

CK SERVICES

**Assessment of the revised Norwegian Forest
Certification System against PEFC Sustainability
Benchmark Standards**

FINAL REPORT, 5th June 2023

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1 Introduction

This document is the final report on the assessment of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System against PEFC International's Sustainability Benchmark Standards, which was carried out by CK Services in early 2023.

The assessment was conducted as a desk study following PEFC International's procedures for the assessment of revised forest certification systems, which are defined in PEFC GD 1007:2017, *Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of Certification Systems and their Revision*.

The structure of this report is based on PEFC GD 1007, Appendix 2, *The assessment report*.

1.1 Assessment Scope

The scope of the assessment covers the evaluation of system documentation and reference documentation as submitted by PEFC Norway against the PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards specified as being applicable for this assessment by PEFC International in a *tender dossier*. In addition, responses to an international stakeholder consultation and a stakeholder involvement survey were taken into consideration.

The system documentation submitted by PEFC Norway comprises the documents listed in Table 1.

Table 1, System documentation, PEFC Norway

Document title	Document name
PEFC N 01	Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry
PEFC N 02	Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard
PEFC N 03	Requirements for individual and group certification
PEFC N 04	Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies
PEFC N 05	Glossary and definitions
PEFC N 06	Procedures for development and auditing of Norwegian PEFC certification system
PEFC N 07	Instructions for notification of certification bodies
-	Articles of Association for PEFC Norway
PEFC ST 2001	Trademark rules
PEFC ST 2002	Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree based products - requirements
PEFC ST 2003	Certification Body Requirements - Chain of Custody

The following reference documentation was provided by PEFC Norway in relation to the standard review and revision process:

- *Standard revision_development report_2022*
- *Attachment 1_Stakeholder mapping*
- *Attachment 2_Working committee_extended info on represented org*
- *Attachment 3_Summary hearing_June 30 2022*
- *Attachment 4_Working Committee_final protocol_June 30 2022_english translation*
- *Attachment 4_Working Committee_final protocol_signed*
- *Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022*

The system documentation of PEFC Norway was assessed against the PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards defined to be applicable for this assessment in PEFC International's *tender dossier*, which are listed in **Error! Reference source not found.**

Table 2, PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards

Document title	Document name
PEFC ST 1001:2017	<i>Standard Setting – Requirements</i>
PEFC ST 1002:2018	<i>Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements</i>
PEFC ST 1003:2018	<i>Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements</i>
Annex 6, PEFC TD	<i>Certification and Accreditation Procedures Forest Management</i>
PEFC ST 2003:2020	<i>Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard</i>

A detailed evaluation of the system's chain of custody standard and its trademark use rules were not requested to be covered by the scope of this assessment, due to the adoption of the PEFC International Benchmark Standards for chain of custody and trademark use by Norwegian Forest Certification System. Procedures for scheme administration, such as for complaint resolution, are also not covered by this assessment in detail and are expected to be evaluated by PEFC International internally.

1.2 Methodology

The assessment was carried out as a desk study. A field visit was not part of this assessment, as this is not required by PEFC GD 1007 for previously PEFC endorsed systems, nor had a field visit been explicitly requested by PEFC International or PEFC Norway.

1.2.1 Assessment of the standard setting procedures and process

The assessment of the Norwegian Forest Certification System's standard setting procedures and of the standard review and revision process was carried out against PEFC ST 1001:2017. The system documentation assessed consisted of PEFC N 06:2020, *Procedures for development and revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system*. Also considered were PEFC Norway's development report, the provided reference documentation and responses from the international stakeholder consultation and the stakeholder involvement survey.

The "PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)" as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report. Details on responses to international stakeholder consultation and stakeholder survey can be found in Annex C and Annex D respectively.

1.2.2 Assessment of the forest management standard

The assessment of the Norwegian Forest Certification System's forest management standard was carried out against PEFC ST 1003:2018. The system documentation assessed consisted of PEFC N 02:2022, *Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard* and PEFC N 03:2022, *Requirements for individual and group certification*.

The "PEFC Checklist - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)" as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report.

1.2.3 Assessment of the group certification model

The assessment of the Norwegian Forest Certification System's group certification model was carried out against PEFC ST 1002:2018. The system documentation assessed consisted of PEFC N 03:2022, *Requirements for individual and group certification*.

The “PEFC Checklist - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)” as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report.

1.2.4 Assessment of the certification and accreditation procedures

The assessment of the Norwegian Forest Certification System’s certification and accreditation procedures for forest management certification was carried out against Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document. The system documentation assessed consisted of PEFC N 04:2022, *Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies*, as well as PEFC N 07, Instructions for notification of certification bodies.

The “PEFC Checklist - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6, PEFC TD)” as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report.

The Norwegian Forest Certification System’s certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification had not to be assessed in detail, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2003 as part of its own technical documentation in its original version.

1.2.5 Assessment decisions

Based on PEFC GD 1007, 6.2.2, three types of decisions were made with regard to the conformity of the Norwegian Forest Certification System with the relevant PEFC Benchmark requirements:

- a) **Conformity:** The system documentation fully meets a particular PEFC Benchmark requirement.
- b) **Minor nonconformity:** A nonconformity against a specific PEFC Benchmark requirement that has a low impact on achieving the intended outcome of the PEFC International Benchmark Standard. According to PEFC GD 1007, 6.2.3 a minor nonconformity should be corrected within 6 months of a potential endorsement by PEFC. The assessor may recommend a longer period where justified by particular circumstances. Multiple minor nonconformities can result in a recommendation that minor nonconformities shall be corrected before the endorsement of the applicant system.
- c) **Major nonconformity:** A nonconformity against a specific PEFC Benchmark requirement that has a high impact on achieving the intended outcome of the PEFC International Benchmark Standard. According to PEFC GD 1007, 6.2.3 a major nonconformity does not allow the PEFC endorsement of a system and needs to be corrected before an endorsement can take place.

1.3 Assessment Process

1.3.1 Assessment schedule

The assessment process followed a schedule based on PEFC GD 1007. The dates for the individual steps of the assessment had been agreed between PEFC Norway, PEFC International and CK Services prior to the start of the assessment as shown in Table 3.

Table 3, Assessment schedule

Assessment event	Date	By
Int. stakeholder consultation	26 th September – 24 th November 2022	PEFC International
Assessment start	17 th February 2023	CK Services
Stakeholder survey	21 st February – 3 rd March 2023	CK Services
Draft assessment report	4 th March 2023	CK Services
Commenting period	By 17 th April 2023	PEFC Norway
Final draft assessment report	8 th May 2023	CK Services
Internal Review	By 22 nd May 2023	PEFC International
Final report	By 29 th May 2023	CK Services

1.3.2 Assessment steps

The assessment consisted of the following steps:

a) Public consultation

An international public stakeholder consultation organized by PEFC International was held from 26th September 2022 until 24th November 2022. PEFC informed CK Services on 14th February 2023 that no comments had been received during this consultation (see Annex C).

A stakeholder involvement survey on national level was organized by CK Services. On 21st February 2023 invitations to respond to an online questionnaire were sent to 125 stakeholders by email. The survey was open to respond to for stakeholders until 3rd March 2023. Seven stakeholders responded to the survey and their feedback was taken into account for the preparation of the draft and final draft reports (see Annex B).

b) Desk study and preparation of draft assessment report

The initial desk study took place during the period 17th February to 4th March 2023. It comprised an evaluation of the submitted system documentation against the relevant PEFC International Benchmark Standards covered by the scope of the assessment, as well as a consideration of PEFC Norway's development report, the provided reference documentation, and the responses to international stakeholder consultation and stakeholder involvement survey.

On 4th March 2023 a draft report identifying 27 minor and one major nonconformities was sent to PEFC Norway and PEFC International.

c) Commenting period

The commenting period during which PEFC Norway could respond to the findings of the draft report was between 5th March and 24th April 2023. On 24th April PEFC Norway provided CK Services with updated technical documentation and additional information on the standard revision process in response to the findings of the draft report.

d) Preparation of final draft assessment report

Taking into account the updated documentation and information provided by PEFC Norway, CK Services prepared a final draft version of the assessment report and submitted it to PEFC International for review on 16th May 2023.

e) PEFC International internal review

[Yet to take place]

f) Preparation of the final assessment report.

[Yet to take place]

1.4 Assessment Personnel

The assessment was carried out by Mr. Christian Kämmer at CK Services. Contact person at PEFC International was Mr. Hubert Inhaizer. Contact person at PEFC Norway was Mr. Thomas Husum.

2 Recommendation

CK Services recommends to PEFC International to maintain the endorsement of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System. The system and the revision process were found to fully conform with PEFC International's Sustainability Benchmark Standards.

3 Summary of findings

3.1 Overall

The assessment of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System against the PEFC International Benchmark Standards covered under the scope of this assessment by CK Services determined that system and revision process are in full conformity with PEFC International's requirements.

3.2 Structure of the System

The structure of the system is defined in PEFC N 01:2022, *Norwegian PEFC forest certification system for sustainable forestry*.

No aspects of the system's structure that would inhibit its functioning as a PEFC endorsed forest certification system have been identified in the assessment.

3.3 Standard Setting Procedures

The standard setting procedures of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System defined in PEFC N 06, *Procedures for development and auditing of Norwegian PEFC certification system* meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017. No nonconformities were identified in the updated standard setting procedures submitted by PEFC Norway in the commenting period following the issuance of the draft assessment report.

3.4 Standard Setting Process

The standard setting process that has taken place met the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017. No nonconformities were identified in the standard setting process after additional information on the revision was provided by PEFC Norway in the commenting period following the issuance of the draft assessment report.

The standard revision process appears to have been very robust to the assessor in terms of meeting PEFC International requirements. It is characterized by a broad representation of stakeholders on the committee revising the forest management standard, with representatives of several state agencies having participated on the committee as observers and with contributions of invited experts on individual subjects related to the standard.

3.5 Forest Management Standard

The forest management standard of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System, PEFC N 02:2022, *Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard* is in conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018. No nonconformities were identified in the updated forest management standard submitted by PEFC Norway in the commenting period in response to the findings of the draft assessment report.

3.6 Group Certification Model

The requirements for group forest management certification of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System are defined in PEFC N 03:2022, *Requirements for individual and group certification*. No nonconformities were identified in the updated version of this document submitted by PEFC Norway in the commenting period in response to the findings of the draft assessment report.

3.7 Chain of Custody Standard and Trademark Use

The Norwegian Forest Certification System has adopted PEFC International's chain of custody standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020, and trademark rules, PEFC ST 2001:2020 in its original form as normative elements of its system documentation. The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements for chain of custody standards and PEFC trademark rules.

3.8 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

PEFC Norway has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 without any alteration to document name, title and content. The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements on certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification.

The Norwegian Forest Certification System's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management defined in PEFC N 04 meet the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD. No nonconformities were identified.

3.9 Other Aspects

No comments were submitted in the 60-day public international stakeholder consultation organised by PEFC International.

Feedback received from seven out of 125 stakeholders in Norway invited by CK Services to participate in a stakeholder involvement survey mainly confirmed the information provided by PEFC Norway on the standard review and revision process.

4 Structure of the System

The role of organisations involved as actors in the system, the structure of the system's technical documentation and the basic elements of the system are defined in PEFC N 01:2022, *Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry*.

4.1 Organisational structure

Table 4 provides an overview about entities and their functions in the Norwegian Forest Certification System.

Table 4, Entities and their functions in the Norwegian Forest Certification System

Body	Function	Reference document
PEFC Norway	Owner of the certification system, responsible for its development and operation; organized as a registered organization with annual General Assembly of its members as its highest authority and a board of directors;	PEFC N 01:2022; Articles PEFC Norway
Accreditation bodies	Accreditation bodies meeting the system's requirements for PEFC certification are defined as body for the accreditation of certification bodies	PEFC N 01:2022
Certification bodies	Independent, accredited certification bodies are defined as bodies responsible for assessing the	PEFC N 01:2022

	conformity of entities with the system's certification requirements	
Group organisation (in forest management certification)	A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification.	PEFC N 05:2022
Group members (in forest management certification)	A forest owner/manager or other entity covered by the group forest certificate, who has the legal right to manage the forest in a clearly defined forest area, and the ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard in that area	PEFC N 05:2022
Group certificate holder (in forest management certification)	A company/organisation that administers group certification of forest owners in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. Group certificate holders represent all members in the group towards the certification body and are responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC scheme.	PEFC N 01&05:2022
Certificate holder – Individual forest owners	Forest owners wishing to be certified against and implementing the system's forest management requirements individually	PEFC N 01:2022

The role of entities in chain of custody certification is not further highlighted, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 and PEFC ST 2003:2020 without modification.

4.2 Structure of technical documentation

An overview of the system's technical documentation specified in PEFC N 01:2022, *Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry* is provided in Table 5.

Table 5, Overview of the system's technical documentation

Status	No.	Title
Organization		
PEFC N 06		Procedures for development and auditing of Norwegian PEFC certification system
PEFC N 07		Instructions for notification of certification bodies
-		Articles of Association for PEFC Norway
Forest certification		
PEFC N 01		Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry
PEFC N 02		Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard
PEFC N 03		Requirements for individual and group certification
PEFC N 04		Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies
PEFC N 05		Glossary and definitions
Traceability and logo usage		
PEFC ST 2002		Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree based products - requirements
PEFC ST 2003		Certification Body Requirements - Chain of Custody
PEFC ST 2001		Trademark rules

4.3 Major changes and improvements during the revision process

No major change to the organisational structure of the Norwegian Forest Certification System in the system's revision was identified in the assessment.

Major changes were, however, made to the system's forest management standard, its procedures for the development and revision of technical documentation and its group forest certification requirements. The changes were made mainly to align the system with revised PEFC International Benchmark Standards, but also to consider the latest scientific research, situation on the ground and stakeholder views, for example. The assessor supports the view that the changes conducted by PEFC Norway and its stakeholders in this revision can be considered an improvement of the system.

4.4 Assessment result

PEFC International defines no specific requirements for the structure of a system against which an assessment could be carried out in detail. However, no aspects of the system's structure that would inhibit its functioning as a PEFC endorsed forest certification system have been identified in the assessment.

5 Standard setting procedures

5.1 Analysis and conclusion

The standard setting/revision procedures for the forest management standard of the Norwegian Forest Certification System are defined in PEFC N 06:2020, *Procedures for the development and revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system*. The scope of PEFC N 06:2020 goes beyond what it is required by PEFC ST 1001:2017 in that it applies not only to the revision of forest management and chain of custody standard, but to all standards of the PEFC Norway system, including requirements for group certification and certification and accreditation.

The system's standard setting procedures were revised by PEFC Norway in the very beginning of the revision process in early 2020, mainly in order to align them with the requirements of the latest version of PEFC International's Benchmark Standard for standard setting and revision, PEFC ST 1001:2017.

The revised PEFC N 06 was approved by the PEFC Norway Board of Directors in February 2020. The subsequent revision of the forest management standard followed these revised procedures.

Having assessed PEFC N 06:2020 against PEFC ST 1001:2017, no nonconformities were identified in the final assessment report.

5.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section comprises selected examples of how the system's standard setting procedures meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017. For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017 see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.3

PEFC benchmark requirement
PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.

NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Stakeholder mapping (...) The mapping shall also uncover any disadvantaged stakeholders and if identified, shall PEFC Norway actively seek to remove obstacles to their participation in the process and proactively facilitate their participation in the revision/development process»

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.1

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Working Committee – Requirements - On the basis of nominations from the invited stakeholders, PEFC Norway will put together the working committee. Acceptance or refusal of nominations to the Working Committee shall be justified on the basis of the requirement for balanced representation, appropriate gender balance, the organisation's relevance, the candidate's competence and relevant experience and on the basis of available resources for the work»

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 7.1

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication - Once the working committee has concluded its work, the committee shall present the agreed standards/normative documents to the board of PEFC Norway for approval and subsequent consideration in the PEFC system.»

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

6 Standard setting process

The standard revision process of the Norwegian Forest Certification System took place between January 2020 and August 2022 and aimed to meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017, *Standard Setting – Requirements*. During the revision process major changes were made to the system's standard revision procedures, forest management standard and group certification standard.

As the scope of PEFC ST 1001:2017 applies to the standard setting and revision of forest management and chain of custody standards and as the system has adopted the PEFC International chain of custody standard without modification, only the revision process for the system's forest management standard is covered by this assessment in detail.

6.1 Revision process overview

An overview on the major steps in the revision of the Norwegian Forest Certification System's forest management standard as provided in PEFC Norway's *standard revision development report 2022* is shown in Table 6.

Table 6, Major steps in the revision process

Milestones	Dates and information
Start of process	Stakeholder mapping (January 2020) PEFC Norway Board, February 10th 2020: - Approval of PEFC N 06 standard (Standard setting process) - Approval to start the revision process Public invitation and call for participation, Feb. 20th 2020
Working Committee	PEFC Norway Board, May 20th 2020: Establishing working committee
Working Committee – working period	June 2020 – June 2022
Public Consultation	April 11th 2022 – June 10th 2022
Consensus in the working committee	June 30th 2022
Approval by PEFC Norway Board	August 18th 2022
Submission PEFC International	August 20th 2022

6.2 Documentation and evidence

PEFC Norway provided well-structured and detailed information on the standard revision process in a development report. The development report was supported by evidence in the form of additional reference documents provided by PEFC Norway, such as WG minutes, evidence of consensus through final minutes signed by all WG members, extracts of minutes of PEFC Norway's board of directors and other documents, including stakeholder overviews, a public consultation summary, and references to PEFC Norway's website.

6.3 Stakeholder involvement survey

The stakeholder involvement survey conducted by CK Services by email amongst 125 stakeholders of the Norwegian Forest Certification System in Norway resulted in seven responses being received. These responses mainly confirmed the information provided by PEFC Norway on the revision process.

Further details on the stakeholder involvement survey conducted by CK Services can be found in Annex B of this assessment report.

