

PEFC Council

**Conformity Assessment of the Revised Swedish Certification  
System against the PEFC Council Requirements**

*Final Report*

Indufor Oy, Helsinki

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CoC	chain of custody
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PEFCC	PEFC Council
SFCS	Swedish Forest Certification System
SFM	sustainable forest management



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Background**

The PEFC Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (Hereafter the Swedish Forest Certification System, SFCS) was first endorsed by the PEFC Council (PEFCC) in 2000. Since then, the SFCS has been re-endorsed three times, the latest endorsement being in 2016. PEFC Sweden is the PEFC National Governing Body in Sweden.

The SFSC includes requirements for sustainable forest management (SFM) and group certification. The SFSC chain of custody standard and the trademark standard refer directly to the PEFC International standards. In addition, SFCS has a standard for forest contractor certification.

A large part of the interventions in the forests in Sweden are carried out by forest contractors. To make it easier for the certified forest owner to comply with the requirements, SFCS requires that forest contractors and wood procurement organisations are certified. SFSC requires forest owners (and their organizations) to use only certified contractors. Certified wood shall originate from a certified forest, be harvested by a certified contractor, and be procured by a certified wood procurement organization. Although the implementation of individual forest operations may be delegated to certified operators, the responsibility for meeting the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard remains with the forest owner.

Currently, SFCS is seeking its fifth endorsement. The SFCS revision process started in February 2021 and ended in October 2022. On January 24, 2023, PEFC Sweden applied to the PEFCC for the assessment of their certification system. After the initial assessment, a number of nonconformities were identified, and a time-critical revision was proposed. PEFC Sweden revised the five standards in September 2023 and submitted them to the assessor on October 2, 2023. However, at that date, PEFC Sweden's formal approval decision was not yet made and the date for the decision is therefore not updated in these revised versions.

This report presents the conformity assessment of the SFCS, as after the September 2023 revision, against the international PEFC requirements.

### **Scope of the Report**

This Draft Report presents the initial findings of the assessor team. The report is submitted to the PEFC Secretariat and PEFC Sweden and it will be developed into a Final Draft Report after the commenting period based on comments received from the PEFC Secretariat, response from PEFC Sweden and the stakeholder survey findings.

The structure of the report is as follows:

Chapter 1 describes the background and the scope of the independent assessment.

Chapter 2 states Indufor's recommendation on the endorsement of the SFSC to the PEFC Board of Directors and specifies possible conditions the Board should take into consideration in the decision-making.

Chapter 3 describes a summary of findings for each element of the national system and gives justifications for the given recommendation.

Chapter 4 presents the assessment methods and material used.

Chapter 5 describes the structure of the applicant system.

Chapter 6 assesses the national system's procedures for standard development and the procedures for standard review and revision against the PEFC Council requirements.

Chapter 7 assesses how the standard review and revision process was implemented.

Chapter 8 assesses the system requirements for sustainable forest management and their compliance with the PEFC Council requirements.

Chapter 9 assesses the system requirements for group certification and their compliance with the PEFC Council requirements.

Chapter 10 reviews the system requirements for certification and accreditation procedures including notification of certification bodies.

Chapter 11 gives a summary of the received stakeholder comments and explains their consideration in the assessment. The chapter will be completed for the Final Draft Report.

Annex 1 includes the PEFC benchmark checklists with Indufor's conclusions on the SFSC conformity with each PEFC benchmark requirement. It also lists the reference documents that provide the basis for the conclusions.

Annex 2 is the stakeholder questionnaire form.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Indufor recommends that the PEFC Council **maintains the endorsement** of the Swedish Forest Certification System, **under the condition** that the remaining ten minor nonconformities in the system's sustainable forest management requirements, the group certification requirements, and the standard-setting process, are addressed as specified below.

The rationale of the recommendation derives from the following:

1. The System does not involve major nonconformities with the PEFC requirements.
2. The PEFC Sweden has the possibility to address the remaining minor nonconformities within the given timeframe.

