the Group or its delegate for the group certification; or
- 2) A single concerned company of the forest-wood sector for the individual certification, as for example the legal agent of: forest owners, companies which use the forest, traders, processing or manufacturing companies, the paper industry, distribution organisations and services organisations, Non-Wood Forest Products manufactures, etc.

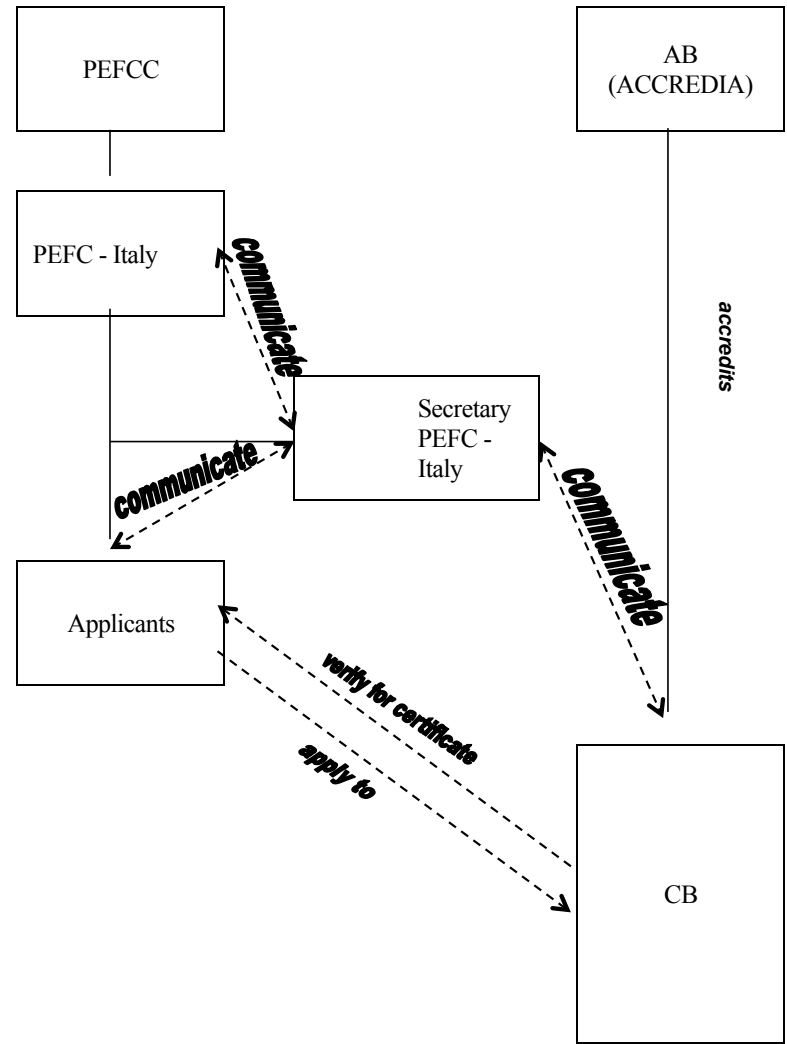
### ***Certification and Accreditation Bodies***

The certification is carried out by Certification Bodies, which must be accredited by ACCREDIA (the National Accreditation Body) or other IAF recognized Accreditation Bodies for SFM certification and chain of custody certification for the forest derived products (see ITA 1003 – Annex 6).

The schematic that clarifies the role and the interaction among all participants involved in the process of SFM/SPM and CoC certification is described in the Figure 1.

Figure 1 Scheme of participants and their relationships.

Figure 1 Scheme of participants and their relationships.



# The Documentary Bases

This document is applicable for SFM, SPM and CoC certification.

