

PEFC Checklist - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2018, *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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard		
4.1 General		
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; Note: An example of a situation where a requirement can be defined as being at another level (e.g. group/regional) is monitoring of forest health. Through monitoring of forest health at regional level, and communicating of results at the FMU level, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring of each forest management unit.	Yes	PEFC N 01 Ch.11. PEFC Norway's management system requirements and PEFC N 03 - Requirements for individual and group certification All forest management certificate holders (group certificate holders and forest properties which are directly certified) must be certified according to the environmental management system ISO 14001.
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development report: The standard is considered to be clear, objective-based and auditable. - This revision is the 4th revision of the Norwegian system and our experience through 20 years with a national PEFC-standard is that it has proven to be clear, objective-based and auditable. <p>It will in many cases be a need to balance different considerations and take into account the specific conditions at the site when forestry measures shall be implemented. This can lead to some space for interpretation on some of the requirements. Clear rules are easier to relate to in the certification process. However, it is also necessary that the requirements are designed to allow for the good place-customized solutions in the forests. In the Norwegian standard, emphasis has taken to balance these considerations. If it turns out that certain requirements in practice provides a basis</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		for adverse interpretations, the PEFC Norway will adopt clarifications to adjust the practice of them, cf. PEFC N 01, chapter 14.
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Introductory page “Each requirement has a brief description of what it aims to achieve. The requirements also have descriptions of specific requirements. The requirements describe what forest owners have to do in order to meet the targets for sustainable management. Requirements may involve specification of statutory obligations linked with management of the forest property in general. There may also be requirements for planning or documentation at property level and specific requirements which must be met when carrying out felling and other forestry operations. The requirements apply to the whole forest property for which the certification agreement has been concluded.”</p> <p>The standard further elaborates requirements for both forest owners and operators.</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 01 - 11. PEFC Norway's management system requirements</p> <p>“PEFC Norway requires companies to be approved as group certificate holders and forest properties which are directly certified to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 6.1 Requirements for group members</p> <p>“Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>3. Ensure that all relevant information is notified to consultant or contractor.</p> <p>11. Comply with PEFC Norway's guidelines for publication in accordance with PEFC N 01.</p> <p>12. Document harvesting and other measures in compliance with the certificate holder's requirements.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“11. Verify and document that the group's members meet the requirements of the certification system. See Chapter 8 for supplementary requirements for inspection and auditing.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support</p> <p>“6.The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>14001 Chapter 7.5. The documented information relevant to the group certification system and the fulfilment of the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard shall be:</p> <p>a) updated;</p> <p>b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;</p> <p>c) adequately protected (e.g. against misuse, loss of confidentiality, or loss of integrity)”</p> <p>PEFC N 01 - 15. Public access of information</p> <p>“According to Requirement 10 Transparency concerning environmental information, the forest owner shall provide environmental information to the general public in compliance with the Environmental Information Act.</p> <p>The Forestry Act's provision on forest registration and forestry plans states that overviews of the environmental values that emerge through forestry planning shall be publicly available, and also refers to the Environmental Information Act. In the Regulations on sustainable forestry, this is also regulated through the provision on environmental documentation and environmental registrations in section 4, which requires the forest owner to account for the environmental considerations that form the basis for planned or executed measures in the forest.”</p>
<p>e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;</p> <p>Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim “100% PEFC certified”, and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website www.pefc.org.</p>	Yes	PEFC N 01 - 9. Traceability certification
<p>f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim “100% PEFC-certified” or a system specific claim;</p>	Yes	PEFC N 01 - 9. Traceability certification
<p>g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the</p>	Yes	PEFC N 01 - 9. Traceability certification

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
standard;		
h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;	Yes	PEFC N 01 - 9. Traceability certification
i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.	Yes	PEFC N 01 - 21. The relationship between laws and certification requirements PEFC N 01 - 22. Overview of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry.
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;	Yes	PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context "4. The certificate holder shall understand the needs and expectations of the interested parties and decide (cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 4.2): a) Affected stakeholders relevant to the group certification system"
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	Yes	PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context "4. The certificate holder shall understand the needs and expectations of the interested parties and decide (cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 4.2): b) The relevant needs and expectations of these interested parties"
4.3 Determining the scope of the management system		
4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.	Yes	PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context "5. The certificate holder shall determine the scope of the system by delimiting and determining the scope of application of the system, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 4.3. The scope shall be maintained as documented information and available to stakeholders."
4.3.2 The standard requires that 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 practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.	Yes	PEFC N 03 - 7.3. Routines and responsibilities for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard "16. The certificate holder shall prepare a plan with guidelines for the use of various forestry management measures. The guidelines shall be based on the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forestry management operations. This shall form the basis

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		for a continuous improvement to minimize or avoid negative impacts. The guidelines shall be assessed and if needed revised annually, based on an evaluation of experience with the guidelines, statistics for measures implemented, the governments result-control of forestry measures, and developments in forests regionally based on the results from the National Forest Inventory. The guidelines shall ensure a periodic evaluation of forestry measures and the use of results in further planning process. The guidelines shall be publicly available."
5. Leadership		
5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	Yes	PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context 1. Leadership
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	Yes	PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context 1. Leadership
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	Yes	PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context 1. Leadership
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	Yes	PEFC N 02, Requirement 1 "Forest owners who own forests pursuant to the Act on property registration (the Cadastre Act) are responsible for ensuring that planning and implementation of forestry operations takes place in compliance with laws and regulations which regulate forestry and the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard. Forest owner is also responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out work in the forest has knowledge of the forest's known cultural heritage and environmental values." PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context "2.Organisational structure The group certificate holder must have described his organisational structure in accordance with his/her activities as a group administrator, e.g. by means of an organisation chart. The group certificate holder shall define and communicate roles, procedures, rights and obligations in the

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		work as a group certificate holder. Management shall ensure that there are sufficient resources for proper completion of this work. Please see also the requirements of the environmental management system, ISO 14001."
6. Planning		
6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities		
6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 - 7.1 Planning</p> <p>"Planning requirements are described in ISO 14001 Chapter 6, and deals with measures to consider risks and opportunities as well as environmental goals and planning to achieve them."</p> <p>ISO 14001 6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities</p> <p>"When planning for the environmental management system, the organization shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the issues referred to in 4.1; b) the requirements referred to in 4.2; c) the scope of its environmental management system; <p>and determine the risks and opportunities, related to its environmental aspects (see 6.1.2), compliance obligations (see 6.1.3) and other issues and requirements, identified in 4.1 and 4.2, that need to be addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — give assurance that the environmental management system can achieve its intended outcomes; — prevent or reduce undesired effects, including the potential for external environmental conditions to affect the organization; — achieve continual improvement. <p>Within the scope of the environmental management system, the organization shall determine potential emergency situations, including those that can have an environmental impact.</p> <p>The organization shall maintain documented information of its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — risks and opportunities that need to be

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		addressed; — process(es) needed in 6.1.1 to 6.1.4, to the extent necessary to have confidence they are carried out as planned.”
6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02, Requirement 3 – Planning in forestry</p> <p>“<u>Long-term strategic planning</u></p> <p>The forest owner must have a forest management plan or equivalent adapted to the size of the property and the use of the forest area. All forest properties must have either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a forest management plan with environmental registrations, cf. the requirements of the regulations concerning governments grants for forestry planning, which are revised continuously or every 15-20 years, or - an environmental plan, cf. requirement 22, which together with continuously updated data from different databases form the basis for the long-term planning of the property. Requirement for revision of the environmental plan is set in requirement 22. <p>The following must be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site index and tree species. • Information about age and timber volume. • Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected nature types, nature reserves, etc.). • Key habitats mapped on the property • Specification of possible average annual harvesting, and its justification, the next 30 years. <p>Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimize or avoid negative impacts for considerations/ interests mentioned above.”</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – 18. Forestry plans</p> <p>“Forestry planning in Norway is far ahead technically. Remote sensing is widely used, and more forest owners are now being able to arrange their forestry plan on reading boards and mobile phones. The public sector receives copies of forestry plan data for which public funding has been provided, and all environment-related data from the forestry plans which constitute public environmental information is made accessible in</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>an open database. See Kilden.</p> <p>In addition to the fact that many forest owners have updated forestry plans, Norway has annual measurements of the state of forests carried out through the National Forest Inventory. It has been going on since 1919 and we have now reached the 11th National Forest Inventory . From the 7th National Forest Inventory 1994-1998, data has been collected using the same inventory level. This provides very good data, especially for monitoring changes in the forest. Data from the Norwegian National Forest Inventory and other databases on site index, age, tree species, growing stock and habitats/key habitats together with property boundaries are now available to the forest owner and the general public in the Kilden database. The quality of forest information in the publicly available databases is constantly evolving and has precision approximately on a par with ordinary forestry plans."</p>
6.2 Management plan		
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:		
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02, Requirement 3 – Planning in forestry</p> <p><u>"Long-term strategic planning</u></p> <p>The forest owner must have a forest management plan or equivalent adapted to the size of the property and the use of the forest area. All forest properties must have either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a forest management plan with environmental registrations, cf. the requirements of the regulations concerning governments grants for forestry planning, which are revised continuously or every 15-20 years, or - an environmental plan, cf. requirement 22, which together with continuously updated data from different databases form the basis for the long-term planning of the property. Requirement for revision of the environmental plan is set in requirement 22. <p>PEFC N 02 -Requirement 22. Key habitats</p> <p>"If it is decided that a new mapping or revision should be carried out, all certified forest owners are obliged to participate. Assessment of the need for revision and any revision of environmental registration shall in principle be carried out every 15 years, cf. guidelines for revising key habitats.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Such assessment shall be approved by the certificate holder and documented."
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	Yes	PEFC N 02, Requirement 3 – Planning in forestry <u>"Long-term strategic planning</u> The forest owner must have a forest management plan or equivalent adapted to the size of the property and the use of the forest area."
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	Yes	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3 – Planning in forestry PEFC N 01 – 18. Forestry plans
d) adequately covering forest resources.	Yes	PEFC N 02, Requirement 3 – Planning in forestry <u>"Long-term strategic planning</u> The forest owner must have a forest management plan or equivalent adapted to the size of the property and the use of the forest area."
6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.	Yes	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry "Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forest owner's financial returns • long-term forest production • future harvesting opportunities • variation in type of harvesting • the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon • biodiversity • outdoors recreation • cultural heritage • the risk of erosion and landslide • water resources • spawn streams for anadromous salmon fish

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waterways with river mussels • important areas for herding reindeer <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there are special long-term goals for forest property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above."</p>
6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...), long-term forest production.</p> <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there are special long-term goals for forest property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>The following must be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site index and tree species. • Information about age and timber volume. • Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected nature types, nature reserves, etc.). • Key habitats mapped on the property • Specification of possible average annual harvesting, and its justification, the next 30 years."
6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.	Yes	<p>Exploitation of non-timber forest products is not relevant for Norwegian SFM standards as rules for this is set by the government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the government that determines the maximum extraction of economic interesting hunting species. • Forest owners do not have special rights/ownership to mushrooms and berries. Collecting mushrooms and berries is a right everyone has in Norway." <p>Outdoor Recreation Act - § 5. (Public harvesting right)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Lov om friluftslivet (friluftsløven) - Lovdata</p> <p>“The public can reap nuts to be eaten on the premises and pick and bring wild flowers, plants, berries and wild mushrooms, and roots of wild herbs, as it happens considerably and with due caution. For cloudberries in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the first paragraph apply only if the owner has not expressly set a prohibition of picking. Regardless of such an express prohibition the public can always pick cloudberries eaten on the premises.”</p> <p>Act concerning wildlife (Wildlife Act) - § 9 (huntable game species and hunting times)</p> <p>Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata</p> <p>“The Agency determines the hunting time for the individual species and the areas within which hunting can take place. Different hunting times can be set for the individual parts of the country. The hunting time can apply to a specific time of the day or week, and it can be set differently for hunting male and female and for older and younger individuals of the species in question. The Agency can also determine quotas for the felling of game. The rules on felling permits pursuant to chapter V apply accordingly. Hunting time should not be set during the nesting and breeding season for the species in question.”</p>
6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that long-term as well as the operational planning in forestry meets the requirements for sustainable management of forest resources.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (...) long-term forest production • biodiversity • the risk of erosion and landslide • water resources”

