

Conformity Assessment Belgian Forest Certification Scheme

Final Report

29.05.2013

Conformity Assessment

Belgian Forest Certification Scheme

Client

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Acknowledgments

The assessment team would like to thank the following persons for their contribution and support of the assessment:

- Dr. Michael Berger and Mr. Johan Vlieger (PEFC Council)
- Mr. Thomas Davreux and Ms. Vanessa Biebel (PEFC Belgium)
- All respondents to the stakeholder survey (see Table 7: List of stakeholders respondents to the stakeholder survey in Annex 2)
- Prof. Dr. Hans Koepp, Mr. Hanno Valtanen and Mr. Stefan Czamutzian (Panel of Experts)

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
AGW	Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon relatif à l'entrée en vigueur et à l'exécution du décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier (Order of the Government of Wallon on the entry into force and implementation of the Decree of 15 July 2008 on the Forestry Code)
BFCS	Belgian Forest Certification Scheme
BoD	Board of Directors
CF	Code Forestiere (Forestry Code)
CoC	Chain of Custody
CWATUPE	Code wallon de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme, du Patrimoine et de l'Energie (Walloon Code of Town Planning, Urban Planning, Heritage and Energy)
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting
FM	Forest Management
MRC	Minimum Requirement Checklist
NC	Non-conformity
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
PEFCC	PEFC Council, the legally registered name of PEFC International (also referred to as the PEFC Secretariat)
PoE	Panel of Experts
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management

1. Introduction

1.1. Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment is to compare the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme (BFCS) with the minimum requirements of the PEFC as documented in the PEFC's technical documents and specified in the PEFC IGD 1007:2012. The assessment shall result in a recommendation to the PEFC's Board of Directors as to whether the revised BFCS should be re-endorsed or if changes are required before re-endorsement.

It is acknowledged that the PEFC IGD 1007:2012 was approved by the PEFC Councils Board of Directors on 05.10.2012 and entered into force on 01.01.2013. The standard setting process of the BFCS ended by mid 2012 and the previous Minimum Requirement Checklist GL 2/2011 was used by the BFCS for self-assessment, which was in force until 31.12.2012.

In particular, the Terms of Reference required the following activities:

- A general analysis of the structure of the Applicant System's technical documentation.
- An assessment of the standard setting procedures and process against PEFC ST 1001:2010, Standard Setting – Requirements.
- An assessment of the forest certification standard(s) against PEFC ST 1003:2010, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.
- An assessment of the group certification model against PEFC ST 1002:2010, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements.
- An assessment of the chain of custody standard(s) against PEFC ST 2002:2010, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements.
- An assessment of the complaints and dispute resolution procedures against PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC Scheme, Chapter 8.
- An assessment of certification and accreditation procedures for forest management certification, as defined in the PEFC Council Technical Document, Chapter 8, against Annex 6, Certification and Accreditation Procedures.
- An assessment of certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification against PEFC ST 2003:2012, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard.
- Any other aspects which can affect functions, credibility and efficiency of the submitted system.

1.2. Assessment process

The assessment has been conducted in 12 stages:

- 1) Review of the scheme documentation provided by PEFC Belgium to the PEFC and forwarded to the assessment team with the tender dossier on 31.10.2012 (for overview of documents see Chapter 1.5 of this report). The documents were

reviewed by the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell.

- 2) The scheme documentation (see Chapter 1.5 of this report) was assessed for compliance against the PEFC's Minimum Requirement Checklist PEFC IGD 1007:2012 by the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell.
- 3) A stakeholder survey using questionnaires to verify the standard setting process which was implemented during the revision of the BFCS, was conducted by Annie Adams and Ian Denty of Efeca from 28.02.2013 to 14.03.2013.
- 4) A public consultation has been carried out via the PEFC's website for a period of 60 days from 08.01.2013 – 15.03.2013, to gather comments of other national and international stakeholders concerned.
- 5) A draft report and an overview of identified non-conformities and open questions was elaborated by the assessment team and forwarded to PEFC and PEFC Belgium for review on 20.03.2013.
- 6) A conference call was held between the assessment team and PEFC Belgium on 05.04.2013 to discuss the findings in the draft report and the overview of identified non-conformities and open questions and to clarify potential points of different views of interpretation.
- 7) An e-mail with three final open questions was sent on 05.04.2013 to PEFC with the request for clarification.
- 8) Consideration of comments from PEFC and PEFC Belgium, public consultation and the stakeholder survey and review of the draft report.
- 9) A final phone call to clarify the open questions addressed by the e-mail from 05.04.2013 was held on 02.05.2013.
- 10) Submission of final draft report to PEFC on 10.05.2013.
- 11) Panel of Expert Review of the final draft report from 10.05.2013 to 22.05.2013.
- 12) Elaboration of final report and submission of final report to the PEFC on 29.05.2013.

1.3. Methodology adopted

The following methodology was used by the assessment team to reach the scope of the conformity assessment of the revised documents of the BFCS, as outlined in Chapter 1.1 of this report.

1.3.1. Desk assessment of documents

The provided documents (see Table 1 in this report) were reviewed concerning their structure and importance for the assessment and their availability in English (a requirement of PEFC GD 1007:2012, Chapter 7.2.2.1). Some of the documents were only available in French (Interpretation Guides for SFM in the Walloon Region) and were partially used in the assessment (PEFC regulations state that all relevant documents to be assessed have to be submitted in English). Document sections deemed to be relevant (either jointly identified by assessors and BFCS or proposed as source of additional information by BFCS) were requested to be translated in terms of content and meaning. This applied to very few cases only and was part of the exchange with BFCS in the second phase of the assessment after initially only documents in English were screened.

It pertained particularly to text of legal verifiers and to text of the help guide for forest managers in the Walloon region.

The documents were assessed by the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell. The PEFC IGD 1007:2012 Minimum Requirement Checklists (MRC) were used to assess the provided documentation against the minimum requirements for the re-endorsement process of the PEFCC. The results of the assessment of the documents against the MRC were discussed between the Independent Senior Consultants in detail before their final formulation.

The results of the assessment were documented in full in the MRC and a draft report was elaborated and submitted to PEFCC and the PEFC Belgium for review.

1.3.2. Conference call

During a conference call after the submission of the draft report to PEFC Belgium important issues such as potential non-conformities or different ideas of interpretation of aspects in the BFCS documents were discussed between the Independent Senior Consultants and the Secretary General of PEFC Belgium. This approach efficiently facilitated the exchange of issues to be clarified between the assessment team and PEFC Belgium.

1.3.3. Stakeholder survey and public consultation

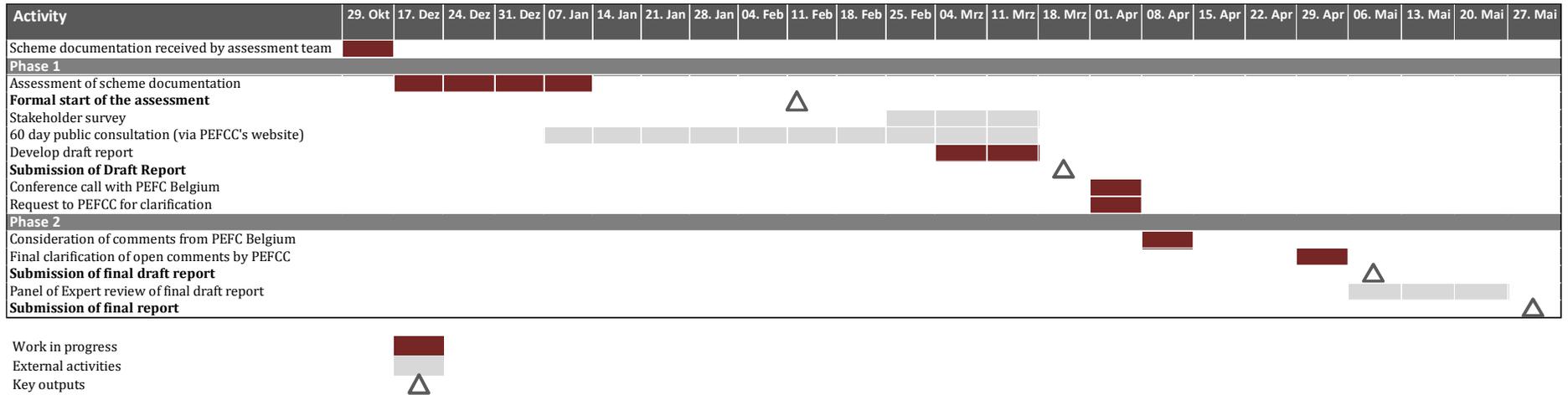
In addition to the assessment of the provided BFCS documents, a stakeholder survey was conducted by Annie Adams and Ian Denty from Efeca to verify the content of the Development Report of the BFCS and gather further comments by national and international stakeholders. For the stakeholder survey, the participating organisations of the Forum for the review of the BFCS were identified and contacted by e-mail. A questionnaire was developed and sent to the identified stakeholders. The stakeholders were asked to answer within a period of 14 days and to submit their questionnaire. Furthermore, a public consultation was held via the PEFCC website for 60 days from 08.01.2013 till 15.03.2013, which was open to all parties who wished to submit comments.

1.3.4. Panel of experts review

The results of the conformity assessment, which were documented by the assessment team after consideration of comments from PEFCC and PEFC Belgium and the stakeholder consultations in the final draft report, were reviewed by a panel of experts (PoE) assigned by the PEFCC. The comments were reviewed by the assessment team and where the assessment team felt they were significant, the comments considered in the final report.

1.4. Timetable of the assessment

Assessment of PEFC Belgium timetable



1.5. Reference documents and sources

The following table provides an overview of the documents which were provided by PEFC Belgium to the PEFC for conformity assessment to evaluate the potential re-endorsement of the BFCS.

Table 1: List of documents provided by the BFCS for assessment

No.	Document	Description
1	Application for conformity assessment by PEFC Belgium	-
2	Structure of the Documentation	-
3	Development Report on the Revision of Walloon Forest Management Standard 2013 – 2018	Process documentation of standard- setting activities
4	PEFC B 0001:2012 Belgian Forest Certification Scheme - General Document	General document
5	PEFC B 1001:2012 Requirements for the implementation of forest management certification	Normative document
6	PEFC B 1002:2012 Sustainable forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region	Normative document
7	PEFC B 1003:2012 Requirements for the implementation of the Chain of Custody	Normative document
8	PEFC B 1004:2012 Requirements for the use of the logo	Normative document
9	PEFC B 2001:2012 Requirements for forest management standards setting process	Procedure document
10	PEFC B 2002:2012 Requirements for the qualification of auditors and certification bodies for forest certification	Procedure document
11	PEFC B 2003:2012 Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard	Procedure document
12	PEFC B 2004:2012 Dispute Settlement Procedure	Procedure document
13	PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation guide	Best practice document
14	PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation guide for SFM in the Walloon Region (2) – French	Best practice document
15	PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation guide for SFM in the Walloon Region (3) – French	Best practice document
16	PEFC B 4001:2012 Terms and Definitions	Administrative document
17	PEFC B 4002:2009 Articles of association of PEFC Belgium	Administrative document
18	PEFC B 4003:2011 PEFC Notification procedure for Certification Bodies operating Chain of Custody and Forest Management	Administrative document
19	Supporting documents such as minutes, letters, summaries of stakeholder comments, etc.	Supporting documentation
20	GL 2/2011 PEFC Minimum Requirements Checklist filled by PEFC Belgium	Supporting documentation

The following table provides an overview of the technical documents provided by the PEFCC which were used for this assessment.

Table 2: List of technical documents from PEFCC used for assessment

No.	Document
1	PEFC GD 1001:2008 Structure of PEFC Technical Documents
2	PEFC ST 1001:2010 Standard Setting
3	PEFC ST 1002:2010 Group Forest Management Certification
4	PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management
5	PEFC ST2001:2008 PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements
6	PEFC ST 2002:2010 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products
7	PEFC ST 2003:2012 Chain of Custody Certification Body Requirements
8	PEFC GD 1004:2009 Administration of PEFC Scheme
9	PEFC GD 1007:2012 Endorsement of National Schemes
10	Annex 6 PEFC TD Accreditation and Certification Procedures

Furthermore the websites from PEFCC (www.pefc.org) and PEFC Belgium (www.pefc.be) were used as sources for information and documents/processes relevant for the assessment.

1.6. Personnel

The assessment team to conduct the conformity assessment comprised the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell (document review) as well as Annie Adams, a Senior Consultant and Ian Denty, Consultant, both of Efeca.

Further information about the members of the assessment team are outlined in the proposal submitted to PEFCC for the tender of the conformity assessment of the revised BFCS on 28.11.2012.

The assessment contract was signed by the Secretary General of PEFC Belgium, Ms. Vanessa Biebel. After signing the assessment contract, Mr. Thomas Davreux was assigned as the new Secretary General of PEFC Belgium and was involved as the contact person for PEFC Belgium.

2. Recommendation

Based on the results of this conformity assessment, the assessment team concludes that the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme conforms to the PEFC requirements with the exception of two non-conformities. The non-conformities are seen as being of minor significance and should be corrected by PEFC Belgium **within a timeframe of 6 months after re-endorsement**.

The assessment team recommends to the PEFC Council BoD to re-endorse the revised BFCS with the following two conditions.

1. PEFC Belgium shall include procedures concerning multiple certification, either in terms of concomitant individual and group certification within a PEFC-endorsed scheme or in terms of application of different PEFC-endorsed schemes in Belgium, or state clearly that no form of multiple PEFC-endorsed certification is permitted under the BFCS as required in criteria 4.1.2 of the PEFC ST 1002:2010.

2. PEFC Belgium shall include procedures concerning the implementation of corrective and preventive actions concerning complaints relating to governance and administration of the PEFC scheme as required by the PEFC GD 1004:2009 Chapter 8.2.d. Even though this requirement is not included in the checklist 'GL 2-2011 PEFC Minimum Requirements Checklist' which was used by PEFC Belgium for the self assessment in 2012, the PEFC GD 1004:2009 was already effective during the self assessment by PEFC Belgium and was applicable during the revision process of the BFCS.

Furthermore it is recommended that PEFC Belgium gives consideration to the partial dissatisfaction of some stakeholders regarding the consensus building process which led to the final draft of the forest management standard assessed. The points of dissatisfaction were however varied, only partial and only expressed by 4 respondents out of the overall 34 questionnaires that were sent. It is therefore difficult to infer any general conclusions regarding any inadequacies in how the process was implemented (see Chapter 3.10 and Annex 2).

3. Summary of the findings

3.1. Structure of the system

Due to the categorization of the Belgian state in three Regions, and the distribution of legislative competencies on federal and regional level, the SFM Standards are developed on a regional level, whereas the requirements for Group Certification, Chain of Custody and Logo Use are developed on a national level. So far, SFM Standards are developed and maintained only for the Walloon Region (comprising 79% of the Belgian Forests). Discussions are in process regarding the development of a regional SFM Standard for the Flemish Region (comprising 20% of the Belgian forests). No request, so far, was received from the Brussels Region (comprising 1% of the Belgian forests).

PEFC Belgium is the national governing body of the BFCS. PEFC Belgium is a not-for-profit organization, which is member based and represented by the General Meeting and an elected Board of Directors. The General Meeting is divided into five General Meeting colleges, representing the different sectors of interest concerning SFM in the Belgian Walloon Region.

Concerning the standard-setting activities, the following bodies participated in the revision process of the BFCS in 2012:

- Extraordinary General Meeting (responsible for the formal adoption of the SFM Standard for the Walloon Region).
- Board of Directors (responsible for the initiation and supervision of the revision process).
- General Secretariat of PEFC Belgium (responsible for the administrative management of the revision process).
- Regional Forum (responsible for the review of the SFM Standard for the Walloon Region).

A balanced stakeholder representation over the sectors of interest concerning Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the Walloon Region is required for the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium and for the Regional Forum for the development of the regional SFM Standards. The list of participating organizations in the Regional Forum for the development of the SFM Standard for the Walloon Region shows that this requirement was fulfilled for this revision process (see Annex 5). The stakeholder survey also showed the satisfaction of the respondents with the balanced stakeholder representation (see Chapter 3.10).

3.2. Standard setting procedures and processes

The standard setting process (described in the Development Report) was guided by the standard setting procedures of the BFCS (PEFC B 2001:2012). Both standard setting procedures and the standard setting process during the revision process were analyzed by the assessment team.

A major focus of the revision process was the revision of the Sustainable Forest Management Standard for the Walloon Region (PEFC B 1002:2012). The revision process was implemented by a Regional Forum, which consisted of five chambers representing the relevant stakeholders concerning the management of the forest resources in the Walloon Region. The Forum was active in plenary meetings, working groups and roundtable discussions to identify weaknesses in the existing BFCS SFM Standards, and to revise the requirements which needed to be changed according to changes in PEFC's International Benchmark Standard (PEFC ST 1003: 2010) since the last revision of the BFCS. During the process, 97 weaknesses were identified by the Forum, which had to be revised to be compliant with the newly defined requirements of the PEFC ST 1003:2010. The amended BFCS SFM draft standards were approved by the Forum in a plenary meeting in June 2011 by consensus. The approved draft standards were put into an enquiry draft document and submitted for public consultation from 23.08.2011 to 22.10.2011. Altogether, 57 reactions were received by stakeholders and considered for the elaboration of the final draft standards, which were approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly of PEFC Belgium on 27.06.2012.

The assessment of the **standard setting procedures** (PEFC B 2001:2012) showed that in general the requirements of the PEFC were met. In certain instances, the procedures do not show clear descriptions of the process to be implemented, but the assessment of the standard setting process showed that the implementation followed best practice and was carried out appropriately. Several observations addressing room for improvement are made, but no non-conformity is identified (see MRC Part I in Annex 1).

The assessment of the **standard setting process** (described in the Development Report) showed that the process in general met the requirements of the PEFC. The stakeholder survey also showed a general satisfaction of the respondents with the standard setting process. However, 4 out of 7 respondents are partially dissatisfied with the consensus building process related to the final draft standard. Since all comments are highlighting different topics, a general conclusion cannot be made. This should be considered by PEFC Belgium for further standard setting activities (for more information see Chapter 3.10 and Annex 2).

3.3. Forest certification standard(s)

The Walloon Region is the only area of Belgium where a standard setting process to develop a PEFC compliant standard for SFM has been completed. Therefore the standard PEFC B 1002:2012 'Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region' is applied in the Walloon Region of Belgium only and no further BFCS forest certification standards are applied in other regions of Belgium.

The document PEFC B 1002:2012 contains in section 4.1 the "Progress Plan 2013-2018", describing in 12 aims, with up to four subordinate aims, the overarching goals for Sustainable Forest Management in Belgium. Measures required to be applied by public or private forest managers and forest owners to achieve these aims are briefly described and in some instances are unspecified. Section 4.2 of PEFC B 1002:2012 contains the "Charter for sustainable forest management in the Walloon Region (2013-2018)". This section specifies in greater detail (formulated as part of a self-declaration

on behalf of the applicants) the requirements to be met by any organisation wishing to participate in the PEFC regional forestry certification process implemented in the Walloon Region of Belgium. Both sections are complementary to each other. The concept adopted for the regional forestry programme, which serves as a guiding framework in the Walloon Region, is the one defined in the Vienna Resolution.

The requirements of PEFC Council are entirely met (see Chapter 6 of this report). Potential non-conformities and other unclear aspects arisen in the first phase of the assessment were sufficiently addressed with further documentation and information on behalf of BFCS.

3.4. Group certification model

PEFC Belgium provides for a comprehensive set of requirements and guidance to enable certified group entities and the members of these groups to meet the relevant requirements of the PEFC. PEFC B 1001:2012 “Requirements for the implementation of forest management certification” describes roles and responsibilities overall in a clear and precise manner. This normative technical document defines the requirements for the implementation of forest management certification and the requirements to be met by regional entities to obtain PEFC certification in Belgium. It also covers the requirements that individual forest owners must comply with as part of their participation in regional certification.

Extensive guidance for certified group members in the Walloon Region of Belgium has been developed under the leadership of PEFC Belgium to ensure that certified group members are in a position to meet the sustainability requirements of PEFC Belgium as well as the legislative requirements within the Walloon Region. Notably the document ‘PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation guide for SFM in the Walloon Region’, which was submitted by BFCS only in the French language and thus did not constitute a source of information for this assessment.

The requirements of the PEFC Council are principally met. **One non-conformity** related to multiple certification and the management of non-conformities resulted in **Minor NC 2013-01** (see Chapter 7 of this report). **It is recommended that PEFC Belgium is requested to correct this Minor NC within 6 months after the re-endorsement of the BFCS.**

3.5. Chain of Custody standard(s)

The BFCS has adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2010 without any modification to the Chain of Custody Standard for the BFCS. Thus, the criteria required by the PEFC for the Chain of Custody of a national scheme are fulfilled.

3.6. Logo usage rules

PEFC Belgium acts as the licensing body and the Certification Bodies are responsible for controlling the logo use of the certified companies and for informing the PEFC about any unauthorized use. The PEFC’s document PEFC ST 2001:2008 (PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements) was adopted by the BFCS without modification, which means that the requirement of logo use by certified companies are fully met by the BFCS. The

requirements and obligations for the certification bodies concerning the issuance of logo usage licences are also fully met.

3.7. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures

An independent and impartial dispute settlement body has to be set up in cases of complaints going beyond the capabilities of the accredited certification bodies. The requirements of the PEFC concerning this point are met in most points. **One non-conformity** resulting in **Minor NC 2013-02** was identified, since no procedures are documented about the consequences in case the need to implement corrective and preventive measures at the level of PEFC Belgium is identified (see Chapter 11 of this report). **It is recommended that PEFC Belgium is requested to correct this Minor NC within 6 months after the re-endorsement of the BFCS.**

3.8. Certification and accreditation procedures

The certification and accreditation procedures are comprehensively described by the BFCS documents. All relevant ISO procedures for Certification Bodies and auditors are required, and the national Accreditation Body has to be a member of the International Accreditation Forum. Clear procedures for the notification of Certification Bodies are in place. The BFCS documents do fully meet the PEFC's requirements.

3.9. Any other aspects

Several supporting documents (e.g. the PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation Guide for SFM in the Walloon Region) were submitted in French language, and therefore not seen as an integral part of the BFCS documents to be assessed. Minutes of meetings and other records were also provided in French and the assessors partly considered these as supporting evidence to verify claims made in the Development Report about the standard setting process, since the Interpretation Guides are mandatory for all forest owners and forest managers certified by the BFCS.

