

# **Standard revision report – PEFC Forest Certification system in Finland and revision of PEFC FI standards in 2019–2022**

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**PEFC Finland**   **phone** +35840 0765437  
Elimäenkatu 17-19   **email** office@pefc.fi  
00510, Helsinki   **www**.pefc.fi  
Finland

## Content

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. PEFC system in Finland .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Revision of sustainable forest management (SFM) requirements .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.1 Approval of PEFC FI 1006 standard and initiation of SFM Standard Setting process .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.2 SFM standard revision .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.3 Approval of SFM Final Draft version .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Revision of PEFC FI 1000, PEFC FI 1001 and PEFC FI 1005 standards .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Materials to PEFC Council for the PEFC endorsement .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Annex 1. PEFC FI Standard Setting Working Group 2019–2021 .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Annex 2. Impact assessment of revisions to PEFC FI criteria standard .....</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1. Introduction

PEFC Finland, an association registered in Finland, is responsible for the standard setting and administration of the Finnish PEFC system.

PEFC Finland became a PEFC Council member on 30 June 1999. The fourth revision of the PEFC FI standards took place in 2019–2022. The Finnish PEFC system was re-endorsed by the PEFC Council ([www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)) on 17 August 2015.

This document includes a summarised description of the revision of the PEFC FI standards in 2019–2022.

## 2. PEFC system in Finland

The Finnish PEFC forest certification system includes five standards:

- PEFC FI 1000:2022; Forest Certification Vocabulary
- PEFC FI 1001:2022; Group forest management certification – Requirements
- PEFC FI 1002:2022; Sustainable forest management - Requirements
- PEFC FI 1005:2022; Requirements for certification bodies operating PEFC forest management certification
- PEFC FI 1006:2019; Standard Setting Process for PEFC Forest Certification

In Finland Chain of custody certification is operated according to:

- PEFC ST 2002 (Chain of Custody),
- PEFC ST 2001 (PEFC Trademarks Rules) and
- PEFC ST 2003 (Certification Body Requirements).

In addition the Finnish PEFC system includes administrative procedures as referred in completed PEFC FI Checklist Admin as follows:

- PEFC logo license issuance (Application and agreement documents),
- notification of certification bodies (Application and agreement documents) and
- dealing with complaints.

International approval by PEFC Council is the precondition for the use of the revised Finnish PEFC FI standards.

### 3. Revision of sustainable forest management (SFM) requirements

#### 3.1 Approval of PEFC FI 1006 standard and initiation of SFM Standard Setting process

PEFC Finland decided in February 2019 to start a revision of the PEFC FI SFM standard on the basis of needs identified in the Gap Analysis. The PEFC FI 1006:2019 standard was revised to guide the SFM standard setting process.

PEFC Finland announced on 12 March 2019 a call for identified stakeholders to participate in a Standard Setting Working Group (SSWG) assigned by PEFC Finland to revise the requirements for the management and use of forests in Finland. At the same time, the invitation was publicly announced.

PEFC Finland announced the date of the inaugural meeting (5 June 2019) of the SSWG at the end of April, after having received letters of participation from 63 stakeholder organisations covering the seven key stakeholder groups identified in PEFC FI 1006:2019.

Dates	Milestones
PEFC Finland Board (28 January 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of Gap Analyses</li></ul>
PEFC Finland Board (7 March 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of PEFC FI 1006:2019 standard (Standard Setting process)</li><li>• Approval of stakeholder mapping, identification of disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders</li><li>• Approval of invitation letter</li></ul>
PEFC Finland (12 March 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public invitation and call for participation to stakeholders (invitation letters)</li></ul>
PEFC Finland Board (30 April 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decision on date of inaugural Standard Setting Working Group (SSWG) meeting</li><li>• Feedback on the scope and setting process of the standard (no comments received on scope of standard revision or Standard Setting process - PEFC FI 1006:2019)</li></ul>

#### 3.2 SFM standard revision

The Standard Setting Working Group (SSWG) elaborated a work plan to run the process according to the requirements of the PEFC FI 1006:2019 standard and in the timeframe set by PEFC Finland.

In 2019–2021, the SSWG held 19 meetings in total, the minutes of which, together with the draft versions of standards and other materials were placed on the internet page <https://pefc.fi/standardityo/> designated for the use of the SSWG and the public. In total, the SSWG consisted of the representatives of 65 organisations. PEFC Finland participated in the SSWG as an observer.

