

VIETNAM ADMINISTRATION OF FORESTRY
VIETNAM FOREST CERTIFICATION OFFICE

PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist



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1 Purpose

The purpose of this Informative Guide is to assist the assessment against the PEFC Council's core documents as listed in chapter 5 of PEFC GD 1007:201x.

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

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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 3.3)
b) the record-keeping procedures,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.7)
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			(Section 4.5)
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section IV)
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
f) revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.9)
4.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall regularly review its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
4.3 The standardising body shall keep records relating to the standard-setting process providing evidence of 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.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.7)
	Process	YES	All annexes in Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report and related documents in hardcopy are available at the Silviculture Research Institute, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences and Vietnam Forest Certification Office, Vietnam Administration of Forestry
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.4_2.1; 4.4_2.2 and 4.4_2.3
4.4 The working group/committee shall:			
a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2.b)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.4_2.1; 4.4_2.2 and 4.4_2.3
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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2. b and d)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			process development report Annexes 4.4_2.1; 4.4_2.2 and 4.4_2.3
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.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2. b)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.4_2.1; 4.4_2.2 and 4.4_2.3
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 stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.10)
	Process	N/A	
4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:			
	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019,

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,			Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.10.(2))
	Process	N/A	
b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint, and	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4. 10. 3))
	Process	N/A	
c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.10 3) and 4))
	Process	N/A	
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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.10)
Standard-setting process			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 3.3)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.1_3.1 and 5.1_3.2
5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders. The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2 (b); Section 4.5 and 4.6)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.1_3.1 and 5.1_3.2
5.3 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019,

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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.			Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
(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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process, and	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
e) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 4.2_1.1 and 4.2_1.2
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 requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1, last Paragraph)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.1_3.1 and 5.1_3.2

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2. d))
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes in both Vietnamese and English from 5.5_1. to 5.5_11.
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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2. d))
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes in both Vietnamese and

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			English from 5.5_1. to 5.5_11.
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.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2. d))
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes in both Vietnamese and English from 5.5_1. to 5.5_11.
5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
a) the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.3.3; 4.4.1; and 4.4.4)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			process development report Annexes in both Vietnamese and English 5.6_1.1; 5.6_1.2; 5.6_1.3; 5.6_2.1; 5.6_2.2; 5.6_3.1; and 5.6_3.2
b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.1 and 4.4.4)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes from 5.6_1.1 to 5.6_1.11 Annexes from 5.6_2.1 to 5.6_2.15 Annexes from 5.6_3.1 to 5.6_3.9
	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019,

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
c) the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible,			Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.4)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes in both Vietnamese and English 5.6_1.1; 5.6_1.2; 5.6_1.3; 5.6_2.1; 5.6_2.2; 5.6_3.1; and 5.6_3.2
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.4)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes in both Vietnamese and English 5.6_1.1; 5.6_1.2; 5.6_1.3;

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			5.6_2.1; 5.6_2.2; 5.6_3.1; and 5.6_3.2
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.4)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.6_1.12; 5.6_2.16; 5.6_3.10; and 5.6_3.11
(f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.4)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.6_1.12; 5.6_2.16; 5.6_3.10; and 5.6_3.11

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.3)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annex 5.7
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.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.2.(d); 4.4.5)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.8_1 and 5.8_2
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	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019,

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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.,			Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
	Process	YES	Attachment 14_Standard setting process development report Annexes 5.8_1 and 5.8_2
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
	Process	NO	
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members with the members providing a written response (a proxy for a vote), or	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
	Process	NO	
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			(Section 4.6)
	Process	NO	
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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
	Process	N/A	
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	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
	Process	N/A	
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.6)
	Process	N/A	

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.7)
	Process	YES	All documents in hardcopies are available at VFCO, VFCS Website and will be provided for any request from public
5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.5)
	Process	YES	Annexes 5.11_1 and 5.11_2
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	Attachment 3_VFCS ST 1002: 2019, Standard Setting Procedures (Section 4.4.5)
	Process	YES	Annexes 5.11_1 and 5.11_2

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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 procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.	Process	N/A	
6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.	Process	N/A	
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, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.	Process	N/A	
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	N/A	

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 PEFC Council 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 PEFC Council 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 1002:2018)

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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 4 – clause 4.12
b) the group entity,	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 4 – clause 4.7
c) the participant,	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 4 – clause 4.16

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
d) the certified area,	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 4 – clause 4.3
e) the group forest certificate, and	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 4 – clause 4.8
f) the document confirming participation in group forest certification.	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 4 – clause 4.5
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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.2 – bullet e
4.1.3 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for group forest certification which ensure that participants' conformity with the sustainable forest management standard is centrally administered and is subject to central review and that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring programme.	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet g,k,l

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
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.	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet i,k,l
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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet b
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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet g
c) To establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet c