6.4 Analysis and conclusion

Having assessed the documentation and evidence provided by PEFC Norway on the standard revision process and considering the outcome of the stakeholder involvement survey, it could be determined that the revision process was in conformity with the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

The standard setting process was characterized by a broad and balanced representation of stakeholders of sustainable forest management in Norway on PEFC Norway's working committee, including observers from several Norwegian state agencies, invited experts on individual issues in forest management and a high amount (34) of mostly committee meetings, albeit in remote form, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.5 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section comprises selected examples of how the system's standard setting process meets the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017. For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017 see Annex A of this report.

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.2 The working group shall:

(a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process

Reference to process/evidence

Development report, "3. Establishing working committee

Based on the nominations done by the invited stakeholders the Board of PEFC Norway established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations on May 6th, 2020:

- The United Federation of Trade Unions
- National Association of Outdoor Recreation Councils
- Women in forestry
- Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors
- Nature and Youth – Young Friends of the Earth Norway
- Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation
- NORSKOG
- The Norwegian Association for Outdoor Organisations
- Statskog SF
- Sabima - umbrella organization for the biological associations in Norway
- Skognæringa Kyst
- Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association
- Norwegian Wood Industry Federation
- WWF – World Wildlife Fund Norway
- ZERO - Zero Emission Resource Organisation

In addition, the following have been represented by observers in the working committee:

- Norwegian Environment Agency
- Norwegian Agriculture Agency
- NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research
- NINA - Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
- Forestry Extension Institute
- Statsbygg - Norwegian government's building commissioner

The working committee has been established to seek a balanced representation from the different relevant stakeholders groups. The participants represents the interests of forest owners, forest industries, workers and trade unions, women, contractors, outdoor recreation organisations, eNGOs and climate organisations. Relevant national authorities were represented in the working committee as observers. Also relevant research environments from both forestry and nature conservation have participated as observers. In addition to the represented stakeholders and observers, the working committee have invited experts on several subjects related to individual requirements.

Attachment 2 provides more detailed information on the organisations represented in the working committee. (...)

Stakeholder groups/No. of members:

Forest owner org. 4

NGO's (environment 3, outdoor recreation 2, climate 1) 6

Women 1

<p>Workers and trade unions 1 Business and industry 4 Total 16 Observers: National authorities 2 Business and industry 2 Education, scientific and technological community 2 Total group incl. Observers 22</p> <p>(...) 4. Working committee – revision process - The working committee has been organized in an open and transparent way. The representation and decision-making has been balanced and no single interests has dominated the process.”</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.</p>

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.3.1

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>PEFC ST 1001, 6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 In a timely manner means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 Through suitable media means at least through the standardising body’s website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p>
<p>Reference to process/evidence</p> <p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision (...) PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping (...). (...) in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1.</p> <p>The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway’s website the February 14th 2020. All the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping received an e-mail with invitation to participate in the revision process. The same invitation were published on PEFC Norway’s website: https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022</p> <p>The start of the revision was also announced on the website of several of the member organisations of PEFC Norway. (...)»</p> <p>«2. Time-table for the revision process (...) Public invitation and call for participation, Feb. 20th 2020 (...) May 20th 2020: Establishing working committee (...) Working Committee – working period June 2020 – June 2022»</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.3

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.

NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.

Reference to process/evidence

Development report, «PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping to identify all relevant sectors and relevant stakeholders in these sectors, who could have an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification. There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1. (...)

PEFC Norway made a substantial effort to get stakeholders from all stakeholder groups to participate in the revision and successfully got key stakeholders from climate, environment and outdoor recreation organisations to participate. The number of organisations and stakeholder groups that have participated in the revision is considerably larger than in the previous revisions.

Different interests related to forests, forestry and forest certification is considered to be well represented and balanced. The committee has also been well gender-balanced. PEFC Norway also made substantial effort to bring in the two major research institutions as observers in the working committee. Observers do not take part in the actual consensus process of the standards, but apart from that they participate fully in the revision work.

The only stakeholder group not represented is the Norwegian indigenous people, the Sami people, as they did not have the resources to take part in the committee. The working committee has however actively contacted and had dialogue with representatives for Sami Reindeer Herders' Association of Norway on the requirement "Sami rights" and other relevant requirements.»

The majority of meetings took place remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic which eliminated travel and accommodation costs in relation to participation in working meetings.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark is essentially met.

7 Forest Management Standard

7.1 Analysis and conclusion

The revised requirements of the Norwegian Forest Certification System for forest management planning and operations are mainly defined in the system's forest management standard PEFC N 02:2022, *Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard*. Other benchmark requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018, however, such as those for leadership, support, performance evaluation and improvement, are

addressed through the system's normative document PEFC N 03, *Requirements for individual and group certification*.

The previous version of PEFC N 02 had been endorsed by the PEFC Council in early 2016 as meeting the requirements of its PEFC International Benchmark Standard for sustainable forest management published in 2010, PEFC ST 1003:2010.

The revision of PEFC N 02 that took place in the period 2020 to 2022 focused mainly on aligning the standard with the new and revised requirements of PEFC ST 2001:2018, which had become PEFC International's Benchmark Standard for sustainable forest management in 2018, but also to consider the experience gained from the previously endorsed system, new scientific knowledge, to address newly arisen issues and latest stakeholder expectations and feedback.

While the requirements of PEFC N 02 were revised and extended from 27 to 30, the structure of PEFC N 02 was not significantly amended during the revision process.

The assessment of PEFC N 02:2022 has determined that the forest management standard of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System is in conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018.

7.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section comprises selected examples of how the system's forest management standard meets the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018. For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018 see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, 4.3.2

PEFC benchmark requirement
PEFC ST 1003, 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.
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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 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."
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1003, 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.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

PEFC N 02 – Requirement 2. Workforce and safety

“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.

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.

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.”

Working Environment Act ([Lov om arbeidsmiljø, arbeidstid og stillingsvern mv. \(arbeidsmiljøloven\) - Lovdata](#))

Section 3-1. Requirements regarding systematic health, environment and safety work

“(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.

(2) Systematic health, environment and safety work entails that the employer shall:

- a) establish goals for health, environment and safety,
- 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,
- 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,
- 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,
- e) implement routines in order to detect, rectify and prevent contraventions of requirements laid down in or pursuant to this Act,
- f) ensure systematic prevention and follow-up of absence due to sickness,

g) ensure continuous control of the working environment and the employees' health when necessitated by risk factors in the undertaking, cf. (c),
h) conduct systematic supervision and review of the systematic work on health, environment and safety in order to ensure that it functions as intended."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>PEFC ST 1003, 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.</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <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> <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>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.</p>

8 Group Certification Model

8.1 Analysis and conclusion

The requirements for group forest management certification of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System are defined in PEFC N 03:2022, *Requirements for individual and group certification*. This document also defines requirements for individual forest management certification, as the title of this document suggests, mostly related to the areas leadership, support, performance evaluation and improvement.

PEFC N 03 underwent a major revision by PEFC Norway to align it with the new and revised requirements for group certification in forest management of PEFC International defined in the PEFC International Benchmark Standard PEFC ST 1002:2018, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements* published in 2018.

The assessment of PEFC N 03:2022 has identified that the document is in conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018.

8.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002, 9.2.2

PEFC benchmark requirement
9.2.2c) The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least: (...) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “(...) 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/who is being revised, is central to internal audits. Internal auditing differs from internal control in this regard.”
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.5.2

PEFC benchmark requirement
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects ”

- Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls
- Registered non-conformities and external inquiries

- Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process

(...) When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.1.3

PEFC benchmark requirement

9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

PEFC N 03 definition: "Group members: Forest owners who have entered into an agreement with a group certificate holder to participate in group certification. Through the agreement, the forest owners undertake to manage the property in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC Norway certification system."

Entire groups of organisations cannot become individual group members. Only individual forest owner can be a group member. Therefore, PEFC N 03 does not define additional sampling requirements for group members which are organisations/groups themselves, consisting of several members, such as forest owners'/managers' associations.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

9 Chain of Custody Standard and Trademark Use

The Norwegian Forest Certification System has adopted PEFC International's chain of custody standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020, and trademark rules, PEFC ST 2001:2020, as normative elements of its system documentation without modification.

The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements for chain of custody standards and PEFC trademark rules.

10 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

10.1 Chain of custody certification

10.1.1 Analysis and conclusion

PEFC Norway has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 as part of its system documentation without modification.

The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements on certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification.

10.2 Forest management certification

10.2.1 Analysis and conclusion

The Norwegian Forest Certification System's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management are defined in PEFC N 04, *Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies*.

The assessment of PEFC N 04 determined it to be in full conformity with the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD. No nonconformities were identified.

10.2.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

To be completed for the final draft and final assessment report.

Conformity with Annex 6, PEFC TD, 3.1 (ISO 17021 accreditation)

PEFC benchmark requirement
Annex 6, PEFC TD, Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
PEFC N 04 Ch 5.3: "The certification body shall: a. Meet the general criteria for certification bodies defined in NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021 as well as supplementary requirements defined in this standard."
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with Annex 6, PEFC TD, 3.2 (Auditor qualification)

PEFC benchmark requirement
Annex 6, PEFC TD, Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [*1]
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.6: "The auditors shall: (...) b. Master the content of PEFC Norway certification system for sustainable forestry.</p> <p>c. Have relevant expertise in forest management that encompasses both the economic, social and environmental aspects and the effects associated with active forestry. It is also considered important that the competence includes knowledge of geographical variation.</p> <p>Competence and experience are important because the work entails a large element of discretion.</p> <p>To control compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard, the auditor shall have a thorough knowledge of forestry and the impact of forestry on the environment.</p> <p>When auditing, persons with qualified and relevant forest and environmental expertise shall be used when checking compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>Qualified forest competence means at least bachelor level in forest subjects as well as 4 years relevant practice from forestry or environmental management related to forests. Qualified environmental competence means relevant competence at bachelor's level covering the fields of forest ecology/forest biology and 4 years relevant practice from forestry or environmental management related to forests."</p>
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

11 Other Aspects

An assessment of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System's procedures for PEFC scheme administration against PEFC GD 1004, *Administration of PEFC scheme*, covering the notification of certification bodies, the issuance of PEFC trademark licenses as well as complaints and dispute resolution procedures, has not been included in the scope of this assessment and is expected to be carried out by PEFC International.

Annex A: PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist

PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Standardising Body			
5.1.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
(a) its legal status and organisational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1),	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, <i>Procedures for the development and revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system</i>, Ch. 5 "5. Responsibility for development and revision - PEFC Norway is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Norwegian PEFC certification system. The Board of Directors of PEFC Norway shall, by simple majority in the Council, approve developed and revised standards cf. Section 5 of PEFC Norway's articles of association. The Norwegian PEFC system is reviewed and/or revised in accordance with PEFC Council guidelines (PEFC GD 1007) normally every 5 years. The Board shall initiate the commencement of the audit process and shall establish a temporary working committee in connection with the audit work. (...)”</p> <p><i>ARTICLES PEFC Norway</i>, «§ 1 Name - The name of the association is PEFC Norway. The association is a member-led self-governing and standalone legal person. Members do not heed the association's obligations. The association has a business address in Oslo.»</p> <p>PEFC N 01:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry</i>, «7. Organization of Norwegian PEFC forest certification - PEFC Norway - PEFC Norway is organized as a registered organization with annual meeting and a board. As the owner of the certification system, PEFC Norway is responsible for the development and operation of the system. The revision and development of standards must be compliant with the procedures specified in PEFC N 06. (...) 8. Document structure - The PEFC Norway certification system is based on a number of documents that define</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>the requirements for forest and traceability certification. The document structure is shown in Figure 8.1. (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «9. Documentation - To ensure transparency in the process: (...) PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/revision process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Stakeholder mapping - PEFC Norway shall carry out a mapping of relevant stakeholders. The mapping shall identify stakeholder groups that are relevant (...)»</p> <p>Working Committee – Requirements - On the basis of nominations from the invited stakeholders, PEFC will Norway put together the working committee. Acceptance or refusal of nominations to the Working Committee shall be justified on the basis of the requirement for balanced representation (...).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «6. Standard-setting process (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee (...) Consensus does not require unanimity, but according to the PEFC Council's definition (section 3.1 of PEFC ST 1001:2017) of the consensus (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 5, «Responsibility for development and revision - PEFC Norway is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Norwegian PEFC certification system. (...) The Norwegian PEFC system is reviewed and/or revised in accordance with PEFC Council guidelines (PEFC GD 1007) normally every 5 years. The Board shall initiate the commencement of the audit process and shall establish a temporary working committee in connection with the audit work. (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard- setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 6, «Copyright notice (...) The document is freely available on pefc Norway's website or by contacting PEFC Norway.»</p> <p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 6; «Public announcement of the process - Start-up of the development of new standards and/or revision of the certification system shall be communicated to the public in a suitable and appropriate manner (via website, newsletter, etc.). In connection with the start-up, an invitation shall be sent out, to all mapped stakeholders, to participate in the process, as well as the possibility of commenting on the content and procedures for the revision/development of the standard. (...)</p> <p>The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) purpose, content and procedure for the revision/development of standards (...) a request to comment on the standard proposal and on the process for the revision/development of the standard (...) reference to the publicly</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>available procedures for auditing and developing the Norwegian PEFC certification system.</p> <p>PEFC Norway will review the default setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p><i>Standard revision development report 2022</i>, «The applicable standard setting procedures (PEFC N 06) for the revision were revised in 2020, and fulfils the requirements in PEFC ST 1001:2017 – Standard setting – requirements. The standard setting procedures is available on PEFC Norway’s website (https://pefc.no/vare-standarder/det-norske-pefc-systemet). (...)</p> <p>2. Time-table for the revision process (...) PEFC Norway Board, February 10th 2020: - Approval of PEFC N 06 standard (Standard setting process)»</p> <p>Standard revision development report 2022:</p> <p>«Chapter 1 Start of revision (...)The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway’s website the February 14th 2020. All the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping received an e-mail with invitation to participate in the revision process. The same invitation were published on PEFC Norway’s website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). The start of the revision was also announced on the website of several of the member organisations of PEFC Norway. (...) In addition to the nominations, there have been 13 written submissions with input on the revision/standards to be revised. 7 of these are from organizations that have also nominated representatives, 5 are from public bodies and 1 is from a private person. The feedback given was on the content in the sustainable forest management standard. There was no feedback on the invitation which indicated that procedures for the revision had to be changed, and the Board of PEFC Norway concluded to</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>continue the revision based on the applicable procedures. The feedback received was presented for the working committee on their first meeting.»</p> <p>In the announcement and invitation stakeholders were asked for comments and input on both the standards and on the procedures for the revision process. The feedback was reviewed by the Board of PEFC Norway on May 20th 2020. The protocol from the PEFC Norway Board meeting on May 20th 2020 and the attachment to case 10 confirm that the feedback was reviewed and that there were no feedback that indicated that the procedures should be revised.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2.1 The standardising body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:			
(a) Standard-setting procedures,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «9. Documentation - To ensure transparency in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report is prepared describing the <u>revision</u> process in order to document that the procedures have been followed. • All completed drafts and the final documents approved by PEFC Norway including the report describing the <u>revision</u> process, must be published on PEFC Norway's website. • Documented information must be archived until the next review/<u>revision</u> is completed. In excess of that, documented information must be archived for at least 5 years after the standards have been published. • Documented information shall be handed out upon request <p>PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/<u>revision</u> process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>(a) <u>Procedures</u> for the development and revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system (this standard),»</p> <p>Added information: As part of the time critical revision the wording of the English translation has been corrected. See attached updated PEFC N 06 with amendments.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>The Norwegian revised standard development and revision procedures, PEFC N 06:2020, <i>Procedures for the development and revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system</i>, are available on PEFC Norway's website (https://pefc.no/vare-standarder/det-norske-pefc-systemet) and were submitted as part of the documentation for this assessment.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (b) Stakeholder mapping»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process		<p>An overview of PEFC Norway's stakeholders resulting from its stakeholder identification mapping, <i>Attachment 1_Stakeholder mapping</i>, was provided with the documentation submitted for this assessment.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9 , «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process		<p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision (...) There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders.»</p> <p>An overview of PEFC Norway's stakeholders resulting from its stakeholder identification mapping, including stakeholders' contact details and best way determined by PEFC Norway to reach them was provided as <i>Attachment 1_Stakeholder mapping</i>, with the documentation submitted for this assessment.</p> <p>Feedback from a stakeholder involvement study conducted by the assessor among stakeholders of PEFC Norway has confirmed that stakeholders identified have indeed been contacted by PEFC Norway.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially met.</p>
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (d) Stakeholders involved in the standard work including participants at each working committee meeting»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «The records related to the revision is kept by the secretariat of PEFC Norway for minimum five years, and the secretariat will make them available to interested parties upon request.»</p> <p>PEFC Norway confirm that the information on participation in the working committee meetings is documented and kept by PEFC Norway. Except meeting no. 2 and 3 the working committee meeting has been held as digital meetings (Teams). Attached is example of these records.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (e) Feedback received and an overview of how feedback was addressed»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «The records related to the revision is kept by the secretariat of PEFC Norway for minimum five years, and the secretariat will make them available to interested parties upon request. (...)</p> <p>4. Working committee – revision process (...) All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded. (...)</p> <p>5. Public consultation (...) The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner. A synopsis of the received</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>comments included the results of the committee's consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (f) All drafts and final versions of the standard»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «The records related to the revision is kept by the secretariat of PEFC Norway for minimum five years, and the secretariat will make them available to interested parties upon request.»</p> <p>PEFC Norway confirm that draft version of the standards is kept by PEFC Norway. During the standard revision each of the 30 requirements in the SFM standard was worked on by the working committee as single working documents. These documents is also kept by PEFC Norway. See attached documentation.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (g) The results of the working committee's considerations»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «The records related to the revision is kept by the secretariat of PEFC Norway for minimum five years, and the secretariat will make them available to interested parties upon request.»</p> <p>PEFC Norway hereby confirm that records with meeting materials and minutes from the working committee meetings is kept by PEFC Norway. Attached is example of these records. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (h) Documentation of consensus on the final version of standard(s)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 4_ Working Committee_final protocol_June 30 2022_english translation</i>, «Signatures - In the period June 2020 to June 2022, the members of the Working Committee have participated in the revision of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard (PEFC N 02), as well as associated documents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEFC N 01 Norwegian PEFC Certification System for Sustainable Forestry • PEFC N 03 Requirements for direct and group certification