3.10. Stakeholder survey

A stakeholder survey was conducted from 28.02.2013 to 14.03.2013. Invitations to complete the online stakeholder survey were sent to all participants in the standard setting forum via e-mail. No e-mails bounced, and 2 reminder e-mails were sent. There were in total 7 responses (20.6% of those contacted), representing forest owners (4), environmental NGOs (2) and users of green spaces (1).

In most of the cases the stakeholders were satisfied with the addressed points concerning the standard setting process, availability of documents and objectiveness of consideration of comments. One stakeholder was partially dissatisfied with the BFCS opinion of having no disadvantaged stakeholders in the standard development process (Question 3). One stakeholder was partially dissatisfied with the availability of the standard development documents (Question 4).

More concern was expressed regarding the consensus building process during the standard setting process. Two stakeholders were partially dissatisfied with the general consensus building process (Question 9). Four stakeholders were partially dissatisfied with the consensus building process during the elaboration of the final draft standard

(Question 10). However, no stakeholders expressed a complete dissatisfaction with any of the points during the standard setting process which were addressed in the questionnaire.

Regarding forest management, one stakeholder expressed concern that the BFCS would implement requirement 4.1 of PEFC ST 1003:2010 incorrectly, without providing further detailed information. Two stakeholders commented on the problem of high density of game in the forest and the extent to which this has been taken into account during the standard revision process. One stakeholder commented that principally the consequences and cost of implementation for forest owners and public administration were not fully identified.

The assessors advance the view that the partial dissatisfaction of more than 50% of the respondents with the consensus building process to approve the final draft standard deserves a discussion among PEFC and PEFC Belgium to evaluate potential consequences and to consider further information.

The results of the stakeholder survey are incorporated into the MRCs. The complete survey and the comments provided by the stakeholders are documented in Annex 2 of this report.

4. Structure of the system

The National Governing Body of the BFCS is the not-for-profit organization PEFC Belgium with the registered office at 1000 Brussels, Galerie du Centre Bloc II. The Articles of Association of PEFC Belgium are documented in the administrative document PEFC B 4003:2009. The general purpose of PEFC Belgium is to promote sustainable forestry in Belgium and to establish and implement in Belgium the forest certification scheme defined by the PEFC Council, respecting its goals, guidelines and the rules and procedures which govern it.

PEFC Belgium is a member-based organization with an annually held General Meeting, divided into five General Meeting colleges:

- the college of forest owners and managers,
- the college of wood industry and commerce,
- the college of consumer representatives, of nature area users and of worker organizations,
- the college of environmental associations; and
- the college of research centers and science organizations.

Any Belgian registered company or individual with a direct link to forestry can become a member of the PEFC Belgium.

The Association is led by a Board of Directors (BoD) made up of at least three people and a maximum of 14 people, representing members of the different General Meeting colleges. The members of the BoD are elected by the General Meeting of PEFC Belgium for a period of three years. The Board of Directors exercises the widest authority for the administration and management of the Association. Decisions are taken by simple majority.

The standard-setting activities for the development and review of the BFCS are delegated to the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Board of Directors, the General Secretariat and the Regional Forum.

Extraordinary General Meeting

The Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium is responsible for the formal adoption of regional standards for sustainable forest management in the Walloon Region. The composition and decision-making process of the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium are defined in the articles of association of PEFC Belgium published on 27/08/2007 and 06/10/2009 in the Official Belgium Journal.

Board of Directors

The BoD is responsible for the development and revision (at least every five years) of the development and/or revision procedure for regional sustainable forest management standards in Belgium. In particular, the following activities are carried out by the BoD:

- Initiation of the development and/or revision work for regional sustainable forest management standards.
- Creation of an invitation list of all stakeholders relevant to the Regional Forum (responsible for the development and review of the SFM Standards) and the acceptance of applications.
- Analysis of stakeholder status (key stakeholder/disadvantaged stakeholder).
- Implementation of the Regional Forum.
- Receipt and examination of the minutes of the Regional Forum.
- Resolution of complaints, requests for arbitration and appeals tied to the revision process of sustainable forest management standards.
- Formal consensus approval by the Regional Forum of the final version of the standards for sustainable forest management before presentation to the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- Presentation of the final version to the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium for formal adoption.

All decisions taken are made by consensus.

General Secretariat of PEFC Belgium

The General Secretariat is responsible for ensuring implementation of, and compliance with, the present procedure and all rules governing the technical activities of PEFC Belgium. To do so, the Secretariat will act as a liaison between the members of the Regional Forum, the working groups of the Regional Forum and the Board of Directors. The Secretariat is responsible for the following activities.

- Preparation of the standards development and revision process and project proposal.
- Recording of applications (whether spontaneous or not) for participation in the Regional Forums, after acceptance by the Board of Directors.
- Logistics and administrative support for the Forums (when a Forum does not manage this itself).
- An announcement of the start of the regional SFM standards revision process.
- Management of the public consultation.
- Publication of the approved regional forest management standards.

Regional Forum (Regional entity)

Due to the categorization of the Belgian state in three Regions, and the distribution of legislative competencies on federal and regional level, the SFM Standards are developed on a regional level, whereas the requirements for Group Certification, Chain of Custody and Logo Use are developed on a national level. So far, SFM Standards are developed and maintained only for the Walloon Region (comprising 79% of the Belgian Forests). Discussions are in process regarding the development of a regional SFM Standard for the Flemish Region (comprising 20% of the Belgian forests). No request, so far, was received from the Brussels Region (comprising 1% of the Belgian forests).

The Regional forest management standards are developed and revised by a Regional Forum consisting of the organisations involved in the sustainable management of

forests in the Region. Regional Forums are created and dissolved by the Board of Directors. The Regional Forum must report on its work to the Board of Directors. A Regional Forum must ensure balanced representation of the various interest groups (chambers) and be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders. All organisations with a clear link to the forest in its multifunctional dimension in the region in question (which officially recognise PEFC) shall be invited to participate in the Regional Forum.

In compliance with the articles of association of PEFC Belgium, the five Forum chambers are:

- forest owners and managers,
- the wood industry and commerce,
- consumer representatives, the users of green spaces (hunters, walkers, etc.), and worker organisations (unions),
- environmental groups; and
- research centres.

A list of organizations which participated in the Regional Forum implemented for this revision is given in Annex 5.

A Forum can invite observers to its work as well as specific experts to contribute to certain studies.

The Forum uses methods like plenary meetings, small working groups, roundtable discussions and a drafting committee for the elaboration of proposals. All decisions need to be taken by consensus. If unanimity cannot be reached on a topic after discussions and negotiations, a proposal resulting from a consensus by vote of the chambers, each chamber being entitled to one vote, will be considered. A proposal will be accepted in the following instances.

- When four out of five chambers agree to the proposal.
- When three chambers out of five agree to the proposal, with one or two abstentions.

5. Standard setting process

The general procedures to be applied are documented in the PEFC B 2001:2012 'Requirements for forest management standards setting process'. The standard setting process as implemented during this revision is described in the 'Development Report on the Revision of Walloon forest management standards 2013-2018', which was provided for assessment by PEFC Belgium together with the BFCS documentation. Furthermore, minutes of meetings, examples of letters, working drafts and other documents were provided for assessment as supporting documentation to prove the implementation of the standard-setting process as claimed in the Development Report.

The standard-setting process is assessed at two levels:

- 1) Conformity assessment of **standard-setting procedures** as documented in PEFC B 2001:2012 against the requirements of the PEFCC as documented in the PEFC ST 1001:2010 'Standard Setting'.
- 2) Conformity assessment of the **Development Report** and supporting documentation documenting the implemented standard-setting process against the requirements of the PEFCC as documented in the PEFC ST 1001:2010 'Standard Setting'.

The general organization and the structures and responsibilities of the involved bodies of PEFC Belgium are already described in Chapter 4 of this report (see above).

The following text describes the core findings and identified non-conformities including justifications.

Table 3 below shows an overview of the different steps taken, responsibilities defined and related documentation in the standard setting process as described in the Development Report for the Revision Process of the BFCS.

Table 3: Overview of the standard-setting process

Steps		Responsibilities	Associated documents
Launch	Project presentation	Secretariat General	Preparatory File
	Preparatory file approval	Board of Directors	
Preparation	Public announcement	Secretariat General	Preparatory File
	Invitation of PEFC members and interested parties to the Forum - Mapping of the interested parties	Secretariat General/Board of Directors	
	Forum set-up	Board of Directors/Secretariat General	
Construction	Reflection - exchanges of points of view	Forum/Secretariat General	Forum document
	Obtaining a consensus	Forum/Secretariat General	
Public Consultation	Development and dissemination of the project in consultation	Forum/Secretariat General	Forum document
	Development and dissemination of the Public Consultation Form	Forum/Secretariat General	Public Consultation Form
Pilot Study (not for revision)	Not obligatory for a revision process, thus not implemented during this revision of the BFCS.	-	-
Approval of final documents	Approval of proposals by Forum, BoD and EGM	Forum, BoD, EGM	Final draft document

A major focus of the revision process was the revision of the Sustainable Forest Management Standard for the Walloon Region (PEFC B 1002:2012). The revision process was officially announced on the website of PEFC Belgium on 18.02.2011. The revision process was implemented by a Regional Forum, which consisted of five chambers representing relevant stakeholders concerning the management of the forest resources in the Walloon Region (see Chapter 4 of this report). The stakeholders represented in the Forum were identified by the General Secretariat of PEFC Belgium under the supervision of the BoD and proactively invited by letters dated 20.01.2011 to participate in the Forum. 28 associations from different sectors accepted the invitation, four organizations did not participate. The list of participating associations and their

representatives is shown in Annex 5 of this report. The first Forum plenary meeting was held in March 2011.

The Forum was active in plenary meetings, working groups and roundtable discussions to identify weaknesses in the existing BFCS SFM Standards, and to revise the requirements which had to be changed according to changes in PEFC's International Benchmark Standard (PEFC ST 1003: 2010) since the last revision of the BFCS (approved by the PEFC in March 2008).

During the process, 97 weaknesses were identified by the Forum, which were revised in order to be compliant with the newly defined requirements of the PEFC ST 1003:2010. The weaknesses were scored according to their long-term effects, occurrence, containment and control, and the scores were validated by a Forum plenary meeting in May 2011. Thematic roundtable discussions were held in small working groups dealing with weaknesses in different topics, and proposals to amend the BFCS SFM Standards were elaborated and sent to the Forum by a Drafting Committee. The amended BFCS SFM Standards were approved by the Forum in a plenary meeting in June 2011.

The Forum had to prove that all decisions were taken by consensus. In case unanimity could not be reached in discussions or negotiations, the consensus was reached by a voting process between the different chambers. A consensus by vote was reached, when either:

- four out of five chambers agreed to the proposal, or
- three chambers out of five agreed to the proposal, with one or two abstentions.

Each chamber had to take decisions by simple majority. The chamber had to abstain if a majority could not be obtained.

The approved draft standards were put into an enquiry draft document and submitted for public consultation on 23.08.2011. The documents were published on the PEFC Belgium website, and a press release was sent to a mailing list of identified stakeholders on 23.08.2011. The public consultation was open until the 22.10.2011. Altogether, 57 reactions were received by stakeholders and the comments including their consideration by the Forum were published on the PEFC Belgium webpage.

After consideration and incorporation of the comments received by stakeholders during the public consultation period, the final draft standards were elaborated and approved by the Forum in December 2011 by unanimity or by consensus building per vote by show of hands. The final draft standards were approved by the BoD of PEFC Belgium in June 2012 and finally by the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium in June 2012.

No non-conformities at the level of the standard setting procedures were identified. The detailed analysis is shown in MRC I in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFC's technical documents are stated directly in the

MRCs. One observation is also addressed to the PEFCC and the standard setting requirements (see MRC Part I, 4.1f in Annex 1), since there are no clear requirements spelled out related to scheme reviews in case of changes of national laws and international guidelines which are used as references in national PEFC Schemes, as is the case in several criteria of the BFCS. Such changes would affect the Scheme and could result in non-conformities related to the PEFCC requirements.

No non-conformities were identified at the level of the standard setting process. The stakeholder survey also showed a general satisfaction of the respondents with the standard setting process. However, four out of seven respondents are partially dissatisfied with the consensus building process related to the final draft standard. Since all comments are highlighting different topics, general conclusions cannot be made. This should be considered for the final re-endorsement decision (see Chapter 3.10 and Annex 2).

The detailed analysis is shown in MRC I in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the MRCs.

6. Forest Management Standard

PEFC Belgium defines in “PEFC B 1001-2012 Requirements for the implementation of forest management certification” the rules and requirements that must be met by regional entities in order to become PEFC certified and to ensure that forest owners comply with PEFC's sustainable forest management system for Belgium and thus to the PEFC Council requirements laid down in “PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements”. A standard setting process to develop a PEFC Council compliant standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) has only been completed for the Walloon Region of Belgium. Therefore the standard PEFC B 1002:2012 ‘Sustainable forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region’ is applied in the Walloon Region of Belgium only and no further forest certification standards as part of the BFCS are applied in any other region of Belgium.

The conclusion of BFCS's own examination provided in page 2 of PEFC B 1002:2012 is that *‘upon examining the PEFC International standards, it appears that management standards in Belgium can only be met if they are drawn up concomitantly at two levels - regional and individual.*

Regional requirements are reflected in the targets set (Progress Plan), defined on the basis of an analysis of the discrepancies between the PEFC International standards and the forest management situation in the region: five-yearly analysis of the forest management situation in the Region (inventory), listing major problems in order of importance on the basis of the PEFC International standards and setting targets for improvement to be attained to resolve these problems.

The individual requirements correspond to a series of management practices that have to be implemented by all private or public forest owners wishing to be part of the PEFC regional certification process (Sustainable forest management charter). They are defined on the basis of all the PEFC International standards relevant to the types of management unit found in the Walloon Region.’

Accordingly, the criteria for SFM in the Walloon Region include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level and at the regional level. The implementation of these requirements is supported by the interpretation guide in document ‘PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation guide for SFM in the Walloon Region’. Unfortunately this document is only available in French, which meant that its availability as a source of information for this assessment was limited. BFCS was supportive in providing for translated sections, where required.

The document PEFC B 1002:2012 contains in section 4.1 the ‘Progress Plan 2013-2018’, describing in 12 aims, with up to four subordinate aims, the overarching goals for SFM in Belgium. Measures required to be applied by public or private forest managers and forest owners to achieve these aims are briefly described. Section 4.2 of PEFC B 1002:2012 contains the ‘Charter for sustainable forest management in the Walloon Region (2013-2018)’. This section specifies in greater detail (formulated as part of a

self-declaration on behalf of the applicants) the requirements to be met by any organisations wishing to participate in the PEFC regional forestry certification process implemented in the Walloon Region of Belgium. The Progress Plan and Charter are designed to complement each other and thus support the compliance with the requirements of BFCS across the involved levels of implementation.

According to BFCS a number of requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2010 are met by national or regional legislation. The main reference documents are the 'Code Forestiere' (CF) and the 'Code wallon de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme, du Patrimoine et de l'Energie' (CWATUPE), which are cited frequently as verifiers as part of the self-evaluation of BFCS. The detailed analysis of legal verifiers to support compliance by individual private and/or public forest managers and forest owners with BFCS's requirements is outside the scope of this assessment. It should be highlighted that the significance of knowledge and experience of forest managers and forest owners in implementing legal requirements pertaining to forest management as part of meeting voluntary forest management certification requirements increases significantly the more these voluntary standards rely on legal compliance.

The detailed analysis is shown in the MRC III in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFC's technical documents are stated directly in the MRCs.

7. Group Certification Model

PEFC Belgium provides for a comprehensive set of requirements and guidance to enable certified group entities and the members of these groups to meet the relevant requirements of PEFC Council. PEFC B 1001:2012 'Requirements for the implementation of forest management certification' describes roles and responsibilities in a clear and precise manner. This normative technical document defines the requirements for the implementation of forest management certification and the requirements to be met by regional entities to obtain PEFC certification in Belgium. It also covers the requirements that individual forest owners must comply as part of their participation in regional certification. For example, next to specifying administrative requirements for the regional entity, it also prescribes an audit checklist to be applied by certified regional entities for internal auditing of group members ('Appendix 1: Guide to implement internal audits by regional entities (in the Walloon region)').

The group certification model designed by PEFC Belgium is currently applied in the Walloon Region only as there are no other regional standards available. Consequently PEFC B 1001:2012 refers at this time only to one regional forest management standard: 'PEFC B 1002: 2012 – Sustainable forest management standards for the Walloon Region'.

Regional entities apply for certification and their compliance is audited annually by an accredited independent third party. Any individual forest manager (private or public) may apply for membership in the group scheme of a regional entity and will subsequently be audited internally according to the specifications laid down in PEFC 1001:2012.

Extensive guidance for certified group members in the Walloon Region of Belgium has been developed under the leadership of PEFC Belgium to ensure that certified group members are in a position to meet the sustainability requirements of PEFC Belgium as well as the legislative requirements within the Walloon Region. Notably the document 'PEFC B 3001:2010 Interpretation guide for SFM in the Walloon Region', which was submitted by BFCS is only in the French language and thus did not constitute a source of information for this assessment.

The requirements of the PEFC Council are principally met.

However, the assessment result regarding the requirement **4.1.2 of 'PEFC ST 1002:2010 Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements'** is a non-conformity. BFCS does not state in the relevant documentation provided to the assessors that multiple certification in the form of additional group or individual forest management certifications is not allowed for its certified participants. Consequently the requirement applies in full and must be met by BFCS. However, BFCS does not have documented procedures in place to meet the requirement. In the provided documentation there are no provisions to ensure that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one PEFC-endorsed forest management certification scheme is

addressed in any other PEFC-endorsed forest management certification scheme that covers the forest owner. Thus **Minor NC 2013-01** was raised. In current practice no form of multiple certification occurs but the requirement needs to be addressed in a better way.

The detailed analysis is shown in the MRC II in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFC's technical documents are stated directly in the MRCs.

8. Chain of Custody standard

The BFCS has adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2010 without any modification to be the Chain of Custody standard for the BFCS.

The document PEFC B 1003:2012 'Requirements for the implementation of the Chain of Custody' states that 'the standard PEFC ST 2002:2010, 'Chain of Custody of Forest-Based Products – Requirements', adopted by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council on 12.11.2010 together with its annexes were adopted without modification by the PEFC Belgium at its Extraordinary General Assembly on 27.06.2012 and form an integral part of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme.'

Thus, the criteria required by the PEFC for the Chain of Custody in a national scheme are fulfilled.

The detailed analysis is shown in the MRC V in the Annex of this report.

9. Implementation of PEFC Logo usage

The general requirements for the use of the PEFC Logo and the issuance of logo using licences are documented in the BFCS document PEFC B 0001:2012 Chapter 5.1. The chapter states that ‘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 2001:2008 v2 of the PEFC Council technical document (Requirements for use of the logo)’.

Therefore, the PEFC Belgium is the licensing body according to the PEFC GD 1004:2009. The BFCS has adopted the PEFC ST 2001:2008 (PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements) without modification, as documented in the PEFC B 1004:2012 (Requirements for use of the logo). This means that by the adoption of the PEFC’s logo use requirements, the BFCS requirements for the logo use by certified companies automatically comply with the PEFC’s requirements.

Furthermore, logo usage requirements between PEFC Belgium and the Certification Bodies are documented in the BFCS document PEFC B 4003:2012, which shows the requirements for the notification of the certification bodies. The majority of the requirements documented in the PEFC’s document PEFC GD 1004:2009 (Administration of PEFC Scheme) Chapter 6.1 and 6.2 are met by the BFCS standard. The Certification Bodies are responsible for controlling logo use by the certified companies and to inform the PEFC about any unauthorized use. The detailed obligations and consequences of the unauthorized use of the PEFC Logos are documented in the contract template for the logo use between certification bodies and logo users.

The detailed analysis is documented in the MRC VI in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFC’s technical documents are stated directly in the MRCs.

10. Certification and accreditation arrangements

The requirements of the BFCS concerning qualification of certification bodies and auditors are documented in three standard documents of the BFCS:

- PEFC B 2002:2012 (Requirements for the qualification of auditors and certification bodies for forest certification),
- PEFC B 2003:2012 (Requirements for the qualification of auditors and certification bodies for Chain of Custody certification); and
- PEFC B 4003:2012 (PEFC Notification procedure for certification bodies operating chain of custody and forest management certification).

The BFCS requires that generally Certification Bodies have to be legal entities and accredited by a national accreditation body which is a member or a part of the IAF (International Accreditation Forum). The accreditation has to be issued against ISO Guide 65 for COC certification and ISO/CEI 17021 for forest management certification. The scope of the accreditation has to include the PEFC ST 2002:2010 for Chain of Custody certification, the PEFC ST 2001:2008 for logo use and the BFCS documents concerning forest certification in the Walloon Region. Each Certification Body has to hold a notification contract with PEFC Belgium. The notification of a Certification Body can be suspended or terminated by PEFC Belgium in case of violation of the notification contract. The certification bodies have to provide information to PEFC Belgium about each certificate and its scope. The notification procedures have to be non-discriminatory and shall not create trade barriers. The certification bodies have to pay a fee to PEFC Belgium depending on the annual turnover. The rates are fixed and documented by PEFC Belgium.

The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards) and, therefore, automatically includes all requirements for certification bodies and auditors concerning Chain of Custody certification stated by the PEFC.

The PEFC B 2002:2012 also requires the necessary conditions for Certification Bodies and auditors according to the PEFC's requirements. The Certification Bodies have to be impartial, independent third parties that are not involved in the standards setting process as governing or decision-making bodies, or in forest management, and have to be independent of the certified entity. Certification bodies carrying out forest certification have to fulfil the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65. The certification body carrying out forest certification needs technical competence in the field of forest management including all relevant aspects and has to be familiar with the BFCS requirements. Auditors need to be competent, must have a degree in forestry and must fulfil general criteria for quality and environmental management systems auditors as defined in ISO 19 011.

The certification body must have established internal procedures to conduct the forest management certification in respect of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and must meet or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 and with the requirements of ISO 19011. The maximum period for surveillance audits is one year and the maximum period for reassessment audits is five years. During the audits, evidence for the audit decisions needs to be gathered and summaries of forest certification audits have to be made public.

Thus, the accreditation and certification procedures of the BFCS do fully comply with the requirements of the PEFCC.

The detailed analysis is shown in MRC IV and VI in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the MRCs.

11. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures

The complaints and dispute resolution procedures of the BFCS in case of disputes going beyond the capability of the accredited certification bodies are documented in the PEFC B 2004:2012 (Administrative Documents Dispute Settlement Procedure). A dispute settlement body is set up by the PEFC Belgium, made up of one representative of forest owners, one representative of timber industry and one representative of environmental bodies. The members of the dispute settlement body have to be independent and impartial.