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<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 corrective actions taken; 	YES	<p>Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard</p> <p>Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet f</p>
<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>	YES	<p>Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard</p> <p>Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet g</p>
<p>f) To provide participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;</p>	YES	<p>Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet d
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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet i
h) To operate an annual internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements, and;	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet l
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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.1 – bullet f Section 10 – clause 10.4.1;10.4.2
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	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;		Section 6 – clause 6.1.2 – bullet a
b) To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.2 – bullet c
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	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.2 – bullet d
d) To implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	Attachment 6_VFCS ST 1004_2019_Group Forest Standard Section 6 – clause 6.1.2 – bullet f

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

1 Scope

Part III covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in VFCS 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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Section 2: scope
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard 7 principles, 122 indicators – SFM standards
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Section 2: scope

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Indicators; 2.2.2; 2.5.6; 3.4.4; 4.6.5; 5.3.4; 5.3.5; 6.2.3; 6.3.2; 6.5.4; 6.6.2
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 conservation.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Section 5: 7 principles
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Section 5: 7 principles
5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
correspondence with the topics described in this document.		Indicators: 1.1.3; 2.1.2; 4.8.1; 5.2.1; 6.1.1; 6.2.1
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Section 5: principle 1; 4 and 5
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Indicators: 1.3.1; 4.7.1; 6.1.2
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Indicators: 1.3.1
5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria: 4.1

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
performed, and results fed back into the planning process.		Indicator: 6.1.4 Principle: 7
5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria: 1.2 and 2.1
5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Indicators: 4.7.1; 5.1.2 Criteria: 5.2
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria: 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7
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: 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 consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria: 6.6 Indicators: 6.6.1

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and 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 d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.		
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.	NO	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria 5.2 Indicator 5.2.5
5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Indicators: 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.2.2 Criteria: 6.3; 6.4
Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 1.3: 1.3.2; 1.3.3; 1.3.5; 4.5: 4.5.1-4.5.3; 4.6: 4.6.1-4.6.4;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		5.1: 5.1.1; 5.1.2; 6.4: 6.4.3; 6.4.4; 6.5: 6.5.1-6.5.3
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.5: 4.5.1-4.5.3; 4.6: 4.6.1-4.6.5 7.2: 7.2.4; 7.2.5
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 2.1: 2.1.3; 2.3: 2.3.1 Principle: 3
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.3: 5.3.6; 6.4: 6.4.1-6.4.5; 6.5: 6.5.1-6.5.3

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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 forest management unit.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.6: 4.6.1-4.6.5
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.2: 4.2.1-4.2.5
5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.3: 4.3.1-4.3.5; 5.3: 5.3.2; 5.4: 5.4.1-5.4.3
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 1.4

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		4.5: 4.5.1; 5.3: 5.3.1; 5.3.1; 5.3.4
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.3: 5.3.1; 5.3.4
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 3.2: 3.2.3; 3.2.4
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.3: 5.3.1-5.3.5;
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.4: 4.4.1-4.4.4; 4.7: 4.7.1

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.4: 4.4.1-4.4.4
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.2: 5.2.1; 5.2.2; 5.2.4
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.4: 4.4.1-4.4.4
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending 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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.3: 4.3.1-4.3.5; 4.7: 4.7.1
5.3.6 Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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.		Criteria and Indicators: 4.7: 4.7.1
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 7.2: 7.2.1
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.8: 4.8.1; 4.8.2
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 biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.1: 6.1.1-6.1.3 6.2: 6.2.1-6.2.5 6.3: 6.3.1
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:	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.1: 6.1.1-6.1.4

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<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 occurring species.</p>		
<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.</p>	YES	<p>Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators:</p> <p>6.2: 6.2.4; 6.2.5</p>
<p>5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.</p>	YES	<p>Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators:</p> <p>5.2: 5.2.2; 5.2.5;</p> <p>6.4: 6.4.1; 6.4.2</p>
<p>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,</p>	YES	<p>Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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.		6.4: 6.4.1-6.4.3
5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.4: 6.4.1; 6.4.2
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.4: 6.4.3
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.4: 6.4.2; 6.4.5; 6.6: 6.6.1
5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.3: 6.3.1-6.3.4 6.4: 6.4.1-6.4.5

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.3: 4.3.3; 4.3.5; 4.7: 4.7.1
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 reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.8: 4.8.1; 4.8.2
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.2: 6.2.2; 6.4: 6.4.4
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 6.2: 6.2.1; 6.2.2; 6.3: 6.3.1; 6.4: 6.4.1; 6.4.2; 6.4.4
Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.5
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.3
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.3: 4.3.2-4.3.4 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.5
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 5.2: 5.2.1-5.2.5 5.3: 5.3.1-5.3.6

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.8: 4.8.1; 4.8.2
Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions		
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 2.1: 2.1.1; 2.1.3; 2.3: 2.3.1 4.4: 4.4.1; 4.4.2
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 2.5: 2.5.1; 2.5.2; 2.5.5
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 2.1: 2.1.1-2.1.3 2.4: 2.4.1