The remaining nonconformities to be addressed include the following:

1. **Five (5) minor nonconformities** in the SFCS's standard-setting process against the requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
  - a. We recommend that three nonconformities are noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
  - b. We recommend that two nonconformities should be subject to corrective action within six (6) months.
2. **Four (4) minor nonconformities** in the SFCS sustainable forest management requirements against the requirements of the PEFC ST 1003:2018. We recommend that these nonconformities should be addressed within a period of six (6) months.
3. **One (1) minor nonconformity** in the SFCS's group certification requirements against the requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018. We recommend that this nonconformity should be addressed within a period of six (6) months.



### 3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Structure of the PEFC Sweden Certification System

The PEFC Sweden economic association is the PEFC Governing Body in Sweden and the owner of the PEFC Swedish Forest Certification System (SFCS). The SFCS consists of six standards that describe the system for PEFC-certification of forestry:

- PEFC SWE 001:5 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (Appendix D includes the normative standard setting procedures)
- PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard
- PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard
- PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group certification
- PEFC SWE 005 Certification Bodies
- PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies

The standard documents SWE 001–005 were revised during the conformity assessment process in September 2023 (time-critical revision).

The SFCS also applies the international (normative) standards for chain of custody and trademark:

- PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products
- PEFC ST 2003:2020: Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2002:2020)
- PEFC ST 2001:2020: PEFC Trademark Usage Rules – Requirements.

#### 3.2 Standard-Setting Procedures

The standard-setting procedures are defined in Appendix D of the standard document PEFC SWE 001:5 (PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden), and they were assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The assessment **did not identify nonconformities**. Three **comments** were raised:

- Benchmark 5.2.3. Chapter 7 of Appendix D refers to *procedures for the standard-setting process* and adds: *This includes information on objectives, scope, and the different stages of the standard-setting process and its schedule*. We recommend this part be rephrased as the current wording is ambiguous on whether this refers only to the standard-setting procedures (as described in Appendix D) or intends to include additional information.
- Benchmark 6.4.6: Appendix D leaves some room for interpretation regarding when different types of voting are applied and what triggers an appeal process. The issue is exacerbated by the SFCS not applying the concept of sustained opposition. It is recommended that the description is revised during the next standard revision to allow for unambiguous and consistent interpretation.
- Benchmark 8.5.2: It is recommended that the requirement for the revision decision to be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body is also included explicitly in the body text of the standard-setting procedures.

The current standard-setting procedures **comply** with the PEFC Council requirements.

#### 3.3 Standard-Setting Process

The implemented standard-setting process of the Swedish PEFC Standard was assessed against the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements based on supporting documentation (mainly the Development Report), and descriptions provided by PEFC Sweden.

Altogether, the PEFC Sweden's standard-setting process can be considered of a high standard. The assessment identified **five (5) minor nonconformities** at the benchmark level, which are listed below.

**Nonconformities:**

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 6.5.1 (a). The announcement of the public consultation was sent on the same day, not the day before the start of the public consultation. The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 8.5.4. The type of revision was not specified by the standardising body. The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.1. One minor nonconformity remains with the process; the announcement of the public consultation was sent on the same day, not the day before the start of the public consultation, as stipulated by benchmark 6.5.1 (a). The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.4.1. The application date of the standard is not defined. PEFC Sweden anticipates the application date of the standard to be in January 2024, following the international endorsement of the standard. Since the application date is a mandatory element of the standard, the process is not in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017. The nonconformity should be subject to corrective action within six (6) months.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.4.2. The application date of the standard is not defined. PEFC Sweden anticipates the application date of the standard to be in January 2024, following the international endorsement of the standard. Since the application date is a mandatory element of the standard, the process is not in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017. The nonconformity should be subject to corrective action within six (6) months.

In addition, a **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 7.2.2 (d): The approval date is not indicated in the standards revised in September and received by the assessor on October 2, 2023. The date will be added as soon as the PEFC Sweden Board has formally approved the revised standards.

The identified minor nonconformities were not considered to have damaged the integrity of the standard-setting process, and they are recommended to be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process, or corrected within six months, as detailed above. Therefore, the assessor concludes that the process **complies to a satisfactory extent** with the PEFC requirements.

### 3.4 Forest Management Standard

SFCS requirements for sustainable forest management are set in four standard documents: PEFC SWE 001:5, PEFC SWE 002:5, PEFC SWE 003:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5. These were assessed against the PEFC ST 1003:2018.