A First Draft version and a Second Draft version were prepared and placed publicly available for public consultation for a total of 60 days. Public seminars were held during the consultation

periods to communicate the content of the draft versions. During the two consultation periods the SSWG received more than 900 comments, which the SSWG duly processed.

The SSWG made a decision upon the SFM requirements of the Final Draft version in its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11 January 2021. 65 organizations participated in various stages of the revision process. Four of them withdrew in March–May 2021 before the end of the process. The other 61 organizations that participated throughout the process, approved the standard unanimously. In its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting on 1 November 2021 the SSWG concluded the process as closed.

Materials of the SSWG including the work plan, minutes of the meetings, synopsis of the comments of the two public consultations, two draft versions and the final draft of the standard were publicly available on [pefc.fi](https://pefc.fi/standardityo/) (<https://pefc.fi/standardityo/>) throughout the process.

Participants of the SSWG are shown in Annex 1.

Contact information of the identified stakeholders who were invited to the process and representatives of the stakeholders in the SSWG are available for the PEFC assessment process from PEFC Finland.

Milestones and dates	Documentation
<b>Start of the process</b> – inaugural SSWG meeting (5 June 2019, meeting no. 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation, agenda and minutes of 5 June meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Towards the First Draft version</b> – SSWG meetings 7/2019–2/2020, meetings no. 2–7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations, agendas and minutes of meetings</li> </ul>
<b>First Draft version</b> - commenting period of 30 days 17 February – 17 March 2020) - public seminar, in-person (24 February 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Draft version</li> <li>• Public announcement</li> <li>• Comments received</li> <li>• Synopsis of the comments</li> </ul>
<b>Towards the Second Draft version</b> – SSWG meetings (meetings no. 8–13) (4/2019–9/2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations, agendas and minutes of meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Second Draft version</b> - commenting period of 30 days (23 September–22 October 2020) - public seminar, on-line (7 October 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Draft version</li> <li>• Public announcement</li> <li>• Comments received</li> <li>• Synopsis of the comments</li> </ul>
<b>Towards the Final Draft version</b> – SSWG meetings (meetings no. 15–18) (4/2020–9/2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations, agendas and minutes of meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Final Draft version</b> - approval of Final Draft version - preparations for further negotiations - withdrawals - signing by SSWG participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation, agenda and minutes of 11 January 2021 meeting (meeting no. 18)</li> <li>• Final Draft version</li> <li>• Invitation, agenda and minutes of 1 November 2021 meeting (meeting no. 19)</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Approval of SFM Final Draft version

PEFC Finland received all documentation of the SFM revision process on 24 November 2021.

PEFC Finland completed the first paragraphs of the PEFC FI 1002:2022 standard according to the authorization by the SSWG.

Documentation of the SFM revision process, minutes of the SSWG meetings, letters of withdrawal and signatures of SSWG participants provided evidence on the consensus. During the SFM revision process and in its end there were no cases of complaints or appeals regarding the content of the standard or the process.

PEFC Finland's Extraordinary Meeting approved the PEFC FI 1002:2022 standard on 16 February 2022. The standard was published on 17 February 2022.

Annex 2 describes the differences between the SFM standard PEFC FI 1002:2014 currently used in Finland and the standard version elaborated in 2019–2021 by the SSWG.

Dates	Milestones
PEFC Finland (24 November 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receipt of SSWG documentation</li></ul>
PEFC Finland (1–2/2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical editing and layout of Final Draft version</li></ul>
PEFC Finland Board (7 February 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendation for Extraordinary Meeting to approve Final Draft version</li></ul>
PEFC Finland's Extraordinary Meeting (16 February 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of Final Draft version</li></ul>
PEFC Finland (17 February 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication of Final Draft version</li></ul>

## 4. Revision of PEFC FI 1000, PEFC FI 1001 and PEFC FI 1005 standards

The Board of PEFC Finland decided on 28 January 2019 to revise other PEFC FI standards in parallel with the SFM standard revision to fulfill PEFC's international requirements. The set of three revised standards (PEFC FI 1000, PEFC FI 1001 and PEFC FI 1005) was approved by the Board of PEFC Finland on 7 February and published on 17 February 2022.

The layout of PEFC FI 1006:2019 standard was updated to comply with other PEFC FI standards.