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Forest roads</p> <p>When planning and building forest roads consideration for (...) biodiversity and the risk of flooding, erosion and soil landslides must be emphasized (..).</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>“The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that tree stability is safeguarded in affected and surrounding stands, the area’s environmental qualities are preserved, landscape considerations are safeguarded and conditions are provided for a satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site. (..)</p> <p>In spruce-dominated forests, selective felling shall be used where conditions economically and biologically suit this method, also with consideration of future climate and precipitation conditions.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 14. Off-road transportation</p> <p>“In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage because of driving that are unsightly, make movement difficult, or can cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding damage from transport that lead to erosion into the river/stream, e.g. by building a temporary bridge.”</p> <p>Norwegian Forestry Act (LOV-2005-05-27-31),</p> <p>Chapter 3 - Protective Forest and areas with special environmental values</p> <p>Lov om skogbruk (skogbrukslova) - Lovdata</p> <p>“Section 12. Protective forest The County Agricultural Committee may issue regulations that forest shall be protective forest when the forest serves as protection for other forest or provides protection against natural damage. The same shall apply to areas near mountains or ocean, where the forest is vulnerable and may be damaged by wrong forest management.</p> <p>The regulations shall establish the boundaries for protective forest and provide rules for management of the forest. Rules may also be provided</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>concerning the obligation to notify.</p> <p>The municipality shall ensure that owners of protective forest are made familiar with the protective forest decision and the rules that are provided, and shall announce the decision in the newspapers the municipality otherwise uses for announcements.</p> <p>Section 13. Forest areas of particular environmental value</p> <p>The Ministry may in regulations impose more stringent restrictions on forest management in forest areas of particular environmental value associated with biodiversity, landscape, outdoor recreation or cultural heritage than are otherwise authorized by the Act when forest management may result in major damage to or adverse effects on these values."</p>
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Scientific research results must be included in the assessment basis in connection with planning and preparation of forest management plans."</p>
6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Forest and environmental data are available information in public databases. A summary or extract of the forestry plan should, on request, be made publicly available. Information of a confidential nature may be omitted, cf. law of environmental information."</p>
6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Forest and environmental data are available information in public databases. A summary or extract of the forestry plan should, on request, be made publicly available. Information of a confidential nature may be omitted, cf. law of environmental information."</p>
6.3 Compliance requirements		
6.3.1 Legal compliance		
6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>"Forest owners who own forests pursuant to the Act on property registration (the Cadastre Act) are responsible for ensuring that planning and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the "legislation applicable to forest management" is defined by the VPA agreement.		<p>implementation of forestry operations take place in compliance with laws and regulations which regulate forestry and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard."</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 21. The relationship between laws and certification requirement</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 22. Overview of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry</p>
6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 21. The relationship between laws and certification requirements</p> <p>"The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on laws and regulations regulating business activity in the forest. Regulatory provisions take precedence over the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard where laws and regulations regulate commercial activity in forests.</p> <p>Laws and regulations are binding for all who have their work in forestry."</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 22. Overview of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry</p> <p>Below is a list of the relevant laws and regulations of significance to sustainable forestry. The laws are sorted into:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laws and regulations which are relevant in respect of forestry and with regard to safeguarding environmental considerations. 2. Laws and regulations which are relevant for other conditions linked with the practice of forestry, for all parties or for individual parties with special needs. <p>All laws and regulations are available on Lovdata (www.lovdata.no) and can be downloaded or printed from here."</p>
6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.	Yes	<p>The government actively supports work with the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which is the first global standard for anti-corruption work. The UN Convention against Corruption entered into force in December 2005. It was ratified by Norway on 29 June 2006.</p> <p>Arbeidet med anti-korrupsjon - regjeringen.no</p> <p>Full list (coe.int)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreement</p> <p>“Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as harvesting, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires and other illegal activities.”</p>
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		
<p>6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“Forest owners who own forests pursuant to the Act on property registration (the Cadastre Act) are responsible for ensuring that planning and implementation of forestry operations take place in compliance with laws and regulations which regulate forestry and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights</p> <p>“The forest owner must recognize, respect and uphold the rights, customs and culture of affected herders (reindeer) in accordance with the provisions of the Reindeer Herding Act, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – UNDRIP (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).”</p> <p>The Cadastre Act (LOV 2005-06-17-101)</p> <p>Lov om eigedomsregistrering (matrikkellova) - Lovdata</p> <p>Section 1. The purpose of the Act</p> <p>“This Act shall ensure access to important land information by means of a uniform and reliable register (the cadastre) that will be kept of all real estate in the country, and by a clarification of boundaries and property-related matters.”</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Act - § 1. (Purpose of the Act)</p> <p>Lov om friluftslivet (friluftsløven) - Lovdata</p> <p>“The purpose of this Act is to protect the natural basis for outdoor recreation and to safeguard the public right of access to and passage through the countryside and the right to spend time there, etc, so that opportunities for outdoor recreation as a leisure activity that is healthy, environmentally sound and gives a sense of well-being are maintained and promoted.”</p> <p>On the Internet anyone can find the property</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>number (Cadastre No.) on all properties, using a map solution on Kilden or Gardskart.(Kilden - Skogportalen (nibio.no) or Søk gård (nibio.no))</p> <p>Having the property number you can contact the employees of county el municipality for the concrete information about the name of the owner of the property and the detailed property arrangements.”</p>
<p>6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations 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>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Sami rights</p> <p>“The forest owner must recognize, respect and uphold the rights, customs and culture of affected herders (reindeer) in accordance with the provisions of the Reindeer Herding Act, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – UNDRIP (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).</p> <p>The certificate holder must prepare a routine for periodic dialogue with the reindeer herding interests, the Norwegian Reindeer Herding Association in line with PEFC N 03 – Requirements for group certification.</p> <p>The forest owner must not exploit his property in reindeer herding in such way that there is significant damage or disadvantage to reindeer herding. Before operations that may cause significant damage or disadvantage to the reindeer herders are implemented, a notification must be given to the relevant reindeer herding district associations. Notice must be given minimum three weeks before the planned operation can start. This applies where the total impact of clearcutting, fertilization and soil scarification exceeds 10 hectares in one or adjacent areas within the same year.</p> <p>The reindeer herding district board shall, independent of the area extent of the operation, be notified by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fertilization in areas included in point d-f of the list below - Soil scarification in areas included in point e-h of the list below <p>If there are objections to notified operation, it must be followed up through active dialogue.</p> <p>Where reindeer herding Sami people have rights, special consideration must be given to harvesting and other forestry operations in the following areas:</p> <p>a) Important migration paths</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>b) Compilation areas</p> <p>c) Difficult passages</p> <p>d) Important distress grazing areas with lichen in the trees at grazing height</p> <p>e) Grazing gardens</p> <p>f) Calving area</p> <p>g) Lichen-rich vegetation</p> <p>h) Sami sacred sites, sacrificial places, burial grounds, culturally important paths and other places of particular cultural historical significance”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 7.3. Routines and responsibilities for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“19. The certificate holder shall prepare a routine, which has been clarified with the National Association of Norwegian Reindeer Herders, for periodic dialogue with the reindeer herding interests. The periodic dialogue shall be a meeting point in order to provide mutual information. The periodic dialogue will also uncover any conflicts between the reindeer herding interests and forestry. In the event of conflicts, the certificate holder shall seek to resolve these through dialogue and improvement of routines.”</p> <p>Other information:</p> <p>Forestry Act and the Reindeer Husbandry Act are coordinated to protect Sami rights linked to the ILO Convention 169.</p> <p>Norway ratified the ILO Convention 169.</p>
6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 01 - 16. The objectives of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“Human rights are rights of all people, regardless of gender, age, orientation, beliefs, nationality or where in the world they live. This is a fundamental principle. Norway has ratified the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and these rights must be respected in all contexts.”</p>
6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions		
<p>6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.</p> <p>Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified</p>	Yes	<p>Norway has ratified all the fundamental ILO conventions.</p> <p>Link:</p> <p>Ratifications of ILO conventions: Ratifications for Norway</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.		
6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions		
6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p> <p>“Forest owners who carry out harvesting or other forestry operations in their own forest must have relevant knowledge of working techniques, safe use of equipment and public provisions on the protection of health, environment and safety.</p> <p>The forest owner must ensure that forestry operations carried out to order are documented in accordance with public regulations on protection of health, the environment and safety and in accordance with Norwegian tariffs regulations and applicable Norwegian law. Agreements on forestry operations must normally be concluded in writing between the parties. Equality must be promoted and law for equality and prohibition against discrimination must be followed.</p> <p>Forest owner is responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out harvesting and other forestry operations have sufficient expertise. The skills of their own employees and hired labour must preferably be on a par with relevant expertise targets for the field of work in question in the specialist and vocational training for the forestry profession. For practical tasks, courses at Aktiv Skogbruk, education through Skogskolen (digital course) or equivalent will suffice.”</p> <p>Working Environment Act</p> <p>Lov om arbeidsmiljø, arbeidstid og stillingsvern mv. (arbeidsmiljøloven) - Lovdata</p> <p>Section 3-1. Requirements regarding systematic health, environment and safety work</p> <p>“(1) In order to safeguard the employees’ health, environment and safety, the employer shall ensure that systematic health, environment and safety work is performed at all levels of the undertaking. This shall be carried out in cooperation with the employees and their elected representatives.</p> <p>(2) Systematic health, environment and safety work entails that the employer shall:</p> <p>a) establish goals for health, environment and safety,</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>b) have an overall view of the undertaking's organisation, including how responsibility, tasks and authority for work on health, environment and safety is distributed,</p> <p>c) make a survey of hazards and problems and, on this basis, assess risk factors in the undertaking, prepare plans and implement measures in order to reduce the risks,</p> <p>d) during planning and implementation of changes in the undertaking, assess whether the working environment will be in compliance with the requirements of this Act, and implement the necessary measures,</p> <p>e) implement routines in order to detect, rectify and prevent contraventions of requirements laid down in or pursuant to this Act,</p> <p>f) ensure systematic prevention and follow-up of absence due to sickness,</p> <p>g) ensure continuous control of the working environment and the employees' health when necessitated by risk factors in the undertaking, cf. (c),</p> <p>h) conduct systematic supervision and review of the systematic work on health, environment and safety in order to ensure that it functions as intended."</p>
<p>6.3.4.2 The standard requires that 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. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p> <p>"The forest owner must ensure that forestry operations carried out to order are documented in accordance with public regulations on protection of health, the environment and safety and in accordance with Norwegian tariffs regulations and applicable Norwegian law. Agreements on forestry operations must normally be concluded in writing between the parties. Equality must be promoted and law for equality and prohibition against discrimination must be followed.(...)</p> <p>Forest owner is responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out harvesting and other forestry operations have sufficient expertise."</p> <p>Working Environment Act - Section 1-1. The purpose of the Act Lov om arbeidsmiljø, arbeidstid og stillingsvern mv. (arbeidsmiljøloven) - Lovdata</p> <p>"The purpose of the Act is:</p> <p>a) to secure a working environment that provides a</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>basis for a healthy and meaningful working situation, that affords full safety from harmful physical and mental influences and that has a standard of welfare at all times consistent with the level of technological and social development of society,</p> <p>b) to ensure sound conditions of employment and equality of treatment at work,</p> <p>c) to facilitate adaptations of the individual employee's working situation in relation to his or her capabilities and circumstances of life,</p> <p>d) to provide a basis whereby the employer and the employees of undertakings may themselves safeguard and develop their working environment in cooperation with the employers' and employees' organisations and with the requisite guidance and supervision of the public."</p>
<p>6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p> <p>"The forest owner must ensure that forestry operations carried out to order are documented in accordance with public regulations on protection of health, the environment and safety and in accordance with Norwegian tariffs regulations and applicable Norwegian law."</p>
<p>6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that forestry operations carried out under the forest owner's own auspices and when these services are rendered from others, are carried out in accordance with laws and regulations concerning (...) equality and discrimination. (...)</p> <p>Equality must be promoted and law for equality and prohibition against discrimination must be followed."</p>
7. Support		
7.1 Resources		
7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources	Yes	PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.		"1.The certificate holder shall determine and provide the resources necessary to establish, implement, maintain and continuously improve the certification system, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 7. 1."
7.2 Competence		
7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.	Yes	PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support "2.The certificate holder shall have procedures to ensure that there is sufficient competence at all levels of the organisation, cf. ISO Chapter 7.2. Competence requirements are described further in Chapter PEFC N 03 Chapter 9."
7.3 Communication		
7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.	Yes	PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support "4.The certificate holder shall establish, implement and maintain necessary processes for internal and external communication relevant to the certification system, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 7.4."
7.4 Complaints		
7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	Yes	PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support "5.The certificate holder shall have appropriate mechanisms in place to resolve complaints and disputes related to the group certification system and sustainable forest management." PEFC N 01 - 13.Disputes "PEFC Norway shall deal with dispute issues as follows: a) Sign that the complaint has been received. b) Collect and verify the necessary information, validate the information and make an impartial assessment before making a decision in the form of a decision. c) Decisions related to the complaint are made by the board of PEFC Norway; 1) Consensus decision: The result is notified to the parties as a basis for any reactions from the certificate holder, certification body or accreditation body. 2) In the event of disagreement or dispute between the organizations of PEFC Norway, a voluntary arbitration board is established. Decisions in voluntary arbitration are notified to the parties as a basis for any reactions from the certificate holder,

