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**Sustainable Forest Management Rules –
Requirements for Metropolitan France**

PEFC France



Promouvoir
la gestion durable
de la forêt

8, avenue de la République
75011 Paris

Tel: +33 (0)1 43 46 57 15, Fax: +33 (0)1 43 46 57 11

E-mail: contact@pefc-france.fr Website: www.pefc-france.org

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Foreword

The Association Française de Certification Forestière (French Forest Certification Association), also known as PEFC France, is the exclusive owner of the PEFC trademark in France and promotes it across France.

PEFC France is one of the founder members of the PEFC Council. It also has its own members, representing all stakeholders involved in the forest-timber sector, who are grouped into three separate colleges: producers, processors and forest users. The collegiate structure enables all industry stakeholders to be involved and discuss their different points of view. This organisational structure aims to be very democratic and consistently endeavours to reach a consensus on issues that can at times be controversial.

Through its forest certification scheme, PEFC France defines good forest management practices specifically for French forests. This scheme is revised every five years with a view to ensuring continuous improvement.

Introduction

Sustainable forest management is a holistic approach which can be defined as the stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfil, both now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels and does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

Sustainable forest management certification is a means of ensuring the application of practices compliant with the requirements of the French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme.

Sustainable forest management requirements must be implemented by forest owners and forestry workers involved in regional, group or individual certification.

They are the result of a national discussion process bringing together all stakeholders from the forest-timber sector.

1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements applicable in Metropolitan France for owners, operators and other forestry workers, based on their respective activities.

2 Definitions

Forest management: Forest management planning document produced by the French National Forestry Commission (Office National des Forêts – ONF), approved by the government and mandatory for every public forest (state-owned forests and those belonging to local authorities or public institutions) legally bound by forestry regulations.

Forest site catalogue: Document containing an inventory of all forest site types occurring within a natural area and a precise description of each, along with simple criteria to identify them *in situ*. In principle, it consists of five parts:

- general overview of the region in question;
- presentation of the method used to compile the document and diagnostic techniques used to support identification (in many cases, ecological species groups);
- description of the various types of forest site, presented in a logical order;
- key for identification of site types;
- summarised results for the region along with various appendices, in particular relating to the vegetation dynamic, habitats present and advice on developing the forest.

Code of Good Forestry Practice (Code des Bonnes Pratiques Sylvicoles – CBPS)

Sustainable management document produced by the Regional Forest Property Centre (Centre régional de propriété forestière – CRPF) in compliance with the Regional Forest Management Scheme, approved by the regional prefect and intended for forest owners with fewer than 25 hectares. The owner signs a 10-year commitment to abide by the code.

The CBPS outlines and sets general recommendations and good forestry practices that promote the sustainable management of forest stands.

Skid trail network: Network of regularly spaced access routes, left open to facilitate silvicultural and harvesting forestry operations within a forest stand.

Woodland weed clearance: Operation designed to eradicate or reduce competition from vegetation likely to impede the development of target species seedlings and/or young plants.

Full site clearance: Clearance of entire area.

Selective clearance: Clearance, usually by hand, based on the following principles:

- only twigs in direct competition with the terminal shoots of seedlings or young plants are removed,
- not all young plants or seedlings are systematically cleared.

Forest service road network: Network of public and private roads servicing forest plots and providing access to the forest for management, harvesting and protection purposes. It must be designed to ensure optimal harvesting operations. The agreement of all forest owners involved must be obtained in order to open a forest service road network. The creation of a service road network may be eligible for public funding.

Forest Fire Protection (Défense des Forêts Contre l'Incendie – DFCI).

Regional planning guidelines (Directive régionale d'aménagement – DRA): Regulatory document providing an analysis of specific forest features, along with technical decisions taken by the government in relation to state-owned forests. These are intended for ONF forest managers and focus in particular on tree species, provenance, cutting diameters, silvicultural treatments, land management, recreational areas, etc. They are produced by the ONF for a specific region or group of regions and are approved by the Minister responsible for forests. There may be several DRA in place within the same administrative region.

Thinning: Silvicultural operation aimed at reducing the density of a forest stand in order to improve tree growth and shape.