SFCS requires that forest contractors and wood procurement organisations are certified. SFCS includes a separate standard for forestry contractor certification, PEFC SWE 003:5. The standard is included as a part of this conformity assessment with the following approach:

- In case of nonconformities, the severity of the nonconformity is determined based on the impact on the certification system, recognizing that the forest owner is in SFCS responsible for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard.

- PEFC SWE 003:5 includes requirements that go beyond the PEFC international benchmark requirements. PEFC SWE 003:5 requirements are assessed in an additional checklist to determine whether they contradict PEFC international requirements in any way (see Annex, PEFC Sweden Checklist – Forestry Contractor Standard).

The assessment of the SFCS requirements for SFM as set by the four national standard documents identified **four (4) minor nonconformities** at the benchmark level, against the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018. These were the following:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 5.2. While PEFC SWE 004:5 requires umbrella organisations to provide a commitment as per the benchmark 5.1 requirements, the public availability of this commitment is subjected to a request. The PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines *publicly available* as *generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request*. Therefore, the PEFC SWE 004:5 does not fully meet the benchmark 5.2 requirement.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 6.2.7. In PEFC SWE 004:5, availability of the information listed in the benchmark 6.2.7 is subjected to an external request. The PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines *publicly available* as *generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request*. Therefore, the PEFC SWE 004:5 does not fully meet the benchmark 6.2.7 requirement.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 8.1.4 (b). The national standards do not specify the upper limit of the extent of the conversion in relation to the forest types in the certified area.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 8.6.5. SFCS has a clear intention to enable sound coexistence of local traditional livelihoods and sustainable forest management, but it does not include normative requirements that would directly correspond with those of the benchmark 8.6.5.

#### **Comments:**

- Benchmark 7.4.1. The PEFC SWE 001:5 requirements for complaint and dispute resolution mechanisms are interpreted by the assessor to cover issues related to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions, though these are not specifically mentioned.
- Benchmark 8.4.1. Maintaining or enhancing biodiversity on a genetic level is not currently explicitly required. Integrating that into the standard could be considered.

Due to the remaining two benchmark-level minor nonconformities, the SFCS requirements for sustainable forest management **do not fully comply** with the PEFC requirements. In the assessors' view, this does not inhibit endorsement of the system, under the condition that the nonconformities are corrected within six months.

### **3.5 Group Certification Model**

SFCS defines group certification to be the “certification of a group of forest owners/wood procurement organizations or forestry contractors through a so-called umbrella organization.” SFCS does not define a separate group organisation and group entity, but the tasks of these two entities are combined within the umbrella organisation.

The definition of “participant” is in PEFC SWE 004:5 wider than PEFC ST 1002:2018 and includes in addition to forest owner also forest contractor and wood procurement organisation. The different categories of participants (i.e., forest owner, forest contractor and wood procurement organisation) are having separate group certificates.

In the assessment of the conformity of the SFCS group certification against PEFC International Standards:

- To meet PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements, the PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the forest owner must fulfil the PEFC ST 1002:2108 benchmarks.
- The PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the forest contractor are assessed as well. In case of nonconformities, the severity of the nonconformity is determined based on the impact on the certification, recognizing that the forest owner is in PEFC Sweden responsible for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard.

PEFC SWE 004:5 is for the most part in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements. The assessment identified **one (1) minor nonconformity**, as listed below:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.2.2 d: PEFC SWE 004:5 includes requirements on the routines for the internal audit but does not explicitly include requirements on the selection of the auditors to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process.

In addition, the following **comments** were raised:

- Benchmark 5.1.2 (c, e, and f). PEFC SWE 004:5 does require forest contractors to i) provide the umbrella organisation with information about previous group participation, ii) provide the umbrella organisation with information about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications. However, the forest owner is ultimately responsible for adherence to sustainable forest management, and ii) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.
- Benchmark 7.4 (d). Although the “how to communicate” is defined, the channels of communication is required to be the website only.
- Benchmark 9.3.2.2. The method to determine the size of the sample differs in PEFC SWE 004:5 from PEFC ST 1002:2018 when it comes to the forest contractors. Here the sample size requirement is not based on the square root of the number of participants, but, when a random sample is used, to cover at least 10% of the contractor companies in each affiliated category. The internal audits of the group certificate of the forest owners and the group certificate of the contractors are separate audits and PEFC SWE 004:5 does not require any links between them. The forest owner is ultimately responsible for the adherence to the sustainable forest management standard and hence the sampling requirements with regards to the forest owner must fulfil the requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018.