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>certification body or accreditation body.</p> <p>d) Formally report the result of the complaint and the appeal process to the complainant.</p> <p>e) Based on the results, take appropriate corrective and/or preventive actions.</p> <p>Decisions on disputes and complaints shall be complied with by everyone covered by PEFC Norway's certification system.</p> <p>If the dispute resolution requires clarification of procedures and requirement, this will be treated by PEFC Norway pursuant to Chapter 14 of this document.</p> <p>Errors that are detected by anyone other than the forest owner and group certificate holder and reported as a complaint shall be dealt with in the same routines."</p>
7.5 Documented Information		
7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support</p> <p>"6.The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO 14001 Chapter 7.5."</p>
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support</p> <p>"6.(..) The documented information relevant to the group certification system and the fulfilment of the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard shall be:</p> <p>a) updated;</p> <p>b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;</p> <p>c) adequately protected (e.g. against misuse, loss of confidentiality, or loss of integrity)"</p>
8. Operation		
8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Req. 3 – planning:</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that long-term as well as the operational planning in forestry meets the requirements for sustainable management of forest resources.</p> <p>The planning must ensure that in the short and long term, the property is managed in line with the requirements specified in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest owner's financial returns • long-term forest production • future felling opportunities • variation in type of felling • the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon • biodiversity • Outdoors recreation • Cultural heritage • The risk of erosion and landslide • water resources • spawn streams for anadrom salmon fish • waterways with river mussels • important areas for herding (reindeer) <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there is specific long-term target for forest property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above"</p>
<p>8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02:</p> <p>Req. 3: Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...), the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon</p> <p>Req. 15: Long-term timber production</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that the forest areas' potential for production of timber and value creation is utilized satisfactorily, that assessments have been made with a future perspective, while taking long-term considerations of carbon sequestration and carbon storage, biodiversity and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p><u>Normal forest cycle and minimum age of harvesting</u></p> <p>The timing of harvesting is important for many of the forest's functions and for interests related to forests. The normal forest cycle, provided good health in the stands, and the minimum stand age for clear cutting and seed stands are stated in the table below. Harvesting time shall be adapted to</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>conditions in the stand and operational conditions and may in certain cases decrease towards the minimum stand age. On the other hand, consideration for carbon sequestration and carbon storage can make it optimal to delay the harvest to a stand age that exceeds normal forest cycle.”</p> <p>Req. 16: Soil scarification</p> <p>“The requirement sets frameworks for the use and execution of soil scarification where considerations for forest regeneration, climate, biodiversity, outdoor recreation and other environmental considerations are balanced.”</p> <p>Req 19: Fertilization and nutrient balance</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that fertilization is only used where it results in increased forest production and increased carbon sequestration, while at the same time it is carried out in a prudent manner so that nutrient loss and nutrient leakage are as little as possible and that considerations for biodiversity and other precautionary considerations are safeguarded.”</p> <p>Req 20: Use of foreign tree species</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that use is limited and avoid the spread of foreign tree species in order to take into consideration landscapes, outdoor activities, biodiversity and forest production/climate.”</p> <p>Req 21. Afforestation and tree species change</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that afforestation and change of tree species are implemented so that the measures provide climate benefits through permanent, net increased carbon storage throughout the ecosystem, and create a basis for future value creation, while at the same time safeguarding the consideration of other environmental values.”</p>
8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03, ch. 5.2</p> <p>“20.The certificate holder shall have an overview of their greenhouse gas emissions and continuously work to reduce these through climate-positive measures. As far as possible, quantitative measurements shall be done based on the best available method.”</p> <p>+ krav til maskiner CE-merking</p>
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable 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 affected stakeholders; and</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 Req. 8:</p> <p>“(..) Where conversion and other measures require public approval, such approval shall be available as part of the documentation. (..)”</p> <p>Further information: Conversion to forest plantations</p> <p>The definition of forest plantations in the Norwegian national forest inventory is:</p> <p>"Forest of one tree species where the planted trees make up over 90% of the number of trees. There is no dead wood or retention trees from previous stands on the area. The planting is done systematically in rows. Plantation forest is always single-storey and approximately the same age."</p> <p>Statistics from the national forest inventory show that 0.5% of the forest area in Norway meets the definition of forest plantations.</p> <p>In Norway, mainly indigenous tree species are planted and sown, requirements for planting, securing presence of deciduous trees (cf. requirement 17, and normal presence of natural regeneration. In practice this means that stands with indigenous tree species established according to the requirements will not meet the definition of forest plantations.</p> <p>Most of the existing forest plantations consist of foreign tree species. Planting of these foreign tree species is limited to take place on areas where foreign tree species have previously been planted cf. requirement 20. in addition, such planting requires public approval cf. regulations on the introduction of foreign tree species authorized by The Nature Diversity Act.</p> <p>§ 5. Requirements for permission</p> <p>planting of foreign tree species requires permission from the responsible authority, or the person who has been given delegated authority in accordance with section 4.</p> <p>An application for planting must be submitted on a prescribed form no later than two months before the planting is intended to take place.</p> <p>https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2012-05-25-460</p> <p>This means that in practice there will be no new establishment of plantation forest on</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		certified forest properties.
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	Yes	PEFC N 02 Req. 8: “Conversion of forest area for other use shall be restricted. The forest owner cannot make irreversible redeployment of more than 5% of the forest area.”
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	Yes	PEFC N 02 Req. 8: “The forest owner shall not convert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - key habitats and deposited biologically important areas (BVO) - endangered nature types - (..) - areas with cultural heritage remains, cf. requirement 30 - areas of particular importance for Sami culture and reindeer herders, cf. requirement 7”
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and		PEFC N 02 Req. 8: “The forest owner shall not convert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (..) - area with particularly high carbon storage (such as marsh, marsh forest and swamp forest) - (..)
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Yes	PEFC N 02 req. 8 “Conversion of forests to other use takes place where, under the law, there is access to expropriation, provided that this contributes positively to sustainable social development in line with national and regional land use policies that include consultation with affected stakeholders.”