Sludge spreading: A pre-set dose of sludge produced by wastewater treatment facilities is applied evenly across a plot of land, where the microorganisms in the soil break down the organic matter and provide fertilising nutrients.

Companion species: Woody vegetation introduced or left around a stem in order to provide a protective sheath. As it has no productive value of its own, it will later be removed to avoid impeding the development of the young plant.

Target species: Main species within a forest stand, well adapted to soil and climatic conditions and able to meet the set targets. Silvicultural operations that benefit this species will be given priority.

Wild fauna: Any animal not kept or raised on a farm.

Flora: Combination of plant species (trees, shrubs and plants) growing in a given area.

Forest: Land spanning more than 0.5ha with trees higher than 5 metres or able to reach these thresholds *in situ*, a canopy cover of more than 10% and an average width of at least 20 metres.

Sites that are temporarily deforested or undergoing regeneration are classified as forest even if their crown cover is less than 10% when the inventory is taken.

This does not include land predominantly under agricultural or urban use.

High forest: Forest stand composed of single-stem trees produced from seeds and cuttings (definition proposed by the French National Institute of the Geographic and Forest Information – IGN), under various treatment regimes:

- regular high forest (containing trees from one age class);
- irregular high forest (containing trees from all age classes).

Forest site guide: Guide to choosing species, compiling site types offering similar forest potential within site units (SU) that provide an equivalent potential for hosting the main species of a region, and comprising groupings using the criterion of site types from one (or more) catalogue(s) or based on regional ecological studies. This is a real working document (attractive presentation, reduced volume, simplified scientific concepts) for forest managers structured in the same way as the sections of a catalogue (apart from the method statement). It provides practical information on applied aspects of forest site management: fertility, habitats, vegetation dynamic, consequences of certain forestry practices, advice on choosing which species to grow, etc.

Edge: Boundary of two habitats, one of which is usually forest, for example between a forest and a meadow. Forest edges are characterised by special climatic and ecological conditions and are therefore managed using a specific ecological-landscape approach.

Tiered edge: Forest edge comprising (outside > inside the wood) a grass layer, then a shrub layer and finally a tree layer.

Brushwood: Overall biomass of the stem and branches forming timber with a diameter of less than 7 cm (tree tops and small branches) that can potentially be converted into energy (wood chips, pellets).

Wetland environment: See definition of wetland area.

Natura 2000: European network of natural and semi-natural sites with high heritage value, due to the exceptional flora and fauna they contain.

The goal of the Natura 2000 network is to maintain the biological diversity of environments, while taking into account economic, social, cultural and regional requirements embedded within a sustainable development framework, in the knowledge that conservation of protected areas and biodiversity also offers long term economic benefits.

The desire to establish a European network of natural sites has come about in response to the acknowledgement that biodiversity conservation is only possible if it takes into account the needs of animal and plant populations, which do not understand the notion of national borders. Member States are tasked with setting up the Natura 2000 network in addition to local schemes.

GMO / Genetically modified organism: Living organism whose genetic makeup has been altered by humans through the insertion of one or more genes from an external source.

Medium-sized forest unit (parquet in French) (management by medium-sized forest unit): Relatively uniform forest unit (regular or irregular stand), with a minimum area of 0.5ha and sufficiently distinguishable to be represented on a map.

Forest stand: A community of trees growing in a forest area, irrespective of their stage of development.

Hunting plan: Administrative document setting the number of animals that a hunting permit holder may/must remove every year.

Simple Management Plan (Plan simple de gestion – PSG)

Submitted by the owner, the Simple Management Plan is a sustainable management document setting out a code of conduct for management of their forest for a 10-20 year period. It is mandatory for any private forest of 25 hectares or more and is a voluntary plan for forests of between 10 and 25 hectares. It consists of three parts:

- An analysis of stands within their economic, environmental and social context.
- A definition of management goals.
- A felling and works programme.

Regeneration / Renewal: Renewal of species by sexual reproduction. If this is achieved by means of naturally dispersed seeds, this is known as natural regeneration; if achieved through planting programmes or artificial sowing, it is known as artificial regeneration.