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEFC N 04 Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies • PEFC N 05 Glossary and Definitions <p>The final protocol is digitally signed by the organizations represented in the working committee»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022, «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards - The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents; (...)»</i></p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (i) Documentation relating to periodic review»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway has provided a development report, final committee minutes signed by all committee member, board minutes and other evidence related to the revision process, including references to information and documentation published on PEFC Norway's website on a dedicated revision section: https://pefc.no/revisjon-pefc.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «PEFC Norway shall retain documented information relevant to the development/audit process. Documentation for compliance</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>with the requirements of this standard and PEFC Norway's own procedures include: (...) (j) Final approval of PEFC Norway»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «8. National approval of revised certification system - The board of PEFC Norway formally approved the revised system August 18th 2022 (attachment 5).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022</i>, «Resolution: The board of PEFC Norway approves the working committee's proposal for a revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents that make up the Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry. The board hereby assigns the secretariat to submit the revised system for international approval.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 9 «Documentation - To ensure transparency in the process: (...) Documented information must be archived until the next review/audit is completed. In excess of that, documented information must be archived for at least 5 years after the standards have been published.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>In addition to documented information being recorded by PEFC Norway and to a large extent being published on PEFC Norway's website (https://pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022), it was also submitted to PEFC International for assessment and is published on PEFC International's website until the next revision process is finished.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch. 9, «Documentation - To ensure transparency in the process: (...) Documented information shall be handed out upon request» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Documented information is published on PEFC Norway's website and available to interested parties upon request. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.3.1 The standardising body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardising body shall:			
(a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch. 10, «Complaints mechanism - In connection with the audit and development of standards under the Norwegian PEFC certification system, PEFC Norway shall appoint a contact person for all inquiries concerning the standard development/revision. The contact person must be made readily available via PEFC Norway's website. Complaints about procedural or substantive matters in relation to development or revision must be sent in writing to the contact person. The complaint shall be justified. Upon receipt of the complaint, PEFC Norway shall do the following: • Sign that the complaint has been received» Added information: As part of the time critical revision the wording of the English translation has been corrected. See attached updated PEFC N 06 with amendments.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway hereby confirm that it did not receive any complaints or appeals related to the revision process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Responses to the stakeholder survey support PEFC Norway's confirmation that no complaints have been submitted. The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 10, «Upon receipt of the complaint, PEFC Norway shall do the following: (...)»</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and verify the information to validate the complaint • Appoint a complaints body with the necessary expertise to objectively and impartially assess the complaint, which within a month of being appointed should come up with a recommended solution. • On the basis of the recommendation of the appeals body make a decision regarding the complaint» <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway hereby confirm that it did not receive any complaints or appeals related to the revision process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Responses to the stakeholder survey support PEFC Norway's confirmation that no complaints have been submitted. The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 10, «Upon receipt of the complaint, PEFC shall Norway do the following: (...)»</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally notify the result of the complaint and information about the appeal process to the complainants.»

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway hereby confirm that it did not receive any complaints or appeals related to the revision process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Responses to the stakeholder survey support PEFC Norway's confirmation that no complaints have been submitted. The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
5.3.2 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch. 10, «Complaints mechanism - In connection with the audit and development of standards under the Norwegian PEFC certification system, PEFC Norway shall appoint a contact person for all inquiries concerning the standard development/revision. The contact person must be made readily available via PEFC Norway's website. Complaints about procedural or substantive matters in relation to development or revision must be sent in writing to the contact person. The complaint shall be justified.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway established website page with continuous updating on the revision process and with a contact point for enquiries and complaints on the standard revision activities; Revisjon av det norske PEFC systemet 2020-2022 - PEFC Norge. Here it is written that Thomas Husum with email address and telephone number is the contact person for enquiries, complaints and appeals. Throughout the standard setting process this page was readily available from the frontpage of the website.</p> <p>The information is also readily available through the general «appeal-button» on the front page: Klage - PEFC Norge With a link further to: Bidra til standarden - PEFC Norge</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Here it is described how people can give input on the standards and the standard revision process with a link to the page with information on the standard revision process with the contact point mentioned above. And here it is also information on how you can make a enquiry in general and related to the standard revision, and that this can be sent to PEFCs email; mail@pefc.no.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
Standard-setting process			
6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardising body shall develop a proposal including:			
(a) the scope of the standard	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Standard proposal</p> <p>When developing a new standard, PEFC Norway shall make a proposal that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the scope of the standard, (b) a justification for the need for the standard, (c) a clear description of the intended outcome, (d) a risk assessment of potential negative effects resulting from the implementation of the Standard, for example; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that may adversely affect the performance of the results; • unintended consequences of implementation; • measures to address identified risks, and (e) a description of the stages of the standard development and the expected timetable. <p>When revising the standard, the proposal must cover at least (a) and e) in the list above.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>No new standard was created.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Standard proposal - When developing a new standard, PEFC Norway shall make a proposal that includes: (...) (b) a justification for the need for the standard» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	No new standard was created. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Standard proposal - When developing a new standard, PEFC Norway shall make a proposal that includes: (...) (c) a clear description of the intended outcome» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	No new standard was created. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, • unintended consequences of implementation, • actions to address the identified risks, and 	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Standard proposal - When developing a new standard, PEFC Norway shall make a proposal that includes: (...) (d) a risk assessment of potential negative effects resulting from the implementation of the Standard, for example; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that may adversely affect the performance of the results; • unintended consequences of implementation; • measures to address identified risks, and (e) a description of the stages of the standard development and the expected timetable. Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.			Justification: The benchmark is met.
NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).	Process	Yes	No new standard was created. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Standard proposal - When revising the standard, the proposal must cover at least (a) and e) in the list above.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report, «The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway's website the February 14th 2020. All the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping received an e-mail with invitation to participate in the revision process. The same invitation were published on PEFC Norway's website: https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022 .» The announcement clearly outlines the scope of the revision process as well as the expected revision schedule. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of would communication be best to reach them.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Stakeholder mapping - PEFC Norway shall carry out a mapping of relevant stakeholders. The mapping shall identify stakeholder groups that are relevant, likely key questions within each group and who are the most important stakeholders within each group. (...) Consideration shall be given to which means of communication is best suited for sending the stakeholders an invitation. The mapping shall also uncover any disadvantaged stakeholders and if identified, PEFC shall Norway actively

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>seek to remove obstacles to their participation in the process and proactively facilitate their participation in the audit/development process.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping to identify all relevant sectors and relevant stakeholders in these sectors, who could have an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification. There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1. (...) PEFC Norway hosted a national webinar April 23rd 2020. The webinar had focus on the upcoming revision and relevant core themes like sustainable forestry and climate, biodiversity and outdoor recreation. The seminar was an informal start of the revision process. 120 participants took part in the webinar. (...) PEFC Norway has followed up all organizations and especially those we have defined as core stakeholders, both by e-mail and through telephone calls. (...) PEFC Norway made a substantial effort to get stakeholders from all stakeholder groups to participate in the revision and successfully got key stakeholders from climate, environment and outdoor recreation organisations to participate. The number of organisations and stakeholder groups that have participated in the revision is considerably larger than in the previous revisions.»</p> <p>Attachment 1_Stakeholder contains an overview of stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping, contact details, stakeholder group and communication method deemed best to reach them.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest owners, • business and industry, • indigenous people, • non-government organisations, • scientific and technological community, • workers and trade unions. <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Stakeholder mapping (...) The identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on the UN's definition, cf. Agenda 21, Rio Convention. The following groups shall be included in the mapping;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest owners • industry and trade • Indigenous people • non-government organisations (environment, outdoor activities, etc.) • research/technology • workers and trade unions <p>Other groups should be added if they are relevant to the scope of the standard-setting activities.</p> <p>Consideration shall be given to which means of communication is best suited for sending the stakeholders an invitation.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping to identify all relevant sectors and relevant stakeholders in these sectors, who could have an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification. There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1.»</p> <p>Attachment 1_Stakeholder contains an overview of stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping by stakeholder group based on the nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the UNCED.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities. NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Stakeholder mapping (...) The mapping shall also uncover any disadvantaged stakeholders and if identified, PEFC shall Norway actively seek to remove obstacles to their participation in the process and proactively facilitate their participation in the audit/development process.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report, «PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping to identify all relevant sectors and relevant stakeholders in these sectors, who could have an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification. There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1. (...)» PEFC Norway made a substantial effort to get stakeholders from all stakeholder groups to participate in the revision and successfully got key stakeholders from climate, environment and outdoor recreation organisations to participate. The number of organisations and stakeholder groups that have participated in the revision is considerably larger than in the previous revisions. Different interests related to forests, forestry and forest certification is considered to be well represented and balanced. The committee has also been well gender-balanced. PEFC Norway also made substantial effort to bring in the two major research institutions as observers in the working

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>committee. Observers do not take part in the actual consensus process of the standards, but apart from that they participate fully in the revision work.</p> <p>The only stakeholder group not represented is the Norwegian indigenous people, the Sami people, as they did not have the resources to take part in the committee. The working committee has however actively contacted and had dialogue with representatives for Sami Reindeer Herders' Association of Norway on the requirement "Sami rights" and other relevant requirements.»</p> <p>The majority of meetings took place remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic which eliminated travel and accommodation costs in relation to participation in working meetings.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially met.</p>
<p>6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 <i>Through suitable media</i> means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Public announcement of the process - Start-up of the development of new standards and/or revision of the certification system shall be communicated to the public in an appropriate and appropriate manner (via website, newsletter, etc.).</p> <p>In connection with the start-up, an invitation shall be sent out, to all mapped stakeholders, to participate in the process, as well as the possibility of commenting on the content and procedures for the revision/development of the standard. Stakeholders shall be given at least a month's deadline to nominate persons to the working committee.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision (...) PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping (...). (...) in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1.</p> <p>The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway's website the February 14th 2020. All the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping received an e-mail with invitation to participate in the revision process. The same invitation were published on PEFC Norway's website: https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022</p> <p>The start of the revision was also announced on the website of several of the member organisations of PEFC Norway. (...)»</p> <p>«2. Time-table for the revision process (...) Public invitation and call for participation, Feb. 20th 2020 (...) May 20th 2020: Establishing working committee (...) Working Committee – working period June 2020 – June 2022»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «The announcement and invitation shall include: a. purpose, content and procedure for the revision/development of standards»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway website https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022:</p> <p>«20 February 2020: Revision announcement - The Norwegian PEFC forest certification system was approved for the first time in 2000 and has since been revised 3 times, most recently in 2015. The system is approved by PEFC International, and there is a requirement that national standards/systems start the next revision within 5 years of the previous approval. - The purpose</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>of the revision is to review all the standards included in the system based on new/revised international requirements, new knowledge and based on experience with current standards. - In this work, we want input and participation from organizations that have interests related to forests and sustainable forestry. - The following standards in the Norwegian PEFC system will be revised:</p> <p>PEFC N 01 - Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard PEFC N 03 - Requirements for group certification PEFC N 04 - Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies PEFC N 05 - Glossary and definitions</p> <p>A separate working committee will be set up to review and revise the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard as well as other standards included in the forest certification system. The committee will prepare proposals for revised standards and these will then be put out for consultation. On the basis of input from the consultation, the working committee recommends final drafts of revised standards. These are then assessed by an objective third party before being submitted for final international approval by the PEFC Council. - Timetable for the audit process: (...)</p> <p>The revision is going to follow PEFC's procedures for revising standards which are available on PEFC Norway's website (see under the section organisation). - All organizations with an interest in forests, forestry and forest certification are hereby given the opportunity to participate in the revision work. This can be done by making comments and input on the standards to be revised and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative(s) to the working committee and thereby actively contribute to the revision work. - Input and nominations must be sent to PEFC Norway by email by 6 May 2020: mail@pefc.no - If there are questions or a need for more information, please contact Thomas</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Husum, head of the secretariat for PEFC Norway by e-mail; thomas.husum@pefc.no or telephone; 90605204.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) b. access to standard suggestions»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway website https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022:</p> <p>«20 February 2020: Revision announcement – (...) The purpose of the revision is to review all the standards included in the system based on new/revised international requirements, new knowledge and based on experience with current standards. (...) The following standards in the Norwegian PEFC system will be revised:</p> <p>PEFC N 01 - Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard PEFC N 03 - Requirements for group certification PEFC N 04 - Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies PEFC N 05 - Glossary and definitions</p> <p>(...) Timetable for the audit process: (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) c. information about the opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the process»</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway website https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022:</p> <p>«20 February 2020: Revision announcement – (...) In this work, we want input and participation from organizations that have interests related to forests and sustainable forestry. (...)»</p> <p>A separate working committee will be set up to review and revise the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard as well as other standards included in the forest certification system. The committee will prepare proposals for revised standards and these will then be put out for consultation. On the basis of input from the consultation, the working committee recommends final drafts of revised standards. These are then assessed by an objective third party before being submitted for final international approval by the PEFC Council. (...)»</p> <p>All organizations with an interest in forests, forestry and forest certification are hereby given the opportunity to participate in the revision work. This can be done by making comments and input on the standards to be revised and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative(s) to the working committee and thereby actively contribute to the revision work.</p> <p>Input and nominations must be sent to PEFC Norway by email by 6 May 2020: mail@pefc.no</p> <p>If there are questions or a need for more information, please contact Thomas Husum, head of the secretariat for PEFC Norway by e-mail; thomas.husum@pefc.no or telephone; 90605204.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) d. encouraging stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) to the working committee. The call to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a way that ensures that the information reaches the intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway website https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022:</p> <p>«20 February 2020: Revision announcement – (...) All organizations with an interest in forests, forestry and forest certification are hereby given the opportunity to participate in the revision work. This can be done by making comments and input on the standards to be revised and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative(s) to the working committee and thereby actively contribute to the revision work.</p> <p>Input and nominations must be sent to PEFC Norway by email by 6 May 2020: mail@pefc.no</p> <p>If there are questions or a need for more information, please contact Thomas Husum, head of the secretariat for PEFC Norway by e-mail; thomas.husum@pefc.no or telephone; 90605204.»</p> <p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision - There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. (...)</p> <p>PEFC Norway has followed up all organizations and especially those we have defined as core stakeholders, both by e-mail and through telephone calls. By the deadline of 6 May, 19 representatives have been nominated for the working committee and 6 as observers.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) e. a request to comment on the standard proposal and on the process for the revision/development of the standard»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway website https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022: (...) This can be done by making comments and input on the standards to be revised and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative(s) to the working committee and thereby actively contribute to the revision work. Input and nominations must be sent to PEFC Norway by email by 6 May 2020: mail@pefc.no- If there are questions or a need for more information, please contact Thomas Husum, head of the secretariat for PEFC Norway by e-mail; thomas.husum@pefc.no or telephone; 90605204.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) f. reference to the publicly available procedures for revision and developing the Norwegian PEFC certification system»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway website https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022:</p> <p>«20 February 2020: Revision announcement – (...) The revision is going to follow PEFC's procedures for revising standards which are available on PEFC Norway's website (see under the section organisation).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.2 The standardising body shall review the standard- setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «PEFC Norway will review the standard setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision (...) In addition to the nominations, there have been 13 written submissions with input on the revision/standards to be revised. (...) The feedback given was on the content in the sustainable forest management standard. There was no feedback on the invitation which indicated that procedures for the revision had to be changed, and the Board of PEFC Norway concluded to continue the revision based on the applicable procedures. The feedback received was presented for the working committee on their first meeting.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Working Committee – Requirements - On the basis of nominations from the invited stakeholders, PEFC will Norway put together the working committee. Acceptance or refusal of nominations to the Working Committee shall be justified on the basis of the requirement for balanced representation, appropriate gender balance, the organisation's relevance, the candidate's competence and relevant experience and on the basis of available resources for the work.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «3. Establishing working committee</p> <p>Based on the nominations done by the invited stakeholders the Board of PEFC Norway established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations on May 6th 2020: (...) In addition, the following have been represented by observers in the working committee: (...).The working committee has been established to seek a balanced representation from the different relevant stakeholders groups. The participants represents the interests of forest owners, forest industries, workers and trade unions, women, contractors, outdoor recreation organisations, eNGOs and climate organisations. Relevant national authorities were represented in the working committee as observers. Also relevant research environments from both forestry and nature conservation have participated as observers. In addition to the represented stakeholders and observers, the working committee have invited experts on several subjects related to individual requirements.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.4.2 The working group shall:			
(a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Working Committee – Requirements - On the basis of nominations from the invited stakeholders, PEFC will Norway put together the working committee. Acceptance or refusal of nominations to the Working Committee shall be justified on the basis of the requirement for balanced representation, appropriate gender balance, the organisation's relevance, the candidate's competence and relevant experience and on the basis of available resources for the work. -PEFC Norway will seek a balanced re-representation in the working committee from the identified stakeholder groups and a balanced balance shall be sought in the committee.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Furthermore, PEFC will Norway set goals for participation by the most important stakeholders and proactively seek their participation. - As far as it is appropriate, the Working Committee shall have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant stakeholder groups. (...)</p> <p>Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee - The members of the committee constitute the working committee. The committee's choice of chair is formally approved by PEFC Norway. The role of the manager is to ensure the management of the process as well as to ensure that the procedures for the working committee are followed. - The work of the working committee shall be organised in a transparent manner and facilitated in a way were: (...) - All members of the committee shall be given the opportunity to contribute to the work of the committee as well as provide input and comments on the castes - All comments and input from the members of the working committee are assessed in a transparent manner where the assessments of this are documented. (...) No single stakeholder can dominate the process and no organization can veto it.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «3. Establishing working committee</p> <p>Based on the nominations done by the invited stakeholders the Board of PEFC Norway established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations on May 6th 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Federation of Trade Unions • National Association of Outdoor Recreation Councils • Women in forestry • Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors • Nature and Youth – Young Friends of the Earth Norway • Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation • NORSKOG