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable 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; and	Yes	<p>The most relevant areas for afforestation are former agricultural land. Afforestation on such an area requires an application regulated by The Land Act.</p> <p>The Land Act</p> <p>§ 9. Use of cultivated and arable land</p> <p>Cultivated land must not be used for purposes other than agricultural production. Arable land must not be disposed of in such a way that it is not appropriated for agricultural production in the future.</p> <p>In special circumstances, the ministry can grant a dispensation if, after a collective assessment of the circumstances, it finds that agricultural interests should be given way. When making a decision, consideration shall be given, among other things, to approved plans in accordance with the Planning and Building Act, operational or environmental disadvantages for agriculture in the area, the cultural landscape and the social benefit that a reallocation will provide. Consideration must also be given to whether the area can be returned to agricultural production. It may be required that alternative solutions be presented.</p> <p>Consent to conversion can be given on such terms as are necessary for the purposes of the Act.</p> <p>The dispensation is lost if work to use the land for the purpose in question has not been started within three years of the decision being made.</p> <p>https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1995-05-12-23</p>
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	Yes	<p>The environmental decision register is a public register that gives the general public free access to individual decisions and regulations in the environmental area. Individual decisions relating to wild game, area protection, foreign tree species, prioritized species and selected nature types are among the decisions to be registered in the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Register of Environmental Decisions. https://www.miljovedtak.no/
c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) nonforest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and	Yes	PEFC N 02 – Req. 21: “(..)The databases Artskart and Naturbase must be consulted before afforestation or tree species changes take place. The measure cannot be implemented if the measure harms the environment of an endangered species or harms an endangered nature type or the values of a registered nature type with A- or B-value according to “DN Handbook 13”, or nature types with "central ecosystem function" mapped according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's instructions with moderate to very high quality.”
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	Yes	PEFC N 02 – Req. 21: There should be no tree species change or afforestation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biologically important areas (BVO), endangered nature types on the Red List (including flood forest fields) or areas with key habitat qualities. • selected nature types or in ecological functional areas for priority species. • pine marsh forest in Western Norway. • swamp forest. • deciduous forest, with the exception of the vegetation type blueberry- oak forest on low site index. • lime forest (lime stage h-i by Nature in Norway, NiN) • in rich and moist tall-herbs birch forest with almost fully covered undergrowth of high herbs and large ferns. • large fern forest and “istervier” community north of Saltfjellet. • Almond-willow and mist-willow thicket. • overgrown pastureland with special natural values. • within the protection zone of known cultural heritages.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pasture forest. • buffer zones along marshes, water and waterways.
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 21:</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that afforestation and change of tree species are implemented so that the measures provide climate benefits through permanent, net increased carbon storage throughout the ecosystem, and create a basis for future value creation, while at the same time safeguarding the consideration of other environmental values.”</p> <p>Har jo denne som går på motsatt tilfeller, konvertering av skog til annen arealbruk:</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – req 8:</p> <p>“(..)The forest owner shall not convert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - area with particularly high carbon storage (such as marsh, marsh forest and swamp forest).”
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Yes	<p>–</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 21:</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that afforestation and change of tree species are implemented so that the measures provide climate benefits through permanent, net increased carbon storage throughout the ecosystem, and create a basis for future value creation, while at the same time safeguarding the consideration of other environmental values.”</p> <p>Afforestation contribution to carbon sequestration economic and social effects is investigated by the Norwegian environmental agency</p> <p>Afforestation is considered to be a climate measure.</p> <p>In conclusion the report states: “There are</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>relatively extensive areas where it would be positive to plant forest based on considerations of both climate and economy, and where the measure will be acceptable from the consideration of natural diversity and other environmental values”</p> <p>https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/M26/m26.pdf</p>
8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable 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; and	Yes	Degraded ecosystems is not a theme of current discussion in Norway. To the extent that forest ecosystems are degraded in Norway, it is due to the historic use of some forest areas in earlier days. The consideration for both the cultural landscape and the biological diversity has brought about the conception that it is important to maintain the present culture dependent state on these areas. Conversion of degraded forests to plantations is therefore not considered relevant in Norway
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
process of recovery.		
8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <p>(..)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term forest production • future harvesting opportunities” <p>Additional explanation:</p> <p>In general, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems is not a theme of current interest or discussion in Norway. To the extent that forest ecosystems are degraded in Norway, it is due to the historic use of some forest areas in earlier days. The consideration for both the cultural landscape and the biological diversity has brought about the conception that it is important to maintain the present culture dependent state on these areas.</p> <p>Regulations on sustainable forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593)</p> <p>Forskrift om berekraftig skogbruk - Lovdata”</p> <p>“Chapter 4. Measures against damage to forests</p> <p>§ 9. Main principle</p> <p>Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that felling, progress, treatment of felling waste, young forest care and other measures are carried out in such a way that there is no risk of insect damage or other damage to the forest.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter also apply to forests and trees in areas that are outside the field of action in § 2 of the Forestry Act, and to places and terminals where wood is collected or stored.</p> <p>§ 10. Monitoring of the forest's state of health</p> <p>The municipality must monitor the forest out of concern for the risk of various forest damages. In this context, the ministry can order the municipality to prepare overviews and reports on the forest's state of health, and on the results of the measures implemented in accordance with these regulations.</p> <p>The ministry or the person it authorizes can issue more detailed rules for special tasks linked to</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		forest monitoring.”
8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 9. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p> <p>“The natural genetic variation of forest trees shall be safeguarded, both through systematic reforestation and natural rejuvenation. Genetically modified planting material should not be used. The rules for the use of seeds and plants in the Regulations on forest seeds and forest plants shall be applied.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>“The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that tree stability is safeguarded in affected and surrounding stands, the area’s environmental qualities are preserved, landscape considerations are safeguarded and conditions are provided for a satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 15. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“Young forest fields must be tended to ensure good growth and fast establishment of new forests with satisfactory density.</p> <p>When juvenile stand tending is done, emphasis shall be placed on utilizing the areas’ opportunities for quality production, creating stable stands, and building a forest that provides a basis for variation in the-production and regeneration methods..”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 17. Tree species distribution</p> <p>“The tree species composition shall be adapted to the site, as well as expected climate-related changes that will affect the composition of the tree species. It shall be facilitated that all tree species that naturally occur are present on the property.</p> <p>A significant deciduous tree stand shall be sought with own deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and as single trees, including old, large deciduous trees, unless climatic and soil conditions make this difficult.</p> <p>A substantial amount of deciduous tree share shall be facilitated in the event of regeneration and juvenile forest tending (cf. requirement 15 – long-term timber production), thinning and harvesting (cf. requirement 11).</p> <p>Deciduous trees as retention trees shall be given</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>priority, cf. requirement 13 retention trees and dead trees.</p> <p>Where the conditions are right, a mixture of spruce and pine should be sought.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species that are rare in the area shall be safeguarded and/or promoted by forestry measures.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 21. Afforestation and tree species change</p> <p>“The stands shall be suited to the landscape. Emphasis shall be placed on creating soft transitions between the spruce forest and the surrounding areas, and a minimum of 20% of indigenous tree species shall be ensured on the property. On properties larger than 50 hectares, the use of non-indigenous tree species shall not exceed 70% of the property.”</p>
<p>8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreement</p> <p>“Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as (...) illegally initiated fires (...)”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 29. Forests-affected forest</p> <p>“The requirement is intended to ensure conditions of life for species that have burned forests as a habitat. It is a aim to increase the amount of habitats related to burnt forest, both in the actively managed forest area and in protected areas.”</p> <p>Regulations on fire prevention measures and supervision (FOR-2015-12-17-1710)</p> <p>Forskrift om brannforebygging - Lovdata</p> <p>§ 3;</p> <p>§ 3. General requirements for diligence</p> <p>“Everyone is obliged to exercise caution when carrying out activities that could lead to fire.</p> <p>It is forbidden to start a fire or treat flammable objects outdoors under such conditions or in such a way that it could lead to a fire. A built-up fire must not be left until it is completely extinguished.</p> <p>In the period from 15 April to 15 September, it is forbidden to start a fire or treat flammable objects in or near forests and other outback. It is still</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>permitted to make a fire when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the municipality has given permission or b. the municipal council itself through local regulations has allowed this because local conditions dictate it or c. it is obvious that a fire cannot occur. <p>When the risk of fire is particularly great or there are other extraordinary circumstances, the municipality can introduce a ban on lighting fires or treating flammable objects at any time during the year and in all places outdoors in the municipality. The ban must be clearly defined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. geographically to the entire municipality or areas in the municipality and b. temporally for a period of a maximum of 60 days. <p>The ban must be lifted as soon as the fire danger or the extraordinary conditions are over. The ban can be adopted as a regulation without prior notice and announcement in accordance with section 37 second paragraph and section 38 first paragraph letter c) of the Public Administration Act. The municipality must ensure that the ban is made generally known at the place in question."</p>
<p>8.2.4 The standard requires that 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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 9. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p> <p>"The natural genetic variation of forest trees shall be safeguarded, both through systematic regeneration and natural regeneration from seedling trees. Genetically modified planting material should not be used. The rules for the use of seeds and plants in the Regulations on forest seeds and forest plants shall be applied.."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>"The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that tree stability is safeguarded in affected and surrounding stands, the area's environmental qualities are preserved, landscape considerations are safeguarded and conditions are provided for a satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 12. Waste and contamination</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure the collection and proper disposal of all types of waste so as to prevent contamination of the external environment</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>on implementation forestry operation.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Off-road transportation</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that damage to the terrain is limited and that any damage is rectified as quickly as possible in order to safeguard paths and trails and to prevent erosion and water runoff.</p> <p>In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage because of driving that are unsightly, make movement difficult, or can cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding damage from driving that lead to erosion into the river/stream, e.g. by building a temporary bridge.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Ruts which cause water runoff and erosion, driving damage to paths and ski trails and other significant damage shall be rectified as soon as the moisture conditions make this practically possible once use of the route is discontinued. When ending the operation, emphasis should be placed on preventing water from being left in paths.</p> <p>Driving in buffer zones towards marshes, water, streams and rivers is avoided where there are alternatives..”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 21. Afforestation and tree species change</p> <p>“Along the coast from Lindesnes to Kirkenes, afforestation and tree species changes can only take place in areas where such measures have previously taken place successfully to a great extent, and only in connection with future profitable operational technical solutions. In such areas, Norwegian spruce can also be replanted after harvesting of foreign tree species. Outside these areas, including in buffer zones against marshes, water and watercourses, the forest owner shall remove occurrences of tree species that are not indigenous when this measure is reasonable.</p> <p>The stands shall be suited to the landscape. Emphasis shall be placed on creating soft transitions between the spruce forest and the surrounding areas, and a minimum of 20% of indigenous tree species shall be ensured on the property. On properties larger than 50 hectares, the use of non-indigenous tree species shall not exceed 70% of the property.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 12. Waste and contamination</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure the collection and proper disposal of all types of waste so as to prevent contamination of the external environment on implementation forestry operation."</p> <p>The forest owner are responsible for ensuring that as little waste and emissions as possible occurs, and to ensuring that waste collected is deposited properly and deposited correctly when requirements are defined for approved landfill.</p> <p>All types of waste from both manual and mechanical forestry operations must be removed once work has been completed .</p> <p>Hazardous waste such as oils, fluids, batteries, fuel containers and suchlike must be submitted to an approved landfill.</p> <p>Best available technology (BAT) shall be preferred when selecting equipment and machinery when implementation forestry operations where this is relevant based on the risk of contamination and other serious environmental problems. Machines used in forestry shall satisfy the emission requirements that applied at the time they were delivered from the manufacturer.</p> <p>Forestry machines with larger quantities of oil under high pressure shall have equipment which limits leaks to a minimum. Proper maintenance and proper cleaning shall be carried out on all mechanical units.</p> <p>Discharges of oil, fuel and chemicals that may damage the environment should be immediately sealed. Larger discharges must be notified to the fire department in the municipality.</p> <p>Fuel should be secured against accidents incidents and stored in approved and lockable tanks. Fuel can only be stored at a recommended minimum distance of 50 metres to the nearest drinking water location unless otherwise specified."</p>
8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides</p> <p>"The principles of integrated pest management (IPM) shall be used as a basis for vegetation control. Through forest measures, the forest owner shall endeavor to minimize or avoid the use of chemical pesticides. This is done by varied and adapted use of logging forms and silvicultural culture methods. Where absolutely necessary, pesticides can be used when it is the only effective, convenient or economical method of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		preventing the spread of grass, herbal and deciduous vegetation that inhibits the desired regeneration. The forest owner or certificate holder shall have the necessary expertise in IPM, cf. PEFC N 03."
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	Yes	PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides "Pesticides used must be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the relevant purpose. The use of pesticides must be documented."
8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.	Yes	PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides "Pesticides used must be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the relevant purpose." PEFC N 02 – Explanations, req 18 "Normally, the requirement that highly toxic or harmful pesticides should not be used is ensured as long as pesticides used are approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the specific purpose. In any case, the application of chlorinated hydrocarbons is not allowed. The same applies to WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides, unless there are no other alternatives available."
8.2.9 The standard requires that 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. Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.	Yes	PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides "Pesticides used must be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the relevant purpose." PEFC N 02 – Explanations, req 18 "Normally, the requirement that highly toxic or harmful pesticides should not be used is ensured as long as pesticides used are approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the specific purpose. In any case, the application of chlorinated hydrocarbons is not allowed. The same applies to WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides, unless there are no other alternatives available." Norway has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Entry into force in 2004). Status of ratifications of the Stockholm Convention (pops.int)
8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.	Yes	PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides "Users of pesticides in forestry must have a certificate (certificate of authorisation). When using pesticides, the right equipment shall be used and the instructions given by the manufacturers of the

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		pesticides shall be followed.”
8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 19. Fertilization and nutrient balance</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that fertilization is only used where it results in increased forest production and increased carbon sequestration, while at the same time it is carried out in a prudent manner so that nutrient loss and nutrient leakage are as little as possible and that considerations for biodiversity and other precautionary considerations are safeguarded.</p> <p>The forest owner shall ensure that forestry is operated in a way that ensures the natural processes and long-term production capacity of the forest area are maintained. Nutrient loss and nutrient leakage shall be as little as possible. The use of fertilizers shall not be an alternative to natural care of nutrients in the soil.</p> <p>It shall not be fertilized in areas that are characterized by elements such as dead- wood, or multi layers of trees, or age variation – which often is a result from the absence of open harvesting. Fertilization can take place in areas where it has a significant positive effect on growth and minimal negative effect on biodiversity and water quality.</p> <p>Where it can be documented that the wood production will increase significantly, it can be fertilized on suitable, intermediate nutrient rich sites on vegetation types, berry heather forests, blueberry forests, small fern forests and large fern forests. On all other vegetation types, it shall not be fertilized.</p> <p>Fertilization should not affect lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, marshes, lichen woodland, key habitats, BVO areas, endangered and near endangered nature types, or areas with other special environmental values. A fertilization-free buffer zone of 25 meters shall be set aside towards these areas (applies to streams with year-round water flow) to avoid runoff.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with the fertilizer-free buffer zone, in weather conditions or methods that can reduce the level of precision, a fertilizer-free buffer zone of 50 meters shall be used.</p> <p>Fertilization shall not occur until the snow melt is finished in spring and be finished before the end of August. The fertilization shall be adapted to the time and weather conditions that minimize the risk of nutrient leakage.</p> <p>The use of fertilizers shall be documented, including type, quantity, date and treated area.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req 3 Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The planning must ensure that in the short and long term, the property is managed in line with the requirements specified in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest owner's financial returns • long-term forest production • future harvesting opportunities • variation in type of harvesting • the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon • biodiversity • Outdoors recreation • Cultural heritage • The risk of erosion and landslide • water resources • spawn streams for anadrom salmon fish • waterways with river mussels • important areas for herding (reindeer) <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there are special long-term goals for forest property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above.”</p>
8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forest owner's financial returns • long-term forest production • future felling opportunities

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Explanations - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"The requirement assumes that planning and implementation of forestry activity on the property shall be based on a goal of running a long-term and sustainable forestry that takes into account the forest owner's financial return.</p> <p>This assumes that market opportunities are based on market opportunities in the short and long term. The current market situation for different assortments and available market analyses related to requirement for different assortments and new market opportunities is therefore used as a basis for planning in forestry. Planning must also take into account other economic activity the forest owner has on the areas, such as i.e. tourism."</p>
8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>"The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that tree stability is safeguarded in affected and surrounding stands, the area's environmental qualities are preserved, landscape considerations are safeguarded and conditions are provided for a satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Off-road transportation</p> <p>"In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage because of driving that are unsightly, make movement difficult, or can cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding damage from transport that lead to erosion into the river/stream, e.g. by building a temporary bridge."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 15. Long-term timber production</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that the forest areas' potential for production of timber and value creation is utilized satisfactorily, that assessments have been made with a future perspective, while taking long-term considerations of carbon sequestration and carbon storage, biodiversity and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>The timing of harvesting is important for many of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>the forest's functions and for interests related to forests. The normal forest cycle, provided good health in the stands, and the minimum stand age for clear cutting and seed stands are stated in the table below. Harvesting time shall be adapted to conditions in the stand and operational conditions and may in certain cases decrease towards the minimum standage. On the other hand, consideration for carbon sequestration and carbon storage can make it optimal to delay the harvest to a stand age that exceeds normal forest cycle.</p> <p>This forms the framework for the assessment of harvesting time. The forest owner is obliged to make both an individual assessment of the condition and economy of the individual stand and to balance this against other interests. (..)</p> <p>When planning harvesting, regeneration methods, including harvesting methods and the possibility of natural regeneration, as well as the need for soil scarification, shall be considered. The choice must be documented.</p> <p>On areas where natural regeneration after harvesting has been planned, the trees must be felled in such a way that regeneration can be established as quickly as possible. If natural regeneration is not successful, silvicultural measures shall be implemented.</p> <p>In areas where planting or sowing after harvesting has been planned, it must be planted or sown as soon as it is practically possible, and within three years at the latest unless the authorities have granted an exemption."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 15. Soil scarification</p> <p>"The requirement sets frameworks for the use and execution of soil scarification where considerations for forest regeneration, climate, biodiversity, outdoor recreation and other environmental considerations are balanced.</p> <p>Before soil scarification can be carried out, consideration for biodiversity, outdoor recreation, reindeer herding, cultural heritage, erosion and water runoff must be assessed, and areas that are not to be scarified must be clarified. The assessments must be documented.</p> <p>Soil scarification shall be adapted to the place and landscape with the best practical possible method and technique to take into account biodiversity, water environment, carbon storage, reindeer herding and outdoor recreations. Spot scarification should be considered and preferred.</p> <p>Soil scarification is planned so that vegetation in</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		the field and shrub layers is preserved as much as possible. Damage to lying and standing dead wood (not applicable to branches, tops and small logst) should be avoided."
8.3.4 The standard requires that harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forest owner's financial returns • long-term forest production • future felling opportunities <p>(....)</p> <p>The following must be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map showing property boundaries, topography, road in the forest, site quality and tree species. • Information about age and standing volume. • Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected nature types, nature reserves, etc.). • Key habitats mapped on the property • Specification of maximum average annual felling, and it is justification, the next 30 years. <p>Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimize or avoid negative impacts for considerations/ interests mentioned above."</p> <p>Information regarding non-wood forest products</p> <p>Exploitation of non-timber forest products is not relevant for Norwegian SFM standards as rules for this is set by the government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the government that determines the maximum extraction of economic interesting hunting species. • Forest owners do not have special rights/ownership to mushrooms and berries. Collecting mushrooms and berries is a right everyone has in Norway."