Forest residue: Any residue left in the felling area after harvesting. Strictly speaking, this refers mainly to brushwood (diameter less than 7cm), but also includes branches with a diameter over 7cm not recovered during harvesting, offcuts and scraps, and small stems of negligible diameter but cut for silvicultural reasons. In a broader sense, it includes tree stumps, which have potential as an energy source, and foliage, which may be removed under certain harvesting conditions.

Standard Management Rules (Règlement Type de Gestion – RTG): Document produced by a forestry expert, cooperative forest management body (organisme de gestion en commun) or the French National Forestry Commission for an entire population of similar stands. Owners with less than 25 ha may sign up to adopt a sustainable management document. This describes harvesting, replacement and management procedures, by major stand type. It also offers guidance on how to take major environmental challenges into account, along with recommendations on managing big game populations. It must comply with the Regional Forest Management Scheme and is by approved by the Regional Forest Property Centre.

Rotation cycle: Length of time required to complete all harvesting and stand renewal operations.

Riverside vegetation: Stretch of wooded area on the banks of a water course, stretch of water or river.

Forest access plan: Document setting out forest roadway equipment within the context of a global approach integrating a number of parameters – economic (optimal mobilisation of resources), social (access rights for other

users) and environmental (protecting fragile environments) – along with regulatory, physical and land-use constraints. At territorial level, the access plan also represents a collaborative tool for forest area stakeholders.

Regional planning scheme (Schéma régional d'aménagement – SRA): Regulatory document specifying practical procedures for the implementation of regional forestry guidelines intended for the multi-functional management of public forests owned by local authorities and public institutions. Just like the DRA, it is produced by the French National Forestry Commission and approved by the government. Like the DRA, it provides an analysis of specific forest features, along with technical recommendations in relation to tree species, provenance, cutting diameters, silvicultural treatment, land-use management, recreational areas, etc.

Understorey: In a regular stand structure, space occupied by all tree crowns located clearly below (discontinuity) the area occupied by trees in the overstorey(s) (main, dominant, overtopped). By extension, the understorey may sometimes include the crowns of shrubs or bushes. Term sometimes extended to include irregular stand structures. Shrub vegetation under the tree canopy.

Subcontracting: Operation by which an entity (the main company or contractor) awards a contract to another agent (the subcontractor) to deliver all or part of a business contract for which they are responsible.

Regional Silvicultural Management Scheme: (Schéma Régional de Gestion Sylvicole – SRGS): Regulatory document approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, whose role is to steer the management of private forests in a specified region within the framework of a forestry policy defined by the State.

It is also a technical document for the management of woods and forests. Sustainable forest management documents, such as the PSG, RTG and CBPS must comply with this document.

The SRGS puts forward a range of different targets synchronised with small natural areas (timber production, fire protection, agroforestry management plans, preservation of natural environment, recreational areas, non-timber products etc.).

The owner may choose one or more targets for their forest, based on their own wishes and site conditions.

Sustainable management tasks are linked to these targets.

Forest site: Piece of land of variable surface area (from a few m² to several tens of ha), homogeneous in its physical and biological conditions. A forest site warrants a specific silvicultural method for use with a given species, that can be expected to result in a productivity bound within known limits.

Silviculture: A set of rules and techniques for the cultivation, maintenance and harvesting of a forest.

Coppice: Silvicultural method and type of stand in which tree stems are regularly cut down to the stump (referred to as a coppice stool).

Coppice with standards: Silvicultural method and type of stand in which a mixture of coppice stools are interspersed with full-height trees within the same plot of land.

Peatland (ericaceous) soil: Very acidic, humus rich soil. It is produced from the breakdown of organic matter (including heather). This soil is sandy and therefore permeable and, most importantly, it is acidic.

Peat: A fossil organic matter derived from plant residues formed by the anaerobic partial decomposition and carbonisation of plant material.

Peatland: An area where peat is formed.

Forest treatment: A programme of operations (works, felling etc.) designed to steer the development of a forest stand within the framework of a given regime. These programmes include: regular treatment, aimed at producing an even-aged high forest or simple coppice; irregular treatment, aimed at producing an uneven-aged high forest or selection forest; and mixed treatment which combines regular treatment for coppices and irregular treatment for high forest.

Gap: Small forest area (<1ha) without any full-grown trees.