Due to the single remaining nonconformity, the SFCS requirements for group forest management **do not fully comply** with the PEFC requirements. However, the remaining minor nonconformity is not considered to inhibit endorsement of the system, given that it is corrected within a six-month period.

### 3.6 Chain of Custody Standard

PEFC Sweden has adopted the PEFC International standard for chain of custody (PEFC ST 2002:2020 *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree based Products – Requirements*).

The SFCS provisions for the chain of custody certification **conform** to the PEFC requirements.

### 3.7 Certification and Accreditation Arrangements

#### Forest Management and Contractor Certifications

The SFCS has options for certification of forest management, contractor and timber procurement organisations and for chain of custody certification. The System requires that certification bodies doing any of these certifications shall have internationally approved accreditation for the activity.

In forest management certification, recognizable accreditation bodies shall also comply with the rules and contract terms of International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and conform to the ISO

standard 17011 defining the requirements for accreditation bodies. The SFCS recognises accreditations issued by any national accreditation body meeting these requirements. In practice, the Swedish national accreditation body, SWEDAC is the preferred accreditation body, especially in forest management certification.

The SFCS guides certification bodies to apply accreditation standard for product certification (ISO 17065) when certifying individual forest management units or contractors. Accreditation to management system certification (ISO 17021) is required when certifying groups of forest owners or contractors.

The assessment of the SFCS certification and accreditation arrangements raised a **comment**:

- Annex 6, 3.1, 4 and 5: SFCS assumes that the certification of individual forest management units or contractors is product certification and accreditation shall conform to the ISO 17065 product certification standard. Accreditation to SFM group certification (forest owners or contractors) on the other hand, shall conform to management system standard ISO 17021. Both standards set robust and internationally recognized requirements for certification bodies.

PEFCC is in the process of updating the accreditation requirements (Annex 6) and it is likely that it will allow in the future, the national certification systems to apply either product or environmental management system standards in their accreditation requirements.

The SFCS requirements for accreditation and certification arrangements **comply** with the PEFCC requirements.

### **Notification of Certification Bodies**

The PEFC Sweden is the national governing body notifying certification bodies eligible to issue certificates under the PEFC Sweden forest certification system. The notification requirements are stated in the PEFC SWE standard 006. The standard does not set any rules that would specifically prohibit non-discrimination of certification bodies in the notification processes of the PEFC Sweden but the rules promote non-discrimination in the notification procedures.

The SFCS notification rules **comply** with the PEFCC requirements.

### **Accreditation to Chain of Custody Certification**

PEFC Sweden has adopted the PEFC International standard for chain of custody (PEFC ST 2002:2020) and consequently, the System also applies the PEFC ST 2003:2020 (*Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard*) in defining the accreditation and certification requirements for certification bodies.

The System accreditation requirements for chain of custody certification **comply** with the PEFCC requirements.

## 4. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 4.1 Material

The conformity assessment was interrupted due to many nonconformities identified in the first assessment round. During the interruption, PEFC Sweden revised the SFCS standards. This conformity assessment is based on the documents listed in the table below, including the revised standards. The approval date (date of issuance) is not updated in the revised versions because PEFC Sweden's formal approval decision was not yet made when the revised standards were submitted to the assessor.