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Outdoor Recreation Act</p> <p>Lov om friluftslivet (friluftsløven) - Lovdata</p> <p>§ 5. (Public harvesting right)</p> <p>"The public can reap nuts to be eaten on the premises and pick and bring wild flowers, plants, berries and wild mushrooms, and roots of wild herbs, as it happens considerably and with due caution. For cloudberries in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the first paragraph apply only if the owner has not expressly set a prohibition of picking. Regardless of such an express prohibition the public can always pick cloudberries eaten on the premises."</p> <p>Act concerning wildlife (Wildlife Act) –</p> <p>§ 9 (huntable game species and hunting times)</p> <p>Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata</p> <p>"The Agency determines the hunting time for the individual species and the areas within which hunting can take place. Different hunting times can be set for the individual parts of the country. The hunting time can apply to a specific time of the day or week, and it can be set differently for hunting male and female and for older and younger individuals of the species in question. The Agency can also determine quotas for the felling of game. The rules on felling permits pursuant to chapter V apply accordingly. Hunting time should not be set during the nesting and breeding season for the species in question."</p>
8.3.5 The standard requires that 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	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 5. Forest roads</p> <p>"When planning and building forest roads, consideration for outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, biodiversity and the risk of flooding, erosion and soil landslides must be emphasized, in addition to forestry and other commercial benefits.</p> <p>No road shall be built in key habitats and deposited biologically important areas (BVO) unless it has been clarified in advance that it can be done and replacement areas at least equal quality have been deposited, cf. requirement 23 "Biologically important areas" and the routines for changing key habitats in requirement 22 "Key habitats".</p> <p>No obstacles should be created for natural</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>movement of the water and the fish.</p> <p>The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is a little disturbance of nature as possible. The alignment must be adapted to the landscape as far as possible, and the road must be constructed lightly in the terrain. and in accordance with the principles of the main plan forest road where it is available.</p> <p>When planning new road systems, forest owner must document the fact that roadbuilding is avoided in areas with recorded special environmental values.</p> <p>In larger contiguous forest areas with a small extent of technical interventions and which are particularly important for biodiversity or outdoor recreation, new forest roads should normally be avoided. PEFC Norway can be applied for exemption.</p> <p>In marginal forest areas with significant environmental and outdoor recreation or herding interests (reindeer), simple road solutions such as tractor roads and winter roads must be given priority."</p>
8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...), biodiversity,(...)"</p> <p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 4. Landscape plan</p> <p>"The main purpose of the plan is to clarify problems, opportunities and possible conflicts of interest between various user interests, and to prepare a long-term strategy for management of the plot which ensures a sustainable management of the resources and a positive climate effects.</p> <p>The plan should show or review:</p> <p>(..)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas with special restrictions (protected forests, priority species, selected nature types, nature reserves, etc.) • key habitats • instances of endangered/threatened species • instances of priority species

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concentrations of at least four different NT (forest species that have forestry as a known impact factor within an area of 1 hectare) • national important nature types (A-value, or similar valuation in Narin) according to DN Håndbok 13. • regional important habitat types (B-value or similar valuation in Narin) according to DN Håndbok 13 • nature types with "central ecosystem function" surveyed according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's instructions, with registered NiN properties, indicating that there may be important environment qualities • important wildlife biotopes • endangered nature types • selected nature types <p>(...)</p> <p>The various values shall be described in the plan and a strategy must be compiled for management of the plot which ensures that the various interests are safeguarded satisfactorily.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>For plots with requirements for landscape plan, at least 5 % of the forest must be deposited as biologically important areas cf. requirement 23."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 9. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p> <p>"The natural genetic variation of forest trees shall be safeguarded, both through systematic reforestation and natural rejuvenation."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 17. Tree species distribution</p> <p>"The tree species composition shall be adapted to the site, as well as expected climate-related changes that will affect the composition of the tree species. It shall be facilitated that all tree species that naturally occur are present on the property.</p> <p>A significant deciduous tree stand shall be sought with own deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and as single trees, including old, large deciduous trees, unless climatic and soil conditions make this difficult.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>A substantial amount of deciduous tree share shall be facilitated in the event of regeneration and juvenile forest tending (cf. requirement 15 – long-term timber production), thinning and harvesting (cf. requirement 11).</p> <p>Deciduous trees as retention trees shall be given priority, cf. requirement 13 retention trees and dead trees.</p> <p>Where the conditions are right, a mixture of spruce and pine should be sought.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species that are rare in the area shall be safeguarded and/or promoted by forestry measures.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Key habitats</p> <p>“Key habitats shall be mapped on properties larger than 5 hectares of productive, commercially exploitable area. The key habitats shall be documented in the forestry plan or environmental overview. If management measures can be carried out, these must be described in the forestry plan or the environmental overview.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 23. Biologically important areas</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure the safeguarding of biologically important areas in the forest landscape over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For forest properties over 150 hectares of productive forest, at least 5% of the forest must be set aside and mapped as biologically important areas at the latest in connection with the first regional forestry plan project. • For forest properties less than 150 hectares, safeguarding biologically important areas must be documented through statistics from the National Forest Inventory Crossing at the minimum possible level, which provides representative statistical basis. If the monitoring shows that there are less than 10% biologically important areas in the monitoring area, measures shall be taken to reach 10 % cf. requirements for the certificate holders (PEFC N 03 – requirements for individual and group certification).” <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 24. Consideration for birds of prey and owls</p> <p>“Before harvesting, the forest owner must check with all relevant available sources to get knowledge about nesting birds of prey and owls</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>that require special considerations, cf. the table below. The forest owner and certificate holder are obliged to comply with all information received.</p> <p>Nesting sites for birds of prey and owls shall have an area of consideration where no harvesting should be carried out (see table below). When harvesting towards a nesting site, it must be avoided that the nesting site is left as an "island" in the landscape, and the area shall be adapted to the terrain."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 25. Consideration for capercaillie leks</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that the big bird's playing place or capercaillie leks is taken into account."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 26. Consideration for other nesting birds</p> <p>"During the nesting season (normally the period May, June and July), forestry in forests of special importance for bird life shall be avoided, provided that it is not necessary to get to the forest behind these forests."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 27. Water protection</p> <p>"Forestry in and in close proximity to water, rivers, streams and wetlands shall be adapted so that water quality and life environments at and in water are preserved or improved."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 28. Wetlands and swamp forest</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that climate, biodiversity and ecological functions of wetlands, marsh forests and swamp forests are safeguarded by forestry measures."</p>
8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.</p>		<p>running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:(..), biodiversity. (...)</p> <p>The following must be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry: (..)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected nature types, nature reserves, etc.). • Key habitats mapped on the property <p>Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimize or avoid negative impacts for considerations/ interests mentioned above.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p><u>Operational planning</u></p> <p>In addition, the following must be available for the operational planning:</p> <p>Localized information from public environmental databases on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endangered species • endangered nature types • national important nature types • regional important nature types • nature types with "central ecosystem function" surveyed according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's instructions • selected nature types cf. law of biodiversity • priority species cf. law of biodiversity <p>The procedures for consulting of external sources for environmental information when planning felling, afforestation and tree species replacement and ground preparation are described in the relevant requirements. Any forestry activity in selected nature types and areas with the instance of priority species must take place according to the law of biodiversity.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 4. Landscape plan</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure that landscape scales are considered for different interests in larger forest plots."</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Key habitats</p> <p>“Key habitats are intended to ensure habitats for species considered endangered on the Norwegian Red List. The key habitats are intended to preserve species that have special habitat requirements, and where the habitats can become rare in areas used for forestry .</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>Key habitats shall be mapped on properties larger than 5hectares of productive, commercially exploitable area. The key habitats shall be documented in the forestry plan or environmental overview. If management measures can be carried out, these must be described in the forestry plan or the environmental overview.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>The key habitats shall be left untouched or managed in a way that maintains, or improves, the conditions of biodiversity.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>On properties with less than 5 hectares of productive, commercially exploitable area, when planning harvesting and forestry operations, precautionary measures shall be used to clarify whether there are important key habitats. Mapped key habitats shall be safeguarded, if necessary by refraining from harvesting or by taking the necessary considerations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 23: Biologically important areas</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure the safeguarding of biologically important areas in the forest landscape over time.</p> <p>(..)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For forest properties over 150 hectares of productive forest, at least 5% of the forest must be set aside and mapped as biologically important areas at the latest in connection with the first regional forestry plan project. • For forest properties less than 150 hectares, safeguarding biologically important areas must be documented through statistics from the National Forest Inventory Crossing at the minimum possible level, which provides representative statistical basis. If the monitoring shows that there are less than

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		10% biologically important areas in the monitoring area, measures shall be taken to reach 10 % cf. requirements for the certificate holders (PEFC N 03 – requirements for individual and group certification)."
<p>8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened 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> <p>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 22. Key habitats</p> <p><u>"Consultation with environmental databases:</u></p> <p>When planning harvesting, external sources of environmental information in the databases Artskart, Narinbase and Naturbase must be consulted. Where forestry operation may affect mapped environmental information, as listed below, and the mapped information has not previously been assessed in connection with the selection of key habitats, a person with forest biology expertise shall assess whether one or more key habitats shall be established in the area. The information that in this case requires an assessment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endangered species • endangered nature type • nationally important nature types • Regionally important nature types • nature types with "central ecosystem function" mapped according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's instructions, with registered NiN properties indicating that there may be important life environment qualities <p>(..)</p> <p>Any forestry activity in selected nature types and areas with the occurrence of priority species shall take place in the following the rules of the Nature Diversity Act."</p> <p><u>Information beyond the certification system:</u></p> <p>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on the laws and regulations governing commercial activity in the forest. Where laws and regulations governing business activity in the forests, the statutory provisions take precedence of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. Protected and endangered plants and animals are protected by Norwegian law and specifically through the Nature</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Diversity Act.</p> <p>(Lov om forvaltning av naturens mangfold (naturmangfoldloven) - Lovdata)</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act, Chapter III. Species Management, Section 15 (principle for species management): "Harvesting and other removal of animals that occur naturally in the wild shall be authorised by statute or a decision pursuant to statute. Unnecessary harm and suffering caused to animals occurring in the wild and their nests, lairs and burrows shall be avoided. Harvesting and other removal of plants and fungi occurring in the wild are permitted to the extent that they do not jeopardise the survival of the population concerned or are not limited by statute or by a decision pursuant to statute. The provisions of the first and second paragraphs do not preclude lawful access and passage, agricultural activities or other activities that take place in accordance with the duty of care laid down in section 6."</p> <p>Norway has also ratified the Bern Convention (The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats), and there is an Norwegian Regulation for Convention of endangered species. This regulation was entered into force 21.12.2001. The regulation specifies which plant and animal species that are totally protected.</p> <p>See Norwegian Laws and Regulations(text in Norwegian):</p> <p>http://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2001-12-21-1525</p> <p>1. The purpose of protection is to protect certain species of endangered, vulnerable, demanding attention or rare vascular plants, cryptogams (mosses, lichens and fungi), algae and invertebrates from damage and destruction.</p> <p>2. Species and subspecies of vascular plants (including seeds), cryptogams (mosses, lichens and fungi), algae and invertebrates in accordance with the attached list are protected from direct damage and destruction, recovery and other forms of direct pursuit. (...)</p> <p>3. The administrative authority may grant exemptions from protection when the purpose of the protection it requires, as well as for scientific research and work, or measures of major importance for society, and in other special cases, when it is not contrary to the purpose of the protection."</p>
8.4.4 The standard requires that successful	Yes	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Harvesting