Forest management unit: A consistent and homogeneous plot of land from a biogeographic perspective, which may be made up of one or more forest stands and is owned by a single individual.

Wetland area: Land areas, whether developed or otherwise, that are regularly flooded or saturated with fresh, salt or brackish water either permanently or seasonally; where there is vegetation, this is dominated by wetland plants for at least part of the year. (Article L.211-1 of the French Environmental Code).

3 Sustainable forest management standard applicable to forests in Metropolitan France

Sustainable forest management standard	Forest owner	Fo ope and fore wor
Foreword		
Sustainable forest management seeks to balance the economic, environmental and social functions of forests. It must comply with applicable legislation on forests, protection of the environment and nature, threatened and protected species, right of occupancy and use of land by local communities, respect for the right of ownership, health, work and safety, and payment of fees and taxes.	X	X
Sustainable forest management must include, prevent and prohibit illegal land use, illegally initiated fires and any other illegal activities.	X	X
<p>In particular, French forests must address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climate change and its impacts; – the need for energy transition. <p>For these reasons, sustainable forest management must anticipate climate change and ensure that all products emanating from the forest are supplied without damaging its sustainability.</p>	X	X
1. Seek training and advice		
1.1		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek training and advice on sustainable forest management and harvesting practices, referring to documentation made available by PEFC certification gateway entities, PEFC member bodies and any other competent body; - Take part as frequently as necessary in training days and courses organised by these bodies, in order to understand and implement this standard and provide evidence for their decisions. 	X	X
1.2 Provide training to staff in the requirements of this standard and in the quality of forestry work (particularly in regard to safety).	X	X
2. Plan and manage forests sustainably and ensure their ongoing improvement.		
2.1 Forest owners with over 10 hectares in the same plot must have a sustainable management guarantee or equivalent, apart from specific documented cases, approved by the certification gateway entity (EAC in French) ¹ :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management planning document; - Simple management plan; - Standard management rules; - Code of Good Forestry Practice with felling and works programme. 	X	X
2.2 For areas below 10 hectares in the same plot, adhere to forestry guidelines outlined in regional silvicultural management schemes (SRGS), regional planning schemes (SRA), and regional planning guidelines (DRA). These documents are publicly available.	X	X

¹ Article L.124-2 of the French Forestry Code

<p>2.3 Retain all forest management documentation to facilitate tracking and supervision of documentary evidence covering operations implemented and decisions taken in relation to this standard.</p>	X	
<p>2.4 Ensure the regular renewal of their forest, by means of natural regeneration and/or planting programmes and/or artificial sowing in order to ensure the quantity and quality of forest resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refer to existing catalogues and guides, prioritising local or acclimatised species, suited to the forest site, and taking account of current knowledge about climate change. - Other species may be introduced providing they are listed in regional documents (SRGS, SRA/DRA) governing forest management, which are evaluated from an environmental perspective. <p><i><u>N.B.:</u> Within the context of adapting to climate change, it is however possible to introduce and progressively pilot non-listed new species/varieties that are known or expected to be resilient to climate change, on unit areas below 5ha. These experimental introductions must be undertaken in collaboration with a competent body.</i></p> <p><i><u>Planting and seedling clarifications:</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use forest materials that are compliant with regulations and recommended as adapted for local use. - Request and retain the certificate of origin of plants and seeds which must be provided for forest reproductive materials. <p><i><u>N.B.:</u> The decision to renew by planting may be made not only at the level of the individual plot of land, but based on the forest area and/or forest region (See IGN classification). Forest planting must meet the geo-climatic conditions of the site in question, which influence the choice of species and its provenance.</i></p>	X	
<p>2.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage diversity of species and/or varieties, including genetic diversity, stand structures (regular, irregular etc.) and of treatment types (irregular high forest, high forest managed by medium-sized forest unit (parquet), regular high forest, coppice with standards, simple coppice, deliberate non-intervention etc.). - Retain irregular areas, companion species and understoreys without compromising target species. - Retain tiered forest edges, or if possible create new ones. - In areas with steep slopes (incline of 30% or over), opt for irregular treatments or management by individual tree or medium-sized forest unit. 	X	
<p>2.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that the quantity and quality of forest resources is maintained in the medium and long term by using techniques that minimise direct and indirect damage to forestry, pedological, biological or hydrological resources (excluding damage caused by game). <p><i><u>N.B.:</u> refer to item 4.7 for game damage.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and control the harvesting of non-timber forest products, where these are the responsibility of the forest owner or manager and included within forest management. - Apart from any specific constraints (storms, fires, phytosanitary risks), respect the forest area by preserving regeneration, crop and/or reserve trees, conservation species, soil types, flora and fauna in general, together with associated natural environments. - Conduct regeneration, maintenance and harvesting operations in a manner that does not reduce the forest's production capacity. <p><i><u>N.B.:</u> if this proves not to be possible or if the expected results are not obtained, the owner</i></p>	X	