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<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 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>	YES	<p>Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators:</p> <p>1.4: 1.4.1</p> <p>2.1: 2.1.1</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>	YES	<p>Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators:</p> <p>2.4: 2.4.1; 2.4.2</p>
<p>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.</p>	YES	<p>Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators:</p> <p>2.4: 2.4.1; 2.4.2</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 2.4: 2.4.1 4.3: 4.3.1
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 to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this standard.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 3.2: 3.2.1-3.2.4 4.1: 4.1.1; 4.1.2 4.6: 4.6.4 6.3: 6.3.4
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 2.4: 2.4.2 6.1: 6.1.1
5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.		Criteria and Indicators: 2.1 : 2.1.1 2.5: 2.5.3; 2.5.4
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	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 3.1: 3.1.1-3.1.4 3.2: 3.2.1-3.2.4
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 3.2: 3.2.1-3.2.4 3.4: 3.4.2
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 1.4 : 1.4.1
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	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 4.2: 4.2.2

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.		4.3: 4.3.1-4.3.5 7.2: 7.2.2
Criterion 7: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Principle 1 Criteria 1.1 – 1.4 Principle 2 Criteria 2.1;2.3;2.4;2.5 Principle 3 Criteria 3.1 – 3.4
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.	YES	Attachment 5_VFCS ST 1003_2019_FM Standard Criteria and Indicators: 1.3: 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.5, 1.3.6 1.4: 1.4.1 4.6: 4.6.1, 4.6.2

* 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 VFCS ST 1006:2019 and VFCS GD 1007:2019.

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	Attachment 2_VFCS GD 1001_2019_ Description of the Scheme and Operation Section 4.3.1
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification or chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDU RES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	standard shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?			Section IV – point 2 Section V – point 2
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section V – point 2
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 certification criteria?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirement for Certification Bodies Section V – point 9
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 9

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 10 Section V – point 10
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 11 Section V – point 11
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 11 – bullet b Section V – point 11 – bullet b
9.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	requirements for auditors carrying out forest management or chain of custody audits? [*1]			Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 11 – bullet d and e Section V – point 11 – bullet f
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 3 Section V – point 3
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 65?	Annex 6, 4	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 2 Section V – point 2
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification	Annex 6, 4	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	procedures for chain of custody certification against Annex 4 shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO Guide 65?			Requirements for Certification Bodies Section V – point 2
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 11 – bullet c Section V – point 11 – bullet c
14.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management and chain of custody certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4	YES	Attachment 9_VFCS GD 1007_2019_Notification Procedures for Certification Bodies Annex III – Notification contract – Article 2
15.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo	Annex 6, 4	YES	Attachment 9_VFCS GD 1007_2019_Notification Procedures for Certification Bodies

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?			Annex III – Notification contract – Clause 9 – Article 2
16.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	NO	Attachment 9_VFCS GD 1007_2019_Notification Procedures for Certification Bodies Section V MoU has been signed between VFCS and BoA. On behalf of the VFCS, the BoA will monitor CB annually based on their internal procedures.
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	Attachment 9_VFCS GD 1007_2019_Notification Procedures for Certification Bodies Annex III – Notification contract - Article 6

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
18	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	Attachment 9_VFCS GD 1007_2019_Notification Procedures for Certification Bodies Section V Annex III – Notification contract – Article 4
19	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	NO	In the Attachment 12_VFCS GD 1010 2019_VFCS Procedures for the Resolutions of Appeals and Complaints identifies that the resolution procedures are applicable to the following complaints and appeals against VFCS, as follows: a) Regulations in operating the VFCS related to requirements for the accreditation bodies, certification bodies and other organizations, individuals; b) VFCS Logo Usage rules; c) The standard-setting process for sustainable forest management and chain of custody standard against VFCS; d) Information security regulations in

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				<p>the certification bodies notification contracts, VFCS Logo Use contracts.</p> <p>e) Activities between all stakeholders against VFCS;</p> <p>However, VFCS will be based on the internal procedures of CB as described at Section IV and V, bullets 3 in terms of usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence.</p>
20.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [1]	Annex 6, 4	NO	
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>Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies</p> <p>Section IV – point 4</p> <p>Section V – point 4</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
22.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	NO	Based on Accreditation Body
23.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?	Annex 6, 5	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 4 Section V – point 4
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	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirements for Certification Bodies Section IV – point 2 Section V – point 2

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
25.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake chain of custody certification against Annex 4 as “accredited certification” based on ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 5	YES	VFCS ST 1006 -2019 Section V – point 2
26.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirement for Certification Bodies Notification process
27.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	Attachment 8_VFCS GD 1006_2019_ Requirement for Certification Bodies Section 4.3.1

* 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

Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme has fully adopted PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements as part of the VFCS Scheme. Therefore, this part of the assessment is not applicable.

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	
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	
Complaints and dispute procedures				

No .	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
3.	Are complaint and dispute procedures go usage licenses in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i> ?		YES	