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.</p>		<p>“The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that (...) conditions are provided for a satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 15. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“When planning harvesting, regeneration methods, including harvesting methods and the possibility of natural regeneration, as well as the need for soil scarification, shall be considered. The choice must be documented.</p> <p>On areas where natural regeneration after harvesting has been planned, the trees must be felled in such a way that regeneration can be established as quickly as possible. If natural regeneration is not successful, silvicultural measures shall be implemented.</p> <p>In areas where planting or sowing after harvesting has been planned, it must be planted or sown as soon as it is practically possible, and within three years at the latest unless the authorities have granted an exemption.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 17. Tree species distribution</p> <p>“The tree species composition shall be adapted to the site, as well as expected climate-related changes that will affect the composition of the tree species. It shall be facilitated that all tree species that naturally occur are present on the property.</p> <p>A significant deciduous tree stand shall be sought with own deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and as single trees, including old, large deciduous trees, unless climatic and soil conditions make this difficult.”</p>
<p>8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 20: Use of foreign tree species</p> <p>“In the event of afforestation and regeneration after harvesting, Norwegian tree species shall be used. Foreign tree species can only be used on areas where foreign tree species have been planted for forestry purposes in the past.</p> <p>The possibility of using foreign tree species is limited to the use of the tree species sitka- spruce gran, lutz-spruce and larch, and only in coastal areas from Lindesnes to Troms.</p> <p>The use of foreign tree species requires that the measure is pre-approved by applicable legislation and mapped.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - 15. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“When planning harvesting, regeneration methods, including harvesting methods and the possibility of natural regeneration, as well as the need for soil scarification, shall be considered. The choice must be documented.</p> <p>On areas where natural regeneration after harvesting has been planned, the trees must be felled in such a way that regeneration can be established as quickly as possible. If natural regeneration is not successful, silvicultural measures shall be implemented.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>When juvenile stand tending is done, emphasis shall be placed on utilizing the areas' opportunities for quality production, creating stable stands, and building a forest that provides a basis for variation in the-production and regeneration methods.</p> <p>Mix of spruce and pine and groups and different tree species shall be sought, with occurrence of deciduous trees where conditions allow. Moreover, grazing for wild animal should be taken into account, especially ROS species (rowan, aspen and willow).”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 17. Tree species distribution</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure that the tree species composition safeguards both economic, environmental and outdoor conditions</p> <p>A substantial amount of deciduous tree share shall be facilitated in the event of regeneration and juvenile forest tending (cf. requirement 15 – long-term timber production), thinning and harvesting (cf. requirement 11).”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 20: Use of foreign tree species</p> <p>“In the event of afforestation and regeneration after harvesting, Norwegian tree species shall be used. Foreign tree species can only be used on areas where foreign tree species have been planted for forestry purposes in the past. (...)</p> <p>Planting foreign tree species also requires that one has experience from the previous circulation which suggests that: (...)</p> <p>2. the use of the tree species does not have a material negative impact on landscapes, outdoor</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>recreation and biodiversity</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Before planting foreign tree species, the forest owner must identify and map where there is a stand of foreign tree species on the property, which is not considered economically viable to harvest. On properties with such stock, the forest owner shall as far reasonably remove these, or contribute to their removal where public authorities facilitate their removal. Priority shall be given to tree species and stands with a risk of spreading to biologically important areas.”</p> <p>Requirement 21. Afforestation and tree species change</p> <p>“The stands shall be suited to the landscape. Emphasis shall be placed on creating soft transitions between the spruce forest and the surrounding areas, and a minimum of 20% of indigenous tree species shall be ensured on the property. On properties larger than 50 hectares, the use of non-indigenous tree species shall not exceed 70% of the property.</p> <p>When afforesting, frequently used paths and trails must be taken into account so that the outdoors experience value associated with the use of the path/trail is maintained. It shall not be planted closer than 2.5 meters from such paths and ski trails.</p> <p>There should be no tree species change or afforestation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biologically important areas (BVO), endangered nature types on the Red List (including flood forest fields) or areas with key habitat qualities. • selected nature types or in ecological functional areas for priority species. • pine marsh forest in Western Norway. • swamp forest. • deciduous forest, with the exception of the vegetation type blueberry- oak forest on low site index. • lime forest (lime stage h-i by Nature in Norway, NiN) • in rich and moist tall-herbs birch forest with almost fully covered undergrowth of high herbs and large ferns. • large fern forest and “istervier” community north of Saltfjellet. • Almond-willow and mist-willow thicket.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overgrown pastureland with special natural values. • within the protection zone of known cultural heritages. • pasture forest. • buffer zones along marshes, water and waterways. <p>The databases Artskart and Naturbase must be consulted before afforestation or tree species changes take place. The measure cannot be implemented if the measure harms the environment of an endangered species or harms an endangered nature type or the values of a registered nature type with A- or B-value according to "DN Handbook 13", or nature types with "central ecosystem function" mapped according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's instructions with moderate to very high quality. Any change in forestry or tree species assumes that a person with forest biological competence has assessed that the measure can be implemented without causing harm to the environmental values."</p>
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 9. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p> <p>"The natural genetic variation of forest trees shall be safeguarded, both through systematic reforestation and natural rejuvenation. Genetically modified planting material should not be used. The rules for the use of seeds and plants in the Regulations on forest seeds and forest plants shall be applied."</p>
<p>8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>"The requirement shall ensure varied use of harvesting methods and regeneration methods that balance considerations for the forest owner's economy, the interests of outdoor recreation, biodiversity and other environmental values. It is a goal to increase the proportion of selective felling and small-scale clear-cut harvesting in the forest landscape.</p> <p>The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that tree stability is safeguarded in affected and surrounding stands, the area's environmental qualities are preserved, landscape considerations are safeguarded and conditions are provided for a</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site.</p> <p>The group certificate holder shall have the necessary expertise on selective felling forms, and describe how the goal of increasing the proportion of selective and small-scale clear-cut harvesting on their group members forest can be achieved in the short and long term, e.g. when planning and implementing forest measures. The forest owners shall be offered a product with planning and implementation of selective felling, cf. PEFC N03 – Chapter 7.2.</p> <p>In spruce-dominated forests, selective felling shall be used where conditions economically and biologically suit this method, also with consideration of future climate and precipitation conditions.</p> <p>The precondition for the use of selective felling forms in spruce-dominated forests is that good stability can be achieved for the remaining trees, and that the harvesting form provides the basis for satisfactory regeneration. In important outdoor recreation areas, special emphasis shall be placed on utilizing the possibilities for selective felling combined with small-scale clear-cut harvesting.</p> <p>In mountain forests, emphasis shall be placed on promoting and maintaining an old forest character as well as ensuring regeneration and production. When carrying out harvesting, selective felling forms shall therefore be used to the greatest extent possible in spruce-dominated forests, and small-scale clear-cut harvesting and small seed tree stand harvesting in pine-dominated forests.</p> <p>In rich deciduous forest, closed logging form shall be used. On the vegetation type blueberry oak forests on low and medium site indexes, open harvesting methods can be used, with the goal being to cultivate pine where this results in increased production.</p> <p>As far as possible for the sake of stability and regeneration of the tree species present, selective fellings shall be used in swamp forests and marsh forests, and in the transition zone towards the firm ground, cf. requirement 28. Where ordinary selective felling is not possible, small-scale clear-cut harvesting can be used. When forest management is carried out, emphasis shall be placed on safeguarding the ecological functions of all marshes and swamp forests, regardless of size. The bush vegetation is especially important. There is no requirement for adaptations of harvesting form for swamp forests and marsh forests less than 0,2 hectare.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>“The tree species composition shall be adapted to the site, as well as expected climate-related changes that will affect the composition of the tree species. It shall be facilitated that all tree species that naturally occur are present on the property.</p> <p>A significant deciduous tree stand shall be sought with own deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and as single trees, including old, large deciduous trees, unless climatic and soil conditions make this difficult.</p> <p>A substantial amount of deciduous tree share shall be facilitated in the event of regeneration and juvenile forest tending (cf. requirement 15 – long-term timber production), thinning and harvesting (cf. requirement 11).</p> <p>Deciduous trees as retention trees shall be given priority, cf. requirement 13 retention trees and dead trees.</p> <p>Where the conditions are right, a mixture of spruce and pine should be sought.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species that are rare in the area shall be safeguarded and/or promoted by forestry measures.”</p>
<p>8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>“The requirement shall ensure varied use of harvesting methods and regeneration methods that balance considerations for the forest owner's economy, the interests of outdoor recreation, biodiversity and other environmental values. It is a goal to increase the proportion of selective felling and small-scale clear-cut harvesting in the forest landscape.”</p> <p>In spruce-dominated forests, selective felling shall be used where conditions economically and biologically suit this method, also with consideration of future climate and precipitation conditions.</p> <p>In mountain forests, emphasis shall be placed on promoting and maintaining an old forest character as well as ensuring regeneration and production. When carrying out harvesting, selective felling forms shall therefore be used to the greatest extent possible in spruce-dominated forests, and small-scale clear-cut harvesting and small seed tree</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>stand harvesting in pine-dominated forests.</p> <p>In rich deciduous forest, closed logging form shall be used. On the vegetation type blueberry oak forests on low and medium site indexes, open harvesting methods can be used, with the goal being to cultivate pine where this results in increased production.”</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>The requirement promote the use of close stand/selective felling, among other things to preserve particular cultivation values that were associated with the forests for 100-200 years ago.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Key habitats</p> <p>“Key habitats are intended to ensure habitats for species considered endangered on the Norwegian Red List. The key habitats are intended to preserve species that have special habitat requirements, and where the habitats can become rare in areas used for forestry.</p> <p>Requirement</p> <p>Establishment and management of key habitats</p> <p>Key habitats shall be mapped on properties larger than 5 hectares of productive, commercially exploitable area. The key habitats shall be documented in the forestry plan or environmental overview. If management measures can be carried out, these must be described in the forestry plan or the environmental overview.</p> <p>The key habitat registration method in Forest (MiS), or other method approved by the authorities, shall be used when mapping and selecting new key habitats. Forest biology expertise approved by certificate holder shall be used when mapping and selecting key habitats.”</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Several of the key habitats that are mapped according to the MiS methodology are habitats dependent on traditional management practices. e.g. “pasture forest”. The public authorities provide subsidies for the tending of these habitats in order to preserve and increase the environmental values, cf. “regulation on grants for economic and environmental measures in forestry”.. The safeguarding of these habitats is therefore a joint effort between requirements in the forest management standard and public subsidies.</p> <p>Regulation on grants for economic and environmental measures in forestry</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>(https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2004-02-04-447):</p> <p>§ 6. "Grants for environmental measures in forests</p> <p>In areas where forestry is practiced, grants can be given to safeguard and further develop environmental values linked to biological diversity, landscape, outdoor life and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Grants can be given for the following measures:</p> <p>a. Coverage of additional costs or losses by carrying out measures to safeguard and develop environmental values."</p>
<p>8.4.10 The standard requires that 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 maintain or improve biological diversity.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Harvesting</p> <p>"The possibilities of harvesting can be utilized within the framework set by considerations relating to economy, outdoor recreation, biodiversity, other environmental values and legislation.</p> <p>In areas defined as protected forests pursuant to the Forestry Act and in other areas where harvesting is regulated by separate regulations or provisions, the rules that apply to such forests shall be followed.</p> <p>The choice of harvesting method and the execution of the harvesting shall be adapted to future climate conditions and the conditions at the site, so that tree stability is safeguarded in affected and surrounding stands, the area's environmental qualities are preserved, landscape considerations are safeguarded and conditions are provided for a satisfactory regeneration with tree species adapted to the site."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 14. Off-road transportation</p> <p>"Off-road transport must not take place in areas set aside as key habitats if this would damage the biological values."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Key habitats</p> <p>"The key habitats shall be left untouched or managed in a way that maintains, or improves, the conditions of biodiversity. Where key habitats are managed in other ways than untouched, measures shall be prepared in consultation with a person with forest biology expertise approved by the certificate holder."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 28. Wetlands and swamp forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		"The requirement shall ensure the water quality in lakes and waterways and conserve habitats for species that are naturally based at or in the waterways."
8.4.11 The standard requires that infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimizes 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	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Forest roads</p> <p>"When planning and building forest roads, consideration for (..) biodiversity and the risk of flooding, erosion and soil landslides must be emphasized, in addition to forestry and other commercial benefits.</p> <p>No road shall be built in key habitats and deposited biologically important areas (BVO) unless it has been clarified in advance that it can be done and replacement areas at least equal quality have been deposited, cf. requirement 23 "Biologically important areas" and the routines for changing key habitats in requirement 22 "Key habitats".</p> <p>No obstacles should be created for natural movement of the water and the fish.</p> <p>The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is a little disturbance of nature as possible. The alignment must be adapted to the landscape as far as possible, and the road must be constructed lightly in the terrain. and in accordance with the principles of the main plan forest road where it is available.</p> <p>When planning new road systems, forest owner must document the fact that roadbuilding is avoided in areas with recorded special environmental values.</p> <p>In larger contiguous forest areas with a small extent of technical interventions and which are particularly important for biodiversity or outdoor recreation, new forest roads should normally be avoided. PEFC Norway can be applied for exemption.</p> <p>In marginal forest areas with significant environmental and outdoor recreation or herding interests (reindeer), simple road solutions such as tractor roads and winter roads must be given priority."</p>
8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forest owner's financial returns • long-term forest production