Dates	Milestones
PEFC Finland Board (28 January 2019)	Decision on revision process of following standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PEFC FI 1000 (Forest certification vocabulary)</li><li>• PEFC FI 1001 (Group forest management certification – Requirements)</li><li>• PEFC FI 1005 (Requirements for certification bodies operating PEFC forest management certification)</li></ul>
PEFC Finland Board (7 February 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of PEFC FI 1000:2022, PEFC FI 1001:2022 and PEFC FI 1005:2022 standards</li></ul>
PEFC Finland (17 February 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication of PEFC FI 1000:2022, PEFC FI 1001:2022 and PEFC FI 1005:2022 standards</li></ul>

## 5. Materials to PEFC Council for the PEFC endorsement

The application materials for the PEFC Council endorsement consist of documentation on the following subject areas:

- Application letter
- Development report
- System description (as part of Development report)
- Forest Certification Vocabulary (PEFC FI 1000:2022)
- Requirements for group certification (PEFC FI 1001:2022)
- Forest management standard (PEFC FI 1002:2022)
- Description of certification and accreditation procedures (PEFC FI 1005:2022)
- Standard setting procedures (PEFC FI 1006:2019)
- Supplementary materials (Documents #1, #2, #3 and #4) to revision of SFM requirements as referred in completed PEFC Checklist SFM.
- Administrative procedures of PEFC logo license issuance, notification of certification bodies and dealing with complaints as referred in completed PEFC Checklist Admin
- Completed PEFC checklists (Stand Sett, SFM, Group Certification, Cert Proced and Admin)

## Annex 1. PEFC FI Standard Setting Working Group 2019–2021

Unless otherwise stated in the table below, the participating organisations were registered for the working group at its inaugural meeting on 5 June 2019 and the organisations signed the Final Draft version of the standard.

\* date when organization was registered for working group

\*\* organization did not sign Final Draft version and date on which it announced its withdrawal from working group

Participants of the PEFC FI Standard Setting Working Group				
Arktiset Aromit ry	Infra ry	METO – Metsäalan Asiantuntijat ry	Saamelaiskäräjät	Svenska Lantbruksproducenternas Centralförbund SLC r.f.
Bioenergia ry	Itä-Suomen yliopisto	METO – Metsäalan Yrittäjät ry	** withdrawal 19 May 2021	Teknologian tutkimuskeskus VTT Oy * registered 9 September 2019
Dasos Capital	Joulupuuseura	Metsä Group	Sahateollisuus ry	
Loimua Oy	Kalatalouden keskusliitto ry	Metsäalan Kuljetusyrittäjät ry	Stora Enso Oyj Metsä	Teollisuusliitto ry
ELY-keskusten ympäristötoimiala * registered 9 September 2019 ** withdrawal 26 March 2021	Kestävän metsätalouden yhdistys ry	Metsähallitus	Suomen 4H-liitto	Tornator Oy
	Kirkkohallitus	Metsäkoulutus ry	Suomen Agrometsä Oy	Tuote- ja palvelukaupan yhdistys ETU
	Koneyrittäjien liitto ry	Metsänhoitoyhdistysten palvelu MHYP Oy	Suomen Latu ry	United Bankers
Energiateollisuus ry	L&T Biowatti Oy	Metsäteollisuus ry / Puusepännteollisuus ry	Suomen luontoyrittäjyysverkosto ry	UPM Kymmene Oyj Metsä
EPM Metsä	Luomuliitto ry	MTK Metsävaltuuskunta	Suomen metsäkeskus	Vapo Oy
Eteläisen-Suomen yhteismetsät ry	Loimu ry	Museovirasto	Suomen Metsästäjäliitto ry	Viherympäristöliitto ry
Etä metsänomistajien liitto ry	Luonnonvarakeskus	Paliskuntain yhdistys ** withdrawal 11 May 2021	Suomen Partiolaiset ry	Visaseura ry
Finsilva Oy	MTK ry		Suomen Riistakeskus	Yara Suomi Oy (Kemianteollisuus ry)
Geologian tutkimuskeskus	Maanomistajain liitto ry	Pohjois-Suomen yhteismetsien yhdistys ry	Suomen Suunnistusliitto	
Graafinen teollisuus ry	Marttaliitto		Suomen ympäristökeskus ** withdrawal 26 March 2021	
Helsingin yliopisto	METO – Kuntien Metsäasiantuntijat ry	Puusepännteollisuus ry		

## **Annex 2. Impact assessment of revisions to PEFC FI criteria standard**

Tapio Palvelut Oy and Pellervo Economic Research PTT have approved this English-language abstract, based on the abstract of the Finnish-language report 'Impact assessment of revisions to criteria of PEFC FI criteria standard'.