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Norwegian Association for Outdoor Organisations • Statskog SF • Sabima - umbrella organization for the biological associations in Norway • Skognæringa Kyst • Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association • Norwegian Wood Industry Federation • WWF – World Wildlife Fund Norway • ZERO - Zero Emission Resource Organisation <p>In addition, the following have been represented by observers in the working committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwegian Environment Agency • Norwegian Agriculture Agency • NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research • NINA - Norwegian Institute for Nature Research • Forestry Extension Institute • Statsbygg - Norwegian government's building commissioner <p>The working committee has been established to seek a balanced representation from the different relevant stakeholders groups. The participants represents the interests of forest owners, forest industries, workers and trade unions, women, contractors, outdoor recreation organisations, eNGOs and climate organisations. Relevant national authorities were represented in the working committee as observers. Also relevant research environments from both forestry and nature conservation have participated as observers. In addition to the represented stakeholders and observers, the working committee have invited experts on several subjects related to individual requirements.</p> <p>Attachment 2 provides more detailed information on the organisations represented in the working committee. (...)</p> <p>Stakeholder groups/No. of members</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Forest owner org. 4 NGO's (environment 3, outdoor recreation 2, climate 1) 6 Women 1 Workers and trade unions 1 Business and industry 4 Total 16 Observers: National authorities 2 Business and industry 2 Education, scientific and technological community 2 Total group incl. Observers 22</p> <p>(...) 4. Working committee – revision process - The working committee has been organized in an open and transparent way. The representation and decision-making has been balanced and no single interests has dominated the process.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Working Committee – Requirements (...) As far as it is appropriate, the Working Committee shall have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant stakeholder groups. The working committee shall include stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with expertise relevant to the standard(s) to be developed or revised; • directly affected by the standard, • which may affect the implementation of the standard <p>Stakeholders who are directly affected by the changes to the standard being considered shall be sought to make up a meaningful proportion of the committee's members. In addition, specialists (researchers and other experts) can be invited to participate in the work and contribute their knowledge to the working committee.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «The working committee has been established to seek a balanced representation from the different relevant stakeholders groups. The participants represents the interests of forest owners, forest industries, workers and trade unions, women, contractors, outdoor recreation organisations, eNGOs and climate organisations. Relevant national authorities were represented in the working committee as observers. Also relevant research environments from both forestry and nature conservation have participated as observers. In addition to the represented stakeholders and observers, the working committee have invited experts on several subjects related to individual requirements. Attachment 2 provides more detailed information on the organisations represented in the working committee. (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</p> <p>NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Working Committee – Requirements – (...) PEFC Norway will seek a balanced re-presentation in the working committee from the identified stakeholder groups and a balanced balance shall be sought in the committee. Furthermore, PEFC will Norway set goals for participation by the most important stakeholders and proactively seek their participation.</p> <p>As far as it is appropriate, the Working Committee shall have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant stakeholder groups.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process		<p>Development report, «1. Start of the Revision (...) PEFC Norway has followed up all organizations and especially those we have defined as core stakeholders, both by e-mail and through telephone calls. By the deadline of 6 May, 19 representatives have been nominated for the working committee and 6 as observers. (...)</p> <p>3. Establishing working committee - (...) Stakeholder groups/No. of members Forest owner org. 4 NGO's (environment 3, outdoor recreation 2, climate 1) 6 Women 1 Workers and trade unions 1 Business and industry 4 Total 16 Observers: National authorities 2 Business and industry 2 Education, scientific and technological community 2 Total group incl. Observers 22 (...)</p> <p>PEFC Norway made a substantial effort to get stakeholders from all stakeholder groups to participate in the revision and successfully got key stakeholders from climate, environment and outdoor recreation organisations to participate. The number of organisations and stakeholder groups that have participated in the revision is considerably larger than in the previous revisions.</p> <p>Different interests related to forests, forestry and forest certification is considered to be well represented and balanced. The committee has also been well gender-balanced. PEFC Norway also made substantial effort to bring in the two major research institutions as observers in the working committee. Observers do not take part in the actual consensus process of the standards, but apart from that they participate fully in the revision work.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>The only stakeholder group not represented is the Norwegian indigenous people, the Sami people, as they did not have the resources to take part in the committee. The working committee has however actively contacted and had dialogue with representatives for Sami Reindeer Herders' Association of Norway on the requirement "Sami rights" and other relevant requirements.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
(a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee – (...) The work of the working committee shall be organised in a transparent manner and facilitated in a way were: • All working drafts and papers relevant to the audit work are available to all members of the committee»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) All drafts and documents have been sent out to all committee members. All members of the committee have had meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standards and to submit their comments to the working drafts. All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded.»</p> <p>Feedback from the stakeholder involvement survey conducted by the assessor amongst PEFC Norway's national stakeholders has confirmed the information provided in the development report on this benchmark requirement.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee – (...) The work of the working committee shall be organised in a transparent manner and facilitated in a way were: (...) • All members of the committee shall be given the opportunity to contribute to the work of the committee as well as provide input and comments on the castes»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) All drafts and documents have been sent out to all committee members. All members of the committee have had meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standards and to submit their comments to the working drafts. All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded.»</p> <p>Feedback from the stakeholder involvement survey conducted by the assessor amongst PEFC Norway's national stakeholders has confirmed the information provided in the development report on this benchmark requirement.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee – (...) The work of the working committee shall be organised in a transparent manner and facilitated in a way were: (...) • All comments and input from the members of the working committee are assessed in a transparent manner where the assessments of this are documented»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) All drafts and documents have been sent out to all committee members. All members of the committee have had meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standards and to submit their comments to the working drafts. All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded.»</p> <p>Feedback from the stakeholder involvement survey conducted by the assessor amongst PEFC Norway's national stakeholders has confirmed the information provided in the development report on this benchmark requirement.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilise the following methods:			
(a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee - A consensus shall be reached on the final drafts from the committee before they can be endorsed by PEFC Norway.</p> <p>Consensus does not require unanimity, but according to the PEFC Council's definition (section 3.1 of PEFC ST 1001:2017) of the consensus, there must be no sustained resistance from different stakeholders on significant points and one must, in the process of seeking to take all pairs views are taken into account, as well as attempt to resolve any conflicting views.</p> <p>If there is sustained opposition from significant stakeholders at significant points, the committee shall adopt one or a combination of the following possibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a physical meeting of the committee with an oral yes/no vote, a handwringing for yes/no; a declaration of agreement from the leader in

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>which no divergent opinions are notified (verbally or by hand-raising); a formal reconciliation process, etc. (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022, «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards</i></p> <p>The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents (...) The working committee's final protocol, dated 30 June, has been digitally signed by the organizations that have been represented in the working committee.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee (...) If there is sustained opposition from significant stakeholders at significant points, the committee shall adopt one or a combination of the following possibility: (...)a conference call with a verbal yes/no vote.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022</i>, «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards</p> <p>The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents (...) The working committee's final protocol, dated 30 June, has been digitally signed by the organizations that have been represented in the working committee.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee (...)If there is sustained opposition from significant stakeholders at significant points, the committee shall adopt one or a combination of the following possibility: (...) e-mail correspondence within the working committee, where a request for acceptance or objections is made to which the members submit a written response.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022</i>, «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards</p> <p>The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents (...) The working committee's final protocol, dated 30 June, has been digitally signed by the organizations that have been represented in the working committee.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee (...)If there is sustained opposition from significant stakeholders at significant points, the committee shall adopt one or a combination of the following possibility: (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022, «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards</i></p> <p>The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents (...) The working committee's final protocol, dated 30 June, has been digitally signed by the organizations that have been represented in the working committee.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6.4.6 Where a vote is used in decision-making, the standard-setting procedures shall determine and include decision-making thresholds that quantifies consensus. The	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «When voting is used in the decision-making process, the decision in the working committee must be supported by the majority</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.			<p>of committee members present at the meeting. However, a majority of the votes cannot override sustained opposition to reach agreement.»</p> <p>Added information: As part of the time critical revision the wording of the English translation has been corrected. See attached updated PEFC N 06 with amendments.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022, «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards</i></p> <p>The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:			
(a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee - In the event of sustained resistance at significant points, the resistance shall be justified and then/relevant conflict points shall be sought through: a) Discussion and negotiation in the committee with a view to finding a compromise»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) The standard revision procedures (PEFC N 06) were presented to the committee by the secretariat of PEFC Norway, so that the committee had this as a basis for their work. The procedures assures that all demands and views relevant interested parties should be considered and documented in an open and transparent way during the revision process. (...) All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded. (...) 5. Public consultation - The working committee had a consensus on a draft on the sustainable forest management standard, PEFC N 02 ready for public consultation (...)The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner. A synopsis of the received comments included the results of the committee’s consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway’s website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). (...)</p> <p>6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee - In the event of sustained resistance at significant points, the resistance shall be justified and then/relevant conflict points shall be sought through: (...) b) Direct negotiation between stakeholders</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>who put forward the opposition and stakeholders with conflicting views with a view to reaching a compromise»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) The standard revision procedures (PEFC N 06) were presented to the committee by the secretariat of PEFC Norway, so that the committee had this as a basis for their work. The procedures assures that all demands and views relevant interested parties should be considered and documented in an open and transparent way during the revision process. (...) All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded. (...) 5. Public consultation - The working committee had a consensus on a draft on the sustainable forest management standard, PEFC N 02 ready for public consultation (...)The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner. A synopsis of the received comments included the results of the committee’s consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway’s website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). (...)</p> <p>6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «Organisation of the work and decision-making procedures in the working committee - In the event of sustained resistance at significant points, the resistance shall be justified and then/relevant conflict points shall be sought through: (...) c) Further round(s) of public consultation (if</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
standardising body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.			<p>necessary) where additional stakeholders can help to reach agreement on unresolved issues. The standardization body determines the scope and duration of any further public consultation.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) The standard revision procedures (PEFC N 06) were presented to the committee by the secretariat of PEFC Norway, so that the committee had this as a basis for their work. The procedures assures that all demands and views relevant interested parties should be considered and documented in an open and transparent way during the revision process. (...) All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded. (...) 5. Public consultation - The working committee had a consensus on a draft on the sustainable forest management standard, PEFC N 02 ready for public consultation (...)The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner. A synopsis of the received comments included the results of the committee's consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). (...)</p> <p>6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.6, «When a significant issue cannot be resolved and sustained resistance persists, PEFC Norway shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with the procedures described in Chapter 10.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «4. Working committee – revision process (...) The standard revision procedures (PEFC N 06) were presented to the committee by the secretariat of PEFC Norway, so that the committee had this as a basis for their work. The procedures assures that all demands and views relevant interested parties should be considered and documented in an open and transparent way during the revision process. (...) All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded. (...) 5. Public consultation - The working committee had a consensus on a draft on the sustainable forest management standard, PEFC N 02 ready for public consultation (...) The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner. A synopsis of the received comments included the results of the committee's consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). (...)</p> <p>6. Working committee – consensus on final draft - The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, NOTE <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing - Drafts of new or revised standards are sent out for public consultation in an appropriate manner (via website, newsletter, etc.) for a minimum of 60 days.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report, «5. Public consultation - The working committee had a consensus on a draft on the sustainable forest management standard, PEFC N 02 ready for public consultation in the beginning of April 2022 and PEFC Norway organised a public consultation. The consultation period was set from April 11th to June 10th (60 days). The public consultation was announced on PEFC Norway's website on April 8th. The enquiry draft was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing – (...) Information about the consultation is sent directly to all stakeholders identified at the start of the audit/development.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report, «5. Public consultation – (...) All stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping was directly informed about the consultation by email.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing – (...) Potentially disadvantaged stakeholders and identified key stakeholders shall now be sought on the way PEFC Norway have defined as appropriate in connection with the stakeholder mapping.» Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «5. Public consultation – (...) All stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping was directly informed about the consultation by email. (...)During the consultation period, PEFC Norway hosted a webinar May 5th 2022. The purpose of the webinar was to provide extended information to stakeholders about the proposal for a revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and opportunity to ask questions. Information and a recording of the webinar is available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022).»</p> <p>No disadvantaged stakeholders had been identified and contact by email had been determined as most suitable method to reach all stakeholders, including key stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing - Drafts of new or revised standards are sent out for public consultation in an appropriate manner (via website, newsletter, etc.) for a minimum of 60 days.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «5. Public consultation – (...) The enquiry draft was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing - Drafts of new or revised standards are sent out for public consultation in an appropriate manner (via website, newsletter, etc.) for a minimum of 60 days.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «5. Public consultation – (...) The consultation period was set from April 11th to June 10th (60 days).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing – (...) All consultation responses must be presented to the working committee, discussed and relevant comments to be incorporated. A summary of comments and comments received as well as the working committee's consideration of these shall be published on PEFC Norway's website. Information about this summary must be sent directly to the parties that have contributed consultation responses.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «5. Public consultation – (...)During the consultation period, PEFC Norway hosted a webinar May 5th 2022. The purpose of the webinar was to provide extended information to stakeholders about the proposal for a revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and opportunity to ask questions. Information and a recording of the webinar is available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022).</p> <p>A total of 71 consultation responses have been received. The consultation responses are broadly distributed from different interest groups, NGOs both organisations, private individuals, agencies and other public bodies. The consultation responses was made available on PEFC Norway's website June 13th (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022).</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>(g) a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.</p> <p>NOTE For clarity the standardising body's synopsis may aggregate responses on material issues where there was similar feedback from different stakeholders. However, best practice would be to publish each piece of original feedback and the response, to allow each stakeholder to identify its own feedback.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «Hearing – (...) A summary of comments and comments received as well as the working committee's consideration of these shall be published on PEFC Norway's website. Information about this summary must be sent directly to the parties that have contributed consultation responses.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «5. Public consultation – (...) A synopsis of the received comments included the results of the committee's consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). Information about the synopsis were also sent directly by email to all the parties who submitted answers. Several of the received comments were implemented in the standards which the working committee finalized with consensus June 30th 2022. See summary hearing (attachment 3).»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.5.2 For new standards the standardising body shall organise a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.7, «In the development of new standards, PEFC shall Norway organize a further public consultation of at least 30 days.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>No new standards were developed in this revision.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.6 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The working group shall consider the outcome of pilot testing.</p> <p>NOTE Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.8, «Pilot trials - When developing new standards, PEFC Norway shall organize pilot experiments to assess the clarity, possibility and feasibility of the requirements. The working committee shall assess the result of pilot test.</p> <p>When auditing standards, significant new elements shall be tested in the field, provided that the working committee considers that previous experience from certification indicates that no further testing is needed. Results from pilot experiments and field trials must be published on PEFC Norway's website. The experience from pilot experiments and field trials shall be set out in the final standards.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>No new standards were developed in this revision.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
Approval and Publication			
<p>7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication - Once the working committee has concluded its work, the committee shall present the agreed standards/normative documents to the board of PEFC Norway for approval and subsequent consideration in the PEFC system.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «8. National approval of revised certification system - The board of PEFC Norway formally approved the revised system August 18th 2022 (attachment 5).»</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>Attachment 5_Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards_August 18th 2022:</i> «Case 7/22 Approval of the working committee's proposal for revised standards - The working committee, with representatives from 15 organisations, on 30 June 2022 reached a unified agreement on revised PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents (...) Resolution: The board of PEFC Norway approves the working committee's proposal for a revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents that make up the Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardising body.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in an appropriate manner and made publicly available no later than 14 days after approval.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022: «1 September 2022: New Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard nationally approved - On 18 August, the working committee's agreed proposal for a revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard with associated documents was processed and approved by the board of PEFC Norway. It is planned that the new Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2022 will enter into force on 1 March 2023. (...) All the standards included in the Norwegian forest certification system: [followed by links to download revised documentation]»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication (...) The standard shall contain: • Identification and contact information to PEFC Norway» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i> : «[PEFC Logo with] www.pefc.no (...) This document is copyright protected by PEFC Norway. The document is freely available on the PEFC Norway's website or by contacting PEFC Norway.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication (...) The standard shall contain: (...) • Official language» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i> : «The official version of the document is Norwegian but is also translated into English.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication (...) The standard shall contain: (...) • Note that if there is a discrepancy between the Norwegian and English versions, it is the English version – approved by the PEFC Council – that is the reference.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i> : «If there are discrepancies between the Norwegian and English versions, the English version – approved by the PEFC Council – will take precedence.» Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review NOTE The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication (...) The standard shall contain: (...) • Approved date and date of next periodic review» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i> : «Approved by: PEFC Norway - Approval date: 18.08.2022 (...) Date of next periodic review: 18.08.2027» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication (...) The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be (...) made publicly available» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i> : «The document is freely available on the PEFC Norway's website or by contacting PEFC Norway.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.9, «Documentation - To ensure transparency in the process: • A report is prepared describing the revision process in order to document that the procedures have been followed. (...) • Documented information shall be handed out upon request» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	Development report available on PEFC Norway's website, https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Periodic review of standards			
8.1 The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Periodic review of standards – Generally – Standard/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals not exceeding a five-year period. The review should be based on assessment of feedback received during the time the standard has been implemented and a gap analysis. If necessary, a consultation shall be carried out by stakeholders in order to receive further feedback and input.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report, «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.2.1 The standardising body shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the website of the standardising body and/or PEFC National Governing Body with clear directions for providing feedback. NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Periodic review of standards – Input mechanism - PEFC Norway will establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on the standards. The mechanism should be available on PEFC Norway's website with clear instructions on how to provide feedback.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>Info/mechanism on the website of PEFC Norway; https://www.pefc.no/hva-du-kan-gjore</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, courses, etc. should be recorded and assessed.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020). (...)</p> <p>The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway's website the February 14th 2020. All the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping received an e-mail with invitation to participate in the revision process. The same invitation were published on PEFC Norway's website (https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022). The start of the revision was also announced on the website of several of the member organisations of PEFC Norway. PEFC Norway hosted a national webinar April 23rd 2020. The webinar had focus on the upcoming revision and relevant core themes like sustainable forestry and climate, biodiversity and outdoor recreation. The seminar was an informal start of the revision process. 120 participants took part in the webinar. (...)In addition to the nominations, there have been 13 written submissions with input on the revision/standards to be revised. 7 of these are from organizations that have also nominated representatives, 5 are from public bodies and 1 is from a private person. The feedback given was on the content in the sustainable forest management standard. There was no feedback on the invitation which indicated that procedures for the revision had to be changed, and the Board of PEFC Norway concluded to continue the revision based on the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>applicable procedures. The feedback received was presented for the working committee on their first meeting.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Gap analysis - At the start of a periodic review, PEFC Norway shall evaluate the standard against PEFC's international standards, national laws and regulations and other relevant standards to identify potential deviations/gaps in the standard.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report, «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020). (...)</p> <p>In order to lay the foundation of the revision process and clarify how the conditions in the Norwegian forests have developed compared with the standard, criteria and indicators in the PEFC Norway forest management standard, a scientific report from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute were prepared. The report is about the condition and development in Norwegian forest 2002-2017 for some selected environmental characteristics.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially met.</p>
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Gap analysis (...) PEFC Norway will assess the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant new topics.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020). (...)</p> <p>In order to lay the foundation of the revision process and clarify how the conditions in the Norwegian forests have developed compared with the standard, criteria and indicators in the PEFC Norway forest management standard, a scientific report from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute were prepared. The report is about the condition and development in Norwegian forest 2002-2017 for some selected environmental characteristics. (...)</p> <p>3. (...) Relevant national authorities were represented in the working committee as observers. Also relevant research environments from both forestry and nature conservation have participated as observers. In addition to the represented stakeholders and observers, the working committee have invited experts on several subjects related to individual requirements.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, the standardising body shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardising body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Consultation of stakeholders - If the feedback and gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC shall Norway organize a consultation of stakeholders to determine whether stakeholders see a need to revise the standard. PEFC Norway should include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation. (...)»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Consultation of stakeholders - (...) At the start of the periodic review, PEFC Norway shall update the mapping of stakeholders (see Chapter 6).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.4.3 The standardising body shall organise:			
(a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Consultation of stakeholders - PEFC Norway will organize: (a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (in compliance with chapter 7)» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Consultation of stakeholders - PEFC Norway will organize: (...) (b) stakeholder meetings.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «12 Periodic review of standards – Generally – (...) PEFC Norway shall announce the periodic review within the stipulated start-up deadline. Instead of a periodic review, PEFC Norway may decide to directly start an audit process within the periodic review deadline (cf. PEFC GD 1007).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020). (...) The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway's website the February 14th 2020.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Decision making - Based on the feedback received during the time the standard has been implemented, the outcome of the gap analysis and consultations with stakeholders, PEFC shall Norway decide