In case a complaint cannot be handled by the certification body, it has to be passed on to the PEFC Belgium Secretariat including all gathered information and statements of all parties involved. The PEFC Belgium Secretariat has to confirm the receipt of the complaint. The appointment of the dispute settlement body has to be arranged within three months either by a General Meeting of PEFC Belgium or by written correspondence between the PEFC Belgium members and the Secretariat. The dispute settlement body will have to take a decision within three months after being appointed. In more complex cases, an independent expert can be called in to support the dispute settlement body. The decisions are taken by simple majority. The PEFC Belgium Secretariat is responsible for elaborating a report on the work of the dispute settlement body and for informing the parties involved about the outcome of the dispute settlement.

Most of the criteria of the PEFCC's requirements concerning complaints and dispute resolution procedures stated in the PEFC GD 1004:2009 Chapter 8 are met by the BFCS. However, no procedures are documented about the consequences in case the need to implement corrective and preventive measures at the level of PEFC Belgium is identified, as required by the PEFCC in the **PEFC GD 1004:2009 Chapter 8.2.d**. These procedures are seen as crucial to be documented, since they will give clear guidance on what to do if the need for improvement is identified (see also MRC Part IV, 3 in Annex 1). Thus, this is rated as a minor non-conformity, which results in **Minor NC 2013-02**.

The detailed analysis is documented in the MRC VI in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the MRCs.

Annex 1: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist

1. Purpose

These standard setting checklists were used by the assessment team to identify compliances and non-compliances of the revised BFCS scheme documents with the requirements of PEFC.

2. Methodology

Indication of conformities and non-conformities

The results of the assessments are shown in the column 'Reference to application documents' and 'YES/NO' in the standard requirement checklists. When the BFCS Standard Documents were found to fully comply with the relevant requirement of the PEFC Council International Benchmark Standards this is indicated with a black **YES**. In the case of a non-conformity (NC) the assessors grouped them as either a Major or Minor NC. A Minor NC identified by the assessors is marked with a red **YES**. Minor NCs are seen as a partial non-conformity related to the fulfilment of a certain PEFC requirement. In case a Major NC was identified by the assessors, this is marked with a red **NO**. This means that a crucial part of the PEFC requirements has not been met.

References, citations and description of non-conformities and observations

The references to the BFCS standard documents are given at the beginning of the relevant section (e.g. 'PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3'). In cases where requirements were met by the BFCS standard documents, citations from the standard documents are copied into the checklists to demonstrate compliance. Citations are written in black colour and are marked with quotation marks ("....."). In cases the assessors formulated the findings in their own words, e.g. by interpreting the content of the provided documented information, the results are written in black colour without quotation marks. In case of a **Minor NC** or **Major NC**, the non-conformities were indicated in bold red colour including a reference to the PEFC Meta-Standards. In case of room for improvement identified by the assessors, an **Observation** is documented in bold red colour stating the relevant recommendations.

Results of stakeholder survey

The results of the stakeholder survey are shown in *cursive letters*.

Additional information identified by assessors and general comments

In several cases, the references given by PEFC Belgium in its standard requirement checklists showed insufficient references to the BFCS standard documents. In several cases (mainly in the SFM Standard), the assessors identified further or better references in the BFCS standard documents which would show the compliance of the requirements with the PEFC International Benchmark Standards. In these cases, the additional points and their content were copied from the BFCS standard document into the checklist in green colour. A short summary of the points explained above is given below.

3 Legend

Column YES/NO:

YES = Assessment showed compliance with the PEFC International Benchmark Standards

YES = Minor non-conformity with the PEFC International Benchmark Standards

NO = Major non-conformity with the PEFC International Benchmark Standards

N/A = Not applicable

Column 'Reference to application documents':

Black = Evaluations made by the assessors

'Black' = Quotations from BFCS Standard Documents

RED = Minor NCs, Major NCs and Observations

Cursive = results of stakeholder survey

Part I: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for standard setting (PEFC ST 1001:2010)

1 Scope

Part I covers the requirements for standard setting defined in PEFC ST 1001:2010, *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.

2 Checklist

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
Standardising Body			
4.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
a) its status and structure, including a body responsible for consensus building (see 4.4) and for formal adoption of the standard (see 5.11),	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3: 3.1 The standardising body is the PEFC Belgium. The PEFC Belgium comprises of the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium which is responsible for the formal adoption of regional standards for SFM in the Walloon Region (3.1.1), the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium which is responsible for the development and revision (every 5 years) of the development and revision procedures for the regional SFM Standards (3.1.2) and the General Secretariat of PEFC Belgium, which is responsible for ensuring implementation of, and compliance with, the present procedure and all rules governing the technical activities of PEFC Belgium (3.1.3). 3.2 Regional Forum "Regional forest management standards are developed and revised by a Regional Forum consisting of the organisations involved in the sustainable management of forests in the Region. Regional Forums are created and dissolved by the Board of Directors. The Regional Forum must report on

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>its work to the Board of Directors" (3.2.1).</p> <p>To reflect the interest of all interest groups concerned, the Forum is structured in 5 chambers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest owners and managers • The wood industry and commerce • Consumer representatives, the users of green spaces (hunters, walkers, etc.), and worker organisations (unions) • Environmental groups • Research centres <p>(3.2.2)</p> <p>"A Chairman and a Secretary must be elected. The content of Forum debates must be reported by the Secretary in the meeting's minutes. In any event, a consensus should be reached by all members of the Forum. The Forum must prove that standards have been approved by consensus before they are officially adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium" (3.2.3).</p>
b) the record-keeping procedures,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>"All intermediate documents leading to the development of a national scheme will be kept for a minimum period of five years and will be available on request to all interested parties."</p> <p>The documents will be available on request from the Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium, which implies that the Secretariat General is responsible for record keeping.</p>
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>The Regional Forum which is responsible for the standard development and revision activities consists of 5 chambers (see CL 4.1.a above) which represent major groups of stakeholders concerned.</p> <p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.1.2:</p> <p>An invitation list to all players relevant to the Forum is created.</p> <p>"The Board of Directors identifies the relevant players who meet the objectives and field of application of the</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			revision work. Mapping will be done to define: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sectors of interest • The areas of each sector that may require attention • The stakeholders of each sector"
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4: The processes for the standard setting are documented in the above mentioned chapter: General steps of the process are launching of the process > preparation of the process (establishment of the Regional Forum) > construction process (Forum discussions and consensus building) > public consultation by Forum > pilot studies (if necessary, not for revisions) > approval of development report and final documents (by Board of Directors and Extraordinary General Meeting) > forwarding final documents to PEFC Council (by the General Secretariat)
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.3: The mechanisms for reaching consensus in the Regional Forum are documented in the above mentioned chapter. Generally consensus should be reached by all members of the Forum. In case a consensus cannot be reached, the final decision will be taken by vote or will be handled as a last recourse via the PEFC Belgium complaint and appeals hearing and resolution procedures.
f) revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.1.2 The obligation to review the PEFC Belgium Scheme every 5 years is indicated in the chapter mentioned above: "The development and revision, every five years, of the development and/or revision procedure for regional sustainable forest management standards is the responsibility of the PEFC Belgium Board of Directors"

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 7:</p> <p>The obligations in case of changes due to PEFC requirements are documented in the chapter mentioned above:</p> <p>"When the PEFC Council modifies its general requirements for the development and implementation of sustainable forest management standards, it will inform PEFC Belgium of the changes and of the deadline by which they must be implemented in the national scheme. All revisions of PEFC Belgium standards required by the PEFC Council must be submitted by PEFC Belgium to the PEFC Council for evaluation, validation and mutual acknowledgement within the time limit granted."</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>No procedures for reviews in case of changes in the scheme specific framework are documented in the PEFC B 2001:2012. Even though this requirement is not included in the PEFC ST 1001:2010, a revision in case of scheme specific changes could be necessary according to the requirements in PEFC GD 1007:2012 Chapter 6.2. This could happen for example in case of relevant changes to the Belgian legislation, since the BFCS SFM Standard for the Walloon Region refers to the Code Forestier in several points. Such changes would affect the BFCS Scheme and could result in non-conformities related to the PEFC requirements. This fact should also be addressed more specific in the PEFC requirements for the standard setting process.</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>The regular implementation of the 5 years revision process should be stated more clearly in the document. Even though it is mentioned in the chapter concerning the obligation of the BoD, it should be integrated into Chapter 7, which deals with the requirements for the revision process. This would point out this important general requirement more clearly to potential new staff, which might be involved in the management of PEFC Belgium's procedures in future years.</p>
4.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>The following documents will be advertised on the PEFC Belgium and PEFC webpage:</p> <p>Present procedures, revision start date, revised standards proposed by the Forum, Public Consultation Form,</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>available and shall regularly review its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.</p>			<p>comments of public consultation, modified standards after consideration of public comments, final version of documents after approval by Extraordinary General Meeting and any complaints and appeals and their outcome.</p> <p>The minutes of Forum meetings shall be available on request from the Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium.</p> <p>The standard setting procedures are reviewed every 5 years in the context of the PEFC Belgium Scheme review.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 6: Same information as in the PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5 (see above).</p> <p>The standard setting procedures are reviewed every 5 years in the context of the PEFC Belgium Scheme review.</p> <p>The following documents are published on the PEFC Belgium Homepage at present date of assessment:</p> <p>1) Revision calendar and revision procedure: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/cc_site.html</p> <p>2) Responses to stakeholder survey and public consultation: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/reponses_a_la_consultation_publique_des_standards_de_gestion_forestiere_de_pefc_en_region_wallonne_pour_la_periode_2013_2018_site.html</p>
<p>4.3 The standardising body shall keep records relating to the standard-setting process providing evidence of</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>"All intermediate documents leading to the development of a national scheme will be kept for a minimum period of five years and will be available on request to all interested parties."</p> <p>The documents shall be available on request from the Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium, which implies that the Secretariat General is responsible for record keeping.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>compliance with the requirements of this document and the standardising body's own procedures. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties upon request.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Development Report Chapter 6: Same information as in the PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5 (see above). Development Report Chapter 11: The chapter shows a list of minutes, letters and other documents or records from the current standard-setting process which are kept and made publically available upon request. These documents were also provided for this assessment.</p>
<p>4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.1: A Regional Forum is established as working group by the Board of Directors, consisting of relevant stakeholder groups and structured into 5 chambers. The Forum is a temporary working group newly established for each review of the PEFC Belgium Scheme and is responsible for the standard-setting activities.</p>
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Development Report, Chapter 3.2.1: The standard-setting activities were carried out by a Forum, which reported to the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium. Development Report Chapter 11: Listing of minutes of Forum meetings and provision of minutes of Forum meetings in the Annex as supporting documents for this assessment.</p>
<p>4.4 The working group/committee shall:</p>			
<p>a) be accessible to materially and directly</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.2: The chapter requires that "Forums must ensure balanced representation of the various interest groups and</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
affected stakeholders,	Process	YES	<p>be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders."</p> <p>Development Report Chapter 3.2.2: The chapter describes that all organisations with a clear link to the regional forests were invited, which officially recognize the PEFC. Organisations that are representative of a particular sector were favoured although no application was refused.</p> <p>Development Report Annex 2: The Annex shows the contact details of the Forum members which participated in the standard-setting process.</p> <p>Representatives of all 5 chambers of the Forum were participating including forest owners and managers, industry and timber trade, consumer representatives, users of green spaces and organisations, representative of workers, environmental associations and research centres and scientific organisations. Each chamber consisted of representatives of several organisations.</p>
b) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard where single concerned interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.2: The chapter requires that all organisations with a clear link to the <i>regional forests</i> shall be invited and that representatives of the 5 chambers (see above) have to be present in the Forum.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex 2: The Annex shows the contact details of the Forum members which participated in the standard-setting process.</p> <p>Representatives of all 5 chambers of the Forum were participating. Each chamber consisted of representatives of several organisations.</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed, that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the balanced representation of stakeholders during the standard setting process.</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>c) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 20012:2012 Chapter 3.2.2:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that Forum participants must be selected "including stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those than can influence the implementation of the standard".</p> <p>Even though not specifically mentioned, the definition of the chambers of the Forum implies that the materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 3.2.2:</p> <p>Even though not specifically mentioned, the selection of stakeholders according to the 5 chambers shows that stakeholders with expertise, materially affected stakeholders and stakeholders influencing the implementation of the standards were participating in the Forum.</p> <p>Development Report Annex 2:</p> <p>The Annex shows the contact details of the Forum members which participated in the standard-setting process.</p> <p>Representatives of all 5 chambers of the Forum were participating. Each chamber consisted of representatives of several organisations.</p>
<p>4.5 The standardising body shall establish procedures for dealing with any substantive and procedural complaints relating to the standardising activities which are accessible to</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 6:</p> <p>The procedures for dealing with complaints concerning the standardising activities are specified in the chapter mentioned above, distinguishing between complaints made as part of the revision process (1) and complaints about the decisions of the Extraordinary General Meeting (2):</p> <p>"All complaints and appeals will be addressed by PEFC Belgium. It will treat them according to the hearing and resolution procedures for complaints and appeals below."</p> <p>(1) " Complaints made as part of the revision procedure: Complaints and claims made against PEFC Belgium about the revision procedure for regional sustainable forest management standards will be recorded by the</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
stakeholders.			Secretariat General of PEFC Belgium". (2) "Complaints about the Extraordinary General Meeting's decision with respect to the adoption of standards: If the decision taken by the General Meeting regarding the adoption or non-adoption of standards is contested, the complainant(s) can submit an appeal to a national appeals examination board. The committee will consist of a forest owners' representative, a wood industry representative and an environmental organisations' representative designated by the Board of Directors." Generally, all "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".
	Process	N/A	Development Report Chapter 7: "No complaint was lodged about the framework of the revision process itself or relating to the decision of the Extraordinary General Meeting regarding the adoption of the standards."
4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:			
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 6: The chapter requires that "on receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat of PEFC Belgium must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide confirmation in writing to the complainant that their complaint was received".
	Process	N/A	Development Report Chapter 7: "No complaint was lodged about the framework of the revision process itself or relating to the decision of the Extraordinary General Meeting regarding the adoption of the standards."
b) gather and verify all	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 6:

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint, and			The chapter requires, that "on receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat of PEFC Belgium must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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".
	Process	N/A	Development Report Chapter 7: "No complaint was lodged about the framework of the revision process itself or relating to the decision of the Extraordinary General Meeting regarding the adoption of the standards."
c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 6: The chapter requires, that "on receipt of the complaint, the Secretariat of PEFC Belgium must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally communicate the decision with an explanation to the complainant".
	Process	N/A	Development Report Chapter 7: "No complaint was lodged about the framework of the revision process itself or relating to the decision of the Extraordinary General Meeting regarding the adoption of the standards."
4.6 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries and complaints relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be made easily available.	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 6: The contact point will be the General Secretariat of PEFC Belgium, which can be reached by e-mail or postal address.
Standard-setting process			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.1.2:</p> <p>The Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium is responsible for the identification of the relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>"The Board of Directors identifies the relevant players who meet the objectives and field of application of the revision work. Mapping will be done to define:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sectors of interest • The areas of each sector that may require attention • The stakeholders of each sector"
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 1:</p> <p>The chapter documents, that "the General Secretariat was instructed to prepare a preparatory file and submit it for approval to the BD of PEFC Belgium. Development report p7/29.</p> <p>The preparatory file is consisting of the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the stakeholders, identification of the key and disadvantaged stakeholders and identification of the stakeholders' supposed major points at issue;" <p>Development Report Annex 1:</p> <p>The Annex 1 provides an overview about the stakeholders which were identified to be relevant. All identified stakeholders have a clear link to forestry in the Walloon Region and were distributed over the sectors of interest identified by the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium.</p>
<p>5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders. The standardising body</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.1.2:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium shall implement the following actions:</p> <p>"Relevant players will be divided into 'disadvantaged' and 'key' players. A 'disadvantaged player' may be disadvantaged from a financial standpoint or in some other way with respect to standards development work.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.</p>			<p>A 'key player' is a player whose participation is critical to the results of the standards development process." The preferred means of communication shall be determined.</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>There are wrong chapter references to be found in this chapter. There are references to Chapter 3.4.1 concerning the implementation of the Forum (should be Chapter 3.2) and 3.4.2 concerning invitation of experts to the Forum (should be 3.2.2). The references should be corrected to prevent confusion.</p> <p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1c: The chapter requires, that the following actions are necessary: "an invitation to nominate their representative(s) to the Forum. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is understandable".</p>
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 1: The chapter documents, that "38 stakeholders were invited including 18 key partners. No stakeholder was identified as a disadvantaged stakeholder." Development Report Annex 1: The Annex 1 provides an overview about the stakeholders which were identified to be relevant including their status as key stakeholders. No disadvantaged stakeholders are listed. The identified stakeholders were proactively invited by invitation letters (an example of the letter in French was provided with the supporting documentation to this assessment).</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed, that only one respondent (representing the private forest owners) was partially dissatisfied with the statement that no disadvantaged stakeholders were identified during the process. However, the comment given by the stakeholder shows, that they refer to a general imbalance in terms of financial input into forest management among private forest owners and environmental NGOs. This statement does not fully meet the interpretation of disadvantaged stakeholders during the standard setting</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<i>process. Generally it can be stated that the respondents were satisfied with this process.</i>
5.3 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation for participation in a timely manner on its website and in suitable media as appropriate to afford stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "public announcement of the start of the sustainable forest management standards development/revision process will be made via the PEFC Belgium Internet site in order to provide the greatest amount of information about the revision process. The Secretariat General will send out invitations to participate in the Forum to a list of interested parties created by the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium. Interested stakeholders will be identified based on the recommendations in point 3.1.2". (See also CL 5.2).</p> <p>Even though it is not specifically mentioned that the public announcement and the invitation letters are sent prior to the start of the assessment, it can be implied since the implemented process shows that it was done accordingly in this revision process.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2:</p> <p>The chapter documents, that the publication and invitation process started in the beginning of 2011:</p> <p>"An article publicly announcing the revision of the standards was posted on our website www.pefc.be on 18/02/11."</p> <p>"A letter dated 20 January 2011 invited the identified stakeholders to participate in the revision of the standards. The members of PEFC Belgium and the regional working group were personally invited by letter and an additional invitation was sent to the Chair or Director of each stakeholder identified."</p> <p>A screenshot of the PEFC Belgium webpage from 16.03.2011 showing the announcement of the review of the Belgium PEFC Scheme was provided. It is stated in handwriting that the publication took place on 18.02.2011.</p>
5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "the public announcement and the invitation will contain, at a minimum, a) an explanation about the objectives, scope and the steps of the development/revision process and its timetable".</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2:</p> <p>The chapter refers to a public announcement on the PEFC Belgium Webpage and refers to the invitation letter sent to the identified stakeholders.</p> <p>A screenshot from the PEFC Belgium website from 16.03.2011 was provided with the scheme documentation to be assessed, showing the publication of the revision standard setting procedures.</p> <p>An assessment of the PEFC Belgium webpage at time of this assessment revealed, that the same publication is still active on the Webpage. Objectives and scope of the revision are indicated in the revision procedures published on this Webpage and a timetable of the revision process was also published on the same Webpage.</p> <p>1) Revision calendar and revision procedure: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/cc_site.html</p> <p>The invitation letters included a description about the background of the revision process.</p>
<p>b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1 b:</p> <p>The chapter requires that the public announcement will include "the way in which interested parties can contribute to the process".</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2:</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			The identified stakeholders were proactively invited to participate in the Forum of the revision process.
(c) an invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) to the working group/committee. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is understandable,	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1 c: The chapter requires that the public announcement and the invitation contain "an invitation to nominate their representative(s) to the Forum. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is understandable."
	Process	YES	Generally it was stated that no disadvantaged stakeholders were identified (see CL 5.2). Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2: Invitations were sent by letters, e-mail and telephone reminders were also made. This means of communication can be seen as sufficient to reach the identified stakeholders. The invitation letter was accompanied by a commitment letter which had to be sent to PEFC Belgium. This commitment letter included the requirement to nominate a representative of the organisation. 22 commitment letters of stakeholders were provided with the scheme documentation to be assessed.
d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process, and	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1 d: The chapter requires that the public announcement and the invitation contain "an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard setting process".
	Process	YES	Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2: The chapter does not document how the invitation to comment on the scope of the standard-setting was communicated to the stakeholders. However, the invitation to comment on the scope and the standard setting process was included in the invitation letter sent to the identified stakeholders.
e) reference to	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1 e:

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
publicly available standard-setting procedures.			The chapter requires that the public announcement and the invitation contain a "reference of the public available procedure on the PEFC Belgium website www.pefc.be ".
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2:</p> <p>Reference to public announcement of the revision process on 18.02.2011.</p> <p>Provision of screenshot of PEFC Belgium Screenshot showing the publication.</p> <p>At present date of the assessment, the publication is still active on the PEFC Belgium webpage, including the standard setting procedures, under:</p> <p>http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/cc_site.html</p>
5.4 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.3.1:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "the standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting".</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 2:</p> <p>The chapter documents that 28 associations accepted the invitation and 4 key stakeholders did not participate. It is also stated, that sufficient associations were representing the different chambers.</p> <p>Development Report Annex 2:</p> <p>The list of participating organisations is documented. The list shows, that each chamber comprises of 3 or more organisations. This fact can be seen as sufficient to reflect a broad range of different interest and ideas in the work of the Forum.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.			
5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group/committee,	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.3 a: The chapter requires, that "working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group/committee".
	Process	YES	Development Report Chapter 3.2.3: The chapter documents, that "meetings discussions were recorded and the minutes of each meeting sent to all participants (and all interested parties) together with working drafts. Comments have been each time taken into account." Minutes of 5 Forum meetings are attached to the scheme documentation. Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 3: The chapter indicates, that "for the revision, the Forum took into consideration new PEFC International standards adopted in November 2010. The PEFC ST 1003:2010 document has been translated into French and was provided to all members of the Forum along with the Preparatory file" (consisting of the revision and development procedures for regional standards in Belgium and mapping and rating of stakeholders). The example for the invitation letter shows that the procedures for the revision and development for regional standards in Belgium have been sent by the invitation letter. <i>The stakeholder survey showed, that only one respondent (representing the private forest owners) was partially dissatisfied with the availability of the working drafts, minutes and further documents which are</i>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<i>considered to be important during the standard setting process. However, the comment given by the stakeholder refers to problems related to the general understanding of the PEFCCs documents and does not really refer to the availability of the working drafts, minutes and further standard setting documents. Generally it can be stated that the respondents were satisfied with this process.</i>
b) all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts, and	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.3 b: The chapter requires, that "all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development, their revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts".
	Process	YES	Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 3: The chapter documents, that different ways of open discussions between representatives of the individual organisations were used, where all members had the opportunity to contribute to the content of the revised standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and scoring of weaknesses of the Belgium sustainable forest management standard by a working group representing all chambers on 31.03.2011 and 07.04.2011, resulting in the identification of 97 weaknesses • Validation of the scores by a Forum plenary sitting on 03.05.2011, comprising of several representatives per chamber (minutes of 2nd Forum meeting provided with the scheme documentation) • Implementation of thematic roundtable discussions in small working groups representing a minimum of 1 representative per chamber to elaborate proposals to amend the charter. Topics were operators/ foresters specifications, forest owner management plan, forest-game balance and social forest. Final output were proposals of changes to be approved by the Forum (minutes of the roundtable discussions were provided with the scheme documentation) • Approval of the revised standards on 29.06.2011 on the third Forum meeting (minutes of the third Forum meeting were provided with the scheme documentation) <i>The stakeholder survey showed, that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the opportunities to contribute to the standard setting process.</i>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>c) comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.3 c: The chapter requires, that "comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 3.2.3: The chapter documents that "all decisions were made consensually. The points of view of all participants were considered openly and transparently. Meetings discussions were recorded and the minutes of each meeting send to all participants (and all interested parties) together with working drafts. Comments have been each time taken into account." Minutes of the Forum meetings and roundtable discussions were provided with the Scheme documents. The minutes show, that a broad range of views of different representatives were recorded. <i>The stakeholder survey showed, that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the transparent and objective consideration and the resolution of their comments.</i></p>
<p>5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:</p>			
<p>a) the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media,</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5: The chapter states only that "the consultation start and end dates will be announced in advance via the appropriate media." <u>Observation</u> It remains unclear what media are considered as appropriate to reach all stakeholders concerned. It should be explained more specific which media are considered to be 'appropriate' and why these media are appropriate to reach the concerned stakeholders.</p> <p>However, the implemented process of the revision shows that suitable media were used (see below).</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 4:</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>The chapter documents that "the enquiry draft (thus made up of temporary management standards) was submitted for public consultation from 23/08 to 22/10/11 to allow each individual or legal entity to give his/its opinion on the temporary standards and to propose changes."</p> <p>The media used to communicate the start and end of the public consultation was the PEFC Belgium webpage, press release, a Facebook post and an announcement during a seminar on 'Forest and Biodiversity' (300 participants).</p> <p>Press articles following the press release were provided with the documents for the Belgium Scheme as documentation of the timely announcement. Furthermore, the revision calendar published on the PEFC Belgium webpage on 18.02.2011 planned the public consultation for September/October 2011.</p> <p>At present date of the assessment, the publication is still active on the PEFC Belgium webpage, including the revision calendar, under: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/cc_site.html</p>
<p>b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable,</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5:</p> <p>The chapter states, that "the Secretariat will ensure that the Forum document (enquiry draft) is accessible and understandable to all key and disadvantaged stakeholders."</p> <p>"The Forum Document (enquiry draft) submitted to the General Public will be published on the PEFC Belgium website at www.pefc.be. It will also be sent by e-mail to a distribution list prepared by the Secretariat General."</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>There are no specific procedures documented how to fulfil this requirement and who will be identified by the Secretariat General to be on the mailing list. The way of identifying stakeholders to be on the mailing list for the active invitation to participate in the public consultation should be documented more clearly to make this point better understandable for potential new staff in the future.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>No disadvantaged stakeholders had been identified (see CL 5.2).</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 4:</p> <p>The media used was the PEFC Belgium webpage, press release, a mailing list, a Facebook post and an announcement during a seminar on 'Forest and Biodiversity' (300 participants). The documents were presented in French to the stakeholders.</p> <p>These media are generally seen as appropriate to reach the relevant stakeholders concerning the assessment of the Belgium Scheme, since no disadvantaged stakeholders (e.g. without access to electronic media) were identified.</p>
c) the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5:</p> <p>The chapter states that "the Forum Document (enquiry draft) submitted to the General Public will be published on the PEFC Belgium website at www.pefc.be. It will also be sent by e-mail to a distribution list prepared by the Secretariat General."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 4:</p> <p>The media used was the PEFC Belgium webpage, press release, a Facebook post and an announcement during a seminar on 'Forest and Biodiversity' (300 participants). The documents were presented in French to the stakeholders.</p> <p>These media are generally seen as appropriate to reach the relevant stakeholders concerning the assessment of the Belgium Scheme, since no disadvantaged stakeholders (e.g. without access to electronic media) were identified.</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed, that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the public availability and accessibility of the enquiry draft.</i></p>
d) the public consultation is for at	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5:</p> <p>The chapter requires that "the public consultation will last at least 60 days."</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
least 60 days,	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 4:</p> <p>The chapter documents that "the enquiry draft (thus made up of temporary management standards) was submitted for public consultation from 23/08 to 22/10/11", which is a period of 60 days.</p> <p>The provided press articles do exactly announce these dates.</p>
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5:</p> <p>The chapter requires that "the Forum must consider all comments in an open and transparent manner."</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>There is no documentation on specific procedures describing how the fulfilment of this requirement is reached by the Forum in the PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5. However, this fact is treated as an observation since the standard setting process followed best practice methods and, thus, was implemented accordingly. Furthermore, the stakeholder survey showed that all respondents were satisfied with the implemented process (see below).</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 4:</p> <p>The chapter describes that "forty-six reactions were received for the Management Charter and 11 for the Progress Plan.</p> <p>Each reaction, comprising one or more points, was analysed by the Drafting Committee in an objective manner with the help of the General Secretariat. A number of observations led to reformulation proposals. These underwent discussion by the Forum."</p> <p>The areas of interest where the reaction came from were documented in the Development Report as follows:</p> <p>Reactions to the Charter of the SFM Standards:</p> <p>46 reactions, 31 of which come from forest owners/managers, 16 of them PEFC certified, 1 reaction from the timber industry, 6 reactions from environmentalists, 5 reactions from forest users (hikers, hunters, etc.) and 3</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>others.</p> <p>Reactions to the Progress Plan of the SFM Standard:</p> <p>11 reactions of which 4 from forest owners/managers, of which 0 PEFC forest certified, 1 reaction from the timber industry, 3 reactions from environmentalists, 2 reactions from forest users (hikers, hunters, etc.) and 1 other.</p> <p>Furthermore, the chapter states that "responses to the comments were placed on the Internet site and a letter was sent to each person who commented".</p> <p>The consideration of the comments is shown in two documents provided with the documentation of the revised scheme called "table compiled comments public consultation on charter" and "table compiled of comments public consultation progress plan".</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed, that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the consideration of their comments by the working group in an objective manner.</i></p>
<p>(f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.5:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "a summary of the comments received will be compiled when the review results are published on the PEFC Belgium website."</p> <p>The standard setting process was implemented in an appropriate way (see below).</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 4:</p> <p>The chapter claims that "responses to the comments were placed on the internet site and a letter was sent to each person who commented".</p> <p>It can be assumed, that the two documents provided with the documentation of the revised scheme called "table compiled comments public consultation on charter" and "table compiled of comments public consultation progress plan" were published on the webpage of PEFC Belgium in a timely manner after assessment of the comments.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>At present date of the assessment, the documents are advertised on the PEFC Belgium Webpage under: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/reponses_a_la_consultation_publicue_des_standards_de_gestion_forestiere_de_pefc_en_region_wallonne_pour_la_periode_2013_2018_site.html</p>
<p>5.7 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of the new standards and the results of the pilot testing shall be considered by the working group/committee.</p>	Procedures	N/A	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.6: Pilot testing is not applicable for a review process of the PEFC Belgium Scheme.</p>
	Process	N/A	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 5: The chapter states that "this phase was not needed because of the experience gained in the application of management standards in the last 10 years in the Walloon Region."</p>
<p>5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.7.2: The chapter requires that "the Forum will recommend the Final Document when it reaches a consensus. Consensus is defined in 3.4.2." <u>Observation</u> A wrong chapter reference is given, it has to be 3.2.3. The chapter reference should be corrected to prevent confusion.</p> <p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.3: The Forum must prove that standards have been approved by consensus before they are officially adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of PEFC Belgium. 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:</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When four out of five chambers agree to the proposal • When three chambers out of five agree to the proposal, with one or two abstentions. <p>Each chamber will take decisions by simple majority. The chamber must abstain if a majority cannot be obtained.</p> <p>If a serious disagreement within the Forum prevents it from moving forward, the issue will be handled as a last recourse via the PEFC Belgium complaint and appeals hearing and resolution procedures (see point 6 below).</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 6:</p> <p>The adoption of the final draft by the Forum was carried out on the fourth Forum meeting on 02.12.2011.</p> <p>The chapter documents, that the progress plan was adopted by consensus. Where consensus could not be reached, vote by show of hands were carried out.</p> <p>It remains unclear (though can be implied) if the charter finally also was adopted by consensus. Even though it is not stated directly, it is described that the points without consensus were solved by reformulation with final consensus (Item 8 of the charter) and by 4 to 1 vote after reformulation (Item 12 of charter).</p> <p>The process is documented by the minutes of the fourth Forum meeting on 02.12.2011.</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey shows, that 100% of the respondent were satisfied with the provision of the final draft standard and the possibilities to comment.</i></p> <p><i>However, the stakeholder survey showed, that 4 out of 7 respondents were partially dissatisfied with the consensus building process related to the approval of the final draft standard. The comments given by the stakeholders are going into different directions. One stakeholder was dissatisfied with the consideration of the PEFC's requirements during the consensus building process. One stakeholder claims that costs imposed on forest owners and public administration were not adequately considered during consensus building, and one stakeholder is dissatisfied with the way of considering high densities of large game during the consensus building process. No general dissatisfaction of stakeholders related to one specific criteria could be identified during the stakeholder survey.</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
5.8 In order to reach a consensus the working group/committee can utilise the following alternative processes to establish whether there is opposition:			
a) a face-to face meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote, show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair where there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal balloting process, etc.,	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 3.2.3: Even though not specifically mentioned, it can be implied that verbal yes/no votes during face-to-face meetings (Forum meetings) and show of hands for yes/no shall be used, since all decisions are taken in the Forum meetings (face-to-face).
	Process	YES	Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 6: The chapter describes, that in cases where a consensus could not be reached immediately, vote by hands was used to reach the 4 to 1 relation which can be accepted as consensus. The process is documented by the minutes of the fourth Forum meeting on 02.12.2011. <i>The stakeholder survey shows that only one stakeholder was partially dissatisfied with the decision making process in cases where a consensus could not be reached by previous discussions. However, no comment was given to describe the reason for the dissatisfaction. Generally it can be stated that the respondents were satisfied with the process.</i>
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	N/A	See CL 5.8 above.
	Process	N/A	See CL 5.8 above.
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members with the members providing a written response (a	Procedures	N/A	See CL 5.8 above.
	Process	N/A	See CL 5.8 above.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
proxy for a vote), or			
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	N/A	See CL 5.8 above.
	Process	N/A	See CL 5.8 above.
5.9 In the case of a negative vote which represents sustained opposition to any important part of the concerned interests surrounding a substantive issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following mechanism(s):			
a) discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group/committee in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	No specific procedures are documented, but it can be implied by the nature of the used tool as meetings, roundtable discussions and working groups.
	Process	YES	Development Report Chapter 4 Phase 6: Even though it is not stated directly, it is described that one point without consensus was solved by negotiation within the Forum and reformulation with final consensus (Item 8 of the charter).
b) direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) submitting the objection and stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	No specific procedures are documented, but it can be implied by the nature of the used tool as meetings, roundtable discussions and working groups.
	Process	YES	See CL 5.9a above.
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.7.2: The chapter states that "if a serious disagreement within the Forum prevents it from moving forward, the

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			issue will be handled as a last recourse via the PEFC Belgium complaint and appeals hearing and resolution procedures (see point 6 below)."
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.	Process	N/A	Development Report Chapter 4: No dispute resolution process during the review process is documented.
	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that the following documents are advertised on the Webpage of PEFC Belgium and the Webpage of the PEFC Council and shall be available upon request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The present procedure • The development or revision process start date • The minutes of Forum meetings (available on request) • PEFC B 2001:2012 - Requirements for forest management standards setting process 11/12 • The management standards proposed by the Forum and adopted by the Office of PEFC Belgium or, in the case of a revision, the version of revised standards proposed by the Forum and adopted by the Office of PEFC Belgian • The Public Consultation Form • The comments received during the public consultation • The version of the standards modified by the Forum following the public consultation • The final version of the revised standards adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting • Any complaints and appeals and their outcome. <p>The list of documents can be seen as sufficient to fulfill this requirement.</p>
	Process	YES	Development Report Chapter 6: The chapter gives the same information as in the related procedure (see above).

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>However, only the following documents are currently published on the PEFC Belgium homepage at the date of the assessment:</p> <p>1) Revision start date and revision procedure: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/cc_site.html</p> <p>2) Responses to stakeholder survey and public consultation: http://www.pefcbelgium.be/fr/reponses_a_la_consultation_publique_des_standards_de_gestion_forestiere_de_pefc_en_region_wallonne_pour_la_periode_2013_2018_site.html</p> <p>The full BFCS is published on the PEFC Belgium homepage and can be accessed via a link from the PEFC Belgium homepage. Discussions with the Secretary General of PEFC Belgium revealed, that the PEFC Belgium homepage is currently being re-designed and shall be set up similar to the PEFC Belgium homepage to make navigation and document search easier.</p>
<p>5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.7.3: The Board of Directors must formally approve the final standard documents.</p> <p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 4.7.4: "After approval by the Board of Directors, the Final Document must be submitted to the Extraordinary General Meeting. In accordance with Article 19 of the articles of association of PEFC Belgium, the General Meeting must take decisions based on a majority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the members present or represented and • In at least four of the five colleges of the General Meeting."
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 5: The chapter documents the "unanimous approval of all documents comprises in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme" by the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium on 27.06.2012 and the "unanimous</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			approval of all documents comprises in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme" by the Extraordinary General Meeting on 27.06.2012.
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that the following documents are advertised on the Webpage of PEFC Belgium and the Webpage of the PEFC Council and shall be available upon request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management standards proposed by the Forum and adopted by the Office of PEFC Belgium or, in the case of a revision, the version of revised standards proposed by the Forum and adopted by the Office of PEFC Belgium
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Chapter 6:</p> <p>The chapter gives the same information as in the related procedure (see above).</p> <p>However, the full set of required standards and normative documents are not found directly on the PEFC Belgium Webpage.</p> <p>The full BFCS is published on the PEFC homepage and can be accessed via a link from the PEFC Belgium homepage. Discussions with the Secretary General of PEFC Belgium revealed, that the PEFC Belgium homepage is currently being re-designed and shall be set up similar to the PEFC homepage to make navigation and document search easier.</p>
Revisions of standards/normative documents			
6.1 The standards/normative documents shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The	Process	YES	<p>PEFC 0001:2012 Chapter 2:</p> <p>The chapter describes the timeline of revisions of the Belgium Forest Certification Scheme: "As required by the PEFC Council Technical Document, the BFCS was revised for the first time and adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly of 3 April 2007. The first revision was approved by the PEFC Council on 8 March 2008."</p> <p>The second revision was adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly of 27.06.2012 and submitted to the</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.</p>			<p>PEFCC. The assessment process of the BFCS Standards and documents is currently ongoing. PEFC Belgium received an extension of the 5 years period until completion of the assessment process which was approved by the Board of Directors of PEFC Council (information from Dr. Michael Berger, Head of Technical Unit PEFC Council).</p>
<p>6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The revision of the BFCS was adopted by PEFC Belgium formally on 27.06.2012.</p> <p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 8:</p> <p>The chapter specifies, that "all owners and managers wishing to become certified must immediately implement the new sustainable forest management standards.</p> <p>For owners who are already certified, revised regional sustainable forest management standards will become effective within maximum 12 months of their acknowledgement by the PEFC Council."</p> <p>Although not specifically mentioned, it can be implied, that new forest owners and managers wishing to become certified have to comply with the revised BFCS from the 27.06.2012 onwards.</p> <p>For already certified owners and managers the revised BFCS will become mandatory latest 12 months after acknowledgement by the PEFC Council (transition period of 12 months). The date of acknowledgement is not known yet, since the BFCS is currently under assessment by the PEFCC.</p>
<p>6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents,</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 8:</p> <p>The application for new owners / managers wishing to become certified is mandatory from the day of formal adoption by PEFC. It can be implied that this is the date of publishing the adopted BFCS documents on the Webpage of PEFC Belgium.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.			
6.4 The transition date shall not exceed a period of one year except in justified exceptional circumstances where the implementation of the revised standards/normative documents requires a longer period.	Process	YES	PEFC B 2001:2012 Chapter 8: For already certified owners and managers the revised BFCS will become mandatory latest 12 months after acknowledgement by the PEFC Council (transition period of 12 months). The date of acknowledgement is not known yet, since the BFCS is currently under assessment by the PEFCC.

3 Application documentation

The application for the endorsement and mutual recognition as defined in Chapter 5 of Annex 7 (*Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision*) shall include information which enables the assessment of the applicant system's compliance with the PEFCC requirements.

The application documentation should identify and make reference to other detailed documentation such as minutes, internal procedures and rules, reports, etc. which do not need to create a part of the application documentation.

Asses. basis* The standard setting is assessed against the PEFCC requirements in two stages: (i) compliance of written standard setting procedures ('Procedures') and (ii) compliance of the standard setting process itself ('Process').

For 'Procedures' the applicant should refer to the part(s) of its standard setting procedures related to the respective PEFC requirement. For 'Process' the applicant should either refer to the report/records of the standard setting process forming a part of the submitted application documents, or describe how the PEFC requirement was fulfilled during the standard setting process.

YES/NO*

If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

PART II: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Group FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (PEFC ST 1002:2010)

1 Scope

Part II covers requirements for group forest management certification as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2010, *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

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
General		
4.1 Does the forest certification scheme provide clear definitions for the following terms in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3 of PEFC ST 1002:2010:		
a) the group organisation,	YES	PEFC B 4001:2012 page 3: " 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".
b) the group entity,	YES	PEFC B 4001:2012 page 3: " group entity = regional entity: is 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."
c) the participant,	YES	PEFC B 4001:2012 page 4: " Participants : A forest owner/manager or other entity covered by the group forest certificate, who has the legal right to manage the forest in a clearly defined forest area, and the ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard in that area. "

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
d) the certified area,	YES	PEFC B 4001:2012 page 2: "Certified area : the forest area covered by a group forest certificate representing the sum of forest areas of the participants"
e) the group forest certificate, and	YES	PEFC B 4001:2012 page 3: "group forest certificate: a document confirming that the group organisation complies with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme."
f) the document confirming participation in group forest certification.	YES	PEFC B 4001:2012 page 3: "Document confirming participation in group forest certification = attestation: a document issued to an individual participant that refers to the group forest certificate and that confirms the participant as being covered by the scope of the group forest certification."
4.1.2 In cases where a forest certification scheme allows an individual forest owner to be covered by additional group or individual forest management certifications, the scheme shall ensure that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one forest management certification scheme is addressed in any other forest management certification scheme that covers the forest owner.	YES	PEFC Belgium: "Not applicable" Additional information provided by BFCS: "PEFC B cannot forbid the double certification." We shall modify the BFCS to include the fact that a non-conformity in another forest certification scheme is addressed in any other fcs" Minor NC 2013-01 BFCS does not state in the relevant documentation provided for the assessment that multiple certification is not allowed for its certified participants. Consequently the requirement applies in full and must be met by BFCS. BFCS does not have documented procedures in place to meet the requirement.
4.1.3 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for group forest certification which ensure that participants' conformity with the sustainable forest	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4: "By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and by the regional entity and, in particular, forest management standards." PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>management standard is centrally administered and is subject to central review and that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring programme.</p>		<p>"Operation The regional entity acts on behalf of the forest owners participating in regional certification. Since sustainable forest management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, an environmental management system will be developed by the regional entity in order to implement the standards. The management system can be developed according to ISO 14001, ISO 9001 or EMAS. The following elements must be in place: The documented commitment of the regional entity's upper management to conform with regional standards and legal requirements Documentation of the structure and of responsibilities within the regional entity Documented procedures for internal audits, notably requirements related to the qualification of internal auditors and the definition of the sampling method Documented procedures for the management of non-conformities and corrective and preventive measures Documented procedures for the management of participant registries Documented procedures for the management of documentation and files." PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2 e: "Internal audits to ensure that the commitments made by the participants with respect to forest management standards defined at the forest management unit level are implemented. The regional entity defines procedures for corrective and preventive measures." PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2 j: "To operate a review of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken."</p>
<p>4.1.4 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2 "Since sustainable forest management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, an environmental management system will be developed by the regional entity in order to implement the standards. The management system can be developed according to ISO 14001, ISO 9001 or EMAS. The following elements must be in place: ... Documented procedures for internal audits, notably requirements related to the qualification of internal auditors and the definition of the sampling method Documented procedures for the management of non-conformities and corrective and preventive measures"</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2 e: "Internal audits to ensure that the commitments made by the participants with respect to forest management standards defined at the forest management unit level are implemented. The regional entity defines procedures for corrective and preventive measures."
<i>The stakeholder survey showed, that one organisation/respondent found that point 4.1 of standard PEFC 1003 on the general requirements for sustainable forest management was not completed correctly. However, in the absence of a more precise description of this perceived weakness, a clear link to a specific requirement is impossible.</i>		
Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
4.2.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the function and responsibility of the group entity:		
a) 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;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2: "The regional entity must: a. Represent the Region (= group organisation) in the certification process. For this, the regional entity must send its candidacy for certification and must be contractually tied to an accredited and notified certification body. The latter must comply with the requirements defined in PEFC B 1002: 2012. The regional entity must communicate general information about itself and provide a complete list of participants in the regional certification. g. Offer all participants information and provide direction for the effective implementation of forest management standards."
b) To provide a commitment on behalf of the whole group organisation to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2: "b. Provide a commitment on behalf of the Region (= group organisation) to comply with the forest management standards defined in the Scheme in Chapter PEFC B 1002: 2012." "h. Record and consign: - Proof of the regional entity's conformity and that of all the participants in forest management standards (PEFC B 1002: 2012) and other requirements applicable to the forest certification scheme"
c) To establish written procedures for the	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2: "Since sustainable forest management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions,

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
management of the group organisation;		<p>practices, procedures and controls, an environmental management system will be developed by the regional entity in order to implement the standards. The management system can be developed according to ISO 14001, ISO 9001 or EMAS. The following elements must be in place:</p> <p>The documented commitment of the regional entity's upper management to conform with regional standards and legal requirements</p> <p>Documentation of the structure and of responsibilities within the regional entity</p> <p>Documented procedures for internal audits, notably requirements related to the qualification of internal auditors and the definition of the sampling method</p> <p>Documented procedures for the management of non-conformities and corrective and preventive measures</p> <p>Documented procedures for the management of participant registries</p> <p>Documented procedures for the management of documentation and files."</p>
<p>d) To keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme, - all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s), - the certified area, - the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or 	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2:</p> <p>"h. Record and consign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of the regional entity's conformity and that of all the participants in forest management standards (PEFC B 1002: 2012) and other requirements applicable to the forest certification scheme - A register of certification participants (personal contact information, identification of forest property(s) and of their area) - The total certified area - Implementation of the internal audit programme."