The Italian PEFC Certification Scheme is based on the requirements specified in the PEFC Technical Document and includes the description of the system given in this document and in the following appendices:

- ITA 1000: Description of PEFC Italy's System – Certification of Sustainable Forest Management
- ITA 1001, which is divided in two documents:
  - ITA 1001-1: Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management on an individual and group scale and
  - ITA 1001-2: Complementary criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management on a territorial scale
- ITA 1002: Chain of Custody certification of forest derived products
- ITA 1003: Certification body training and audit personnel training SFM/SPM and CoC
- ITA 1004: Description of PEFC Italy's System – Certification of Sustainable Plantation Management
  - ITA 1004-1: Criteria and indicators for sustainable plantation management on an individual and group scale
- Statutes of PEFC Italy
- Description of forest and wood sector in Italy
- Presentation of the Proceedings of the FORUM on Criteria Identification and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Sustainable Plantation Management (SPM) at the National level for the re-endorsement in year 2016

## Definitions

- *Forest owner*: Any subject, public and/or private, who is an owner (also a manager with appropriate delegations) in good faith.
- *Group Forest Certification (GFC)*: Certification that is applied for by an aggregation of several single owners and/or by an aggregation of several single managers (i.e. several forestry co-operatives).
- *Group (GR)*: In the case of SFM/SPM Certification, entity that brings together several single owners and/or forest managers; in the case of forest derived products CoC Certification, entity that gathers together two or more companies with similar characteristics.
- *Individual Forest Certification (IFC)*: Certification that is applied for by a single owner or by a single manager (i.e. single forestry co-operative).
- *Region*: Homogeneous territory that is clearly geographically and administratively delineated.
- *Territorial Association (TA)*: An organisation, with corporate existence – as recognised by PEFC Italy – created by **forest owners**, that represents its members interests to the various parties in the PEFC Italy scheme (craftsmen, manufacturers, tradesmen and representatives of professional group associations and other sector participants, consumers associations, environmentalist associations, etc.).
- *Territorial Forest Certification (TFC)*: Certification that is applied for by the Territorial **Association** relating to the **region**, which concerns the voluntary **forests owners** participation of the and/or **groups**.

Other definitions and terms are provided in ITA 1000.



## Aim & Objectives of Forest Certification in Italy

The aim of the SFM/SPM certification is to give to the consumer a warranty that all the products with the PEFC Trademark come from properties, enterprises and organizations which apply a forest management system in conformity with the criteria established by the Italian PEFC certification scheme.

PEFC Italy's objectives are to: document and encourage SFM/SPM; improve the general image of the forestry and of the forest based product sector in general; and provide a market instrument, which enables the commercialisation of wood and derived products, which come from plantations and forests managed in a sustainable way.

Considering the weakness of the national land structure (Annex 8, Description of forest and wood sector in Italy), PEFC Italy intends to provide the possibility to all the active members of the "forest based product" Industry and forest sector to participate, in a voluntary way in:

- SFM/SPM certification, other than both for implementing the individual certification, and for group certification and the regional certification;
- chain of custody certification of "forest derived products" from plantations and forests managed in a sustainable way, recycled and controlled sources.

# Certification process

PEFC Italy certification system is divided into three schemes, which include the:

- a) SFM certification;
- b) SPM certification; and
- c) Chain of Custody certification of forest based products.

In 2014/2015, the national SFM and SPM criteria and indicators were reviewed and discussed by a Working Group called "SFM Forum" for its third time (after the 2003 and 2009 endorsement).

**In the SFM certification scheme**, there are three levels of application:

- a) Individual certification;
- b) Group certification; or
- c) Territorial certification.

The candidate under the territorial certification is the Territorial Applicant entity (TA); under the group certification is the Group (GR) entity and under the individual certification is the Individual entity (IN).

The key document is a list of criteria, indicators and recommendations, to which the organizations – single or group (see PEFC ITA1001-1) and territorial (see PEFC ITA1001-1 and PEFC ITA1001-2) - must conform in order to obtain and maintain the SFM certification.

SFM Certification is described in point 3 of PEFC ITA 1000

**In the SPM certification scheme**, there are two levels of application:

- d) Individual certification;
- e) Group certification.

The key document is a list of criteria, indicators and recommendations (see PEFC ITA1004-1), to which the organizations must conform in order to obtain and maintain the SPM certification.

The SPM certification is described in point 3 of PEFC ITA 1004.

**CoC Certification** relates:

- 1) to the products coming from PEFC certified forests;
- 2) to the organization of forest derived product sector, for example: forest owners, forestry harvesting companies, trade companies, manufacturing and processing companies, paper industry, distribution organisations and services organisations, and so on.