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.			whether the standard is confirmed or whether revision of the standard is necessary.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision- making level of the standardising body	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Decision making (...) The decision shall be made at the highest decision level for PEFC Norway» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardising body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Decision making (...) When the decision confirms the continuation, PEFC shall Norway provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardising body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.12, «Decision making (...) When the decision is to revise the standard, the standardization body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Revision of standards			
9.1 Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «Revision of standards - Normal revision - Procedures for revision the standard(s) / normative document(s) shall be in accordance with those specified in Chapter 6. - A normal revision may occur* at the deadline for periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).»

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2 Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardising body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «Editorial revision - Editorial revisions can be done without triggering the normal revision process. The standardization body shall formally approve editorial changes and publish* a change or a new version of the standard.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «Time-critical revision - A time-critical revision is an revision between two0 periodic reviews using a fast-track process.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «(...) A time-critical revision can only be performed in the following situations: (a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «(...) A time-critical audit can only be performed in the following situations: (...) (b) Instruction from PEFC International to meet specific or new PEFC requirements within a period of time that is too short for a normal revision.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:			
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «The time-critical revision should follow these steps: (a) PEFC Norway shall prepare the revised standard» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «The time-critical revision should follow these steps: (...) (b) PEFC Norway can consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «The time-critical revision should follow these steps: (...) (c) The revised standard shall be formally approved by the board of PEFC Norway» Added information: As part of the time critical revision the wording of the English translation has been corrected. See attached updated PEFC N 06 with amendments. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).»

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) The standardising body shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.13, «The time-critical revision should follow these steps: (...) (d) PEFC Norway shall explain the rationale for the hasty change and make the justification publicly available.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report – «1. Start of the revision - Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Yes	PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «Approval and publication (...) PEFC Norway shall determine the effective date and transition period of the revised standards/normative documents.» Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i> : «Title of the document: Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard Document number: PEFC N 02:2022 Approved by: PEFC Norway Approval date: 18.08.2022 Application date: 01.03.2023 Transition date: 01.03.2024 Date of next periodic review: 18.08.2027» Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «The period from publication of the Standards up to the effective date shall not exceed one year. This period is necessary for international recognition of the revised standards/normative documents, to introduce the amendments and for information dissemination and training.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i>:</p> <p>«Title of the document: Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard Document number: PEFC N 02:2022 Approved by: PEFC Norway Approval date: 18.08.2022 Application date: 01.03.2023 Transition date: 01.03.2024 Date of next periodic review: 18.08.2027»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardising body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC N 06, Ch.11, «The transition period shall not exceed one year, except in reasoned exceptional cases where the implementation of the revised standards/normative documents requires a longer period.»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02:2022, <i>Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</i>:</p> <p>«Title of the document: Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard Document number: PEFC N 02:2022 Approved by: PEFC Norway Approval date: 18.08.2022 Application date: 01.03.2023 Transition date: 01.03.2024 Date of next periodic review: 18.08.2027»</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

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

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	<p>PEFC N 02:2022, "Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard - The Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard for sustainable Norwegian Forestry has 30 requirements. (...) The requirements apply to the whole forest property for which a certification agreement has been concluded."</p> <p>PEFC N 01, Ch. 7 "(...) Certificate holders - The Norwegian PEFC certification system has two options for certification of forest management: Individual certification and group certification</p> <p>Individual certification (...) Individual forest management certificates are issued on the basis of the requirements of PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and PEFC N 03 – Requirements for individual and group certification, as well as requirements for management systems specified in Chapter 11.</p> <p>Group certificate holder - Group certificate holder (...) All forest owners under a group certificate holder must meet the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard – PEFC N 02."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	Yes	<p>PEFC Norway statement:</p> <p>"[See] 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 for adverse interpretations, the PEFC Norway will adopt clarifications to adjust the practice of them, cf. PEFC N 01, chapter 14.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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 02:2022, “Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard - The Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard for sustainable Norwegian Forestry has 30 requirements. (...) The requirements apply to the whole forest property for which a certification agreement has been concluded. (...)</p> <p>Manager responsibility and planning - The best way to implement sustainable forestry pursuant in the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is to have a well updated forestry plan and good planning procedures. Fewer and fewer forest owners are carrying out the practical measures on properties themselves – but even so, forest owner bear responsibility for ensuring that the measures are implemented as effectively as possible, both for the forest owner himself and for the community in general. The requirements relating to manager responsibility and planning, focus on the long-term management of the forest property.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 - 6.1 Requirements for group members “Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to: (..) 3. Ensure that all relevant information is notified to consultant or contractor. 11. Comply with PEFC Norway's guidelines for publication in accordance with PEFC N 01.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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. Certificate holder – responsibilities and obligations, 7.2.1 Support</p> <p>"6.The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) updated; b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed; c) adequately protected (e.g. against misuse, loss of confidentiality, or loss of integrity)" <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>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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
<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	<p>PEFC N 01, Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry, “9.Traceability certification (...) When communicating the origin of products from PEFC certified forests to customers with a PEFC tracking certificate, the formal PEFC declaration “100% PEFC certified” shall be used. The declaration shall only be applied to products that come from certified forest properties.”</p> <p>PEFC N 04:2022, Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies, “Introduction (...) For certification of forest management in accordance with PEFC Norway its certification system, the documents PEFC N 01, PEFC N 02, PEFC N 03 and PEFC N04 apply.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<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	<p>PEFC N 01, Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry, “9.Traceability certification (...) When communicating the origin of products from PEFC certified forests to customers with a PEFC tracking certificate, the formal PEFC declaration “100% PEFC certified” shall be used. The declaration shall only be applied to products that come from certified forest properties.”</p> <p>PEFC N 04:2022, Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies, “Introduction (...) For certification of forest management in accordance with PEFC Norway its certification system, the documents PEFC N 01, PEFC N 02, PEFC N 03 and PEFC N04 apply.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<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 standard;</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 01, Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry, “9. Traceability certification, “(...) When communicating the origin of products from PEFC certified forests to customers with a PEFC tracking certificate, the formal PEFC declaration “100% PEFC certified” shall be used. The declaration shall only be applied to products that come from certified forest properties.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 04:2022, Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies, "Introduction (...) For certification of forest management in accordance with PEFC Norway its certification system, the documents PEFC N 01, PEFC N 02, PEFC N 03 and PEFC N04 apply."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Taking into account that the system uses group certification which is not regional certification the benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 01, Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry, "9. Traceability certification, " The traceability certification (Chain of Custody) within the framework of the Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the applicable PEFC's international standard; PEFC ST 2002 – Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements. Information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer shall be in line with the requirements in PEFC ST 2002 (PEFC ST 2002:2020, Ch. 5.2 - Declaration of outputs). When communicating the origin of products from PEFC certified forests to customers with a PEFC tracking certificate, the formal PEFC declaration "100% PEFC certified" shall be used. The declaration shall only be applied to products that come from certified forest properties."</p> <p>PEFC N 04:2022, Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies, "Introduction (...) For certification of forest management in accordance with PEFC Norway its certification system, the documents PEFC N 01, PEFC N 02, PEFC N 03 and PEFC N04 apply."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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	<p>PEFC N 01 - 21 The relationship between laws and certification requirements “(...) If the requirements of the standard are used as a basis for implementing forestry measures, one can be sure of fulfilling the legal requirements. However, the requirements do not set aside the law. (...)”</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – 22 Overview of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry “Below is a list of the relevant laws and regulations of significance to sustainable forestry. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	Yes	<p>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”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 - The certificate holder's management shall show leadership and commitment to the certification system, see ISO 14001 Chapter 5.1. Management shall establish, implement and maintain an environmental policy within the defined scope of the certificate holder's certification system, see ISO 14001 Chapter 5.2. The certificate holder is obligated to: a) comply with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context "1. Leadership - The certificate holder's management shall show leadership and commitment to the certification system, see ISO 14001 Chapter 5.1. Management shall establish, implement and maintain an environmental policy within the defined scope of the certificate holder's certification system, see ISO 14001 Chapter 5.2. The certificate holder is obligated to: (...) c) continuously improve the management system; d) continuously contribute to the improvement of sustainable forest management among group members</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 – 4. Certificate holder's leadership and context "1. Leadership – (...) The obligation shall be part of a certificate holder's environmental policy and shall be publicly available as documented information."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	Yes	<p>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."</p> <p>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 work as a group certificate holder. Management shall ensure that there are sufficient resources for proper completion</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>of this work. Please see also the requirements of the environmental management system, ISO 14001.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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 “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 “When planning for the environmental management system, the organization shall consider: a) the issues referred to in 4.1; b) the requirements referred to in 4.2; c) the scope of its environmental management system; 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: — 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. Within the scope of the environmental management system, the organization shall determine potential emergency situations, including those that can have an environmental impact. The organization shall maintain documented information of its: — risks and opportunities that need to be addressed;</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>— process(es) needed in 6.1.1 to 6.1.4, to the extent necessary to have confidence they are carried out as planned.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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 <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. 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 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>PEFC N 01 – 18. Forestry plans “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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>which public funding has been provided, and all environment-related data from the forestry plans which constitute public environmental information is made accessible in 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 <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. 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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. Such assessment shall be approved by the certificate holder and documented."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	Yes	<p>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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1 – Manager responsibility and forest certification agreement "(...) 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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is</p>
d) adequately covering forest resources.	Yes	<p>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:</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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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>(...)</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.</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 it is justification, the next 30 years.” <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.	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 harvesting opportunities • variation in type of harvesting • the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon • biodiversity

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 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 it is justification, the next 30 years." <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 it is justification, the next 30 years." <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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) Lov om friluftslivet (friluftsløven) - Lovdata "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 (hunnable game species and hunting times) Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata "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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “The requirement shall ensure that long-term as well as the operational planning in forestry meets the requirements for sustainable management of forest resources. (...) 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” <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Forest roads 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 “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. (..) 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 14. Off-road transportation “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), Chapter 3 - Protective Forest and areas with special environmental values Lov om skogbruk (skogbrukslova) - Lovdata “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. The regulations shall establish the boundaries for protective forest and provide rules for management of the forest. Rules may also be provided concerning the obligation to notify. 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. Section 13. Forest areas of particular environmental value 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is sufficiently addressed.</p>
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	Yes	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>"Scientific research results must be included in the assessment basis in connection with planning and preparation of forest management plans."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 "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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 "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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3 Compliance requirements		
6.3.1 Legal compliance		
<p>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.</p> <p>Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT 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>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements "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 01 – Ch. 21. The relationship between laws and certification requirement PEFC N 01 – Ch. 22. Overview of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 “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. 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 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> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreement “The requirement shall ensure that the forest owner plans and carries out forestry operations in compliance with the law (...).”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</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. Arbeidet med anti-korrupsjon - regjeringen.no</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Full list (coe.int) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	PEFC N 02 Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreement “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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		
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. 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.	Yes	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements “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.” PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights “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).” The Cadastre Act (LOV 2005-06-17-101) Lov om eigedomsregistrering (matrikkellova) - Lovdata Section 1. The purpose of the Act “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.”

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Outdoor Recreation Act - § 1. (Purpose of the Act) Lov om friluftslivet (friluftsloven) - Lovdata “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 number (Cadastre No.) on all properties, using a map solution on Kilden or Gardskart.(Kilden - Skogportalen (nibio.no) or Søk gård (nibio.no)). Having the property number you can contact the employees of county or municipality for the concrete information about the name of the owner of the property and the detailed property arrangements.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Sami rights “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). 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. 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Important migration paths 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” <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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	PEFC N 01 - 16. The objectives of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard “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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions		
6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions. 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 and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.	Yes	Norway has ratified all the fundamental ILO conventions. Link: Ratifications of ILO conventions: Ratifications for Norway Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	PEFC N 02 – Requirement 2. Workforce and safety “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. 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. 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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>profession. For practical tasks, courses at Aktiv Skogbruk, education through Skogskolen (digital course) or equivalent will suffice.”</p> <p>Working Environment Act Lov om arbeidsmiljø, arbeidstid og stillingsvern mv. (arbeidsmiljøloven) - Lovdata 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. (2) Systematic health, environment and safety work entails that the employer shall: a) establish goals for health, environment and safety, 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, 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, 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, e) implement routines in order to detect, rectify and prevent contraventions of requirements laid down in or pursuant to this Act, f) ensure systematic prevention and follow-up of absence due to sickness, g) ensure continuous control of the working environment and the employees’ health when necessitated by risk factors in the undertaking, cf. (c), 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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	Yes	PEFC N 02 Requirement 2. Workforce and safety

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>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>		<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. (...) 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to secure a working environment that provides a 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, b) to ensure sound conditions of employment and equality of treatment at work, c) to facilitate adaptations of the individual employee’s working situation in relation to his or her capabilities and circumstances of life, 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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>	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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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.	Yes	PEFC N 02 Requirement 2. Workforce and safety “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. (...) Equality must be promoted and law for equality and prohibition against discrimination must be followed.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7. Support		
7.1 Resources		
7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.	Yes	PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support “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.” Our clear understanding is that the term «organisation» is to be understood as certificate holder/group certificate holder. And that the they as organisation can be responsible for this for their group members. Ref Terms and definitions in ST1003: «3.19 Organisation Person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives. Note 1: An organisation applies for PEFC certification and is responsible for the compliance with PEFC sustainable forest management requirements and can be responsible for several forest management units. Note 2: A manager or owner can also take the role of an organisation.»