<p><i>must seek and implement alternative solutions aimed at restoring the stand's production capacities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not undertake forestry operations that lead to a regressive treatment regime cut compared with the initial stand. - Limit the levels and pace of harvesting timber and non-timber products in order to ensure their sustainability, taking account of soil sensitivity to all forms of disturbance – physical (compaction, erosion) and chemical (extraction of mineral and organic constituents). - Do not undertake clearfelling without developing a replacement stand within 5 years: clearfelling does not pose a threat to sustainable management. - Areas for clearfelling located in zones of high landscape sensitivity may not exceed 2 to 5ha on sloping terrain ($\geq 30\%$) and 10 to 25ha in other instances apart from specific documented cases. <p><i><u>N.B.</u>: Final regeneration cutting is not regarded as clearfelling.</i></p>		
<p>2.7 Ensure that sufficient suitable access ways and storage areas are provided so that their forest land can be managed sustainably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ taking into account the potential existence of a forest access plan or other such plan; ▪ minimising the environmental impact of building forest access roads, in particular on exceptional species and environments; ▪ ensuring that watercourses are maintained and retain their natural function and that soils are protected. 		X
<p>2.8 Make good use of forest access / timber haulage routes and storage areas, adapted and provided by the contractor and, if necessary, restore them to their original state after use.</p>		X
<p>2.9 Take account of specific visitor usage constraints and of contractual constraints notified by the contractor and/or forest owner (in addition to specific logging clauses), and put in place appropriate signage (safety, PEFC worksite, alternative route, etc.).</p>		X
<p>3. Adopt measures to preserve biodiversity and protect soil and water.</p>		
<p>3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take into account, respect and encourage all aspects known and identified as of exceptional biodiversity (fauna, flora, their habitats and associated environments), in particular wetland areas/environments. - When scheduling operations, prioritise times that will avoid damage to these species during their breeding season. - Inform service providers in writing of any aspects of biodiversity that must be preserved in the forest. 		X
<p>3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with requirements linked to any site protected by regulations known to the forest owner and/or contractor. - In Natura 2000 sites in particular, take account of operating methods recommended in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ target documents; ▪ or charters and contracts to which the owner has signed up; ▪ or contracts entered into by the owner; 		X

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ or appendices to regional silvicultural management schemes (SRGS – “Green appendices”). - Set appropriate requirements for operators and indicate the relevant areas at grassroots level. - Comply with regulations on protected species and areas. - Apply environmental requirements notified by the owner or contractor. 		
<p>3.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take into account areas of high landscape sensitivity, insofar as land divisions and the intervention area permit. - Respect exceptional sites, elevated areas and viewpoints notified by the contractor and/or forest owner. - Preserve and respect aspects of historic, cultural, architectural and landscape heritage known to and notified by the contractor and/or forest owner. - Take into account the value of the forest landscape by retaining varied forest structures and encouraging attractive trees, clusters and other features such as colour, flowers and fruits. 		X
<p>3.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce and/or maintain pockets of diversity, species, treatments and stand structures. - Develop pockets of ageing and/or dying trees.² 		X
<p>3.5 By managing maintenance / staffing in accordance with the size of the property, retain old or dead trees, standing and/or fallen, ensuring compliance with forest health, safety and insurance requirements, and ensuring that safety requirements are communicated to service providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at least one dead or dying tree per hectare ▪ at least one hollow, old or very large tree per hectare; ▪ fallen dead wood of all dimensions and all species. <p><i><u>N.B.:</u> If they pose a risk to the safety of people or property, these may simply be felled.</i></p>		X
<p>3.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not use fertilisers except in cases when they are known to be required, and under no circumstances in the vicinity of watercourses, river bank vegetation, protected areas and habitats known and identified as exceptional. - Wherever possible, use effective alternatives to synthetic fertilisers. <p><i><u>Planting clarifications:</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>For maritime pine stands in particular, limit the use of phosphorus-based fertilisers (P2O5) to a maximum of 150 U/ha applied in at least two doses over the life of the stand.</i> - <i>For stands of poplar and walnut trees, limit the use of nitrogen to 120 U/ha applied in at least two doses over the life of the stand.</i> 		X
<p>3.7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibit the use of all plant protection products (herbicides, insecticides etc.): 		X