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
corrective actions taken;		
<p>e) To establish connections with all participants based on a 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 non-conformity with the sustainable forest management standard;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4:</p> <p>"a) Individual forest owners (private or public) participate in regional certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the regional entity. The commitment can also be signed by the forest manager if they are not the owner and if they have received a mandate to do so from the forest owner.</p> <p>...</p> <p>By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and by the regional entity and, in particular, forest management standards.</p> <p>e) Individual forest owners accept the certification rules defined by the regional entity."</p> <p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2:</p> <p>"Since sustainable forest management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, an environmental management system will be developed by the regional entity in order to implement the standards. The management system can be developed according to ISO 14001, ISO 9001 or EMAS. The following elements must be in place:</p> <p>...</p> <p>Documented procedures for the management of non-conformities and corrective and preventive measures</p> <p>..."</p> <p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.5:</p> <p>"A participant in regional certification can be excluded if a major non-conformity with certification requirements is found by the regional entity and/or by the certification body and/or if corrective measures are not implemented."</p>
<p>f) To provide participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2:</p> <p>"f. Issue an attestation (Appendix 2) for each individual participant who has signed the charter. This attestation demonstrates their participation in regional certification. At a minimum, it includes the following information: owner name, area and location of the certified property(s), regional certification membership number, name address and signature of the regional entity manager, the regional entity's PEFC logo, the regional certificate number and the name and address of the certification body, and the validity period of the attestation."</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		PEFC B 1001:2012 "Appendix 2 Sample attestation of participation in regional certification (private part)"
g) To provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2: "d. Develop and make available an individual commitment document for forest participants who want to join the regional certification. The document must contain the following information: A practical guide to assist with charter implementation. It is an explanatory document with recommendations appended to the charter to help owners meet requirements as well as possible."
h) To operate an annual internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements, and;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2: "e. Internal audits to ensure that the commitments made by the participants with respect to forest management standards defined at the forest management unit level are implemented. The regional entity defines procedures for corrective and preventive measures. The evaluation is carried out every year based on a sampling of properties." PEFC B 1001:2012 "Appendix 1 Guide to implement internal audits by regional entities (in the Walloon region)"
i) To operate a review of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.2: "j. To operate a review of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken."

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
Function and responsibilities of participants		
4.3.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the participants:		
a) To provide the group entity with a written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4: "a) Individual forest owners (private or public) participate in regional certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the regional entity. The commitment can also be signed by the forest manager if they are not the owner and if they have received a mandate to do so from the forest owner. ... By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and by the regional entity and, in particular, forest management standards." "e) Individual forest owners accept the certification rules defined by the regional entity."
b) To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4: "a) ... By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and by the regional entity and, in particular, forest management standards."
c) 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;	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4: "c) Owners must provide the regional entity and the certification body with all documents required for audits, answer all requests for relevant data or documentation, authorise access to the forest and other installations related to audits."
d) To implement relevant	YES	PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.		"b) ... In the event of a non-conformity identified by the internal/external auditor, the forest owner must implement owner suitable corrective and preventive measures established by the regional entity."

PART III: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2010)

1 Scope

Part III covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2010, *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.

2 Checklist

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
General requirements for SFM standards		
4.1 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.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, page 2: "The criteria includes management and performance requirements that are applicable at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level or at the regional level to ensure that all requirements is achieved at the FMU level."
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, page 2: "Upon examining the PEFC International standards, it appears that management standards in Belgium can only be met if they are drawn up concomitantly at two levels - regional and individual. ... Both levels define clear, objective-based and auditable requirements."
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, page 2: "The individual requirements correspond to a series of management practices that have to be implemented by all

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.		<p>private or public forest owners wishing to be part of the PEFC regional certification process (Sustainable forest management charter). They are defined on the basis of all the PEFC International standards relevant to the types of management unit found in the Walloon Region."</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. - 2</p> <p>"inform everyone involved in the management of my property (owner, manager, service provider, hunters...) on a regular basis of the details of membership of the PEFC"</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 11</p> <p>"use wood sales and exploitations specification..."</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012 does not refer to record-keeping. However, for the practical implementation records are required.</p> <p>PEFC B 1001:2012, 5.1.4:</p> <p>"h. Record and consign:</p> <p>- Proof of the regional entity's conformity and that of all the participants in forest management standards (PEFC B 1002: 2012) and other requirements applicable to the forest certification scheme"</p>
Specific requirements for SFM standards		
Criterion 1: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
5.1.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase forests and other wooded areas and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. - 1A & 10B</p> <p>"1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government"</p> <p>"10B Ensuring coherent management of the carbon cycle in the wood sector"</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3 & 11 & 9 & 8</p> <p>"3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <p>- (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
conservation.		<p>in the help guide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5 ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).” <p>“8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).” <p>“9. Other areas of particular biological interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>pools);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify old forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to them in my management. Refer to the management advices offered in the help guide. <p>In the guide: Restorations and transformations of ruined areas are permitted, drastic transformations are not recommended."</p>
<p>5.1.2 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 operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3</p> <p>"3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available." <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1A</p> <p>"1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government"</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>"The concept adopted for the regional forestry programme is the one defined at the Vienna Resolution."</p>
<p>5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1B & 7A</p> <p>"1B Encourage the provision of policy-makers, managers and forest owners with a free source of integrated alphanumeric and cartographic data."</p> <p>"7A Identify and map high biological value habitats and in particular, identify the network of remaining old forests and</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
correspondence with the topics described in this document.		<p>to provide policy makers, forest owners and managers the maps of old forests”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3</p> <p>“3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.”
5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3</p> <p>“3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.” <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1C</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>"1C Continuing development of integrated management plans or management documents"</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS: "This is included in the Guide d'Aide (Art. 3 p. 9 in the §2).The periodicity is 15 +/- 5 years.</p> <p>The article 57 of the forest code indicate: Le plan d'aménagement fixe la durée de sa validité.</p> <p>The management plan contains the duration of validity. Other mechanisms are set for revision if the owner or the DNF ask for it. See art. 64 and 65.</p> <p>In practice, the management plans cover usually, 2 thinning cycle, 24 years; but in some circumstances, it is possible to decide another periodicity."</p>
<p>5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3 + Appendix 1</p> <p>"3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available." <p><u>Legislation:</u> CF art. 57</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Additional information provided by BFCS: “For public forests: Article 57 of the Forestry Code does specify what each and every management plan must include in this respect: art 57.5 specifies that the management plan contains ad minima the volume of timber to be harvested so that it corresponds to the evaluation of the increment of the forest In practice, the increment is evaluated by different methods such as use of yields tables or periodic inventories and it is used in the management plan. Increment in basal area can also be used, instead of volume. For private forests: Page 15 of the simple management plan requires a mention of the average annual harvest volumes in m ³ - the Royal Forestry Society checks that the figures communicated correspond to the increment of the forest. Page 25 of the “Guide d’aide” , linked to section 11 of the Charter, and in appendix to the Standards explains how to harvest the increment.”
5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3 “3. Simple management document / Management plan - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.”
5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1B

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.		<p>“1B Encourage the provision of policy-makers, managers and forest owners with a free source of integrated alphanumeric and cartographic data.”</p> <p><u>Legislation</u>: CF art. 8 à 11 (Regional Forest Inventory)</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“The evaluation is periodic and results are fed back into planning programme.</p> <p>The attached document (Short Description_IPR FW) mentions a periodicity of 10 years.</p> <p>This has now been changed to a periodicity of 5 years for 50% of the sampling plots, 15 years for the other 50%: this allows an update of the results every five years.</p> <p>5.1.7 as it is written do not apply at each property level, but globally for the forests resources.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the periodic revision of management plan or DSG includes an evaluation of the management at the property level.</p> <p>Annual reports are established by the forest service for the public owners. (art. 61 of the Forest code).”</p>
5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	<p>“CF + AGW 27 Mai 2009”</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“CF requires (art 1) that SFM is applied.</p> <p>Responsibility lies with the forest owner who has to apply the CF.</p> <p>For public forests, the management is organized for the owner (state or municipalities) by the regional department of forests and nature. The regulation of 25 May 2009 (in application of Forestry Code) give details on which staff level in the department is responsible for the application of each measure of the forest code (art. 2).”</p>
5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 9A & 12A & 9C</p> <p>“9A Set up an accreditation system for forestry operators and entrepreneurs”</p> <p>“9C Promote the use of existing operating specifications”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.</p>		<p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>12 A does not exist</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 4 & 7,8,11</p> <p>“4. Appropriate silviculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apply appropriate silvicultural measures so as to maintain the productive potential at a desirable level from an economic, ecological and social point of view.” <p>“7. Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest. <p>8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide). <p>11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>safety recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)."
<p>5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. –12A</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>12 A does not exist</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 4</p> <p>"4. Appropriate sylviculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apply appropriate silvicultural measures so as to maintain the productive potential at a desirable level from an economic, ecological and social point of view."
<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant 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</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 1</p> <p>"1. Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest." <p><u>Legislation:</u> CWATUPE art 84.</p> <p>« Nul ne peut, sans un permis d'urbanisme préalable écrit et exprès, (9° a. boiser ou déboiser; toutefois, la sylviculture dans la zone forestière n'est pas soumise à permis; »</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>"There are no longer any primary forests in Belgium.</p> <p>Points b and c are covered by Natura 2000 and the Walloon legislation.</p> <p>Art. 1 of the forest code provides for maintaining a balance between conifers and broadleaved. Art. 31 indicates</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and</p> <p>b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and</p> <p>c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p> <p>d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>		<p>measures if this balance is not maintained.</p> <p>Also art 84 §1 9a) of the CWATUPE forbids to convert forests without a permit. In fact, in forest areas of the land use plan (plans de secteur in French), these conversions are not possible. In other areas of the land use plan, such agricultural areas, a permit is needed.</p> <p>Art. 84 §1 12 protects every area where the protection of the vegetation is decided by the Government.</p> <p>In the AGW below see art.4, 6°, 7° 8°: this article limits the clear cuts in N2000 sites; in this case, it is not a conversion, but a limitation in silvicultural practices.</p> <p>In the AGW below, art. 8, 9,10 contains specific limitations in silvicultural practices in forest habitats in Natura 2000.”</p>
<p>5.1.12 Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. –1A</p> <p>“1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government”</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“The concept adopted for the regional forest programme is the one defined at the Vienna Resolution. Afforestation on agricultural lands needs a permit (permisboisement)</p> <p>In the Walloon region, forests account for 33% of the total area, and population density is 203 inhabitants par km²; in these conditions, increasing the forest area is very difficult.”</p>
<p>5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. –5A & 5B & 5C</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.</p>		<p>“5A - Implement the recommendations of the forest-climate working group.”</p> <p>“5B - Improving genetic diversity in new regenerations, with natural regeneration or with plantation of diverse provenances well suited to the site”</p> <p>“5C - Encourage the installation and maintenance of mixed stands in terms of age, structure and species”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. -5</p> <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.”
<p>Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</p>		
<p>5.2.2 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“Observatoire Wallon de la Santé des Forêts</p> <p>Quatre missions lui sont dévolues :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produire un bilan périodique de la santé de nos peuplements forestiers ; • maintenir à jour les données relatives au développement d'insectes pathogènes et de maladies ; • participer à l'élaboration de cartes de risques biotiques et abiotiques sur base de l'état de vulnérabilité des essences forestières et des stations ; • réunir les connaissances suffisantes pour mettre en œuvre une lutte coordonnée en situation de crise sanitaire” <p>Il s'agit autant de la forêt publique que de la forêt privée.</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“The permanent inventory of forest resources made by the Walloon Region every 5 years includes a chapter regarding</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>all types of biotic and abiotic damages (Forestry Code, art 8 to 11)</p> <p>As an example, please see attached document: 'FRA 2010 Belgium T9T10' Details on forest damages observations in the permanent inventory: 'Formsforestdamages''</p>
<p>5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>"Belgium is a low risk country. Monitoring the health and vitality of forests by the Observatoire takes into consideration the effects of fire, pests and other disturbances that arise naturally."</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>"N/A refers to the fact that fire is a very unlikely event in Belgian forests (see report FRA2012BelgiumT9T10) The Observatory deals with phytopathology and gives information for the owners on the measures to take against pests and diseases.</p> <p>Regarding the other aspects of health and vitality of forest ecosystems, the permanent inventory deals with the monitoring.</p> <p>Results of the inventory are used to take measures to limit the damages (human induced damages, climatic or big game damages)</p> <p>Crisis plans for climatic damage and fires have been put in place by the Walloon Region."</p>
<p>5.2.4 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Legislation: CF art.32 à 50</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1.-7B "7B Identify the conservation goals for promoting the various forest ecosystems and key biotopes, including traditional management systems (coppice, coppice-with-stands, stands of old Austrian pines), in all forested areas"</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2.-5,8,11,12 "5. Regeneration - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.” <p>“8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).” <p>“12. Balance between forest and large game</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure balanced management between the forest and big game using all the resources available and that allows me to comply with my PEFC charter commitments - I undertake to objectify the pressure of big game by the most appropriate means (such as setting up enclosures-exlosures, damage assessment of bark-stripping or regeneration) to measure the appropriateness of the populations in accordance with the ecosystem. - In the absence of a balance, I undertake:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to define and communicate to the SRFB (private) or DNF (public), the causes of the imbalance and the measures taken in the hunting lease to restore this balance: • provided that I am in control of it, to control populations of big game (or have them controlled) in particular, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - through the application of the shooting plan for deer, - through the possibility of making a request for the game to be culled - by limiting the big game populations by setting a culling-target - Through the reasonable use of feeding and in the absence of conclusive results after 2 hunting seasons by banning it until the return to a balance - When the balance is reached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to improve the capacity for hosting wildlife through forestry enhancement and management actions, with a concern for the balance of the ecosystem."
5.2.5 Forest management practices shall 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 shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – Aim 5B & 8A "5B - Improving genetic diversity in new regenerations, with natural regeneration or with plantation of diverse provenances well suited to the site" "8A Make owners and forest managers aware of the implementation of the Biodiversity Circular (public forests) and the Guide for Biodiversity (private forests)" PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2.- 5 point 1 "5. Regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan."
5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the	YES	<u>Legislation</u> CF art. 44 Art. 44. It is prohibited to burn slash during the entire year, except (.) the conditions laid down by the Government + art. 24 AGW du 27 mai 2009 " Art. 44. Il est interdit de brûler des rémanents durant toute l'année, sauf sur des surfaces inférieures à cinquante

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
forest management unit.		ares, sur les pentes supérieures à dix pour cent et dans les cas et aux conditions fixées par le Gouvernement. »
<p>5.2.7 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. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – Aim 9</p> <p>“Aim 9: To improve the quality of work in the forest</p> <p>9A Set up an accreditation system for forestry operators and entrepreneurs</p> <p>9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work</p> <p>9C Promote the use of existing operating specifications</p> <p>9D Organising training programmes for owners/managers</p> <p>9E Promote the use of biodegradable oils in the forest“</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 5, 6, 8 & 11</p> <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.” <p>“6. Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and by preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking” <p>“8. Wetlands</p> <p>Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) to not undertaking new drainage; renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).”</p> <p>“11. Harvesting ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5 ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).”</p> <p><u>Legislation</u> : CF art 40</p>
<p>5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 7</p> <p>“7. Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. - to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest.” <p><u>Legislation</u> CF art. 42. Any use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides is prohibited, subject to the exceptions laid down by the Government.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		« Art. 42. Toute utilisation d'herbicides, fongicides et insecticides est interdite, sauf les exceptions fixées par le Gouvernement. »
5.2.9 The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 7</p> <p>“7. Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest.” <p><u>Legislation</u> CF art. 42.</p> <p>"Art. 42. Toute utilisation d'herbicides, fongicides et insecticides est interdite, sauf les exceptions fixées par le Gouvernement.</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>CF article 42 does not mention WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides.</p>
5.2.10 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.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 7</p> <p>“7. Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest.” <p><u>Legislation</u> CF art. 42.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>"Art. 42. Toute utilisation d'herbicides, fongicides et insecticides est interdite, sauf les exceptions fixées par le Gouvernement. »</p>
<p>5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 7</p> <p>"7. Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest." <p><u>Legislation</u> CF art. 42.</p> <p>"Art. 42. Toute utilisation d'herbicides, fongicides et insecticides est interdite, sauf les exceptions fixées par le Gouvernement.</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>"The Guide d'Aide sets out the requirements and instructions when using pesticides (Art. 7 p. 18). e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -respecter les précautions et mode d'emploi du produit à utiliser; -calculer précisément les concentrations; -avant tout traitement, toujours lire les conditions d'utilisation mentionnées sur l'emballage; <p>Art. 11§2 of the Charter requires that the forester has to refer to the specifications of work which reminds the safety regulations in a forest (including pesticide use)</p> <p>Pesticides are forbidden by the Forestry Code (art. 42) except in a few exemption cases regulated by the Walloon Government. (AGW 27 mai 2009 art. 23)</p> <p>Art. 42 Toute utilisation d'herbicides, fongicides et insecticides est interdite, sauf les exceptions fixées par le Gouvernement. Any use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides is prohibited, except as determined by the Government.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Point 2 of the PEFC Charter underlines the fact that when a forest owner signs the Charter and becomes PEFC certified, he/she commits to: «refer or require that his/her manager refers to the "guide d'aide" , a copy of which they have received, and to its updates" The new PEFC audit inspection form also includes a question: The owner/manager refers to the guide d'aide: yes/no oui/non"
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 7 "7. Inputs - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. - to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest." Legislation: CF art. 41 + art. 23 AGW du 27 mai 2009 "Art. 41. Le Gouvernement peut fixer les conditions d'épandage des amendements et des fertilisants du sol. »
Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1.– 8B, 10A & 10B "8B Assess the socio-economic and environmental consequences of the application of the submitted forest biodiversity circular, Natura 2000 and the Forestry Code" "10A Supporting a platform for the forest-wood sector" "10B Ensuring coherent management of the carbon cycle in the wood sector" PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 4

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4. Appropriate silviculture - apply appropriate silvicultural measures so as to maintain the productive potential at a desirable level from an economic, ecological and social point of view.”</p>
<p>5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account any available market studies and possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1A& 10A “1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government” “10A Supporting a platform for the forest-wood sector” Additional information provided by BFCS: “The Office Economique du Bois was created in Wallonia end 2011 and its sole aim is to comply with this aspect of forest management. http://www.oewb.be/ Special staff are devoted to help the small forest owners in the valuation of their products and in grouped activities (sales, forest works...) (“Cellule d’aide à la petite propriété privée”)</p>
<p>5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3 “3. Simple management document / Management plan - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.” PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1A</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		"1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government"
5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1.– 1A "1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government" PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2.- 5 & 11 "5. Regeneration - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations." "11. Harvesting - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)."
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1.- 5 & 11

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.</p>		<p>“Aim 5: To ensure the follow-up and maintenance/enhancement of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, taking account among other things of the impact of climate changes.</p> <p>5A - Implement the recommendations of the forest-climate working group.</p> <p>5B - Improving genetic diversity in new regenerations, with natural regeneration or with plantation of diverse provenances well suited to the site</p> <p>5C - Encourage the installation and maintenance of mixed stands in terms of age, structure and species.</p> <p>5D – Updating the ecological file of species and the afforestation guide for forest sites in Wallonia.”</p> <p>“Aim 11: To improve accessibility for slow tourism in the forest</p> <p>11A Clarifying the status of paths and trails as well as their accessibility</p> <p>11B Promoting consultation between owners and users with a view to improving the coherence of routes</p> <p>11C Promote the education of and clear information to forest users”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2.- 5 & 11</p> <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>safety recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. <p>Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)."</p>
<p>5.3.6 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 forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 4 & 11 point 5</p> <p>"4. Appropriate silviculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apply appropriate silvicultural measures so as to maintain the productive potential at a desirable level from an economic, ecological and social point of view." <p>"11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)." <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>"The Forestry Code (art 50) includes a specific chapter about the harvesting or use of NTFPs and art 25 of regulation of 25 May 2009 (in application of Forestry Code art 50) includes the conditions to follow for the harvesting and use of NTFPs.</p> <p>"Productive potential" includes soil properties and all products of the forest."</p>
<p>5.3.7 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2.– 12</p> <p>"12. Balance between forest and large game</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure balanced management between the forest and big game using all the resources available and that allows me to comply with my PEFC charter commitments - I undertake to objectify the pressure of big game by the most appropriate means (such as setting up enclosures-exlosures, damage assessment of bark-stripping or regeneration) to measure the appropriateness of the populations in accordance with the ecosystem. - In the absence of a balance, I undertake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to define and communicate to the SRFB (private) or DNF (public), the causes of the imbalance and the measures