Note: The phrase 'PEFC FI criteria standard' refers to the PEFC FI 1002:2022 standard.

### **Abstract**

The criteria of the PEFC Forest Certification are checked every five years. The assessment made in collaboration by Tapio Palvelut Oy and Pellervo Economic Research PTT concerned the impact on forests and forestry and, to some extent, society at large, of the differences between the forest management standard PEFC FI 1002:2014 currently used in Finland and the standard version elaborated in 2019–2021 by the PEFC Standard Setting Working Group.

The version approved by the Standard Setting Working Group was published as the standard PEFC FI 1002:2022.

In this abstract, references to criteria follow the numbering used by the Standard Setting Working Group and the numbering of requirements in the standard PEFC FI 1002:2022

Tapio Palvelut Oy and Pellervo Economic Research PTT were commissioned to produce this assessment by PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council. The work was supported by the Development Group of PEFC Finland, which was requested to comment on the assessment's text to clarify interpretations of the standard version.

The impact of buffer zones of mires and water bodies (Criteria 11 and 17 / requirements 8.16 and 8.17) on the area of land available for forestry and the timber volume available for utilization was examined using Tapio's geodata analysis. Using the data derived with the analysis, calculations were made on the impact of the revised criteria on felling volumes and revenue. Impact assessment of revisions related to retention trees (Criterion 14 / requirement 8.14) was based on data concerning the current number and quality of retention trees, derived through assessments of current nature management measures. Regarding other criteria, the impact assessments consist of assessments by experts, based on research carried out in various fields. Other material used consists of interviews dealing with social impact, social responsibility and corporate economics.

Increasing the width of buffer zones bordering mires and water bodies with their vicinities will decrease the volume of timber that can be sold. Fellings are restricted on these buffer zones, whose area will increase by about 395,000 hectares. It is estimated that this will decrease the annual fellings by about 143,000 cubic metres. Increasing the number and diameter of retention trees will decrease fellings by about 425,000 cubic metres per year. Taken together, the above revisions will decrease the annual volume of timber available for felling by about 570,000 cubic metres, which is less than one percent of actual felling volumes per year.

On the national level, it is estimated that these revisions will decrease the annual felling revenue of forest owners by about EUR 20.5 million. This corresponds to about 0.9% of the total annual stumpage earnings. During 2015–20, the average total of stumpage earnings per year was about EUR 2,200 million.

Revisions designed to support biodiversity also promote forest health. This is also promoted by the requirement to prevent the spread of root rot (*Heterobasidion*) on all felling sites instead of on risk sites only (Criterion 6 / requirement 8.5). None of the revisions were assessed to have a negative impact on forest health.

The maintenance of structural features important for forest biodiversity is supported by revisions concerning the number of retention trees, the sparing of deadwood, sparing trees left on areas suffering from forest damage, leaving high stumps and preserving thickets and mixed stands. All these are widely known means to promote forest biodiversity, based on research information. As regards impact, foremost among the revisions is the one requiring that both live retention trees and deadwood must be left on felling sites (Criterion 14 / requirement 14).

The most significant revision related to natural sites concerns hardwood-spruce swamps as a habitat type. Safeguarding these is promoted through requirements related to both natural sites (Criterion 10 / requirement 8.11) and mire habitats (Criterion 11 / requirement 8.16). Requirements concerning ecotones between open mires and water bodies serve to focus continuous-cover forestry to areas where, in addition to timber production, advantages related to biodiversity, water protection, landscape and recreational use can be gained.

The revised requirements are assessed to have a fairly low impact on employment, combating grey economy, recreational use and the opportunities of activity of indigenous peoples. Revisions affecting the use of forests (Criteria 11 and 17 / requirements 8.16 and 8.17) have a slight negative impact on employment on the national level, even though they will increase the need for planning work somewhat. Combating grey economy is assisted by the revision (Criterion 24 / requirement 6.4) which allows the exclusion from competitive bidding of service bidders that do not meet their obligations, as early as at the bidding stage. In future, fewer agreements will be concluded with bidders who are undergoing or have applied for debt restructuring, thus being likely to have neglected their statutory obligations even in their earlier operations and having thus gained a competitive edge. Certain revisions (Criteria 11 and 17 / requirements 8.16 and 8.17) may lead to an increase in the potential of commercial forests to offer recreational benefits. These benefits are likely to be more visible in commercial forests close to cities and other settlements. Revisions to the opportunities of activity of the Sámi (Criteria 31 and 32 / requirements 8.21 and 6.5) have little impact.