The forest derived products Chain of Custody (CoC) certification, which can be carried out at an individual and group level, is described in PEFC ITA 1002:2013 document. This is the Italian translation of PEFC ST 2002:2013 (second edition).

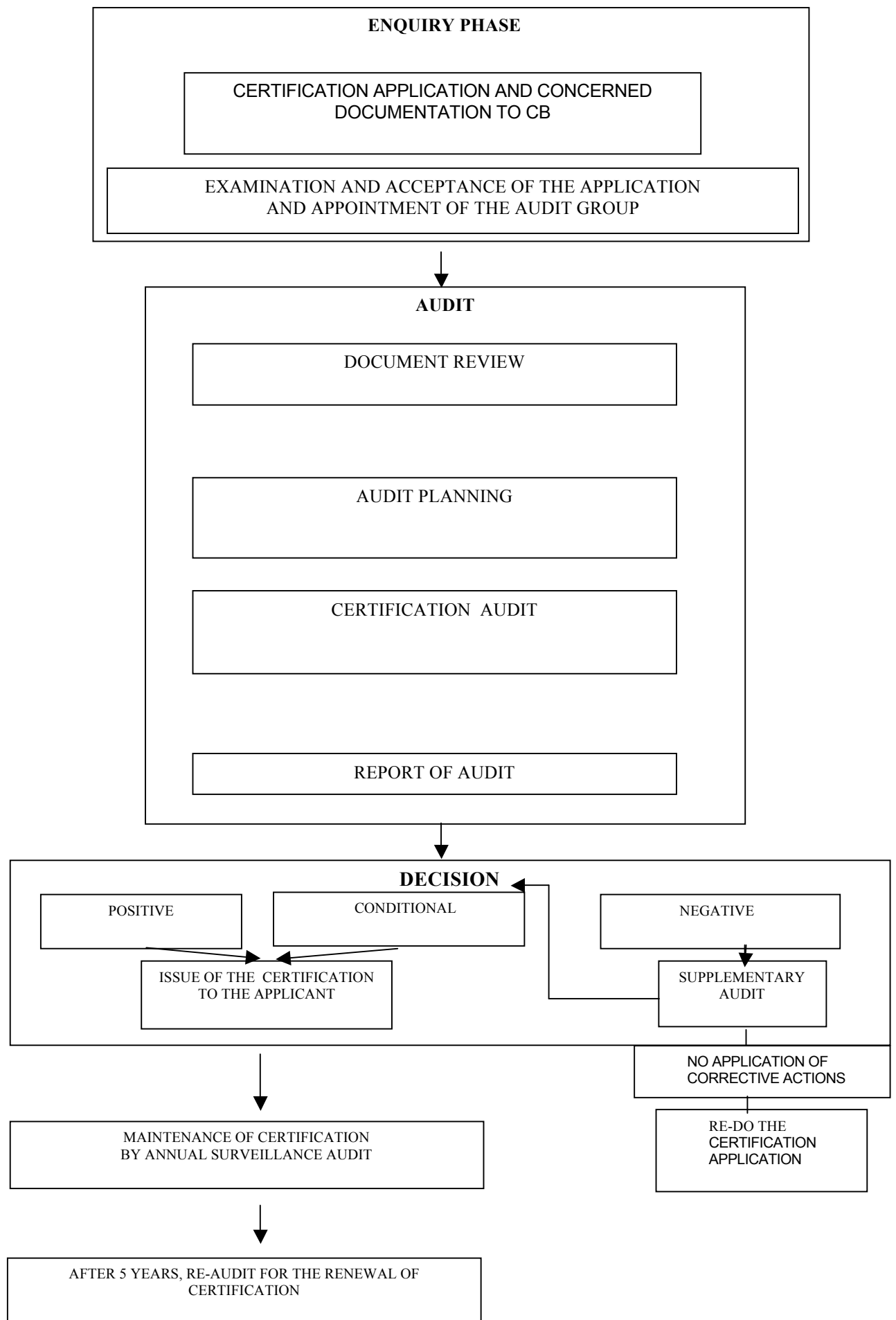
### **Certification Body requirements**

PEFC ITA 1003 defines the complementary requirements to be the applicable rules for the Certification Body (CB), which intend to operate within the certification system established by PEFC Italy and with its concerned certification schemes.