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.
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	<p>PEFC N 03 - 7.2.1 Support</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 9 Requirements relating to competence of forest owners, contractors /forestry workers, officials and management</p> <p>“The group certificate holder shall have procedures to ensure that there is sufficient competence at all levels of the organisation.</p> <p>Target groups:</p> <p>According to requirements and rules in PEFC Norway’s forest certification system, ISO 14001 and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, the following target groups must be used for competence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest owner 2. Contractor/forest worker 3. Persons responsible for planning and implementation of forestry operations 4. Environmental responsible management/forest biological competence <p>The target groups have different roles in accordance with administrative and practical functions but can from their own point of view break rules and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard if they do not have the necessary expertise. In the event of non-conformities in respect of requirements and rules and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, the need for training shall be assessed. Requirements for competence and follow-up (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.3 Communication		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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	<p>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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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.”</p> <p>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, certification body or accreditation body. d) Formally report the result of the complaint and the appeal process to the complainant. e) Based on the results, take appropriate corrective and/or preventive actions. Decisions on disputes and complaints shall be complied with by everyone covered by PEFC Norway's certification system. 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “6. The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO 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: a) updated; b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed; c) adequately protected (e.g. against misuse, loss of confidentiality, or loss of integrity)”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 6.1 Requirements for group members “12. Document harvesting and other measures in compliance with the certificate holder's requirements.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</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 “6.(..) The documented information relevant to the group certification system and the fulfilment of the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard shall be: a) updated; b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed; c) adequately protected (e.g. against misuse, loss of confidentiality, or loss of integrity)”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 6.1 Requirements for group members “12. Document harvesting and other measures in compliance with the certificate holder's requirements.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
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: “The requirement shall ensure that long-term as well as the operational planning in forestry meets the requirements for sustainable management of forest resources. 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. 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<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 “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 “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. (...) <u>Normal forest cycle and minimum age of harvesting</u> 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 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 “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 “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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Req 20: Use of foreign tree species “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 “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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion 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 including consultation with affected stakeholders; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Req. 8: “Conversion of forest area for other use shall be restricted. It is a prerequisite that conversion makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits in line with national, regional and local land use policy including relevant consultation with affected stakeholders. (...) 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>The definition of forest plantations in the Norwegian national forest inventory is: "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. 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 certified forest properties.</p> <p>Compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use:</p> <p>The Planning and Building Act is sector-wide act that regulates land use and conversion. The legislation includes regulations for zoning plans at national, regional and local level. Measures can only take place if they do not conflict with the provisions of the law and the zoning regulation. In the case of measures pursuant to the Planning and Building Act, the initiation of the process must be notified to the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>public. Correspondingly, the selected solution must be submitted for broad public consultation. The is an objection institute as described in the legislation.</p> <p>https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-06-27-71</p> <p>The Public Administration Act is a sector-wide act that regulates public authorities case management. The legislation regulates both individual decisions and regulations. Relevant parties who have not already made a statement in the case must be notified and given the opportunity to make a statement within a specified deadline, before a decision is made. Deadlines are described in the law. This is called an advance notice, and ensures that stakeholders are consulted, both when it concerns individual decisions and regulations.</p> <p>https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1967-02-10</p> <p>The Nature Diversity Act is sector-wide act that relating to the management of biological, geological and landscape diversity. When public decisions are made, sections 8-12 of the Nature Diversity Act must be assessed. This principle is referred to in section 7 "principles for public decision-making §§ 8 to 12". This applies, among other things, to conversion. The following paragraphs must be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • § 8 The knowledge base • § 9 The precautionary principle • Section 10 Ecosystem approach and overall load • Section 11 Costs of environmental degradation must be borne by the owner of the measure • § 12 Environmentally sound techniques and operating methods <p>https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2009-06-19-100?q=naturmangfoldloven</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	Yes	PEFC N 02 Req. 8:

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>“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.</p> <p>Changed land use, in accordance with law, which is not counted in 5%:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas that are part of the forestry infrastructure with direct connection to forest management such as forest road, place for timber, roundabouts, houses used in connection with the forestry , etc. 2. Establishing of paths, ski trails and equivalent activity of facilitating outdoor recreation. 3. 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.” <p>Explanation on the third point above:</p> <p>Laws that regulate land use in Norway, such as the Planning and Building Act, have for some land use purposes, legal authority for expropriating land. The provisions are used in cases where the landowner does not voluntarily relinquish land for purposes that contribute positively to sustainable community development in line with national and regional land policy. As a landowner, expropriation of property, entails that you must give up all or part of your property in exchange for economic compensation. The legal authority is e.g. given in the Planning and Building Act's Chapter 16. In cases of expropriation of forest for such land use purposes, the forest owner does not have any responsibility for the conversion. In many cases the authority will try to achieve development in line with national and regional land policy without having to use the legal authority for expropriation. In many cases the land owner will cooperate with the authorities in finding the best solution and avoiding expropriation. Such cooperation could typically be to find the alternative that seizes the least amount of forest area or less productive forest. This means that for a conversion and land use change e.g. for building the same public road, there can be conversion based on both amicable settlements and cases where the authorities need to use the legal authority to expropriate. Both in cases where there is expropriation and in cases where there is access to expropriation, but it is not used</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>because amicable settlement are reached, ownership is transferred, and the area is no longer part of the forest property. In the forest management standard, we have not found reason to discriminate between conversion where forest owners cooperate and thus the legal authority to expropriate is not used and forest owners that do not cooperate or reach an agreement with the authorities and the forest area is expropriated.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Conversions are limited to no more than 5% of the forest area, not counting forestry infrastructure required for forest management as well as hiking/biking paths and cross country ski trails and areas expropriated by legal authorities. In the view of the assessor, not considering such infrastructure for forest management and forest recreation and expropriated forest areas is not in conflict with the spirit of this benchmark on land use change. The benchmark can be considered as essentially met.</p>
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Req. 8: “The forest owner shall not convert:</p> <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 <p>Areas that have been irreversibly converted after 14 February 2016 and which are not covered by the above exemptions are included in converted area. Where conversion and other measures require public approval, such approval shall be available as part of the documentation.</p> <p>.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is sufficiently addressed.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 Req. 8: “The forest owner shall not convert: (...) - area with particularly high carbon storage (such as marsh, marsh forest and swamp forest) (...) Areas that have been irreversibly converted after 14 February 2016 and which are not covered by the above exemptions are included in converted area.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 req. 8</p> <p>“Conversion of forest area for other use shall be restricted. It is a prerequisite that conversion makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits in line with national, regional and local land use policy including relevant consultation with affected stakeholders. The forest owner cannot make irreversible conversion of more than 5% of the forest area.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 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. (...) There shall be no tree species change or afforestation in:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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. • pasture forest. • buffer zones along marshes, water and waterways.” <p>Afforestation shall not occur in ecologically important non-forest ecosystems. The list of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems is given in above text and in requirement 21. The list is based on ecological important non-forest ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected by the Act relating to the management of biological, geological and landscape diversity (Natural Diversity Act) chapter IV paragraph Kapittel VI § 52. There shall be no afforestation in selected nature types protected by this law. https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2009-06-19-100#KAPITTEL_6 • according to the mapping methodologies for nature type mapping and public data from this mapping. Reference to mapping methodologies: https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/publikasjoner/andre/verdisetting-av-biologisk-mangfold/ https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/publikasjoner/2021/februar-2021/kartleggingsinstruks---kartlegging-av-terrestriske-naturtyper-etter-nin2/ Reference to database https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/tjenester/naturbase/

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environment Directorate's evaluation of criteria for public funding of afforestation. https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/M26/m26.pdf <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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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>Afforestation shall not occur in ecologically important non-forest ecosystems (see documentation on criteria 8.1.5 a).</p> <p>Thus the criteria is not relevant.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	<p>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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 21:</p> <p>“There shall 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. • overgrown pastureland with special natural values. • within the protection zone of known cultural heritages. • pasture forest. • buffer zones along marshes, water and waterways.”

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 21: “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: PEFC N 02 – req 8: “(..)The forest owner shall not convert: (...) area with particularly high carbon storage (such as marsh (...)).”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 21: “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 Afforestation is considered to be a climate measure. In conclusion the report states: “There are 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” https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/M26/m26.pdf</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	Yes	c.f 8.1.6 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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 “Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (..) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term forest production • future harvesting opportunities” Additional explanation: 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>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Harvesting “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. Requirement</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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>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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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> <p>The size and zoning of clear-cuttings and seed tree stand harvesting shall be adapted to the shapes and lines of the landscape. In important outdoor recreation areas, emphasis shall be placed on limiting and varying the size of the regeneration sites. In the event of thinning, pre-cutting and other harvesting, indigenous trees that are not of economic interest shall be set aside, as long as they are not substantially hindering the forest operation or significantly inhibit future production. (...)”</p> <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.”</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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 forest monitoring."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed..</p>
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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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. 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. 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	Yes	<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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 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>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	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 regeneration and natural regeneration from seedling trees. Genetically</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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 “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 “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>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Off-road transportation “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. (...) 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. 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides</p> <p>"Pesticides used must be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the relevant purpose. The use of pesticides must be documented."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 – Req. 18 Use of pesticides</p> <p>"Pesticides used must be approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for the relevant purpose."</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.		<p>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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Note: “Pesticides banned by international agreements” are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</p>	Yes	<p>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.”</p> <p>Norway has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Entry into force in 2004). Status of ratifications of the Stockholm Convention (pops.int)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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 pesticides shall be followed.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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 “The requirement shall ensure that fertilization is only used where it results in increased forest production and increased carbon sequestration, while at the same</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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. 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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. 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 <p>Explanations - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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. 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Harvesting “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 “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 “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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 logs) should be avoided.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>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:</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 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>Information regarding non-wood forest products 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 Lov om friluftslivet (friluftsloven) - Lovdata § 5. (Public harvesting right) “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) Lov om jakt og fangst av vilt (viltloven) - Lovdata “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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “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. 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>No obstacles should be created for natural movement of the water and the fish. 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. When planning new road systems, forest owner must document the fact that roadbuilding is avoided in areas with recorded special environmental values. 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. 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “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 “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. The plan should show or review: (..)</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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instances of priority species • 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 “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 “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. 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. 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 that require special considerations, cf. the table below. The forest owner and certificate holder are obliged to comply with all information received.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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 "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 "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 "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 "The requirement shall ensure that climate, biodiversity and ecological functions of wetlands, marsh forests and swamp forests are safeguarded by forestry measures."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<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. Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.</p>	Yes	<p>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:(..), biodiversity. (...) 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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimize or avoid negative impacts for considerations/ interests mentioned above. (..)</p> <p><u>Operational planning</u> In addition, the following must be available for the operational planning: 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 "The requirement shall ensure that landscape scales are considered for different interests in larger forest plots."</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Key habitats "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 . (..) Key habitats shall be mapped on properties larger than 5hectares of productive, commercially exploitable area. The key habitats shall be documented in the forestry</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>		<p>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 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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): http://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2001-12-21-1525</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. (...) 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.4.4 The standard requires that successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Harvesting "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 "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. 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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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. 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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. 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.	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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>increase the proportion of selective felling and small-scale clear-cut harvesting in the forest landscape. (...) In mountain forests, emphasis shall be placed on promoting and maintaining an old forest character as well as ensuring regeneration and production.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - 15. Long-term timber production “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. 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. (..) 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. 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 “The requirement shall ensure that the tree species composition safeguards both economic, environmental and outdoor conditions 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 “In the event of afforestation and regeneration after harvesting, Norwegian tree species shall be used. (...)”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Requirement 21. Afforestation and tree species change “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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used. 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 “The natural genetic variation of forest trees shall be safeguarded, both through systematic reforestation and natural rejuvenation. Genetically modified planting material shall 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “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. 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. 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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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> <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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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. Norwegian tree species that are rare in the area shall be safeguarded and/or promoted by forestry measures.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.	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>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 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>The requirement promotes 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 “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. Requirement Establishment and management of key habitats 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. 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: 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. Regulation on grants for economic and environmental measures in forestry (https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2004-02-04-447): § 6. “Grants for environmental measures in forests 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</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.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Harvesting “The possibilities of harvesting can be utilized within the framework set by considerations relating to economy, outdoor recreation, biodiversity, other environmental values and legislation. 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. 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 “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 “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 “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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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. 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. When planning new road systems, forest owner must document the fact that roadbuilding is avoided in areas with recorded special environmental values. 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. 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 <p>Forestry Act (2005) Lov om skogbruk (skogbrukslova) - Lovdata</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Section 9. Preventive measures “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 “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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 “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. (..) 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. (...) 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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	Yes	<p>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 long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (..)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.		<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 "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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 "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> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> O endangered species O endangered nature types O national important nature types. O regional important nature types

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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" <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 14. Off-road transportation “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 “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.” 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. 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 logs) should be avoided.”</p> <p>Forestry Act (2005) Lov om skogbruk (skogbrukslova) - Lovdata Section 9. Preventive measures “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 “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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>framework, wildlife may be harvested for the benefit of agriculture business and outdoor recreation.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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 “Hazardous waste such as oils, fluids, batteries, fuel containers and suchlike must be submitted to an approved landfill. 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 “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. (...) 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 “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. 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. (...) Other considerations for waterways 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".

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● 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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	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 obstacles should be created for natural movement of water and fish migration. 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. 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>(...)</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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual 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.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 30. Cultural heritage and cultural environments "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. (..) 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 "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). (..) 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. The reindeer herding district board shall, independent of the area extent of the operation, be notified by:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>- Fertilization in areas included in point d-f of the list below</p> <p>- Soil scarification in areas included in point e-h of the list below</p> <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> <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>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights "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). 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. 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 "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>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<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 “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. (..) Forest owner are also obliged to contribute to the financing of common measures for knowledge development in the forestry.” Info/explanation: Results from these measures are publicly available and thereby available for all interests/stakeholders.</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Sami rights “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 “(…) 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. (...)” 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 “(…) 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. 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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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 obliged to share with other certificate holders who may be or become involved in the forest property in question.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.</p>
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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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 “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. 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 “Scientific research results must be included in the assessment basis in connection with planning and preparation of forest management plans.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially covered.</p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
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 “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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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: “§ 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	Yes	<p>Hunting and fishing are managed outside the forest management, and it is regulated, monitored and controlled by the national/regional authorities.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03, Ch. 5.2 Responsibilities for certificate holders “19. The certificate holder shall regularly monitor working conditions and make adaptations if necessary”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.2 Internal audit		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the organisation's requirements for its management system; the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard 	Yes	<p>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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Purpose The purpose of the internal control system should be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that requirements and activities are implemented correctly Ensuring there is a sufficiently opportunity to preventing and detecting errors To provide a adequate view of the situation Providing a foundation for improvements <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 particulatly important in accordance to target 4.”</p> <p>ISO 14001: “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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the organization's own requirements for its environmental management system; the requirements of this International Standard; “ <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	Yes	ISO 14001 "9.2.1 General The organization shall conduct internal audits at planned intervals to provide information on whether the environmental management system: (..) b) is effectively implemented and maintained." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2.2 Organisation The standard requires that the organisation shall:		
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	PEFC N 03, Ch. 8.2 ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme "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" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme: "The organization shall: a) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 "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." ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme: "The organization shall: b) select auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;"

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme: “The organization shall: c) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 ISO 14001, 9.2.2 Internal audit programme: “(…) The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “(..)The management review shall include consideration of: a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 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;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) information on the organisation’s performance, including trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results; 	Yes	<p>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;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) opportunities for continual improvement	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “(..)The management review shall include consideration of: (..) g) opportunities for continual improvement.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “The outputs of the management review shall include:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 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; — 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” <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	Yes	<p>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”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) b) Evaluate the need for measures to eliminate the causes of the non-conformity so that it does not repeat or occur elsewhere, by: i. Investigate the non-conformity ii. Determine the causes of the non-conformity iii. Determine if similar non-conformities exist or may occur”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) implement any action needed;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) c) Implement any measures needed”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “When non-conformities occur, the certificate holder shall: (..) d) Review the impact of the corrective measures implemented”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	Yes	<p>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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	Yes	<p>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).”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the results of any corrective action.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch 10 Improvement “3.The certificate holder shall retain documented information as proof of: (..) b) The results of any corrective action.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4. Context of the group organisation		
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:		
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch.4 The Norwegian PEFC system does not use regional certification, but group certification. PEFC N 03 Scope “This document defines the requirements for group certificate holders and affiliated members of the group certificate. The requirements must be met in order to be able to certify forest owners under a joint group certificate. The document also applies to individual certification of individual forest properties.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) other groups and/or	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch.3 “3.2 Definitions Definitions used in this document are described in the document PEFC N 05 - Glossary and Definitions. Only the following are described here: Group certificate holder: An organisation that organizes and manages group certification of forest owner in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. The group certificate holder represents all members of the group in respect

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>of the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC scheme.</p> <p>Group organisation: A group of participants represented through the group certificate holder for the purpose of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification.</p> <p>Group members: Forest owners who have entered into an agreement with a group certificate holder to participate in group certification. Through the agreement, the forest owners undertake to manage the property in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC Norway certification system.</p> <p>Group certificate: A document testifying that the group certificate holder meets the requirements for sustainable forest management and other requirements in the certification system.</p> <p>Certificate holder: Forest owner who holds a valid PEFC forest management certificate (individually certified) or organisation that is a group certificate holder.</p> <p>Certified area: The forest area covered by a group forest certificate representing the sum of forest areas of the participants.</p> <p>Certification agreement: Agreement between the forest owner and the group certifier. Contains responsibilities and obligations for both parties.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 does not define specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 4)</p> <p>“4. The certificate holder shall understand the needs and expectations of the interested parties and decide (cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 4.2):</p> <p>a) Affected stakeholders relevant to the group certification system”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 4)</p> <p>4. The certificate holder shall understand the needs and expectations of the interested parties and decide (cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 4.2):</p> <p>(...) b) The relevant needs and expectations of these interested parties”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system		
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:		
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant),	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 3</p> <p>“3.2 Definitions</p> <p>Definitions used in this document are described in the document PEFC N 05 - Glossary and Definitions. Only the following are described here:</p> <p>Group certificate holder: An organisation that organizes and manages group certification of forest owner in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. The group certificate holder represents all members of the group in respect</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>of the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC scheme.</p> <p>Group organisation: A group of participants represented through the group certificate holder for the purpose of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification.</p> <p>Group members: Forest owners who have entered into an agreement with a group certificate holder to participate in group certification. Through the agreement, the forest owners undertake to manage the property in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC Norway certification system.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the certified area,	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 3</p> <p>“Certified area: The forest area covered by a group forest certificate representing the sum of forest areas of the participants.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) the group certificate and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 3</p> <p>“Group certificate: A document testifying that the group certificate holder meets the requirements for sustainable forest management and other requirements in the certification system.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is</p>
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 3