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>taken in the hunting lease to restore this balance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provided that I am in control of it, to control populations of big game (or have them controlled) in particular, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - through the application of the shooting plan for deer, - through the possibility of making a request for the game to be culled - by limiting the big game populations by setting a culling-target - Through the reasonable use of feeding and in the absence of conclusive results after 2 hunting seasons by banning it until the return to a balance - When the balance is reached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to improve the capacity for hosting wildlife through forestry enhancement and management actions, with a concern for the balance of the ecosystem.” <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 4A et 4B</p> <p>“4A Renew the presentation to the relevant Minister of the regional action programme for the balance of forest and game”</p> <p>“4B Establish and implement the regional action programme over which the GT PEFC has control.”</p> <p><i>Two stakeholders commented on the problem of high density of game in the forest and the extent to which this was taken into account during the standard setting process.</i></p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“The Forestry Code (art 50) includes a specific chapter about the harvesting or use of NTFPs and art 25 of regulation of 25 May 2009 (in application of Forestry Code art 50) includes the conditions to follow for the harvesting and use of NTFPs.</p> <p>For fishing : 11 MARCH 1993. –Regulation of the Walloon Government on fishing in streams and rivers following the article 8, fishing is forbidden in public forests.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Many species of wild flora and fauna are protected by: 6 DECEMBRE 2001. - Décret relatif à la conservation des sites Natura 2000 ainsi que de la faune et de la flore sauvages”
5.3.8 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.	YES	Information provided by BFCS: “Adequate network in public forest It is one of the missions of the cell supporting small property of the economic observatory of the Walloon timber” Additional information provided by BFCS: “Municipalities must follow the same rules as state forests (art 84 §1.8 + art. 84§1.12 + art. 452/42 of CWATUPE – Walloon Code for Land Use, Urban development etc).(M.B. du 19/05/1984, p. 6939; Err. : M.B. du 25/05/1984, p. 7636) For private forests, the same article of CWATUPE applies too. Art 58bis of law on Conservation of Nature also deals with these aspects Art. 84. §1er. Nul ne peut, sans un permis d’urbanisme préalable écrit et exprès, (du collège communal, du fonctionnaire délégué ou du Gouvernement – Décret du 30 avril 2009, art. 39, 1°): ... (8° – Décret-programme du 3 février 2005, art. 66, al. 1er, 3.) modifier sensiblement le relief du sol; (9° a. boiser ou déboiser; toutefois, la sylviculture dans la zone forestière n’est pas soumise à permis; ...; 12° (défricher ou modifier la végétation de toute zone dont le Gouvernement juge la protection nécessaire, à l’exception de la mise en œuvre du plan particulier de gestion d’une réserve naturelle domaniale, visé à l’article 14 de la loi du 12 juillet 1973 sur la conservation de la nature, et du plan de gestion d’une réserve naturelle agréée, visé à l’article 19 de la même loi – Décret du 18 juillet 2002, art. 35, 5.);”
Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 5, 6, 9 “5. Regeneration

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.” <p>“6. Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and by preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking” <p>“9. Other areas of particular biological interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and pools); - identify old forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to them in my management. Refer to the management advices offered in the help guide. In the guide: Restorations and transformations of ruined areas are permitted, drastic transformations are not recommended.” <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. - 1A, 5B, 5C, 6A, 6B, 7A & 7B</p> <p>“1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government”</p> <p>“5B - Improving genetic diversity in new regenerations, with natural regeneration or with plantation of diverse provenances well suited to the site”</p> <p>“5C - Encourage the installation and maintenance of mixed stands in terms of age, structure and species”</p> <p>“6A Participating in the identification of high-risk allochtone species and ecotypes”</p> <p>“6B Monitor the use of new species or non-native ecotypes and make owners aware of them”</p> <p>“7A Identify and map high biological value habitats and in particular, identify the network of remaining old forests and</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>to provide policy makers, forest owners and managers the maps of old forests”</p> <p>“7B Identify the conservation goals for promoting the various forest ecosystems and key biotopes, including traditional management systems (coppice, coppice-with-stands, stands of old Austrian pines), in all forested areas”</p>
<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic <i>in situ</i> resources;</p> <p>and taking into account</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1B, 1C, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B</p> <p>“1B Encourage the provision of policy-makers, managers and forest owners with a free source of integrated alphanumeric and cartographic data.”</p> <p>“1C Continuing development of integrated management plans or management documents”</p> <p>“6A Participating in the identification of high-risk allochtone species and ecotypes”</p> <p>“6B Monitor the use of new species or non-native ecotypes and make owners aware of them”</p> <p>“7A Identify and map high biological value habitats and in particular, identify the network of remaining old forests and to provide policy makers, forest owners and managers the maps of old forests”</p> <p>“7B Identify the conservation goals for promoting the various forest ecosystems and key biotopes, including traditional management systems (coppice, coppice-with-stands, stands of old Austrian pines), in all forested areas”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3, 8 & 9</p> <p>“3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
occurring species.		<p>“8. Wetlands Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) to not undertaking new drainage; renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).”</p> <p>“9. Other areas of particular biological interest conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and pools); identify old forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to them in my management. Refer to the management advices offered in the help guide. In the guide: Restorations and transformations of ruined areas are permitted, drastic transformations are not recommended.”</p> <p><u>Legislation</u>: AGW 24 MARS 2011. Biodiversity circular (mandatory for state forests and best practices for other forests) and biodiversity guide (applicable for small and private forest owner (not mandatory))”</p>
5.4.3 Protected 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.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2.– 1</p> <p>"1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest."</p>
5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 8A</p> <p>“8A Make owners and forest managers aware of the implementation of the Biodiversity Circular (public forests) and the Guide for Biodiversity (private forests)”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.		<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 5</p> <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.”
5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. 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 evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 5B, 5D, 6A, 6B & 8A</p> <p>“5B - Improving genetic diversity in new regenerations, with natural regeneration or with plantation of diverse provenances well suited to the site”</p> <p>“5B - Improving genetic diversity in new regenerations, with natural regeneration or with plantation of diverse provenances well suited to the site”</p> <p>“6A Participating in the identification of high-risk allochtone species and ecotypes”</p> <p>“6B Monitor the use of new species or non-native ecotypes and make owners aware of them”</p> <p>“8A Make owners and forest managers aware of the implementation of the Biodiversity Circular (public forests) and the Guide for Biodiversity (private forests)”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 5</p> <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.”
5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that	YES	Information provided by BFCS:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.		<p>“<u>Legislation</u> CF art 71 4 et 5</p> <p>The extension of the forest area is not planned, given the land pressure.”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. -8 – point 3</p> <p>“8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).”
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 5 point 3</p> <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.”
5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 8A & 5C</p> <p>“8A Make owners and forest managers aware of the implementation of the Biodiversity Circular (public forests) and the Guide for Biodiversity (private forests)”</p> <p>“5C - Encourage the installation and maintenance of mixed stands in terms of age, structure and species.”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 6</p> <p>“6. Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and by preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking”
5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 7B</p> <p>“7B Identify the conservation goals for promoting the various forest ecosystems and key biotopes, including traditional management systems (coppice, coppice-with-stands, stands of old Austrian pines), in all forested areas”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 9</p> <p>“9. Other areas of particular biological interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and pools); - identify old forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to them in my management. Refer to the management advices offered in the help guide.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		In the guide: Restorations and transformations of ruined areas are permitted, drastic transformations are not recommended."
5.4.10 Tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to improve or maintain biological diversity.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 8A, 9C, 9B</p> <p>"8A Make owners and forest managers aware of the implementation of the Biodiversity Circular (public forests) and the Guide for Biodiversity (private forests)"</p> <p>"9C Promote the use of existing operating specifications."</p> <p>"9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work"</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 11</p> <p>"11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)."
5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 8 & 9</p> <p>"8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.		<p>distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).”</p> <p>“9. Other areas of particular biological interest -conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and pools); -identify old forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to them in my management. Refer to the management advices offered in the help guide. In the guide: Restorations and transformations of ruined areas are permitted, drastic transformations are not recommended.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“Municipalities must follow the same rules as state forests (art 84 §1.8 + art. 84§1.12 + art. 452/42 of CWATUPE – Walloon Code for Land Use, Urban development etc).(M.B. du 19/05/1984, p. 6939; Err. : M.B. du 25/05/1984, p. 7636)</p> <p>For private forests, the same article of CWATUPE applies too.</p> <p>Art 58bis of law on Conservation of Nature also deals with these aspects</p> <p>Art. 84.</p> <p>§1er. Nul ne peut, sans un permis d'urbanisme préalable écrit et exprès, (du collège communal, du fonctionnaire délégué ou du Gouvernement – Décret du 30 avril 2009, art. 39, 1°):</p> <p>...</p> <p>(8° – Décret-programme du 3 février 2005, art. 66, al. 1er, 3.) modifier sensiblement le relief du sol; (9° a. boiser ou déboiser; toutefois, la sylviculture dans la zone forestière n'est pas soumise à permis; ...;</p> <p>12° (défricher ou modifier la végétation de toute zone dont le Gouvernement juge la protection nécessaire, à l'exception de la mise en œuvre du plan particulier de gestion d'une réserve naturelle domaniale, visé à l'article 14 de la loi du 12 juillet 1973 sur la conservation de la nature, et du plan de gestion d'une réserve naturelle agréée, visé à l'article 19 de la même loi – Décret du 18 juillet 2002, art. 35, 5.);</p>

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		<p>Same answer as for 5.3.8, with the addition of article 36 of CWATUPE.</p> <p>Natura 2000 requirements also protects rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems in this respect. Regulation from 19.05.2011 describes specific measures at the level of management units, and regulation from 24.03.2011 describes the preventive general measures linked to Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Art 58bis of law on Conservation of Nature also deals with these aspects. Art 11 §2 of PEFC Charter also deals with these aspects.'</p>
<p>5.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 12</p> <p>“12. Balance between forest and large game</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure balanced management between the forest and big game using all the resources available and that allows me to comply with my PEFC charter commitments - I undertake to objectify the pressure of big game by the most appropriate means (such as setting up enclosures-exclosures, damage assessment of bark-stripping or regeneration) to measure the appropriateness of the populations in accordance with the ecosystem. - In the absence of a balance, I undertake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to define and communicate to the SRFB (private) or DNF (public), the causes of the imbalance and the measures taken in the hunting lease to restore this balance: • provided that I am in control of it, to control populations of big game (or have them controlled) in particular, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - through the application of the shooting plan for deer, - through the possibility of making a request for the game to be culled - by limiting the big game populations by setting a culling-target -Through the reasonable use of feeding and in the absence of conclusive results after 2 hunting seasons by banning it until the return to a balance - When the balance is reached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to improve the capacity for hosting wildlife through forestry enhancement and management actions, with a concern for the balance of the ecosystem.” <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 4A & 4B</p> <p>“4A Renew the presentation to the relevant Minister of the regional action programme for the balance of forest and game”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		"4B Establish and implement the regional action programme over which the GT PEFC has control."
<p>5.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 6 & 10</p> <p>"6. Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and by preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking" <p>"10. Dead wood and trees of biological interest</p> <p>In hardwood stands, insofar as the characteristics of the property allow, maintain a network of dead wood in the forest (standing and /or on the ground), trees with hollows and old trees, within the required phytosanitary and safety limits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preserve and designate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -when cutting, at least one of these trees of over 125 cm in circumference per hectare - and/or small islands of ageing or senescence representing 2% of the property." <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 8A</p> <p>"8A Make owners and forest managers aware of the implementation of the Biodiversity Circular (public forests) and the Guide for Biodiversity (private forests)"</p>
<p>Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)</p>		
<p>5.5.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1A, 5C</p> <p>"1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government"</p> <p>"5C - Encourage the installation and maintenance of mixed stands in terms of age, structure and species."</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3, 5, 6 & 8 & 9</p> <p>"3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>in the help guide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions - in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.” <p>“5. Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will be registered in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan. - take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there; - to not make use of GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.” <p>“6. Mix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and by preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking” <p>“8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).” <p>“9. Other areas of particular biological interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and pools);

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		<p>-identify old forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to them in my management. Refer to the management advices offered in the help guide.</p> <p>In the guide: Restorations and transformations of ruined areas are permitted, drastic transformations are not recommended.”</p>
<p>5.5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents shall take these areas into account.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1B & 1C & 7A</p> <p>“1B Encourage the provision of policy-makers, managers and forest owners with a free source of integrated alphanumeric and cartographic data.”</p> <p>“1C Continuing development of integrated management plans or management documents”</p> <p>“7A Identify and map high biological value habitats and in particular, identify the network of remaining old forests and to provide policy makers, forest owners and managers the maps of old forests”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3 & 11 & 13</p> <p>“3. Simple management document / Management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide. - (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)." <p>"13. Socio-recreative forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid hindering or discouraging access to public forest paths crossing or bordering my property, except for temporary bans for safety reasons; - authorise according to my terms access to private forestry tracks on my property for recreational leisure, cultural or educational purposes, and in the respect of forest ecosystems, in particular, where there is a clear advantage for safety or the creation of a slow non-motorised circuit. - in addition to that which is provided for by law, not authorise the organisation of motorised recreational activities away from paths and trails; - take account of elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of my forest."
<p>5.5.3 Special care shall be given to silvicultural operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep soil tillage and use of unsuitable machinery shall be avoided in such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 9B, 9C, 9D</p> <p>"9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work"</p> <p>"9C Promote the use of existing operating specifications."</p> <p>"9D Organising training programmes for owners/managers"</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 1 & 8 & 11</p> <p>"1. Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest."

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).”
<p>5.5.4 Special care shall be given to forest management practices 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E</p> <p>“9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work”</p> <p>“9C Promote the use of existing operating specifications.”</p> <p>“9D Organising training programmes for owners/managers”</p> <p>“9E Promote the use of biodegradable oils in the forest”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 1, 7 & 8 & 11</p> <p>“1. Regulation</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>- Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest.”</p> <p>“7. Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not make use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. to not make use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, water bodies and springs; - use fertilisers only in an appropriate way and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand; - to not make use of chemical fertilizers in my forest.” <p>“8. Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit to periods of frost or "dry" ground (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide) - to not undertaking new drainage; - renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or water bodies with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 metres from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. - Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).”
5.5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 1

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>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>		<p>"1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest."</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS: "See our response to 5.3.8 et 5.4.11 Art 58b of law on Conservation of Nature also deals with these aspects."</p>
<p>Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions</p>		
<p>5.6.1 Forest management planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions of forests to society, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development, and especially consider new opportunities for employment in connection with the socio-economic functions of forests.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 1A, 10A, 11A, 11B</p> <p>"1A Participate in the development of a regional forest programme and putting this forward for adoption by the Walloon Government"</p> <p>"10A Supporting a platform for the forest-wood sector"</p> <p>"11A Clarifying the status of paths and trails as well as their accessibility"</p> <p>"11B Promoting consultation between owners and users with a view to improving the coherence of routes"</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 13</p> <p>"13. Socio-recreative forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid hindering or discouraging access to public forest paths crossing or bordering my property, except for temporary bans for safety reasons; - authorise according to my terms access to private forestry tracks on my property for recreational leisure, cultural or educational purposes, and in the respect of forest ecosystems, in particular, where there is a clear advantage for safety or the creation of a slow non-motorised circuit. - in addition to that which is provided for by law, not authorise the organisation of motorised recreational activities away from paths and trails; - take account of elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of my forest."

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.	YES	<p>Information provided by BFCS: “No local communities or indigenous people are living in the Wallon forest”</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS: “Art 13 of the Charter provides for the opening of certified forests to the public. (social function of SFM) Protection of water and soils are assumed by different measures of the Forest Code.(art. 38, 40 to 44, 46, 47) At the economical level, forest and forest sector give work place for about 17000 people in Wallonia, mainly in rural areas. Forest landscapes contribute to tourism. Forest net incomes for municipalities are about 35 millions € per year and are a significant financial resource for rural ones, for the benefit of their inhabitants.”</p>
5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.	YES	<p>Information provided by BFCS: “Civil Code Existence of Real Estate Register”</p>
5.6.4 Forest management activities 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	N/A	<p>Information provided by BFCS: “No local communities or indigenous people are living in the Wallon forest”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>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 responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.</p>		
<p>5.6.5 Adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided taking into account respect for ownership rights and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 13</p> <p>“13. Socio-recreative forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid hindering or discouraging access to public forest paths crossing or bordering my property, except for temporary bans for safety reasons; - authorise according to my terms access to private forestry tracks on my property for recreational leisure, cultural or educational purposes, and in the respect of forest ecosystems, in particular, where there is a clear advantage for safety or the creation of a slow non-motorised circuit. - in addition to that which is provided for by law, not authorise the organisation of motorised recreational activities away from paths and trails; - take account of elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of my forest.” <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1.1 – 11A, 11B</p> <p>“11A Clarifying the status of paths and trails as well as their accessibility”</p> <p>“11B Promoting consultation between owners and users with a view to improving the coherence of routes”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.6.6 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 13 “13. Socio-recreative forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid hindering or discouraging access to public forest paths crossing or bordering my property, except for temporary bans for safety reasons; - authorise according to my terms access to private forestry tracks on my property for recreational leisure, cultural or educational purposes, and in the respect of forest ecosystems, in particular, where there is a clear advantage for safety or the creation of a slow non-motorised circuit. - in addition to that which is provided for by law, not authorise the organisation of motorised recreational activities away from paths and trails; - take account of elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of my forest.”
5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. This shall be done, however, in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 6 & 13 “6. Mix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and by preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking” “13. Socio-recreative forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid hindering or discouraging access to public forest paths crossing or bordering my property, except for temporary bans for safety reasons; - authorise according to my terms access to private forestry tracks on my property for recreational leisure, cultural or educational purposes, and in the respect of forest ecosystems, in particular, where there is a clear advantage for safety or the creation of a slow non-motorised circuit. - in addition to that which is provided for by law, not authorise the organisation of motorised recreational activities away from paths and trails; - take account of elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of my forest.”
5.6.8 Forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to keep up-to-date through continuous training in relation	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 2 “2. Information – training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take regular refresher courses on sustainable forest management - refer to (and/or ensure its mandated manager refers to) the guide for the implementation of the PEFC charter, a copy of which I have received, as well as its regular updates; - inform everyone involved in the management of my property (owner, manager, service providers, hunters) on a

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this standard.		regular basis of the details of membership of the PEFC. - Inform non-professional forestry workers about safety at work” PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 2C, 9A, 9B , 9D “2C Informing and training forest owners and managers in sustainable forest management.” “9A Set up an accreditation system for forestry operators and entrepreneurs” “9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work” “9D Organising training programmes for owners/managers”
5.6.9 Forest management practices shall make the best use of local forest-related experience and knowledge, such as those of local communities, forest owners, NGOs and local people.	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 2 “2. Information – training - take regular refresher courses on sustainable forest management - refer to (and/or ensure its mandated manager refers to) the guide for the implementation of the PEFC charter, a copy of which I have received, as well as its regular updates; - inform everyone involved in the management of my property (owner, manager, service providers, hunters) on a regular basis of the details of membership of the PEFC. - Inform non-professional forestry workers about safety at work” PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 2D “2D Promote exchanges of experience between certified owners”
5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest	YES	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 3 “3. Simple management document / Management plan - (specific to private forests), draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
management between forest operators and local people.		<p>- (specific to public forests) draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 2A, 2B</p> <p>“2A Developing information campaigns on sustainable forest management for the general public and schools”</p> <p>“2B Developing campaigns to promote the use of wood for long-term purposes and information on the environmental benefits of such use”</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>“PEFCB 2004-2012 is called Dispute Settlement Procedure</p> <p>For public forests, a complaint mechanism is included in the Forestry Code during the elaboration of each management plan (art. 58 to 63)</p> <p>Document 1001-2012 (Requirements for the implementation of forest management certification), 5.1.2, requires the setting up of procedures for the management of non-conformities and corrective and preventive measures. Section I. also requires that the regional entity deals with complaints.”</p>
5.6.11 Forestry work 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.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 2 , 11, 1</p> <p>“2. Information – training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take regular refresher courses on sustainable forest management - refer to (and/or ensure its mandated manager refers to) the guide for the implementation of the PEFC charter, a copy of which I have received, as well as its regular updates; - inform everyone involved in the management of my property (owner, manager, service providers, hunters) on a regular basis of the details of membership of the PEFC. - Inform non-professional forestry workers about safety at work” <p>“11. Harvesting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>the property so permits;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5 ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. <p>Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).”</p> <p>“1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest.”</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 9B & 9D</p> <p>“9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work”</p> <p>“9D Organising training programmes for owners/managers”</p>
<p>5.6.12 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 2 point 4, 11, 1</p> <p>“2. Information – training - Inform non-professional forestry workers about safety at work.”</p> <p>“11. Harvesting - ensure a balance between the increment of the forest and the harvest carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits; - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept. - during clear cut, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on slopes, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rise in water level or impact on the landscape. <p>Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide)."</p> <p>"1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest."</p> <p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. -9B</p> <p>"9B Organising training and information programmes for forest workers on operating and working methods that guarantee sustainable management and safety at work"</p>
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 1</p> <p>"1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest."</p> <p>Belgium ratified all fundamental ILO conventions www.ilo.org</p>
5.6.14 Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.	YES	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.1. – 6A</p> <p>"6A Participating in the identification of high-risk allochtone species and ecotypes"</p> <p><u>Legislation</u>: CF art. 7 « The government adopts a five-year plan of forest research. + accord-cadre de recherches forestières et de vulgarisation.</p> <p>"Art. 7. Le Gouvernement adopte, après avis du Conseil supérieur wallon des forêts et de la filière bois, un plan quinquennal de recherches forestières qui définit les lignes directrices des recherches, à réaliser ou à faire réaliser par lui, pour assurer ou promouvoir les objectifs visés à l'article 1^{er}."</p> <p>Additional information provided by BFCS:</p> <p>"7 juin 2012. – Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon portant exécution de l'article 7 du décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Code forestier (M.B. DU 25/06/2012, P. 35340)</p> <p>This regulation defines the subjects for which forest researchers shall work in a five years period.</p> <p>A Framework agreement between the forest service and universities is concluded for five years, for the application of this regulation. A special part concerns training of the forest service on the results of the research. Several documents are also published with these results, which are available for every manager/owner.”</p>
Criterion 7: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
<p>5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2 – 1</p> <p>“1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest.”</p>
<p>5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2 – 1</p> <p>“1. Regulation - Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest.”</p>

* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

PART IV: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for certification and accreditation procedures (Annex 6)

1 Scope

This document covers requirements for certification and accreditation procedures given in Annex 6 to the PEFC Council Technical Document (*Certification and accreditation procedures*).

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

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
Certification Bodies				
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	YES	<u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.2: The chapter requires, that "PEFC certification will 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 of the certified entity." <u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
2.	Does the scheme	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>Forest Management:</u>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	documentation require that certification body for forest management certification or chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody standard shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?			PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.2 1): The chapter requires, that "certification bodies carrying out forest verification will fulfil the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65." <u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body chain of custody certification against Annex 4 shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
4.	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	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.2 2): The chapter requires, that "the certification body carrying out forest certification will have technical competence in the field of forest management, as regards its economic, social and environmental impact, as well as on forest certification criteria."

