

PEFC Checklist - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)

1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018, *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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4. Context of the group organisation		
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context		
The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:		
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3, 4
b) other groups and/or	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3, 4
c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3, 4
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.1
b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.1
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system		
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:		
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant),	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3, 5
b) the certified area,	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3
c) the group certificate and	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 3, 4.4, 5.1.1
4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 1, 3, 4.4, 5.1.1, 5.2, 6.8.2, 8.2

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: Annex B
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.2
4.4 Group management system		
4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.3, 6.6.1.1
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.5
5. Leadership		
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities		
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:		
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.1, 6.1.2
b) to represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.4
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.2
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.2, 6.8.2
e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.2
f) to keep documented information of: i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system, ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.2

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
iii. the certified area, iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;		
g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding 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 nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard; Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.1, 6.3.3
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.2
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.1
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.2.1, 6.1.6, 6.1.7
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6, 6.6.3.1.1
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7
n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.4, 6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 7.1

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:		
a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion. Note: The requirement for “written agreement” and participants’ “commitment” is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.3, 7.1
b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 7.1
c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 7.1
d) 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 related or with implications for the management system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 7.1
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 7.1
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 7.1
5.2 Commitment and policy		
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.2.1
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.2.1
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.2.1
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.2.1

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
participants.		
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.2.2
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.3
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.3
6. Planning		
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.1
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.2
7. Support		
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.4.1
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.4.2
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning:	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.1
a) the group management policy;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.1
b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.1
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.1
d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.1
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:		
a) on what to communicate;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.2
b) when to communicate;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.2

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) with whom to communicate;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.2
d) how to communicate.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.2.2
7.5 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.5.3.1
7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:		
a) up to date;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.1
b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.1
c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.1
8. Operation		
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:		
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 1.1, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.2.1, 6.6.1.1
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: chapter 6
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: chapter 6
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.1
c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.1
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:		
a) what shall be monitored and measured;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.1., 6.6.2, Annex B
b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.1., 6.6.2, Annex B
c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.1., 6.6.2, Annex B

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.1., 6.6.2, Annex B
e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.1., 6.6.2, 6.8.2
9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.1, 6.6.2, 6.6.3, 6.7
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:		
a) conforms to i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.1
b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.1, 6.6.3.2
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.1, 6.7.1.1
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.1, 6.6.3.2.2, 6.6.3.3.2
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1, 6.6.3.1.2
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.2
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.5
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.2
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.2
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.2, 6.8.2

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.		
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme		
9.3.1 General		
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme. These requirements shall include the following procedures for:	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3
a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.2
b) determination of sample categories(9.3.3);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.4
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3, 6.6.3.3.1, 6.6.3.3.4,
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size		
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.2
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.2
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:		
a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;	N/A	Not applicable. PEFC FI 1001 does not apply this indicator for adaptation of the sample size.
b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	YES	6.6.3.3.2a
c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;	N/A	Not applicable. PEFC FI 1001 does not apply this indicator for adaptation of the sample size.
d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements; Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.	N/A	Not applicable. PEFC FI 1001 does not apply this indicator for adaptation of the sample size.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground. Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.2b, c
9.3.3 Determination of sample categories		
9.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:		
a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
b) size of management units (different size classes);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
e) deforestation and forest conversion;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
f) rotation period(s);	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
g) richness of biological diversity;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
k) governance and law enforcement.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
9.3.4 Distribution of the sample The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.3.3, Annex A
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.4
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.6.3.1.4

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.4 Management review		
9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.1.1
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.1.1
c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.1.1.
d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.1.1, 6.7.2.1
e) opportunities for continual improvement.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.1.1, 6.7.1.2
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.1.2
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.2
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.2.1
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.2.1
c) implement any action needed;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.2.1
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.2.1
e) make changes to the group management system, if	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.7.2.1

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
necessary.		
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.2
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.8.2
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.3.2d
10.2 Continual improvement The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	YES	PEFC FI 1001: 6.1.3, 6.7.1.2

* 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.