The certification process is structured in three main phases:

1. Initial enquiry;
2. Initial audit;
3. Decision.

The evaluation activity follows the directions of the ISO 19011 and ISO 17021 documents.



## Re-endorsement process

In 2014, PEFC Italy BoD decided to accept the proposal of Federforeste (Forest Owner organization and member of PEFC Italy) to begin the process of re-endorsement of the Italian PEFC system, according to the available PEFCC Technical documentation (as described in the PEFC GD 1007:2012).

The complete description of the re-endorsement process is provided in Annex 9.

## Certification register

Certification bodies (CB) operating under the Italian PEFC schemes will be required to be notified by PEFC Italy.

CB's will be required to maintain and update documented records of all forest/plantation areas and chain of custody units certified by them under this scheme.

## Award and use of the certificate

A certificate can be issued when a property, an industry, group organization or regional association fulfils the requirements described in the SFM standards (PEFC ITA 1001– 1 and PEFC ITA 1001–2), in SPM standard (PEFC ITA 1004-1) and CoC standard (PEFC ITA 1002).

### ***Use of the certificate***

The certification body is responsible for verifying the origin, the control and the supervision of the use of the certificate. The certified property, industry, group organization or regional association must have a system to ensure that the certificate is not misused according to the rules for the use of the certificate.

The certificate holder can use the certificate in accordance with PEFCC's Technical Documentation and PEFC ST 2001:2008 "PEFC Logo use rules – requirements".

## Suspension, withdrawal and cancellation of the certificate

The certification body may cancel the certificate if it has reason to believe that the certificate is being misused. All certification bodies operating under the Italian PEFC scheme will thus be required to have documented procedures for the suspension, withdrawal and cancellation of certificates.

If a certificate is suspended or cancelled, the use of the certificate shall cease immediately.

If a certificate is suspended or cancelled, the certification body is required to inform the record holder of the PEFC logo licences about the cancellation immediately.

Owners with cancelled or suspended certificates can complain to the Board of PEFC Italy and have the suspension or cancellation reviewed.

## Use of the PEFC Logo

All use of the PEFC logo, trademark and any associated claims made in connection with forest/plantation management certification and / or forest based product chain of custody certification under the Italian PEFC schemes, shall be carried out in accordance with the PEFC Logo Use rules - requirements (PEFC ST 2001:2008 associated with the PEFC Technical Document). [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

Usage will be licensed and controlled exclusively by PEFC Italy on behalf of, and subject to a contractual agreement with, the PEFC Council.

Holders of certificates issued under the Italian PEFC scheme may use logos, marks or claims relating to the relevant certification body operating under the scheme, provided that such usage is carried out in strict accordance with the rules and procedures issued by the certification body.

## List of Annexes

### ANNEX 1

ITA 1000: Description of the PEFC Italy's System – Certification of Sustainable Forest Management

### ANNEX 2

ITA 1001-1: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management Certification on an Individual and Group Scale; and

### ANNEX 3

ITA 1001-2: Complementary Criteria and Indicators for Italian Sustainable Forest Management on a Regional Scale

### ANNEX 4

ITA 1004: Description of the PEFC Italy's System – Certification of Sustainable Plantation Management

### ANNEX 5

ITA 1004-1: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Plantation Management Certification on an Individual and Group Scale;

### ANNEX 6

ITA 1003: SFM, SPM and CoC Accreditation; minimum requirements

### ANNEX 7

Statutes of PEFC Italy

### ANNEX 8

Description of forest and wood sector in Italy

## **ANNEX 9**

Presentation of the Proceedings of the FORUM on Criteria Identification and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) at the National level for the re-endorsement in year 2016.

## **ANNEX 10**

ITA 1002: Certification Scheme of Chain of Custody: PEFCC's Annex 10 (Italian translation)

## **ANNEX 11**

Application for PEFC Italia Notification; and PEFC Notification Contract.

## **ANNEX 12**

Process documentation

## **ANNEX 13**

Check lists (PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012)