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	certification criteria?			
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out C-o-C certifications shall have technical competence in forest based products procurement and processing and material flows in different stages of processing and trading?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management or C-o-C certifications?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.2 3): The chapter requires, that "the certification body will be fully familiar with the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme on the basis of which it carries out forest certification". <u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
7.	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 or chain of custody certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.3: The chapter requires, that "Certification bodies have a responsibility to use competent auditors with adequate technical know-how regarding the certification process and issues related to forest management."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
8.	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	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.3: The chapter requires, that "the auditors must fulfil general criteria for quality and environmental management systems auditors as defined in ISO 19 011."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
9.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management or chain of custody audits? [*1]	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 4.3: The chapter requires, that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "the auditor carrying out the field audits must have a degree in forestry. This auditor must be fluent in the language used in the region of the audited party and be able to write his reports in this language. • The auditor must have a good knowledge of forest management and forestry legislation

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				<p>in the region being audited."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
Certification procedures				
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management and/or chain of custody certification?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3: The chapter requires, that "the certification body must have established internal procedures to conduct the forest management certification in respect of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification or chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody standard shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3: The chapter requires, that "the certification procedures applied must meet or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 and with the requirements of ISO 19011."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	65?			
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for chain of custody certification against Annex 4 shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
13.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3: The chapter requires, that "the certification procedures applied must meet or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 and with the requirements of ISO 19011." It can be implied that the certification procedures include the auditing procedures.</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
14.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management and chain	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3.3: The chapter requires, that "in addition, the CB informs PEFC Belgium of the list of holders of a sustainable forest management certificate as well as any change in respect of the dates or scope of these certificates." <u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	of custody certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?			Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
15.	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?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3: The chapter requires, that "in addition to the requirements set out above, the certification body monitors use of the PEFC logo if the entity is a PEFC logo user under group B in accordance with the PEFC B 1004:2012 - Requirements for the use of the logo." It can be implied, that a "PEFC logo user under group B is a forest owner or manager according to PEFC ST 2001:2008 (PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements).</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
16.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3.2: The chapter requires that "the maximum period for surveillance audits is one year".</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
17	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for both forest management and chain of custody certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3.2: The chapter requires that the "maximum period for reassessment audits is five years for forest management certification."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u></p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
18	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3.3: The chapter requires that "a summary of the forest certification report, including the findings on the conformity of the audited party with the forest management standards, is prepared by the certification body. The audited party endorses the summary report and makes it available to the public"</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
19	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 5.3: The chapter requires, that " the audit team appointed by the certification body gathers the evidence on which compliance with standards is assessed. Audit evidence to determine compliance with the forest management standards 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 regional entity takes place during the audit."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
20.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements	Annex 6, 4	NO	No obligatory requirement (see explanation [*1] below).

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	for certification procedures? [*1]			
Accreditation procedures				
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management and/or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 6: The chapter requires, that "certification bodies carrying out forest management certification must be accredited by a national accreditation body so as to ensure the credibility of the certification work and facilitate mutual recognition."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
22.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 6: The chapter requires, that "all certificates issued must be accompanied by information on accreditation, including the accreditation number and the name of the accreditation body."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
23.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 6: The chapter requires, that "accreditation bodies must 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 17011:20011 and other documents recognised by the above organisations."</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?			<p>Observation</p> <p>The ISO/IEC 17011:20011 does not exist, it needs to be ISO/IEC 17011:2004. This point should be corrected to prevent confusion.</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
24.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management or/and chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody standard as "accredited certification" based on ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65 and the relevant forest management or chain of custody standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 6: The chapter requires, that "the scope of application of the accreditation must explicitly cover the Walloon forest management standards and also ISO 17021."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>
25.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	undertake chain of custody certification against Annex 4 as 'accredited certification' based on ISO Guide 65?			Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).
26.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 7: The chapter requires, that "certification bodies issuing certificates of sustainable management in accordance with the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme must be notified by the PEFC Belgium. To ensure the independence of certification bodies, the conditions of notification decided on by the PEFC Belgium only cover the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certification body agrees to attend information meetings dedicated to certification bodies organised by the PEFC Belgium (maximum three a year). • The certification body informs the PEFC Belgium of all forest management certificates issues and changes concerning validity and scope of these certificates. 2. Financial conditions 3. The certification body undertakes to comply with the certification requirements laid down in the BFCS through its accreditation, as described in Chapter 7." <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p> <p>More detailed procedures are furthermore documented in the BFCS document PEFC B 4003:2012 (PEFC Notification procedure for certification bodies operating chain of custody</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				and forest management certification) see Checklist Part VI point 1).
27.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p><u>Forest Management:</u> PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 7: The chapter requires, that "this notification requirement is described in a specific procedure available in the PEFC B 4003: 2011 document. The PEFC's notification conditions are not discriminatory for the certification bodies and do not create trade barriers."</p> <p><u>Chain of custody:</u> The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standards).</p>

* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

[*1] This is not an obligatory requirement

Part V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for system specific Chain of custody standards – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2010

1 Scope

Part V is used for the assessment of scheme specific chain of custody standards against PEFC ST 2002:2010 (*Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements*).

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

The standard PEFC ST 2002:2010, "Chain of Custody of Forest-Based Products – Requirements", adopted by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council on 122010 together with its annexes were adopted without modification by the PEFC Belgium at its Extraordinary General Assembly on 27.06.2012 and form an integral part of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme. This is documented in the PEFC B 1003:2012 "Requirements of the implementation of the Chain of Custody".

2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
Requirements for chain of custody process – physical separation method				
1.	Does the national C-o-C standard require identification of origin of certified material/products in compliance with chapter 4.2?	4.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
2.	Does the national C-o-C standard require	4.3	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2:

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	separation of the certified raw material in compliance with chapter 4.3?			The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
3.	Does the national C-o-C standard require information delivered to the customer at the point of sale of certified products in compliance with chapter 4.4?	4.4	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
4.	Does the national standard require that usage of the logo or label shall be carried out according to the terms and conditions of the logo / label copyright owner?	4.4.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
Requirements for the chain of custody process – percentage based methods				
5.	Does the national standard require that the requirements for C-o-C process shall be implemented for the production group defined in compliance	5.1.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	with chapters 5.1.2?			
6.	Does the national C-o-C standard require identification of origin of material/products entering the product group in compliance with chapter 5.2?	5.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
7.	Does the national standard include requirements for the calculation of the certification percentage, which are compatible with the chapter 5.3?	5.3	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
8.	Does the national standard include an average percentage method in compliance with chapter 5.4.1?	5.4.1	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
9.	Does the national standard include a volume credit method in compliance with chapter 5.4.2?	5.4.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
10.	Does the national C-o-C standard require	5.5	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2:

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	information delivered to customer at the point of sale of certified products in compliance with chapter 5.5?			The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
11.	Does the national standard require that usage of the logo or label shall be carried out according to the terms and conditions of the logo / label copyright owner?	5.5.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
12.	Does the national standard require a Due Diligence System (DDS) to ensure that the certified products do not include raw material from controversial sources?	5.6; Appendix 2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
Minimum management system requirements				
13.	Does the national standard require management responsibilities for the organisation's management in	6.2.1	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	compliance with chapter 6.2.1?			
14.	Does the national standard include requirements for responsibilities and authorities for C-o-C in compliance with chapter 6.3?	6.3	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
15.	Does the national standard include requirements for documented procedures in compliance with chapter 6.3?	6.3	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
16.	Does the national standard include requirements for record keeping in compliance with chapter 6.4?	6.4	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
17.	Does the national standard include requirements for human resources management and technical facilities in compliance with chapter 6.5.1 and 6.5.2?	6.5.1, 6.5.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
18.	Does the national standard include requirements for inspection and control in compliance with chapter 6.6?	6.6	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
19.	Does the national standard include requirements for complaint resolution procedures in compliance with chapter 6.7?	6.7	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
20.	Does the national standard include requirements for subcontracting in compliance with chapter 6.8?	6.8	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
Specification of the of the PEFC claim on "PEFC certified" material				
21.	Does the national standard include definition of certified raw material, neutral and other raw material (for the purposes of PEFC claims / labelling) in compliance with	Appendix 1	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	Appendix 1?			
PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS) for avoidance of raw material from controversial sources				
22.	Is the scope of the DDS of the national standard in compliance with Appendix 2, chapter 1?	Appendix 2, 1	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
23.	Does the DDS of the national standard include requirements for self-declarations of suppliers in compliance with Appendix2, chapter 2?	Appendix 2, 2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
24.	Does the DDS of the national standard include requirements for risk-assessment in compliance with Appendix2, chapter 3?	Appendix 2, 3	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
25.	Does the DDS of the national standard include requirements for management of high-risk supplies in compliance with Appendix2, chapter 3?	Appendix 2, 4	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
Implementation of chain of custody by multisite organisations (only for standards which include rules for multisite or group certification)				
26.	Does the national standard define the multisite organisation in compliance with chapter 2 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
27.	Does the national standard include general criteria for multi requirements in compliance with chapter 3.1 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 3.1	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.
28.	Does the national standard include requirements for function and responsibilities of the central office in compliance with chapter 3.2.1 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 3.2.1	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
29.	Does the national standard include requirements for function and responsibilities of sites connected to a multisite organisation in compliance with chapter 3.2.2 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 3.2.2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

Social, health and safety requirements in chain of custody				
30.	Does the national standard include social, health and safety requirements in compliance with chapter 2 of Appendix 4?	Appendix 4, 2	YES	PEFC B 1003:2012 2: The PEFC ST 2002:2010 has been adopted without modification by the Belgium PEFC Scheme.

* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

Part VI: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for scheme administration requirements

1 Scope

Part VI is used for the assessment of requirements for the administration of PEFC schemes outlined in PEFC 1004:2009, *Administration of PEFC scheme*.

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

The compliance with these requirements is only evaluated in the first PEFC assessment of a scheme or on specific request by the PEFC Secretariat.

2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
PEFC Notification of certification bodies				
1.	Are procedures for the notification of certification bodies in place, which comply with chapter 5 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i> ?	Chapter 5	YES	<p>The notifying body is the PEFC Belgium. The procedures of notifying of certification bodies by the BFCS are assessed against the different requirements of Chapter 5 of the PEFC GD 1004:2009 below:</p> <p>Requirement 5.1a):</p> <p>PEFC B 2002:2012 (Requirements for the qualification of auditors and certification bodies for forest certification) and</p> <p>PEFC B 2003:2012 (Requirements for the qualification of auditors and certification bodies for Chain of Custody certification):</p> <p>The general requirements for certification bodies concerning accreditation, competence of staff, applicable ISO Guidelines, internal procedures and audit procedures are described in the documents mentioned above. The documents comply with the requirements of the PEFC Council for certification bodies and auditors as already assessed in Checklist Part IV (see document above).</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 (PEFC Notification procedure for certification bodies operating chain of custody and forest management certification) Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "the certification body applying for PEFC notification from the</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>PEFC Belgium shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a legal entity; • agree to be listed on the publicly available PEFC Belgium and PEFC Council Internet database including the certification body's identification data and / or other data as specified in the Internal Rules for the PEFC Registration system; • have valid accreditation issued, by a national accreditation body which is a member or a part of IAF (International Accreditation Forum). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO Guide 65 (General requirements for certification/registration bodies operating products certification) for COC certification and ISO/CEI 17021 for forest management certification." <p>Requirement 5.1b):</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the COC certification, the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include PEFC ST 2002:2010 and PEFC ST 2001:2008 of the PEFC Technical Document (Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products –PEFC Logo Usage Rules - requirements); • For Forest certification, the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme." <p>Requirement 5.1c):</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 6:</p> <p>The chapter states, that "the PEFC notification is valid for the period of the validity of the certification body's accreditation. The PEFC notification can be terminated or suspended by the PEFC Belgium if the notification contract is violated."</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>Requirement 5.1d):</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "the certification body applying for PEFC notification from the PEFC Belgium shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sign a PEFC notification contract with the PEFC Belgium (Appendix 1and/or Appendix 2)." <p>Requirement 5.1e):</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "the PEFC notified certification body shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the PEFC Belgium, without delay, with information on every chain of custody certificate and forest management certificate it issues in Belgium and /or information on any changes to already issued certificates. The range of data is specified by the PEFC Belgium;" <p>Requirement 5.1f):</p> <p>PEFC B 2002:2012 Chapter 6 (FM Certification): The chapter states, that "the PEFC's notification conditions are not discriminatory for the certification bodies and do not create trade barriers."</p> <p>and</p> <p>PEFC B 2003:2012 Annex 2:</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>The Annex requires, that "Procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies are non-discriminatory and don't lead to any trade-barriers." (The PEFC B 2003:2012 is identical to the PEFC ST 2003:2012)</p> <p>Requirement 5.2:</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 5 and Annex 4: The chapter requires that the certification body will pay a fee to PEFC Belgium per certificate issued. The amounts are determined by the Board of Directors of PEFC Belgium. Annex 4 spells out the current documented fees per annual turnover. Since the fees are specified according to classes of financial turnover per year and certified company in the Annex 4 of the named document, they can be considered to be known to PEFC Belgium.</p>
PEFC Logo usage licensing				
2.	Are procedures for the issuance of PEFC Logo usage licenses in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme?</i>	Chapter 6	YES	<p>PEFC B 0001:2012 BFCS - General Document Chapter 5.1:</p> <p>The chapter states, that "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 2001:2008 v2 of the PEFC COUNCIL technical document (Requirements for use of the logo)."</p> <p>Therefore, the PEFC Belgium is the licensing body according to the PEFC GD 1004:2009.</p> <p>The BFCS has adopted the PEFC ST 2001:2008 (PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements) without modification, as documented in the PEFC B 1004:2012 (Requirements for use of the logo).</p> <p>The different requirements of Chapter 6 of the PEFC GD 1004:2009 are assessed below:</p> <p>Requirement 6.1.1:</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter of the notification procedures of the BFCS requires, that "</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the COC certification, the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include PEFC ST 2002:2010 and PEFC ST 2001:2008 of the PEFC Technical Document (Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products –PEFC Logo Usage Rules - requirements); " <p>Requirement 6.1.2:</p> <p>The requirements can be implied by the Chapter 5.2 in the PEFC ST 2001:2008: "The PEFC Logo License applies to an individual legal entity."</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1 a-c:</p> <p>The requirements are incorporated into the PEFC ST 2001:2008</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1 d-e:</p> <p>The obligations and consequences concerning unauthorized logo use are documented in the contract template for logo use (ANNEX3ContratLogo.pdf). This document was submitted by PEFC Belgium during the 2 weeks comment period.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.2:</p> <p>PEFC B 4003:2012 Chapter 5:</p> <p>It is the obligation of the certification body to investigate and enforce the compliance of the Logo use:</p> <p>"The PEFC notified certification body shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out the chain of custody certification within the scope of the valid accreditation against the latest version of "PEFC Council Technical Document" PEFC ST 2002:2010 (Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – requirements) and PEFC ST 2001:2008 (PEFC Logo usage rules - requirements); "

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				Furthermore it is part of the PEFC ST 2001:2008 Chapter 5.1, that "Unauthorized use of this copyrighted material is prohibited and may lead to legal action".
Complaints and dispute procedures				
3.	Are complaint and dispute procedures in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme?</i>		YES	<p>The dispute resolution procedures are documented in the PEFC B 2004:2012 (Dispute settlement procedures), which is assessed against the requirements of Chapter 8 of the PEFC GD 1004:2009 below:</p> <p>Requirement 8.1:</p> <p>The dispute resolution procedures are documented in the PEFC B 2004:2012 (Dispute settlement procedures).</p> <p>Requirement 8.2a):</p> <p>PEFC B 2004:2012 Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter describes the procedures in case of a complaint as follows:</p> <p>"The request for the initiation of a dispute settlement procedure should be sent to the PEFC Belgium secretariat. It must include informative documentation on the actual case, statements from all parties involved and, if appropriate, the result of the internal investigation conducted by the certification body. The PEFC secretariat will confirm receipt of the request."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2b):</p> <p>PEFC B 2004:2012 Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter describes, that "if within three months of receipt of the request, no regular meeting of the PEFC Belgium is held, then the appointment of the dispute settlement body and its members must be organized on the basis of written correspondence. The dispute settlement body will meet for the first time within this period. For more complex cases an independent expert will be called in. The decision must be made within three months of the first meeting of the dispute settlement body. Decision is taken by a simple majority."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2c):</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>PEFC B 2004:2012 Chapter 3:</p> <p>The chapter requires, that "the PEFC secretariat is responsible for drafting reports on the meetings of the dispute settlement body and for informing the parties concerned of the outcome of the dispute settlement."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2d):</p> <p><u>Minor NC 2013-02</u></p> <p>PEFC GD 1004:2009 Chapter 8.2.d</p> <p>There are no procedures which document the consequences if corrective and preventive measures at the level of PEFC Belgium need to be implemented. However, the MRC GL 2 used by PEFC Belgium for the self assessment did not contain this requirement, although as the PEFC GD 1004:2009 has been effective since 2009 PEFC Belgium should be aware of this requirement. Thus, this is rated as a minor non-conformity which has to be corrected within 6 months.</p>

Annex 2: Results of stakeholder survey

Stakeholder survey response

A stakeholder survey was conducted from Thursday 28.02.2013 to Thursday 14.03.2013. Invitations to complete the online stakeholder survey were sent to all participants in the standard setting forum via e-mail – this included a total of 34 stakeholders (see Appendix 5).

No e-mails bounced, and 2 reminder e-mails were sent. There were in total 7 responses (20.6% of those contacted). All respondents completed the survey in full.

The first question of the questionnaire asked for a self categorization of the stakeholder into the groups specified in the table below. The respondents to the stakeholder survey fell into the following categories, with some stakeholders noting that they represented more than one interest category, resulting in more than 7 counts and therefore accounting for more than 100%.

Table 4: Stakeholder categories responding to stakeholder survey

1. What stakeholder category do you represent?	Response Count	Response Percent
Forest owners and managers	5	71.4%
Industry and timber trade	0	0.0%
Consumer representatives, users of green spaces (hunter, hikers) and worker representative organisations	1	14.3%
Environmental associations	2	28.6%
Research centres and scientific organisations	0	0.0%
Other (please specify)	2	28.6%

Survey results

The following table shows the content of the questions 2 - 11 from the questionnaire sent to the stakeholders, including the response count and percentage calculation concerning the individual questions.

Table 5: Results of stakeholder survey - counts and percentages

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2. Did the participating stakeholders represent the range of interests in forest management in your country? If not, which other interests groups should have participated?		
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Partially	0.0%	0
Please provide comments and additional information		0

3. Do you agree that there were no disadvantaged stakeholders? A 'disadvantaged stakeholder' may be disadvantaged from a financial standpoint or in some other way with respect to standards development work.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.7%	6
No (there were disadvantaged stakeholders)	0.0%	0
Partially	14.3%	1
Please provide comments and additional information		2
4. Were the standard revision documents, including working drafts, meeting minutes etc. made available to you?		
Yes	85.7%	6
No	0.0%	0
Partially	14.3%	1
Please provide comments and additional information		1
5. Were you provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts?		
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Partially	0.0%	0
Please provide comments and additional information		0
6. Have comments and views that you submitted been considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes recorded?		
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Partially	0.0%	0
Please provide comments and additional information		0
7. Was the enquiry draft publicly available and accessible?		
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Partially	0.0%	0
Please provide comments and additional information		0
8. Do you feel that comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner?		
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Partially	0.0%	0
Please provide comments and additional information		1
9. Were you satisfied with the decision making process, where a consensus was not reached?		
Yes	71.4%	5
No	0.0%	0
Partially	28.6%	2
Please provide comments and additional information		2

10. For the final draft where the decision was not unanimous were you satisfied with the consensus process?		
Yes	42.9%	3
No	0.0%	0
Partially	57.1%	4
Please provide comments and additional information		3
11. Did you receive a final draft of the scheme documentation and did you have the opportunity to comment?		
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Partially	0.0%	0
Please provide comments and additional information		0

Breakdown of comments

The breakdown of comments of the individual stakeholders is shown in the following table. The comments are anonymous.

Table 6: Stakeholder survey - breakdown of comments

3. Do you agree that there were no disadvantaged stakeholders? A 'disadvantaged stakeholder' may be disadvantaged from a financial standpoint or in some other way with respect to standards development work.	
1	Private owners of forest were represented by one person only. Environmentalists were represented by at least 3 persons (3 organisations). It's unfair not only because it's unbalanced but also because the private owner is the sole who supports the financial costs, inconvenience in the application of the rules. Environmentalists have no financial involvement and take no financial responsibility in what they request!
2	Extremely difficult for environment NGO's to find persons and times enough to ensure a correct survey, mainly in the fields
4. Were the standard revision documents, including working drafts, meeting minutes etc. made available to you?	
1	not always clear to understand PEFC international requirements
8. Do you feel that comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner?	
1	All comments have received an answer, published on the PEFC Belgium Website, even for non relevant comments.
9. Were you satisfied with the decision making process, where a consensus was not reached?	
1	Only a few elements needed a vote, after long discussions.
2	The position of the hunters in a hard context in Wallonie region of clear imbalance between forest and population of game was to highly taken into account. It's most probably one of the most important weakness of PEFC in Belgium.
10. For the final draft where the decision was not unanimous were you satisfied with the consensus process?	

1	On some crucial points, arbitrations were not based, in my opinion, enough of the new PEFC standards but rather through the vote.
2	the consequences and cost of some requirements imposed to forest owners and public administration were not fully identified
3	Once more the problem of high density of game was not sufficiently taken into account. It's difficult to make PEFC credible to large public in such conditions
12. Please provide any further comments on the standard revision process.	
1	The standard revision process was very seriously done. It took a long time with a very active and positive participation of all the stakeholders.
2	We believe that the point 4.1 of standard PEFC 1003 on the general requirements for sustainable forest management are not completed correctly.
3	This process requires an important time to be devoted by participants. Frequent changes imposed on PEFC certificated forest owners every 5 years, even if minors, discredit the PEFC scheme. Considering the average life span of forest (60 to 200 years), a revision every 10 years would be far enough.
4	This work was managed professionally by all the participants. It needed a succession of general meetings, thematic meetings, and one meeting in forest for the validation of the field audit method.
5	It seems alright, but it is heavy and much time consuming for people who are not paid for. I find that revising the criteria every 5 years does not make sense. It is requested to have a scheme and planification of the forest. This is good and generally these are planned for 20 years sometimes less (at least 10 years). How do I have to adapt the new criteria every 5 years where the management has been planned for 20 years?! Forest grow slowly, trees need at least 50 years to become mature. It does not make sense to change and add rules every 5 years. Its costly, time consuming and will prevent owners to join PEFC. Owners should have more representation in the process.

List of stakeholder respondents to the consultation

The stakeholder which responded to the survey are shown in the table below, including the organization they are representing.

Table 7: List of stakeholders respondents to the stakeholder survey

Organisation	Name	Position	E-mail
Département de la Nature et des Forêts (DNF)	Etienne Gérard	Director of Forest Resources	etienne.gerard@spw.wallonie.be
NTF	Charles de Favereau	Perpective member	ch.defavereau@gmail.com
Fédération des chasseurs au grand Gibier de Belgique	Patrick Warland	Chairman	patrick.warland@gmail.com
Inter-environnement Wallonie (IEW)	Lionel Delvaux	Project manager	l.delvaux@iewonline.be
Inter-environnement Wallonie (IEW)	Gérard Jadoul	Chairman	gerard.jadoul@gmail.com
Société Royale Forestière de Belgique (SRFB)	Michel Terlinden	Director	michel.terlinden@srfb-kbbm.be
Société Royale Forestière de Belgique (SRFB)	Henry Naveau	Chairman	henry.bra@skynet.be

Annex 3: Results of international consultation

PEFCC carried out a sixty day global public consultation during which period all interested stakeholders were invited to submit comments directly to PEFCC. This was held from 08.01.2013 to 15.03.2013.