² Where the size of the property permits.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at a distance of less than 6 metres from water courses and permanent stretches of water³; ▪ in the immediate vicinity and close to drinking water abstraction points; ▪ or where it is likely to damage a habitat identified as exceptional. <p><i>Please note: This restriction may be lifted in the event of a collective treatment following an infestation declared by the authorities and undertaken by approved companies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use these products but limit their use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ when the vitality and future of target species are compromised or when there is no reasonably priced effective alternative; ▪ for brush clearing and forest fire protection; ▪ to avoid compaction of fragile soil by repeated use of heavy machinery. - Prohibit the use of plant protection products on forest logs, except in cases of proven necessity where the preservation and conservation of the logs and/or stand are threatened and there is no reasonably priced effective alternative. - Hold an individual certificate for use of plant protection products (certificat individuel de produits phytopharmaceutiques – CIPP, decision-maker category) or use the services of an accredited company for the application of plant protection products, which must comply with the manufacturer’s instructions for the product (in particular regarding untreated areas). - Only products approved for forest use listed on the website of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) may be used.⁴ 		
<p>3.8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opt for mechanical or manual clearing rather than chemical clearing. - Prioritise selective localised clearing rather than non-selective whole site clearing. 		X
<p>3.9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The operating contract must explicitly outline the treatment and future use of brushwood and tree stumps. - When removing tree stumps and brushwood, ensure that the soil balance is not adversely affected. - Do not incinerate tree stumps and brushwood in forests, unless administrative approval is granted. <p><i>N.B.: This requirement may be amended on the basis of the results of work currently being undertaken by GIP ECOFOR (Forest Ecosystems Public Interest Group).</i></p>		X
<p>4. Adopt and implement risk management measures</p>		
<p>4.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify fire risk zones. - Apply adequate measures in areas legally designated as fire risk zones (e.g.: brush clearing and pruning areas, water supply points, etc.). 		X
<p>4.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not remove peatland (ericaceous) soil, peat and leaf mould from forest soil for commercial purposes. 		X

³ Unless more restrictive local regulations apply

⁴ For the record, French regulations prohibit the use of WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides in forests.

- Do not destroy known peaty areas.		
4.3 Do not use GMOs in forests.		X
4.4 - Monitor the health and vitality of forests, and inform the relevant agencies (Forest Health Department or corresponding field observers) of any parasite attacks, development of declared invasive species, or any other identified phytosanitary problems. - Take the necessary measures to prevent them from spreading to neighbouring stands (for example annosus root rot treatments during the felling of sensitive conifer species), and/or take part in joint campaigns launched by the authorities.		X
4.5 Do not spread industrial or sewage treatment sludge, except when experimental usage has been legally authorised.		X
4.6 - Forest experiments are encouraged providing they do not compromise management goals. - They must be performed under the direction of a competent body.		X
4.7 Insofar as the forest owner exercises their hunting rights: Take steps to ensure a balance between forest and game, which is an essential prerequisite of sustainable forest management. - Apply to the departmental prefect, requesting a sufficient number of tags to be distributed in order to maintain or restore a forest/game balance, or take part in this process by co-signing applications for tags with hunters (where possible) and by requesting from the relevant authorities a report confirming that authorised game shooting plans are being applied in practice. - Report damage caused by game to the departmental prefect and/or a representative body and ensure the report is properly followed up. - If a forest-game imbalance persists, contact the representative bodies to find out about existing legal mechanisms to claim damage compensation and ensure an effective balance between forest and game.		X
4.8 Insofar as the forest owner is unable to exercise their hunting rights, report any damage that puts the sustainability of stands at risk to the departmental prefect and/or a representative body, and request an adapted hunting plan along with compensation for the reported damage.		X
4.9 If the presence of livestock disrupts the silvopastoral balance, take appropriate management measures to limit grazing pressure.		X
5. Negotiate contracts for and ensure the quality of forestry work		
5.1 Referring to PEFC requirements, formalise in a contract all works, felling, timber purchases/sales and management tasks.		X
5.2 Comply with the contract, specifications and any written conditions set out by the contractor and/or forest owner.		X