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Forestry Act (2005)</p> <p>Lov om skogbruk (skogbrukslova) - Lovdata</p> <p>Section 9. Preventive measures</p> <p>“Where grazing by cervids results in substantial damage to forest undergoing regeneration or where such grazing is a substantial obstacle to compliance with the obligation to regenerate forest pursuant to section 6 of this Act, the municipality as the body responsible for game shall consider whether there is a need to regulate the stocks of cervids in order to reduce the pressure of grazing.”</p> <p>Wildlife Act (1981) § 1. (Purpose of the Act)</p> <p>Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata</p> <p>“Wildlife and their habitats shall be managed in accordance with Nature Diversity Act and so that the productivity and species diversity are maintained. Within this framework, wildlife may be harvested for the benefit of agriculture business and outdoor recreation.”</p>
8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and 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	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. Retention trees and dead trees</p> <p>“Standing and fallen dead wood of deciduous trees and pines that have been dead for more than a year, and spruce that has been dead for more than 5 years should be spared. (..)</p> <p>At harvesting, at least 10 retention trees per hectare of the harvested area should be set aside. Retention trees are left individually or in groups in the operational area in a way that contributes to tree stability. (...)</p> <p>The retention trees are primarily selected from the oldest trees with the highest value for biodiversity. Both dominant tree species and any rare/uncommon tree species shall be represented.”</p>
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
enhanced.		<p>safeguards: (..)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon • biodiversity • outdoors recreation • cultural heritage • the risk of erosion and landslide • water resources • spawn streams for anadromous salmon fish • waterways with river mussels • important areas for herding reindeer <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there are special long-term goals for forest property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 4. Forest roads</p> <p>“When planning and building forest roads, consideration for outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, biodiversity and the risk of flooding, erosion and soil landslides must be emphasized, in addition to forestry and other commercial benefits.”</p>
8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The following must be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry: (..)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected nature types, nature reserves, etc.). • Key habitats mapped on the property <p>(....)</p> <p><u>Operational planning</u></p> <p>In addition, the following must be available for the operational planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localized information from public environmental databases on: <p>O endangered species</p> <p>O endangered nature types</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>O national important nature types.</p> <p>O regional important nature types</p> <p>O nature types with "central ecosystem function"</p> <p>O selected nature types cf. law of biodiversity</p> <p>O priority species cf. law of biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on well-known capercaillie leks (mating games), nesting sites for owls and birds of prey and rare territory-raising birds cf. requirement 26. • Information about outdoor recreation values (where the municipalities have prepared knowledge bases and plans according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's scheme): <p>O mapped and valued outdoor recreation areas according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's guide M-98</p> <p>O plan for outdoor recreation paths according to the Norwegian Environment Agency's guide M-1992</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important outdoor recreation areas that, pursuant to the Planning and Building Act, are bounded by a land border or equivalent or are marked with regard zone to outdoor recreation • Information about cultural heritage"
8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>"Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the risk of erosion and landslide • water resources <p>(...)</p> <p>Planning operations in steep terrain, the NVE's risk zone map must be consulted. Where forestry operations will affect a risk zone for landslides avalanches and rockfalls in areas with buildings or important infrastructure, the relevant authority must be consulted. Consultation shall clarify whether the relevant authority want to enter into an agreement on a special management of this forest, which safeguards the forest's hedging function over time. If the relevant authority wants such an agreement, the forest owner should be positive about such an agreement."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 14. Off-road</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>transportation</p> <p>“In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage because of driving that are unsightly, make movement difficult, or can cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding damage from transport that lead to erosion into the river/stream, e.g. by building a temporary bridge.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 16. Soil scarification</p> <p>“Before soil scarification can be carried out, consideration for biodiversity, outdoor recreation, reindeer herding, cultural heritage, erosion and water runoff must be assessed, and areas that are not to be scarified must be clarified. The assessments must be documented.”</p> <p>Soil scarification shall be adapted to the place and landscape with the best practical possible method and technique to take into account biodiversity, water environment, carbon storage, reindeer herding and outdoor recreations. Spot scarification should be considered and preferred.</p> <p>Soil scarification is planned so that vegetation in the field and shrub layers is preserved as much as possible. Damage to lying and standing dead wood (not applicable to branches, tops and small logst) should be avoided.”</p> <p>Forestry Act (2005) Lov om skogbruk (skogbrukslova) - Lovdata</p> <p>Section 9. Preventive measures</p> <p>“Where grazing by cervids results in substantial damage to forest undergoing regeneration or where such grazing is a substantial obstacle to compliance with the obligation to regenerate forest pursuant to section 6 of this Act, the municipality as the body responsible for game shall consider whether there is a need to regulate the stocks of cervids in order to reduce the pressure of grazing.”</p> <p>Wildlife Act (1981) § 1. (Purpose of the Act) Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata</p> <p>“Wildlife and their habitats shall be managed in accordance with Nature Diversity Act and so that the productivity and species diversity are maintained. Within this framework, wildlife may be harvested for the benefit of agriculture business</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		and outdoor recreation.”
8.5.4 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations 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. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 12. Waste and contamination</p> <p>“Hazardous waste such as oils, fluids, batteries, fuel containers and suchlike must be submitted to an approved landfill.</p> <p>Best available technology (BAT) must preferably be used when selecting equipment and machinery for implementation of forestry operations where relevant on the basis of the risk of contamination and other serious environmental problems.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 18. Use of pesticides</p> <p>“Based on a precautionary principle, use of pesticides in forests as a forest as a measure shall as far as possible be avoided and subject to strict practice. (...)</p> <p>It is not allowed to use pesticides closer than 25 meters from lakes, streams, rivers, marshes, lichen-rich areas, key habitats, biologically important areas (BVO), endangered species and close to endangered nature types, or areas with other special environmental values. “</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 27. Water protection</p> <p>“Forestry in and in close proximity to water, rivers, streams and wetlands shall be adapted so that water quality and life environments at and in water are preserved or improved.</p> <p>Along water, rivers and streams which are unlikely to run dry or wider than one meter, a multi-layered buffer zone shall be preserved or developed. Along other streams, shrub vegetation and smaller trees shall be saved to secure a string of vegetation. (...)</p> <p>Other considerations for waterways</p> <p>The following requirements shall safeguard water resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When planning in forestry, emphasis shall be placed on safeguarding water resources, spawning streams for anadromous salmon fish and watercourses with river mussels, cf. requirement 3 "Planning in forestry". • Emphasis shall be placed on avoiding contamination of lakes and waterways, cf. Section 12 of the Regulations. point 12 "Waste and contamination". For example, do not store fuel close to 50 meters from a water source.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When fertilizing in forests, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding runoff against waterways, among other things by leaving a fertilisation-free zone of 25 metres against lakes, rivers and streams (50 meter at low dispersal precision), cf. requirement 19 "Fertilizing and nutrient balance". • Soil scarification shall take place carefully and no closer than 5 meters from the stream which are unlikely to run dry, cf. requirement 16 "Soil scarification" • When restoring forest ditches and performing supplementary ditching, the water shall not be directed straight into streams, rivers and lakes, cf. requirement 28 "Wetland and swamp forest" • Emphasis shall be placed on avoiding and, where necessary, rectifying any wheel tracks can cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding driving tracks that lead to erosion into the river/stream, cf. Section 12 of the Regulations. point 14 "Off-road transportation". • Harvesting waste shall be cleared away from streams, rivers and water, cf. Regulations. requirement 11 "Harvesting"
<p>8.5.5 The standard requires that 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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Forest roads</p> <p>When planning and building forest roads, consideration for outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, biodiversity and the risk of flooding, erosion and soil landslides must be emphasized, in addition to forestry and other commercial benefits.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>No obstacles should be created for natural movement of water and fish migration.</p> <p>The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is as little disturbance of nature as possible. The alignment must be adapted to the landscape as far as possible, and the road must be constructed lightly in the terrain. and in accordance with the principles of the main plan forest road where it is available."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. Off-road transportation</p> <p>"In the case of off-road transport, it is</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage because of driving that are unsightly, make movement difficult, or can cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis shall be placed on avoiding damage from transport that lead to erosion into the river/stream, e.g. by building a temporary bridge.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>Ruts which cause water runoff and erosion, driving damage to paths and ski trails and other significant damage shall be rectified as soon as the moisture conditions make this practically possible once use of the route is discontinued. When ending the operation, emphasis should be placed on preventing water from being left in paths.”</p>
8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions		
8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“The forest shall be managed sustainably so that it gives financial returns to the forest owner, adds value at a local and national level and makes a positive climate contribution, while also safeguarding outdoor recreation and environmental values.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (..) • outdoors recreation • cultural heritage • the risk of erosion and landslide • water resources • spawn streams for anadromous salmon fish • waterways with river mussels • important areas for herding reindeer <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there are special long-term goals for forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above.”
8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 6. Outdoor recreation</p> <p>“Outdoor recreation interests must be given special emphasis in areas important for outdoor recreation, this includes selection of harvesting methods and size of the harvest site , and avoiding damage to the paths when transporting logs. Important outdoor recreation areas are identified as areas that, pursuant to the law of Planning and Building, are bounded by a land boundary or equivalent or are marked with regard zone to outdoor recreation, and other urban areas and areas with similar use or outdoor recreation value.</p> <p>When carrying out forestry operations, emphasis must be placed on safeguarding the quality of the experience, particularly along paths and ski trails. “Paths and ski trails” refer to all paths and ski trails which are marked in the N50 map series or which have similar use or are clearly evident in the terrain.</p> <p>Where harvesting affects groomed ski trails, skiers must be informed through distinct signboards.</p> <p>The public have the general right to use the forest for recreation purposes and right to pick berries and mushrooms within the scope defined by the Outdoor Recreation Act and other legislation.</p> <p>Commercial activity in forest area must take place in a way that the actual content of the general right use the forest for recreation purposes is maintained.</p> <p>Forest owner must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoor areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes and for start and finish areas for orienteering races, etc., and give permission for the same when this does not contravene to important commercial or ecological considerations. This does not alter the rights pursuant to the Outdoor Recreation Act.</p> <p>The "Water Protection" requirement does not preclude establishment of fishing locations, picnic areas and viewing areas unless this contravenes important interests for the forest owner or ecological considerations.”</p>
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 30. Cultural heritage</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and 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>		<p>and cultural environments</p> <p>“All cultural heritage remains from before 1537 and all Sami cultural heritage remains from the year 1917 or older are automatically protected, cf. the Cultural Heritage Act. In addition, the forest owner must take into account other known and valuable cultural heritage remains.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>Where cultural heritage remains are discovered that are assumed to be automatically protected and not known in advance, in connection with forestry operations, these must be marked in the terrain and reported to the county municipality, cf. the Cultural Heritage Act.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights</p> <p>“The forest owner must recognize, respect and uphold the rights, customs and culture of affected herders (reindeer) in accordance with the provisions of the Reindeer Herding Act, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – UNDRIP (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>The forest owner must not exploit his property in reindeer herding in such way that there is significant damage or disadvantage to reindeer herding. Before operations that may cause significant damage or disadvantage to the reindeer herders are implemented, a notification must be given to the relevant reindeer herding district associations. Notice must be given minimum three weeks before the planned operation can start. This applies where the total impact of clearcutting, fertilization and soil scarification exceeds 10 hectares in one or adjacent areas within the same year.</p> <p>The reindeer herding district board shall, independent of the area extent of the operation, be notified by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fertilization in areas included in point d-f of the list below - Soil scarification in areas included in point e-h of the list below <p>If there are objections to notified operation, it must be followed up through active dialogue.</p> <p>Where reindeer herding Sami people have rights, special consideration must be given to harvesting and other forestry operations in the following areas:</p> <p>a) Important migration paths</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		b) Compilation areas c) Difficult passages d) Important distress grazing areas with lichen in the trees at grazing height e) Grazing gardens f) Calving area g) Lichen-rich vegetation h) Sami sacred sites, sacrificial places, burial grounds, culturally important paths and other places of particular cultural historical significance."
8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Outdoor recreation</p> <p>"Outdoor recreation interests must be given special emphasis in areas important for outdoor recreation, this includes selection of harvesting methods and size of the harvest site , and avoiding damage to the paths when transporting logs. (..)</p> <p>When carrying out forestry operations, emphasis must be placed on safeguarding the quality of the experience, particularly along paths and ski trails.(..)</p> <p>Where harvesting affects groomed ski trails, skiers must be informed through distinct signboards.</p> <p>The public have the general right to use the forest for recreation purposes and right to pick berries and mushrooms within the scope defined by the Outdoor Recreation Act and other legislation.</p> <p>Commercial activity in forest area must take place in a way that the actual content of the general right use the forest for recreation purposes is maintained.</p> <p>Forest owner must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoor areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes and for start and finish areas for orienteering races, etc., and give permission for the same when this does not contravene to important commercial or ecological considerations. This does not alter the rights pursuant to the Outdoor Recreation Act.</p> <p>The "Water Protection" requirement does not</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>preclude establishment of fishing locations, picnic areas and viewing areas unless this contravenes important interests for the forest owner or ecological considerations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights</p> <p>“The forest owner must recognize, respect and uphold the rights, customs and culture of affected herders (reindeer) in accordance with the provisions of the Reindeer Herding Act, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – UNDRIP (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).</p> <p>The certificate holder must prepare a routine for periodic dialogue with the reindeer herding industry, the Norwegian Reindeer Herding Association in line with PEFC N 03 – Requirements for group certification.</p> <p>The forest owner must not exploit his property in reindeer herding in such way that there is significant damage or disadvantage to reindeer herding. Before operations that may cause significant damage or disadvantage to the reindeer herders are implemented, a notification must be given to the relevant reindeer herding district board. Notice must be given minimum three weeks before the planned operation start. This applies where the total impact of clearcutting, fertilisation and ground preparation exceeds 10 hectares in adjacent areas within the same year.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 10. Transparency of environmental information</p> <p>“If interest groups contact forest owner or certificate holder with a request for dialogue, the forest owner or certificate holder shall accommodate this through meetings or other appropriate means.”</p>
<p>8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“The forest owner shall manage the forest on the basis of relevant scientific research results and where it is appropriate to use local forest-related experience and knowledge of forestry.</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>Forest owner are also obliged to contribute to the financing of common measures for knowledge development in the forestry.”</p> <p>Info/explanation: Results from these measures are publicly available and thereby available for all</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>interests/stakeholders.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights</p> <p>“The certificate holder must prepare a routine for periodic dialogue with the reindeer herding interests, the Norwegian Reindeer Herding Association in line with PEFC N 03 – Requirements for group certification.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 24: Consideration for birds of prey and owls</p> <p>“(…) Before harvesting, the forest owner must check with all relevant available sources to get knowledge about nesting birds of prey and owls that require special considerations, cf. the table below. The forest owner and certificate holder are obliged to comply with all information received. (...) ”</p> <p>A person with forest biological expertise and expertise in birds of prey and owls approved by a certificate holder can make changes in the consideration zone buffer zone and time periods without interference from forestry.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 25. Consideration for capercaillie leks</p> <p>“(…) Before harvesting, the forest owner must check with all relevant sources in order to get knowledge about capercaillie leks. The forest owner is obliged to assess all information received.</p> <p>Regardless of property size and property limits, a capercaillie leks shall be managed so that it can function as long as possible. Harvesting can be carried out when done in a way that does not impair the conditions at the leks. Assessment of whether it can be performed harvesting and planning of the harvest must be done in cooperation with a person with relevant forest biological competence approved by the certificate holder.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 7.3. Routines and responsibilities for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“3. The certificate holder shall have routines for informing other relevant certificate holders if there are special conditions on a forest property that are of significant importance for certification of the specific property.”</p> <p>Info/explanation: A significant part of this sharing of information is information provided by NGOs to a certificate holder and which the certificate holder is</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		obliged to share with other certificate holders who may be or become involved in the forest property in question.
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“The forest shall be managed sustainably so that it gives financial returns to the forest owner, adds value at a local and national level and makes a positive climate contribution, while also safeguarding outdoor recreation and environmental values.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 3 Planning</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running a long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (..) • Outdoors recreation • Cultural heritage • Important areas for herding (reindeer) <p>Through the planning the forest owner must clarify whether there are specific long-term target for forest property attached to the considerations/ interests mentioned above.”</p>
8.6.7 The standard requires that forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“The forest owner shall manage the forest on the basis of relevant scientific research results and where it is appropriate to use local forest-related experience and knowledge of forestry.</p> <p>Forest owner are also obliged to contribute to the financing of common measures for knowledge development in the forestry.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 Requirement 3 Planning</p> <p>“Scientific research results must be included in the assessment basis in connection with planning and preparation of forest management plans.”</p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.3. Routines and responsibilities for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“16. The certificate holder shall prepare a plan with guidelines for the use of various forestry management measures. The guidelines shall be based on the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forestry management operations. This shall form the basis for a continuous improvement to minimize or avoid negative impacts. The guidelines shall be assessed and if needed revised annually, based on an evaluation of experience with the guidelines, statistics for measures implemented, the governments result-control of forestry measures, and developments in forests regionally based on the results from the National Forest Inventory. The guidelines shall ensure a periodic evaluation of forestry measures and the use of results in further planning process. The guidelines shall be publicly available.”</p>
9.1.2 The standard requires that 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	<p>The health of forests in Norway is monitored annually by a national monitoring programme and at test sites in individual municipalities. Different types of environmental damage are also recorded in the inventory of forest resources in the National Forest Inventory.</p> <p>See Regulation on Sustainable Forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593) - Forskrift om berekraftig skogbruk - Lovdata; chapter 4 - Measures against injuries on forest:</p> <p>“§ 10 - Monitoring of the health of forests: The municipality shall monitor the forest for the sake of danger for different forest injuries. In this context, the Ministry may instruct the municipality to prepare overviews and reports about the forest's health condition, and whether the results of the measures that are being implemented pursuant to these regulations. Ministry or authorized by the Directorate may issue more closely rules for special assignments related to the monitoring of forests.”</p>
9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and	Yes	Hunting and fishing are managed outside the forest management, and it is regulated, monitored and controlled by the national/regional authorities.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.		References provided to the following laws: (1) The Wildlife Act (LOV-1981-05-29-38) - Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata, (2) Act of anadromous salmonids (LOV-1992-05-15-47) Lov om laksefisk og innlandsfisk mv. (lakse- og innlandsfiskloven) - Lovdata - , and (3) Nature Diversity Act (LOV-2009-06-19-100) - Lov om forvaltning av naturens mangfold (naturmangfoldloven) - Lovdata
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	Yes	PEFC N 03, Ch. 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders "19. The certificate holder shall regularly monitor and make adaptations if necessary"
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system		
a) conforms to • the organisation's requirements for its management system; • the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard	Yes	PEFC N 03, Ch.7.3 – point 7: "The certificate holder shall have an internal control system that is adapted to how all the requirements in Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard together cover requirements for sustainable forestry, and all group members shall be included in this system. See chapter 8. For requirements related to felling and forestry measures, the certificate holder may have routines and description for corrective forestry measures as part of the forest owner's obligations in the event of a default." Ch. 8.2: "The certificate holder shall implement an internal control system for controlling the entire group's compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, PEFC N 02 and the certificate holders requirements for its management system." Purpose The purpose of the internal control system should be: 1. Ensuring that requirements and activities are implemented correctly 2. Ensuring there is a sufficiently opportunity to preventing and detecting errors 3. To provide a adequate view of the situation