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>"Group certificate: A document testifying that the group certificate holder meets the requirements for sustainable forest management and other requirements in the certification system."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 5)</p> <p>"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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 6)</p> <p>"For the following requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, parts of the requirements may be met at the group certificate level: • Requirement point 7 Sami rights; follow-up and dialogue with the reindeer herding stakeholders. • Requirement point 10 Transparency of environmental information: disclosure of environmental information and facilitation of dialogue with stakeholder groups. • Requirement point 11 Harvesting; competence and follow-up of targets and measures to increase the proportion of selective felling and small-scale logging. • Requirement point 18 Use of pesticides: expertise in integrated pest management. • Requirement point 23 Biologically important areas; monitor regional development of biologically important areas for properties with less than 150 hectares of productive forest."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 5)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.4 Group management system		
4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2</p> <p>“8.2 Certificate holder's internal control system 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 an adequate view of the situation 4. Providing a foundation for improvements 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>Self-control Self-control is the individual forest owner, forestry worker or contractor's control of his/her own work.</p> <p>Internal control</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Internal control in this context is the internal quality control carried out by the party responsible for the task for which he/she is responsible.</p> <p>Internal audit 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. The result of internal audits shall be an issue at the management's review.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch.4 (point 7)</p> <p>“If the certificate holder sells forest-based products that are not covered by the group certificate, they must have a valid PEFC Chain of Custody certificate in place.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5. Leadership		
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities		
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:		
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 1)</p> <p>“The group certificate holder is responsible for: 1. Establish and maintain an effective management system that covers all members of the group”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) to represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 2)</p> <p>“2. Be the group members' representative in the certification process, including communication and relationships related to the certification body, such as certification/auditing and contractual relationships.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 3)</p> <p>“Establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is</p>
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 4 and 7)</p> <p>“Establish critical procedures for recording new group members. The procedures shall at least verify information about the group member in accordance with the regulations in point 7 a, b and c.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 5)</p> <p>“Establish critical procedures for suspension and exclusion of group members.”</p> <p>Ch. 5.4.2 “New certification agreement in connection with exclusion Forest owners who have been excluded from a group certificate cannot be included in a group certificate until 12 months have passed since the exclusion took effect. All nonconformities pointed out by the group certificate holder who terminated the agreement must be closed before the same or new group certificate holder can enter</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>into a new group certification agreement. Group certificate holder shall carry out internal audit of forest owners who have been excluded from their own or others' group certificate, before the forest owner can be admitted as a group member. Internal audit cannot be done earlier than 12 months after the exclusion. Special measures to prevent recurrence should be considered, for example, that the group member cannot manage new operations themselves."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>f) to keep documented information of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system, ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s), iii. the certified area, iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken; 	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (points 7, 11, 15)</p> <p>"7. Maintaining a list/register of certified forest properties with the following information about each member of the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The forest property's land registration and property number. b. The name and address of the forest owner. c. Certified forest area (productive forest area + unproductive forest area). The information can be obtained from the forestry plan or from the Gårdskart database. See https://gardskart.nibio.no/. d. Forest owners who have non-conformities in the pipeline and which have to implement corrective or preventive measures imposed by the group certificate holder." <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>"15. Conduct a review and create an annual environmental report on compliance certification requirements, including the results of internal audits and external audits, and on the effect of preventive and/or corrective measures. All environmental reports should be publicly available. At a minimum, the report must include:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>a. Executive about fulfilling the certification requirements b. External audit; results, non-conformities and follow-up needs c. Internal control system; results of internal audits and internal control d. Non-conformities and external inquiries; overview and management e. Implemented preventive and/or corrective measures"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants' commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard;</p> <p>Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 6)</p> <p>"Concluding an agreement with the forest owner on forest certification via affiliation to the group certificate. The agreement is the forest owner's proof of affiliation to certification. Agreements can be concluded in connection with a timber contract or as an independent forest certification agreement."</p> <p>Ch. 5.3 (point 4) "The agreement shall describe the rights of group certificate holder to implement any corrective or preventive measures, and to suspend or exclude members of the group in the event of serious non-conformities from the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. See chapter 5.4."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 6)</p> <p>"Concluding an agreement with the forest owner on forest certification via affiliation to the group certificate. The agreement is the forest owner's proof of affiliation to certification. Agreements can be concluded in connection with a timber contract or as an independent forest certification agreement."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.2 (point 9)</p> <p>“Ensuring that group members receive the necessary information and guidance to meet the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 (point 5)</p> <p>“Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to: (...) Report non-conformities on forest properties to other certificate holders if the forest owner is affiliated with more than one group certificate.”</p> <p>Ch. 7.3 (point 1 and 2)</p> <p>“The certificate holder shall have the following routines and responsibilities: 1. The certificate holder shall have routines to ensure that the forest owner has complied with the requirement point in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. Group members' fulfilment of the requirements shall be centrally managed and controlled by the group certificate holder. 2. The certificate holder shall help ensure that non-conformities by the forest owner for which another certificate holder is responsible are followed up and dealt with.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.3 (point 7)</p> <p>“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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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.”</p> <p>Ch. 8</p> <p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8 Performance evaluation 8.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation The certificate holder shall monitor, measure, analyze and evaluate his/her performance, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 9.1. 8.2 Certificate holder's internal control system 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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.3 (point 7)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8 Performance evaluation “8.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation The certificate holder shall monitor, measure, analyze and evaluate his/her performance, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 9.1. 8.2 Certificate holder's internal control system</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3, Management review "The certificate holder's senior management shall annually review the management system to ensure that it is continuously suitable, adequate and effective. The requirements for what the review shall include are described in more detail in ISO 14001 Chapter 9.3."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.3 (point 13)</p> <p>"The certificate holder shall cooperate and effectively respond to requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or PEFC Norway on relevant data and document cooperation. They shall also provide access to the certified forest areas in connection with formal audits, checks and otherwise related to the certification system."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:		
a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 Requirements for group members "All forest owners can be certified through participation in group certification under a group certificate holder, if they meet the group certificate holder's requirements to participate in the group.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>Note: The requirement for “written agreement” and participants’ “commitment” is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.</p>		<p>A written agreement on group certification shall be concluded, either through an independent forest certification agreement or through a timber contract with a certification agreement.</p> <p>Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for all activity on the forest property.” <p>PEFC N 03 Ch 5.4.2 New certification agreement in connection with exclusion “Forest owners who have been excluded from a group certificate cannot be included in a group certificate until 12 months have passed since the exclusion took effect. All nonconformities pointed out by the group certificate holder who terminated the agreement must be closed before the same or new group certificate holder can enter into a new group certification agreement. Group certificate holder shall carry out internal audit of forest owners who have been excluded from their own or others' group certificate, before the forest owner can be admitted as a group member. Internal audit cannot be done earlier than 12 months after the exclusion. Special measures to prevent recurrence should be considered, for example, that the group member cannot manage new operations themselves.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 (point 6 and 7) “6. Provide information about other current or previous group certificate memberships 7. Inform about open non-conformities when changing to a new group certificate holder or if the forest owner is affiliated with a second group certificate.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 (point 1)</p> <p>“Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p> <p>1. Comply with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for all activity on the forest property.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the group entity, or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 (point 9)</p> <p>“9. Cooperate and assist with the implementation of internal inspections, internal audits and external audits and otherwise if relevant or have an impact on the certification system. This includes responding to all queries on relevant data/information from the certificate holder or certification body.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.</p>
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 (point 6 and 7)</p> <p>“6. Provide information about other current or previous group certificate memberships</p> <p>7. Inform about open non-conformities when changing to a new group certificate holder or if the forest owner is affiliated with a second group certificate.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 6.1 (point 10)</p> <p>“Ensure that corrective and preventive measures imposed by the certificate holder are implemented.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2 Commitment and policy		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 1)</p> <p>“4 Certificate holder’s leadership and context 1. Leadership The certificate holder's management shall show leadership and commitment to the certification system, see ISO 14001 Chapter 5.1. Management shall establish, implement and maintain an environmental policy within the defined scope of the certificate holder's certification system, see ISO 14001 Chapter 5.2.</p> <p>The certificate holder is obligated to: a) comply with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system; b) integrate the group certification requirements into the management system; c) continuously improve the management system; d) continuously contribute to the improvement of sustainable forest management among group members</p> <p>The obligation shall be part of a certificate holder's environmental policy and shall be publicly available as documented information.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 1)</p> <p>“(…) b) integrate the group certification requirements into the management system;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 1)

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>"(...) c) continuously improve the management system;"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 1)</p> <p>"(...) d) continuously contribute to the improvement of sustainable forest management among group members"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 4 (point 1)</p> <p>"(...) The obligation shall be part of a certificate holder's environmental policy and shall be publicly available as documented information."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.3</p> <p>5.3 Terms of agreement on participation in group certification The agreement with each individual group member shall be made in writing and the following sections shall be included as terms: (...) 3. The agreement shall describe the fact that the group member undertakes to operate in compliance with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management, the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the group certificate holder's other instructions for maintaining membership of the group."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.3</p> <p>5.3 Terms of agreement on participation in group certification The agreement with each individual group member shall be made in writing and the following sections shall be included as terms: (...) 3. The agreement shall describe the fact that the group member undertakes to operate in compliance with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management, the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the group certificate holder's other instructions for maintaining membership of the group."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6. Planning		
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.1</p> <p>"If the certificate holder is planning changes to the management system, these changes be included in the management system plan."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.1</p> <p>"If the certificate holder decides to meet requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard at group level, these requirements shall be entered and followed up in the certificate holder's plan for the management system."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7. Support		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 1)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 2)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 9 Requirements relating to competence of forest owners, contractors /forestry workers, officials and management</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning:	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 3)</p> <p>“Certificate holder shall establish communication to raise awareness among group members regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) certificate holder's environmental policy; b) the requirements for sustainable forest management in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard; c) their contribution to the effect of the certification system and sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improving the group's performance;” <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
a) the group management policy;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 3)</p> <p>“Certificate holder shall establish communication to raise awareness among group members regarding: a) certificate holder's environmental policy;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 3)</p> <p>“Certificate holder shall establish communication to raise awareness among group members regarding: (...) b) the requirements for sustainable forest management in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 3)</p> <p>“Certificate holder shall establish communication to raise awareness among group members regarding: (...) c) their contribution to the effect of the certification system and sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improving the group's performance;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 3)</p> <p>“Certificate holder shall establish communication to raise awareness among group members regarding: (...) d) the implications of not complying with the requirements of management systems, cf. PEFC N 03 7.7.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:		
a) on what to communicate;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 4)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) when to communicate;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 4)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) with whom to communicate;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 4)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) how to communicate.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 4)</p> <p>“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.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.5 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:		
a) up to date;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 6) “The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO 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: a) updated;” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 6) “The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO 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: b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;” Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.1 (point 6)</p> <p>“The certificate holder shall have procedures for documented information in accordance with ISO 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: (...) c) adequately protected (e.g. against misuse, loss of confidentiality, or loss of integrity)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8. Operation		
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:		
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.2 (point 1): “1. The certificate holder shall establish, implement, manage and maintain processes necessary to:</p> <p>a) meet the requirements for group certification and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.2 (point 1): “1. The certificate holder shall establish, implement, manage and maintain processes necessary to: (...) b) implement the measures identified in connection with planning, cf. Chapter 7. 1.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.2 (point 2): “Planning, implementation and control shall be done by: (...) a) defining the necessary processes and establish criteria of these;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.2 (point 2): "Planning, implementation and control shall be done by: (...) b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 7.2.2 (point 2): "Planning, implementation and control shall be done by: (...) c) retaining documented information to the extent necessary to ensure that the processes have been implemented as planned." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:		
a) what shall be monitored and measured;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.1 / ISO 14001 Ch. 9.1: "The organization shall monitor, measure, analyse and evaluate its environmental performance. The organization shall determine: a) what needs to be monitored and measured;" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.1 / ISO 14001 Ch. 9.1: "(...) b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.1 / ISO 14001 Ch. 9.1: "(...) d) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;"

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.1 / ISO 14001 Ch. 9.1: “(...) e) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.1 / ISO 14001 Ch. 9.1: “The organization shall retain appropriate documented information as evidence of the monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation results” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.1 / ISO 14001 Ch. 9.1: “The organization shall establish, implement and maintain the process(es) needed to evaluate fulfilment of its compliance obligations. The organization shall: a) determine the frequency that compliance will be evaluated; b) evaluate compliance and take action if needed; c) maintain knowledge and understanding of its compliance status. The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the compliance evaluation result(s).” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:		
a) conforms to i. the group organisation’s own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “Certificate holder's internal control system