The assessment team was informed on 18.03.2013 by e-mail from the PEFCC, that no stakeholder comment was received.

Annex 4: Panel of Experts comments

Report chapter / page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member comment	Consultant's response
p. 2 (1.3.1), 2nd line	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... availability in English (delete: language), or alternative... availability in <u>the</u> English language	Considered.
pp. 7-11	Summary	I found the summary as a whole a bit difficult to read and especially to understand.	Noted. In our opinion the summary is well structured and understandable.
1.3.1 / 2	Some of the documents were only available in French ... partly used ... in the assessment (... PEFCC regulations ... submitted in English) ...Knoell. See also chapter 3.4, p. 9; chapter 3.9, p. 10; chapter 6, p.19, second last para (... supportive with translations ...); chapter 7, p.21, para 4	Why have the documents in French language been assessed although regulations state that they have to be submitted in English? How have they been assessed? If the procedure is transparent a clear explanation needs to be given on p. 2.	Document sections deemed to be relevant (either jointly identified by assessors and BFCS or proposed as source of additional information by BFCS) were requested to be translated in terms of content and meaning. This applied to very few cases only and was part of the exchange with BFCS in the second phase of the assessment after initially only documents in English were screened. It pertained particularly to text of legal verifiers and to text of the help guide for forest managers in the Walloon region.
1.6. p. 3	The assessment team to conduct the conformity assessment comprised the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell (document review) as well as Annie Adams, a Senior Consultant and Ian Denty, Consultant of Efeca	It would be helpful to explain, how the group of four independent consultants has been established to form the assessment team and what does Efeca mean.	Roles and responsibilities of the assessment team are explained in sections 1.1 and 1.2. Efeca Ltd. is a consulting company based in UK.
2. p. 6	the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme	This is not a clear recommendation to the	Considered.

	<p>conforms to the PEFCC requirements with the exception of two non-conformities. The non-conformities are seen as being of minor significance and should be corrected by PEFC Belgium within a timeframe of 6 months after re-endorsement. The assessment team recommends to the PEFC Council BoD to impose the following two conditions</p>	<p>BoD of PEFCC. Shall the BoD endorse the scheme or not. I prefer the following wording: “The assessment team recommends the PEFC Council BoD to endorse the revised BFCS with the following conditions:</p>	
2. p. 6.	<p>Furthermore it is recommended that PEFC Belgium give consideration to the partial dissatisfaction of some stakeholders regarding the consensus building process which led to the final draft of the forest management standard assessed. However, the highlighted points of dissatisfaction were varied, and general conclusions regarding any inadequacies of how the process was implemented can not be inferred (see chapter 3.10 and Annex 2).</p>	<p>This is actually third precondition of the recommendation to endorse the scheme. However the assessment team gives the recommendation to PEFC Belgium – to my mind this recommendation should be given to PEFCC BoD to insist PEFC Belgium to do modifications – at least in the chapter “Recommendation”</p>	<p>Noted and better explained. This is a result of the assessment which shows that not all stakeholders are satisfied with the consensus building process applied. There is no PEFC-requirement demanding that all stakeholders are satisfied. The stakeholder survey only resulted in 7 responses (out of 34 stakeholders contacted). Finally only 4 stakeholders were partially dissatisfied, not totally dissatisfied). This result should be taken into consideration when developing future standard review work by BFCS and it should be taken note of by PEFC BoD that a significant part of the stakeholders participating in the survey raised diverse issues, based on their own understanding and expectations.</p>
2 / 6	<p>Para 3: PEFC Belgium or different PEFC schemes in the BFCS ...</p>	<p>This first part of the sentence is hardly understandable for the reader. Can it be formulated more clearly?</p>	<p>Considered.</p>

2 / 6	Last para, line 1 and 4: PEFC Belgium give dissatisfaction were varied PEFC Belgium gives dissatisfaction varied ...	Considered.
3.2. p. 7.	in PEFC's Meta Standard (PEFC ST 1003: 2010)	Odd expression	Considered.
3.2 / 8	Para 2: Observation addressed to PEFC See also Chapter 5, p. 18, para 1 Part I, p. 33, Observation 2 (last sentence)	In my opinion the assessment is addressed to PEFC Belgium and not to PEFC and therefore should not be included in the report.	Considered.
3.3. p. 8.	Only for the Walloon Region of Belgium has a standard setting process to develop a PEFC Council- compliant standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) been completed.	are there too many verbs?	Considered.
3.3. p. 8.	Therefore the standard PEFC B 1002:2012 'Sustainable Forest Management Standards for the Walloon Region' is applied in the Walloon Region of Belgium only and no further BCFS forest certification standards are applied in other regions of Belgium.	No SFM standard for other parts of Belgium? ?? How can this then be a "Belgium scheme"	See below.
p. 8 (2nd chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... so non conformity is identified	Considered.
3.4. p. 9.	The requirements of the PEFC Council are principally met. One non-conformity related to multiple certification and the management of non- conformities resulted in Minor NC	"multiple certification" - in my mind highly theoretical situation. Is the topic relevant at all?	It is a PEFC-requirement, so it is relevant in all scheme assessments and schemes must address it in their documentation.

	2013-01 (see Chapter 7 of this report). It is recommended that this Minor NC shall be corrected within 6 months after the re-endorsement of the BFCS.		
3.9 / 16	... setting process,, since setting process,, since ...	Considered.
p. 10 (3.10)	No Consultant´s report statement provided by Expert.	no <u>e-mails</u> received (rather than bounced), also p. 150	Checked by native speaker.
3.10 / 11	The assessors feel that the partial dissatisfaction of more than 50% of the respondents with the consensus building process ... deserves a discussion <u>with PEFCC and PEFC Belgium</u> to consider further information.	I can not follow why there should be a discussion with PEFCC and PEFC Belgium. The statement could rather be that this fact should be considered by the decision making body responsible for the approval of the system.	Considered. Assessors directed this statement to the decision-making body within PEFC International, thus it is directed to PEFC to forward it accordingly.
3.10. p. 11	The assessors feel that the partial dissatisfaction of more than 50% of the respondents with the consensus building process to approve the final draft standard deserves a discussion with PEFCC and PEFC Belgium to evaluate potential consequences and to consider further information.	Has this “feeling” any real content for improvement? I prefer proposals to improve the situation.	Considered. This result should be taken into consideration when developing future standard review work by BFCS and it should be taken note of by PEFC BoD that a significant part of the stakeholders participating in the survey raised diverse issues, based on their own understanding and expectations. If this is done, it has a high potential to improve the situation.
p. 12 (4, 3rd line)	No Consultant´s report statement provided by Expert.	Articles of <u>the</u> Association ...	Not considered as this is the title of the document (original citation)
4. p. 13.	Due to the categorization of the Belgian state in three Regions, and the distribution of legislative competencies on federal and regional	This explains my above comment, but this information should be in summary, too. But in a way which clearly explains the content of the Belgian scheme: framework for the whole country (i.e.	Considered.

	<p>level, the SFM Standards are developed on a regional level, whereas the requirements for Group Certification, Chain of Custody and Logo Use are developed on a national level. So far, SFM Standards are developed and maintained only for the Walloon Region (comprising 79% of the Belgian Forests). Discussions are going on about the development of a regional SFM Standard for the Flemish Region (comprising 20% of the Belgian forests). No request, so far, was received from the Brussels Region (comprising 1% of the Belgian forests).</p>	<p>chain-of-custody, logo rules etc.) but at present SFM standard only for one area!</p>	
<p>p.13</p>	<p>Regional Forum (Regional entity) Due to the categorization of the Belgian state in three Regions, and the distribution of legislative competencies on federal and regional level, the SFM Standards are developed on a regional level, whereas the requirements for Group Certification, Chain of Custody and Logo Use are developed on a national level. So far, SFM Standards are developed and maintained only for the Walloon Region</p>	<p>The information of this chapter should be in the very beginning of the report, so that the reader understands that the framework of the scheme is designed for the whole country, but the standard for SFM concerns one region only!</p> <p>Now there are explanations in several parts of the report concerning this issue! For example: The group certification model designed by PEFC Belgium is currently applied in the Walloon Region only as there are no other regional standards available. Consequently</p>	<p>See response above. Now included into chapter 3.1.</p>

	(comprising 79% of the Belgian Forests). Discussions are going on about the development of a regional SFM Standard for the Flemish Region (comprising 20% of the Belgian forests). No request, so far, was received from the Brussels Region (comprising 1% of the Belgian forests).	PEFC B 1001:2012 refers at this time only to one regional forest management standard: 'PEFC B 1002: 2012 – Sustainable forest management standards for the Walloon Region'. (page 21)	
p. 13	The Regional forest management standards are developed and revised by a Regional Forum consisting of the organisations involved in the sus...	Here you deal with standards although only one is in place! why? This is misleading!	This section of the report describes the general procedure for standard setting in Belgium for all regions, therefore the term standards is used. So far this process has only been applied in the Walloon Region.
p. 17 (2nd chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... Forum, which <u>were</u> (instead of was) ...	Considered.
6 / 20	Para 2: The detailed analysis of legal verifiers in the French language to support compliance by individual private and/or public forest managers and forest owners with BFCS's requirements is outside the scope of this assessment.	Even if this is outside of the scope of the assessment, the wording is misleading. The reader could come to the conclusion that this statement might have to do with the fact that the information was provided in French language.	Considered.
pp. 21-22	In the provided documentation there are no provisions to ensure that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one PEFC-endorsed forest management certification scheme is addressed in any other PEFC-endorsed forest management	This is very unclear for me – why and how is it possible that an individual forest owner is certified by several PEFC endorsed certification schemes in Belgium, especially if they have only one regional standard!	In the provided BFCS documentation there is no prohibition of multiple certification. It was acknowledged by PEFC that multiple certification could occur within a single scheme with a forest owner being certified under a group scheme as well as an individual certificate holder. Generally it could be possible to apply two

	certification scheme that covers the forest owner.		different PEFC endorsed schemes on the same country. For further details see information regarding Minor NC 2013-01.
8 / 23	Last para: Observations ... in the MRCs“.	If CoC is adopted fully without modification, how can there be any observations?	Considered.
annex 1	Annex 1	Very detailed and informative – it gives a clear picture of the assessment process of the Belgian scheme	Noted.
Annex 1 / 29	Legend N/A	What does this sentence highlighted in yellow mean? Is this a formal open issue to be clarified for the final report?	Deleted from the report.
p. 33	two observations in red by the assessors	I partly agree, although it depends how the scheme refers national legislation: if the scheme only requires same as the law there probably is no need for any changes if the content of the legislation is changed, or if the scheme uses the wording or states demands from legislation and the content of the legislation is changed then the scheme has to be changed as well – two different cases!	This observation refers to a situation where the scheme only refers to the text of the national legislation and the legislation changes into a direction which would open up possibilities to implement forest management in a way which would not meet the PEFC requirements anymore. At least any change in legislation should be checked if it is still compatible with the PEFC requirements.
p. 36 (last chapter)	No Consultant’s report statement provided by Expert.	... of the Forum were participating (or:...participated), also p. 37	Considered.
p. 38	No Consultant’s report statement provided by Expert.	e-mail, p. 40 email (also other pp.)	Considered.
p. 38 - 40	four observations in red by the assessor	the assessment report should assess the specific scheme against PEFC present requirements, and nothing more than that - recommendations for PEFC Council to improve its own standards can be made otherwise (than	Considered.

		printing them in this report)	
p. 42	one observation in red by the assessor	valid	Noted.
p. 42 (last chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... in French (delete: language) , or in <u>the</u> French language	Considered.
p. 47 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	Comments have been taken into account each time, also p. 49 (centre)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 48 (top)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	Clarify the quotation: ... development, <u>the or</u> ?	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 49	one observation in red by the assessor	there could be examples at the end of the text	Noted.
p. 50	one observation in red by the assessor	valid	Noted.
p.52	one observation in red by the assessor	valid	Noted.
p. 52 (last but one line)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	46 reactions, 31 of which come ... 16 of them PEFC certified	Considered.
p.54	one observation in red by the assessor	valid	Noted.
p. 59 (first line)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... at the date of the assessment.	Considered.
p. 60 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... of PEFC Belgium	Considered.
p. 61 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	will become effective within <u>a</u> maximum <u>of</u> 12 months ...	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 64 (last chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... manager or <u>another</u> entity ...	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 68 (last chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... <u>properties</u> ..., also p. 69 (last chapter)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 73 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	The criteria <u>include</u> ... all requirements <u>are</u> achieved (quotation)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 74 (first chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... of management <u>units</u> found ... (quotation)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 75 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... and 3_ha ...	Not considered, (original citation).
pp. 75-76	green amendments by the assessor	OK, valid additional proof	Noted.
p. 78	No Consultant's report	2 thinning cycles	Not considered, (original

(first chapter)	statement provided by Expert.		citation).
p. 79 (first chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... use of yield tables (not yields)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 80 (first chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... for the <u>forest</u> resources (no s)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 82 (first chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	5_ha ... 3_ ha	Not considered, (original citation).
pp. 80-87	several green amendments by the assessor	OK, valid additional proof	Noted.
p.90	Observation CF article 42 does not mention WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides.	I am not familiar with WHO type 1A or 1B pesticides. If the PEFC B documentation does not cover this item, the assessor should demand PEFC B to include these materials on the list! Then it means this is a NC!	All BFCS documentation refers to legal compliance in this case. It is observed that the law relevant here, article 42 of the Code Forestiere, does not mention WHO type 1A or 1B nor does it mention any other pesticide in particular. It is not clear whether pesticides belonging to the WHO type 1A or 1B are included. Furthermore the PEFC requirement allows their application where no viable alternative exists.
Part III / 92	5.3.1 states: Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	Are there any more specific references available referring to the "capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis"?	PEFC B 1002:2012, 4.2. – 4 4. Appropriate silviculture - apply appropriate silvicultural measures so as to maintain the productive potential at a desirable level from an economic, ecological and social point of view. This reference was added to the MRC.
pp. 94-96	several green amendments by the assessor	OK, valid additional proof	Noted.
p. 100	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	coppice with standards (not: stands)	Not considered, (original citation).
pp. 102-103	two green amendments by the	OK, valid additional proof	Noted.

	assessor		
p. 106 (2nd line)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	Art. 58, delete: "is of", replace: the law on ...	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 110 (first line)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	5_ha ... 3_ha	Not considered, (original citation).
pp. 109-113	three green amendments by the assessor	OK, valid additional proof	Noted.
p. 113 (bottom)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... people are living <u>in</u> the Walloon forests (quotation, but surely people live adjacent ...! (also p. 114)	This point was initially raised with BFCS to point to the difference between <i>in</i> and <i>adjacent</i> . The additional information provided is seen as sufficient to demonstrate that also communities living adjacent to certified forests are benefitting from forest management.
p. 118 (first chapter)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... Forestry Code <u>during</u> the elaboration_ of ...	Not considered, (original citation).
pp. 118-120	two green amendments by the assessor	OK, valid additional proof	Noted.
p. 120 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	ILO conventions are mentioned, but other conventions are missing for example WA, CBD etc	Requirement 5.6.13 mentions ILO only, so there is no need to refer to different conventions or agreements.
Part III / 119	5.6.12: Reference 11 (Harvesting)	How does this reference refer to the requirement?	See section marked in bold letters: "11. Harvesting - use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning

			exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations; - ...”
p. 125 (last chapter)	No Consultant’s report statement provided by Expert.	... "degree in Forestry" is rather vague	Noted.
Part IV / 130	Requirement 23: Observation on ISO/IEC 17011:20011	It should be discussed to require a change of this wrong normative reference also within 6 months. This would be important to avoid confusion.	It was decided to raise this point as an observation, since it is considered a typing error and not a non-conformity.
p. 131	Observation The ISO/IEC 17011:20011 does not exist, it needs to be ISO/IEC 17011:2004. This point should be corrected to prevent confusion.	OK	Noted.
p. 148	Observation The consequences of unauthorised use should be described more specific to be fully transparent (see also 6.2.1 d-e above).	I cannot see any real reason for this observation – should “legal action” be specified by a certification system?	Considered.
p.149	Minor NC 2013-02 There are no procedures which document the consequences if corrective and preventive measures at the level of PEFC Belgium need to be implemented. However, the MRC GL 2 used by PEFC Belgium for the self assessment did not contain this requirement, although as the PEFC GD 1004:2009 has been effective since 2009 PEFC Belgium	This minor NC is evident and should be corrected as the assessor demands	Noted.

	should be aware of this requirement. Thus, this is rated as a minor nonconformity which has to be corrected within 6 months.		
p. 150 (2nd line)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	please add: "how many ..."	Considered.
p. 152 (centre)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	Private owners of forests (or private forest owners)	Not considered, (original citation).
p. 152 (9.)	No Consultant's report statement provided by Expert.	... of game was <u>too</u> highly ... / ... of the most important weaknesses ...	Not considered, (original citation).

Annex 5: Any other relevant information

Table 8: List of participating organizations and their representatives in the Regional Forum

Forest owners and managers					
Département de la Nature et des Forêts (DNF)	Perm	Etienne Gérard	Director of Forest Resources	etienne.gerard@spw.wallonie.be	081 33 58 34
NTF	Perm	Charles de Favereau	Perpective member	ch.defavereau@gmail.com	086 34 40 78-0474 45 73 93
NTF	Sub	Xavier De Munck	General Secretary	xavier.demunck@ntf.be	081 26 35 83
Union des Villes et des Communes (UVCW)	Perm	Christel Termol	Environmental adviser	christel.termol@uvcw.be	081 240 628
Union des Villes et des Communes (UVCW)	Sub	Salvador Alonso Merino	Legal adviser	salvador.alonsomerino@uvcw.be	081 240 629
Fédération Nationale des Experts Forestiers (FNEF)	Perm	Olivier Noiret	General Secretary	info@experts-forestiers.be	0498/10 17 00
Union Ardennaise des Pépiniéristes (UAP)	Perm	Dominique Raymackers	Administrator	uap.cpsn@yahoo.fr	061 61 24 60-0474 518 104
Centre de Populiculture du Hainaut	Perm	Lionel Coquelet	Transpop project manager	l.coquelet@carah.be	068 26 46 50
Industry and timber trade					
Union Régionale des Entreprises du Bois (UREBO)	Perm	François De Meersman	General Secretary	fedemar.demeersman@skynet.be	081/31.31.58
Union Régionale des Entreprises du Bois (UREBO)	Sub	Elise Speybrouck	Project manager	feref.speybrouck@skynet.be	081/31.31.58
Fédération Nationale des Scieries (FNS)	Perm	François Ruchenne	General Secretary	F.ruchenne@houtinfo Bois.be	02 219 27 43
Fédération Nationale des Scieries (FNS)	Sub	Sylvie Boldrini	Regiowood project manager	s.boldrini@houtinfo Bois.be	02 219 27 43/ 0473 52 20 62
COBELPA	Perm	Firmin François	Chief operating officer	f.francois @ cobelpa.be	02/646 64 50
Consumer representatives, users of green spaces and organisations representative of workers					
Syndicats Professionnels	Perm	Robert Vertenuel	National Federal	robert.vertenuel @	0494/58 53 29

(FGTB)			Secretary	accg.be	
Syndicats Professionnels (FGTB)	Sub	Christian Gomez	Secretary (Luxembourg)	christian.gomez @ accg.be	
CSC	Perm	Pierre Cuppens	General Secretary	Pierre.Cuppens @ acv-csc.be	0477/54 39 38
Royal Saint-Hubert Club de Belgique (RSHCB)	Perm	Yves Leloux	Secretary	info@rshcb.be	0479/37 65 65
Royal Saint-Hubert Club de Belgique (RSHCB)	Sub	Benoît Petit	Chairman	benoit.petit @ skynet.be	0475/94 11 88
Fédération Francophone Belge des Marches Populaires (FFBMP)	Perm	M. Delafontaine	Honorary Chairman	n/a	0475/78 07 27
Itinéraires Wallonie	Perm	Michel Dussart	Administrator	wallay@skynet.be	085/611.769
Fédération Francophone d'Equitation et d'attelage	Perm	Etienne de Wouters	Effective member	edewoutersdeb@euphony.net.be	
Fédération des chasseurs au grand Gibier de Belgique	Perm	Patrick Warland	Chairman	patrick.warland@gmail.com	0475/76 50 44
Fédération des chasseurs au grand Gibier de Belgique	Sub	Axel de Woot de Yannée	Administrator	axel.dewoot.be	0495/55 17 37
CRIOC	Perm	Adriaan Meirsman	Director of Information	adriaan.meirsman@crioc.be	0496/40 33 10
Environmental associations					
Les Naturalistes de la Haute-Lesse	Perm	Philippe Corbeel	Effective member	p.corbeel@hotmail.com	084 38 72 72
Ardenne et Gaume	Perm	Willy Delvingt	Administrator	delvingt@gmail.com	0472/39 03 61
Inter-environnement Wallonie (IEW)	Perm	Lionel Delvaux	Project manager	l.delvaux@iewonline.be	081 /390 765
Inter-environnement Wallonie (IEW)	Sub	Gérard Jadoul	Chairman	gerard.jadoul@gmail.com	0498/54 24 40
Fondation wallonne pour la conservation des habitats	Perm	Juan de Hemptinne	Administrator	juan@montanhee.be	0475/54 82 03
Research centres and scientific organisations					
Unité des Eaux et Forêts de l'Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)	Perm	Freddy Devillez	Professor Emeritus	freddy.devillez@uclouvain.be	010/47 36 98

ULG (GxABT)	Perm	Hugues Claessens	Lecturer	hugues.claessens@ulg.ac.be	081/62 23 81
Pro Silva Wallonie	Perm	Charles Debois	Chairman	charles.debois@fundp.ac.be	081/724,064
Société Royale Forestière de Belgique (SRFB)	Perm	Michel Terlinden	Director	michel.terlinden@srfb-kbbm.be	02/227. 56.53
Société Royale Forestière de Belgique (SRFB)	Sub	Henry Naveau	Chairman	henry.bra@skynet.be	086/45 55 29
Centre Agr-forestier de Chimay (CDAF)	Perm	Pascal Balleux	Director	p.balleux@cdafe.be	060/41 40 19
Centre Agr-forestier de Chimay (CDAF)	Sub	Grégory Timal	Engineer	g.timal@cdafe.be	060/41 40 19