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4. Providing a foundation for improvements</p> <p>The primary task of self-control is related to target 1. The internal control could help to meet all the goals. The internal audit, in turn, will be able to help meet the last three targets, but will be particularly important in accordance to target 4.”</p> <p>ISO 14001:</p> <p>“9.2.1 General The organization shall conduct internal audits at planned intervals to provide information on whether the environmental management system:</p> <p>a) conforms to:</p> <p>1) the organization’s own requirements for its environmental management system;</p> <p>2) the requirements of this International Standard; “</p>
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	Yes	<p>ISO 14001</p> <p>“9.2.1 General</p> <p>The organization shall conduct internal audits at planned intervals to provide information on whether the environmental management system:</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>b) is effectively implemented and maintained.”</p>
<p>9.2.2 Organisation</p> <p>The standard requires that the organisation shall:</p>		
a) plan, establish, implement and maintain 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	<p>PEFC N 03, Ch. 8.2</p> <p>ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme</p> <p>“The organization shall establish, implement and maintain (an) internal audit programme(s), including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting of its internal audits”</p>
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2</p> <p>ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme:</p> <p>“The organization shall:</p> <p>a) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;”</p>
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
process;		<p>"Internal audits are done by the certificate holder but shall be carried out by persons who have not been directly involved in the task being audited."</p> <p>ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme:</p> <p>"The organization shall:</p> <p>b) select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>Personnel used for internal auditing must have good insight into relevant standards and certificate holder systems. In addition, the person concerned must have a good understanding of forestry ecology and in-depth knowledge of forestry. Independence in relation to what is being revised, is central to internal audits. Internal auditing differs from internal control in this regard."</p>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2</p> <p>ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme:</p> <p>"The organization shall:</p> <p>c) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management."</p>
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2</p> <p>ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme:</p> <p>"(...) The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results."</p>
9.3 Management review		
9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3</p> <p>ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3</p> <p>"(..)The management review shall include consideration of:</p> <p>a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;"</p>
b) changes in external and internal issues that	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
are relevant to the management system;		ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “(..)The management review shall include consideration of: (..) b) changes in: 1) external and internal issues that are relevant to the environmental management system;”
c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “(..)The management review shall include consideration of: (..) d) information on the organization's environmental performance, including trends in: 1) nonconformities and corrective actions; 2) monitoring and measurement results; 3) fulfilment of its compliance obligations; 4) audit results;”
d) opportunities for continual improvement	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “(..)The management review shall include consideration of: (..) g) opportunities for continual improvement.”
9.3.2 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 management system.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “The outputs of the management review shall include: — conclusions on the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental management system; — decisions related to continual improvement opportunities; — decisions related to any need for changes to the environmental management system, including resources;

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — actions, if needed, when environmental objectives have not been achieved; — opportunities to improve integration of the environmental management system with other business processes, if needed; — any implications for the strategic direction of the organization”
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews”
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the 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 N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: a) Respond to the non-conformity and take action to control and correct it as well as address the consequences of the non-conformity, including counteracting adverse environmental impact.”
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 N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Evaluate the need for measures to eliminate the causes of the non-conformity so that it does not repeat or occur elsewhere, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Investigate the non-conformity ii. Determine the causes of the non-conformity iii. Determine if similar non-conformities exist or may occur”
c) implement any action needed;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Implement any measures needed”

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) d) Review the impact of the corrective measures implemented”
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) e) If necessary, make changes to the certificate holder's management system.”
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “(..) Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the significance of the effects of the nonconformities encountered, including the environmental impact(s).”
10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “3.The certificate holder shall retain documented information as proof of: a)The nature of the non-conformities and any measures taken as a result of them”
b) the results of any corrective action.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “3.The certificate holder shall retain documented information as proof of: (..) b)The results of any corrective action.”
10.2 Continual improvement The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “4.The certificate holder shall continuously improve the suitability, adequacy, impact and effectiveness of the group certification system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.”

* 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.