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "Certificate holder's internal control system 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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "Certificate holder's internal control system 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.</p> <p>Purpose The purpose of the internal control system should be: 1. Ensuring that requirements and activities are implemented correctly (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "(...) Control system - The overall control system can be described by means of the following matrix: (...) Internal audit/Frequency: Selection-based, with frequency suited to the estimated risk of errors, and sufficient to provide an adequate view of operations. (...)</p> <p>Internal control requirements Frequency of internal control is adapted to the risk of serious errors. As a yearly minimum, the following frequency should be used:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>- 10 % of completed harvesting and soil scarification assignments - 5 % of other forest measures assignments Where self-control is uncertain or there is little documentation, the frequency shall be increased accordingly.</p> <p>Requirements for internal auditing Requirements for planning the audit The requirement for internal auditing is stated in chapter 9.2 of ISO 14001. Level to be included in internal audit The internal audit of forest certification consists of both an inspection of the system within the organisation and a sample control in the forest with emphasis on checking whether there is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. The system element of the audit must be set up so that all departments/ district units are audited within a certain time. Knowledge and understanding of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the procedures established to implement these as well as the internal control must be central. The number of samples per year shall normally be the square root of the number of group members. A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 “8.2 Certificate holder's internal control system 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</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3. To provide an adequate view of the situation</p> <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>Self-control - Self-control is the individual forest owner, forestry worker or contractor's control of his/her own work.</p> <p>Internal control - Internal control in this context is the internal quality control carried out by the party responsible for the task for which he/she is responsible.</p> <p>Internal audit - 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>The result of internal audits shall be an issue at the management's review.</p> <p>It is important to emphasize the importance of each organisation itself having an ownership of the control system that is being followed and has a responsibility to adapt it to its own operations. It is therefore neither possible nor appropriate to provide detailed rules for how the control system will be built. Nevertheless, there is reason to clarify the targets of the control operations and provide some concrete guidelines. The differences between the organisations that are certified mean that internal control will have to be organized in different ways. While the forestry manager will be an important resource in the forest owner cooperatives, the forest owners or representatives of these will often be the ones who carry out the internal control in other organisations. Self-control will also have to vary depending on the different groups that carry out the work.</p> <p>Self-control, internal control and internal audits must always be documented. When assessing the frequency of control, the entire overall internal control system must be assessed as a single unit. The internal control together with internal audits is a way of checking/assessing whether the properties and certificate holder perform the operations in accordance with set goals and intentions. If errors or ambiguities are found in connection with internal audits, this will be reported as non-conformities/observations or comments. Such a reporting procedure has two effects:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>1. As any nonconformities/observations discovered during internal audits are disclosed during management's review, this is the management's way to be up to date on the "status of the system and any weaknesses" within the organisation.</p> <p>2. Non-conformities/observations discovered during internal audits will reduce the risk of a repetition of inappropriate practices of the individual employee/subcontractor/forest owner.</p> <p>Internal audits must also provide a basis for documentation of development within the organisation over time. In this context, it is important to highlight both the positive and negative aspects revealed during internal audits. Requirements for internal auditing</p> <p>Requirements for planning the audit</p> <p>The requirement for internal auditing is stated in chapter 9.2 of ISO 14001.</p> <p>Level to be included in internal audit</p> <p>The internal audit of forest certification consists of both an inspection of the system within the organisation and a sample control in the forest with emphasis on checking whether there is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>The system element of the audit must be set up so that all departments/ district units are audited within a certain time. Knowledge and understanding of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the procedures established to implement these as well as the internal control must be central.</p> <p>The number of samples shall normally be the square root of the number of group members. A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection. In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls • Registered non-conformities and external inquiries • Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>The basis for the audit is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories. 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/who is being revised, is central to internal audits. Internal auditing differs from internal control in this regard."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "(...) The basis for the audit is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "(...) 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/who is being revised, is central to internal audits. Internal auditing differs from internal control in this regard."</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 “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. (...) 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/who is being revised, is central to internal audits. Internal auditing differs from internal control in this regard.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “Internal audit – (...). The result of internal audits shall be an issue at the management's review. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2; “(...) Self-control, internal control and internal audits must always be documented. (...) Internal audits must also provide a basis for documentation of development within the organisation over time. In this context, it is important to highlight both the positive and negative aspects revealed during internal audits.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme		
9.3.1 General		
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme. These requirements shall include the following procedures for:		PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “(...) Level to be included in internal audit - The internal audit of forest certification consists of both an inspection of the system within the organisation and a sample control in the forest with emphasis on checking whether there is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>The system element of the audit must be set up so that all departments/ district units are audited within a certain time. Knowledge and understanding of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the procedures established to implement these as well as the internal control must be central.</p> <p>The number of samples shall (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “The number of samples shall normally be the square root of the number of group members”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) determination of sample categories (9.3.3);	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: “A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection. In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls • Registered non-conformities and external inquiries • Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process <p>The basis for the audit is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection. In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls • Registered non-conformities and external inquiries • Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process <p>The basis for the audit is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection. In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered non-conformities and external inquiries • Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process <p>The basis for the audit is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.1.2 The standard <u>may</u> define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 does not make use of this option.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 definition: “Group members: Forest owners who have entered into an agreement with a group certificate holder to participate in group certification. Through the agreement, the forest owners undertake to manage the property in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC Norway certification system.”</p> <p>Entire groups of organisations cannot become individual group members. Only individual forest owner can be a group member. Therefore, PEFC N 03 does not define additional sampling requirements for group members which are organisations/groups themselves, consisting of several members, such as forest owners’/managers’ associations.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size		
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "Certificate holder's internal control system - 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. (...)</p> <p>Level to be included in internal audit.</p> <p>The internal audit of forest certification consists of both an inspection of the system within the organisation and a sample control in the forest with emphasis on checking whether there is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>The system element of the audit must be set up so that all departments/ district units are audited within a certain time. Knowledge and understanding of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the procedures established to implement these as well as the internal control must be central."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "The number of samples shall normally be the square root of the number of group members."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially met.</p>
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample <u>may</u> be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:		
a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 does not specify this optional indicator.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 does not specify this optional indicator.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 does not specify this optional indicator.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements; Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.	Yes	PEFC N 03 does not specify this optional indicator. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground. Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.	Yes	PEFC N 03 does not specify this optional indicator. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.3 Determination of sample categories		
9.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:		
a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);	Yes	Reference for 9.3.3.1 as a whole: PEFC Norway statement: The certification system has not included a long list of indicators for the risk assessment, but the certificate holder shall identify the and prioritize the sample categories based on a risk assessment that reflects the geographical scope of the standard. PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 “The number of samples shall normally be the square root of the number of group members. A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection. In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things (this means regional adaptations can be made):” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered non-conformities and external inquiries Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder is to a limited extent involved in the process <p>The basis for the audit is compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of spot samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence (this means risk assessment), document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
b) size of management units (different size classes);	Yes	<p>See above 9.3.3.1 a</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);	Yes	<p>See above 9.3.3.1 a</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;	Yes	<p>See above 9.3.3.1 a</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
e) deforestation and forest conversion;	Yes	<p>See above 9.3.3.1 a</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
f) rotation period(s);	Yes	See above 9.3.3.1 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
g) richness of biological diversity;	Yes	See above 9.3.3.1 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	Yes	See above 9.3.3.1 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;	Yes	See above 9.3.3.1 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;	Yes	See above 9.3.3.1 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
k) governance and law enforcement.	Yes	See above 9.3.3.1 a Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2 "In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered non-conformities and external inquiries <p>Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process</p> <p>When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. (...) The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories."</p> <p>In chapter 8.2 of PEFC N03 "Requirements for internal auditing" under the heading "Level to be included in internal audit" it is described which elements must be emphasized in the sampling. In the first bullet point, risk areas are described, which include mapping of significant environmental aspects. Environmental aspects are a central point in ISO 14001. Identification of these aspects forms the basis for environmental policy and environmental targets, with associated action plans, for the certificate holder. In the environmental aspect mapping, the environmental impact for each forestry measure is considered, including risk and consequences. This consideration is used as a tool in defining the sampling. In the attached example it is illustrated how the certificate holder classify risks and consequences according to ISO 14001. For potential non-conformities a value is set for the expected frequency (risk) and a value is set for the degree of severity on the environment (consequence). The sum of these defines the level of risk the individual environmental impact has. As shown in the example categories indicating negative impact is equivalent to the categories low, medium and high risk in the benchmark. Attached: Example – mapping of environmental aspect with risk and consequences.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
<p>9.3.4 Distribution of the sample</p> <p>The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>"The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "A minimum of 25% of the sample shall be from a random selection."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.2: "In the remaining sample, the following points shall be considered, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and opportunity areas from, among other things, mapping of environmental aspects • Previous findings from external and internal audits, including results from the internal controls • Registered non-conformities and external inquiries • Group members who carry out forest operations with great impact, where the certificate holder to a limited extent is involved in the process <p>(...) When designing the control scheme, priority shall be given to the impact and consequences of the operations. Implementation of forest harvesting will therefore be the most important control element. The control object forest harvesting should not be lower represented than 70% of the number of samples in each year. The certificate holder shall, based on influence and consequence, document the choice of the number of samples for the various forestry operations/sample categories.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.4 Management review		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 : “Management review - The certificate holder's senior management shall annually review the management system to ensure that it is continuously suitable, adequate and effective. The requirements for what the review shall include are described in more detail in ISO 14001 Chapter 9.3.”</p> <p>ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “The management review shall include consideration of: a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 and ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 “b) changes in: 1) external and internal issues that are relevant to the environmental management system; 2) the needs and expectations of interested parties, including compliance obligations; 3) its significant environmental aspects; 4) risks and opportunities;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body’s evaluations and surveillance;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 and ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3 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;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results;	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 and ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3: “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; e) adequacy of resources;” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) opportunities for continual improvement.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 and ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3: “f) opportunities for continual improvement.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 and ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3: “The outputs of the management review shall include: — decisions related to continual improvement opportunities; — decisions related to any need for changes to the environmental management system, including resources” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	Yes	PEFC N 03 Ch. 8.3 and ISO 14001 Ch. 9.3: “The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10: “1. The certificate holder shall define opportunities for improvement and implement necessary measures to achieve the intended results of its certification system, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 14001. 10.1. 2. The certificate holder shall have routines for handling non-conformities and corrective measures, cf. ISO 14001 Chapter 10.2. 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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 2): “b) Evaluate the need for measures to eliminate the causes of the non-conformity so that it does not repeat or occur elsewhere, by: i. Investigate the non-conformity ii. Determine the causes of the non-conformity iii. Determine if similar non-conformities exist or may occur”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) implement any action needed;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 2): “c) Implement any measures needed”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 2): “d) Review the impact of the corrective measures implemented”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 2): "e) If necessary, make changes to the certificate holder's management system."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 3): "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"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the results of any corrective action.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 3): "3. The certificate holder shall retain documented information as proof of: b) The results of any corrective action."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 5.4.2: "5.4.2 New certification agreement in connection with exclusion Forest owners who have been excluded from a group certificate cannot be included in a group certificate until 12 months have passed since the exclusion took effect. All nonconformities pointed out by the group certificate holder who terminated the agreement must be closed before the same or new group certificate holder can enter into a new group certification agreement. Group certificate holder shall carry out internal audit of forest owners who have been excluded from their own or others' group certificate, before the forest owner can be admitted as a group member. Internal audit cannot be done earlier than 12 months after the exclusion. Special measures to prevent recurrence should be considered, for example, that the group member cannot manage new operations themselves."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>10.2 Continual improvement</p> <p>The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.</p>	Yes	<p>PEFC N 03 Ch. 10 (point 4): "4. The certificate holder shall continuously improve the suitability, adequacy, impact and effectiveness of the certification system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC Checklist - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6, PEFC TD)

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Certification Bodies				
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.1: “PEFC certification and auditing shall be carried out by an objective and independent third party. Certification organizations cannot be involved in standard setting processes as responsible for the process or for decisions related to these processes.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 3.1	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch 5.3: “The certification body shall: a. Meet the general criteria for certification bodies defined in NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021 as well as supplementary requirements defined in this standard.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic, social and environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?	Annex 6, 3.1	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch. 5.3: “The certification body shall: “(...) c. Have relevant expertise on forest management that includes both economic, social and environmental aspects and the effects of forestry. Professional forestry and environmental expertise are documented by the certification body having experience in the field and/or having personnel who, through education and relevant experience, possess this expertise.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
4.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.1	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch. 5.3: “The certification body shall: “(...) b. Have a good knowledge and understanding of PEFC Norway's certification system for sustainable forestry.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.6: "Requirements relating to auditors - The certification organization is responsible for ensuring that competent auditors are used who have relevant knowledge of the certifying process and conditions related to forest certification."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?	Annex 6, 3.2	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.6: "The certification organization shall have procedures for selecting auditors. The competence of auditors shall be in accordance with ISO 17021, Chapter 7 and they shall have up-to-date and satisfactory knowledge of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>The auditors shall:</p> <p>a. Meet the requirements set out within the framework for accredited certification of management systems under ISO/IEC 17021 as well as the requirements for auditing management systems stipulated in the NS-EN ISO 19011 standard."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [*1]	Annex 6, 3.2	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.6: "The auditors shall: (...) b. Master the content of PEFC Norway certification system for sustainable forestry.</p> <p>c. Have relevant expertise in forest management that encompasses both the economic, social and environmental aspects and the effects associated with active forestry. It is also considered important that the competence includes knowledge of geographical variation.</p> <p>Competence and experience are important because the work entails a large element of discretion.</p> <p>To control compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard, the auditor shall have a thorough knowledge of forestry and the impact of forestry on the environment.</p> <p>When auditing, persons with qualified and relevant forest and environmental expertise shall be used when checking compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<p>Qualified forest competence means at least bachelor level in forest subjects as well as 4 years relevant practice from forestry or environmental management related to forests. Qualified environmental competence means relevant competence at bachelor's level covering the fields of forest ecology/forest biology and 4 years relevant practice from forestry or environmental management related to forests."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
Certification procedures				
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch. 7: "Certification and audit procedures The certification bodies shall establish internal procedures for the implementation of certification and audit of sustainable forestry, including group certification of sustainable forestry."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.7: "The procedures shall comply with the requirements of NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021 as well as the requirements for auditing management systems stipulated in the standard NS-EN ISO 19011."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.7: "The procedures shall comply with the requirements of NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021 as well as the requirements for auditing management systems stipulated in the standard NS-EN ISO 19011."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest	Annex 6, 4	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.9: "The certification body shall have procedures for informing PEFC Norway about all new certificates, changes in certificates, suspension and withdrawal of certificates."</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.7: "The objective of auditing is, based on evidence, to judge whether the activities of the certificate holder are in line with the requirements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norwegian PEFC Forestry Certification System for Sustainable Forestry; PEFC N 01 - PEFC N 03. • Use of the PEFC trademark, in accordance with the current version of PEFC ST 2001 Trademark Rules – Requirements standard, if the certificate holder has a PEFC logo license." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.7.2: "Frequency and scope of the certification body's follow-up The certification body shall annually, and with a maximum interval of 12 months, carry out follow-up audits." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.7.2: "(...) Maximum period for recertification audit is 5 years." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.7.3: "7.3 Public certification report - After each certification, recertification and follow-up audits, a summary of the certification body's audit report shall be prepared and published. The summary shall be prepared by the certification body and contain: a. Description of which organization and business are certified. b. Scope and date of the audit completed. c. A general description of conclusions and improvement points. d. A summary of non-conformances and observations linked with the practising of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for sustainable forestry. e. A description of how relevant information from external parties is handled.

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<p>f. A brief reproduction of the auditor's risk assessment as a basis for auditing. g. The summary shall not contain tasks of an internal nature or of importance to the certified organization's business activities. All summaries shall be made publicly available by the certificate holder, and be posted on their website, if they have such. The certification body or certificate holder shall submit the summary to the PEFC Norway for publication on PEFC's website."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch. 7.: "The certification bodies shall include relevant information from external parties (e.g. government agencies, organisations, etc.) as part of the audit evidence. Where the certification body has assessed external inquiries that have not been solved by the certificate holder, the assessment of the case shall be handed out on request."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [*1]	Annex 6, 4	Yes	<p>PEFC N 01 Ch. 11 "PEFC Norway requires that companies to be approved as group certificate holders and forest properties that are directly certified shall be certified according to the environmental management system ISO 14001"</p> <p>PEFC N04 Ch. 7.1: 7.1 Scope and arrangements for the certification organization's audit upon initial certification (...) 7.2 Frequency and scope of the certification body's follow-up (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
Accreditation procedures				
18.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest	Annex 6, 5	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.5.1: "Accreditation - Certification bodies that perform forest certification must be accredited for this. Accreditation is issued by Norwegian Accreditation or by the corresponding accreditation body included in the</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?			International Accreditation Forum (IAFs) and/or in the EUROPEAN Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) Agreement on Mutual Recognition." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.8.1: "Accreditation of the relevant accreditation body shall appear on the certificate." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
20.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?	Annex 6, 5	Yes	PEFC N 04 Ch.10: "Requirements for accreditation bodies - The accreditation body shall be a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Furthermore, the accreditation body shall have implemented procedures described in applicable ISO/IEC 17011 and other documents recognised by EA and the IAF." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as "accredited certification" based on ISO 17021 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	Yes	PEFC N 07 Ch.3: "Conditions for notification - The certification body applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must: (...) c. Have valid accreditation issued by a national accreditation body which is a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation, (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Accreditation for forest certification must be issued pursuant to the current edition of NS/EN ISO/IEC 17021 and supplementary requirements defined by PEFC Norway in PEFC N 04 – Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies. For traceability certification, accreditation must be issued pursuant to NS/EN ISO/IEC 17065. (...) e. Accreditation must include the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard – PEFC N 02 and PEFC N 03 Requirements for group certification and/or traceability certification, PEFC ST 2002 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements."

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	Yes	<p>PEFC N 04 Ch.5.2: "PEFC Notification - Certification bodies that carry out forest certification in Norway after PEFC Norway's forest certification shall be notified by PEFC Norway in accordance with PEFC N 07 – Guidelines for notification of certification bodies."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	Yes	<p>PEFC N 07 Ch.3: "Conditions for notification The certification body applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be registered as a legal entity. Agree to be registered on the PEFC Council's publicly accessible database. Have valid accreditation issued by a national accreditation body which is a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation, (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Accreditation for forest certification must be issued pursuant to the current edition of NS/EN ISO/IEC 17021 and supplementary requirements defined by PEFC Norway in PEFC N 04 – Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies. For traceability certification, accreditation must be issued pursuant to NS/EN ISO/IEC 17065. Fulfil the requirements specified in Annex 6 – Certification and Accreditation Procedures and PEFC ST 2003 – Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard. Accreditation must include the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard – PEFC N 02 and PEFC N 03 Requirements for group certification and/or traceability certification, PEFC ST 2002 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements. Sign a PEFC notification contract with PEFC Norway (Appendix 1)" <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The system has defined non-discriminatory, transparent requirements for PEFC notification.</p>

Annex B: Results of stakeholder involvement survey

On 21st February 2023 CK Services sent an email to 125 stakeholders from the stakeholder list provided by PEFC Norway as part of the submitted documentation, inviting them to participate in a stakeholder survey consisting out of nine questions regarding stakeholders' involvement in the standard setting process by email.

These stakeholders had been identified by PEFC Norway during a stakeholder mapping exercise carried out at the beginning of the revision process. The stakeholders were invited to respond to the survey via "SurveyMonkey.com", an online survey tool, by 3rd March 2023.

Seven survey responses were received. The responses received mainly confirm the information provided by PEFC Norway on the revision process. Two of the stakeholders, however, responded that they had not been fully aware of communication by PEFC Norway at different levels of the revision process. CK Services is going to follow up with these stakeholders during the commenting phase on the draft report.

The questions, possible answers that respondents could choose from and given answers are summarized in the table below.

Question 1: Before you answer the survey, please provide your name and email address in the field below, so that you can be contacted in case of questions. Your name and contact details will not be made publicly available, used for any other purpose or forwarded to third parties.	
Q2: Are you aware of a public announcement by PEFC Norway at the start of the revision of the Norwegian Forest Certification System, inviting stakeholders to participate in the revision process? If your answer is "yes", how/where was the announcement made?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes, on the website of PEFC Norway or another website 2. Yes, by press release 3. Yes, in a public magazine or through other media 4. Yes, by direct mailing 5. No Comments:...	Answered: 1. 1x 2. 0x 3. 3x 4. 3x 5. 1x
Q3: Did you have access to the standard setting procedures/ rules for the development of the PEFC Norway PEFC forest management standard?)	

Possible answers: 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know Comments:...	Answered: 1. 5x 2. 1x 3. 1x
Q4: Have you been invited to nominate a representative to PEFC Norway's working group for the revision of the Norwegian Forest Certification System? If your answer is "yes", how/where was the invitation made?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes, by general invitation on PEFC Norway's website or in other media 2. Yes, directly by mailing or other communication 3. No Comments:...	Answered: 1. 0x 2. 4x 3. 3x
Q5: Did you submit a nomination to PEFC Norway, and if you did, has it been accepted or rejected?	
Possible answers: 1. No, we/I did not submit a nomination 2. Yes, we/I submitted a nomination, and it was accepted 3. Yes, we/I submitted a nomination, and it was not accepted Comments:...	Answered: 1. 4x 2. 3x 3. 0x
Q6: Did you notice the public consultation on a draft revised forest management standard of the Norwegian Forest Certification System? If yes, where/how?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes, on PEFC Norway's or other website 2. Yes, through a press release/news article 3. Yes, directly by mailing or other communication 4. No Comments:...	Answered: 1. 1x 2. 2x 3. 4x 4. 1x
Q7: Have you made comments during the public consultation and if you did, have they been considered?	
Possible answers: 1. No, we/I did not submit comments	Answered: 1. 2x

2. Yes, we/I submitted comments and they were considered 3. Yes, we/I submitted comments and they were not considered 4. Yes, we/I submitted comments and we/I do not know if they were considered or not Comments:...	2. 4x 3. 1x 4. 1x
Q8: Have you submitted any complaint relating to the standard setting/revision process? If you did submit a complaint, please provide more information in the comment field.	
Possible answers: 1. No 2. Yes Comments:...	Answered: 1. 7x 2. 0x
Q9: If you have been a member or observer of the committee revising PEFC Norway's forest management standard, did you have access to all draft standards and the possibility to contribute and comment on them and have your comments been taken into account?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes 2. No (Please specify in comment field below) 3. I have not been a member or observer of the revision working group.	Answered: 5x 0x 2x

Annex C: Results of international consultation

No comments were submitted in the international public consultation on the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System.

Annex D: Internal review comments

PEFC International Internal Review comments and responses by the assessor:

Report chapter	Assessor's report statement	Internal Review comment	Assessor's response
1 Introduction	"This document is the final report on the assessment of the revised Norwegian Forest Certification System against PEFC International's Sustainability Benchmark Standards, which was carried out by CK Services in early 2023."	Could you please use in the report "Norwegian Forest Certification System" when you refer to the system and "PEFC Norway" when you refer to the NGB?	Done