<p>5.3 For all forest works undertaken, comply with one of the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require the service provider to sign the PEFC sustainable forest management rules (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016, i.e. this document) as part of the contractual agreement with the operator or owner. - Require the service provider to sign a charter or set of national specifications endorsed by PEFC France. - Employ a service provider that has signed up to the “ETF-Gestion durable de la forêt” (Forestry companies - Sustainable forest management) national quality charter endorsed by PEFC France. - Employ a service provider involved in the forest certification scheme operated by the regional or group PEFC certification gateway entity with territorial jurisdiction. 	X
<p>5.4 During felling and works, find out and inform service providers about soil sensitivity and its conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By using appropriate equipment and techniques, in particular in areas with a high risk of erosion or compaction (such as the use of cables). - By limiting machinery access (in particular when installing and monitoring the use of skid trail networks). - By taking into account weather conditions when organising the worksite and conducting operations (do not begin operations or stop work in the event of adverse weather conditions). - By taking care over haulage methods and during haulage periods (these must be specified in the sale or works contract). - By leaving the felling area in a satisfactory condition so that forestry work can continue. 	X
<p>5.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform all forestry workers of the presence of wetland areas/environments, springs, water courses, ponds and ditches to ensure their preservation when work is carried out. - Trees must be prevented from falling into or lying in these areas and any waste should be cleared out. - Original run-offs should be restored if necessary. - Maintain border vegetation protecting banks, opting for species that hold the banks in place. - Do not cross water courses and ponds. - If there is no alternative but to cross water courses, and subject to administrative formalities being required, use appropriate crossing techniques and equipment (e.g.: water crossing kit). - Avoid the edges of water courses when moving machinery unless this is absolutely necessary or to undertake river bank vegetation work. Use suitable equipment in order to minimise the impact on these environments. 	X
<p>5.6 Identify drinking water abstraction points on the property and comply with the statutory easements on groundwater protection zones as specified by Article L1321-2 of the French Public Health Code.</p>	X

<p>5.7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep equipment in good working order. - Maintenance of machinery should be undertaken away from plots of forest land, and always well away from water courses, stretches of water, ditches and wetland areas. - Always have an oil spill kit available. - Use biodegradable oils wherever possible. 		
<p>5.8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recover oil (engine and hydraulic) and non-timber waste generated by forest harvesting operations. - Dispose of this waste without creating further damage in compliance with regulations, using the appropriate channels for recyclable waste. - Take steps to ensure the disposal and recovery of other waste. - Retain written records of these actions where these are available (e.g. receipt or deposit slip, register, waste tracking slip etc.). 		
<p>5.9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify risks associated with workstations in the workplace risk assessment document. - Identify and communicate to interested parties (employees and subcontractors) specific worksite risks via the site preparation sheet (fiche de chantier). - Take all necessary measures to ensure that forestry work is carried out under appropriate quality, health, safety and qualification standards in compliance with current regulations. 		X
<p>5.10 Inform the PEFC certification gateway entity in writing if the owner feels that work carried out on their property by a PEFC accredited company does not comply with this standard.</p>		X
<p>6. Promote PEFC certification</p>		
<p>6.1 As far as their resources permit, promote and explain PEFC forest certification, in particular by displaying signs in the forest.</p>		X
<p>6.2 Forward PEFC membership documents to non-certified producers, to encourage them to sign up.</p>		