#### Normative documents

PEFC Sweden normative document	Date of issuance	Received by assessor
PEFC SWE 001:5 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (5.12.2022; hereafter "Document 001"). Including Appendix D. Swedish PEFC standard-setting procedures (hereafter "Appendix D").	March 30, 2022. Revised in September 2023	October 2, 2023
PEFC SWE 002:5: Forestry Standard	December 5, 2022. Revised in September 2023	October 2, 2023
PEFC SWE 003:5: Forest Contractor Standard	May 12, 2022. Revised in September 2023	October 2, 2023
PEFC SWE 004:5: Direct Certification and Group Certification	May 12, 2022. Revised in September 2023	October 2, 2023
PEFC SWE 005:5: Certification Bodies	May 12, 2022. Revised in September 2023	October 2, 2023
PEFC SWE 006: Notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or contractor and/or CoC certification in Sweden	September 2, 2021	March 9, 2023

#### Descriptive documents

Other documents	Received by assessor
PEFC SWE TD V Application Overview	March 9, 2023
PEFC SWE 001-005 development report (TD V) Update of TOC 2023-06-20	March 9, 2023
GAP analysis SWE TD V translated (hereafter "GAP analysis")	March 9, 2023
Collated Minutes from Working Group Meetings 1-5	March 9, 2023
Invitation and information email 2022-02-24	March 9, 2023
Correspondence reminder invitation email PEFC Society of Conservation 2021-03-18	March 9, 2023
Correspondence reminder invitation email PEFC WWF (2021-05-27)	March 9, 2023
Public consultation email (2022-04-04)	March 9, 2023
Procedures document (Procedurdokumenten; 2021-02-21)	June 9, 2023



Minutes of the PEFC Board Meetings (2020-12-02, 2021-02-09, 2021-04-13, and 2021-12-05)	June 9, 2023
Minutes of the PEFC Sweden General Assembly (2020-05-26 and 2021-06-01)	June 9, 2023
From PEFC Sweden: web page posted on 23 February 2021.pdf	June 20, 2023
PEFCs standard revision 2021_2022 infolder.pdf	June 20, 2023

Following the draft report submitted by Indufor on June 28, 2023, the PEFC Council and the PEFC Sweden decided on an interruption of the assessment process for the revision of the SFCS standards. The standards, revised in September 2023, were provided to the assessor on October 2 by PEFC Sweden. This final draft report is based on the standard versions revised in September 2023.

## 4.2 Methods

The assessment has been carried out as a desk study based on the documentation listed above and clarifications provided by the PEFC Sweden.

The following grading of conformity levels was used in the assessment (Box 4.1).

### Box 4.1 Assessment Scales Used in Conformity Assessment

#### **Conformity**

A procedure described by the System documentation fully meets the particular requirement of PEFC Council.

#### **Minor nonconformity**

A minor nonconformity does not violate the integrity of the certification System and is not a bar to endorsement. The assessor recommends appropriate corrective action. Generally, a minor nonconformity should be corrected within 6 months. The assessor may recommend a longer period, where justified by particular circumstances.

#### **Major nonconformity**

A major nonconformity violates the integrity of the certification system and has to be corrected before the endorsement of the system.

#### **NA**

Not applicable.

Only a positive conclusion on the conformity was considered to meet the PEFC requirements. The system elements indicating minor or major nonconformities were classified as not meeting the performance level set for the endorsed systems. PEFC benchmark requirements were classified as not applicable if they related to a standard development phase or process not relevant for PEFC Sweden. These included, e.g., requirements specific to development of a new standard, as the assessed process considered a standard revision.

## **5. STRUCTURE OF THE APPLICANT SYSTEM**

### **PEFC Sweden**

The PEFC Sweden economic association was founded in 2000, with the purpose to develop a standard for sustainable forest management in Sweden. PEFC Sweden is the PEFC Governing Body in Sweden and the owner of the Swedish PEFC System (SFCS). It is also one of the founding members of the PEFC International.

PEFC Sweden is, in accordance with its statutes, responsible for the development and operation of the certification system. To that end, the Board has adopted a standard-setting procedure, including a review of the Swedish PEFC system. The PEFC system shall be reviewed every fifth year.

The members of PEFC Sweden are any legal entity representing parties involved in sustainable forest management whose application has been approved by the General Assembly. PEFC Sweden's members represent forestry in a broad sense - private and corporate forestry, church, municipal and state forests, timber organisations and forest industries as well as public and non-profit organisations with interests in the forest.

The PEFC Sweden is responsible for the promotion, organisation, coordination and supervision of PEFC certification for Sweden in accordance with the rules laid down by the PEFC Council.

Under the terms of a contract with the PEFC Council, the PEFC Sweden is authorised to use the PEFC logo for educational purposes. It is also responsible for issuing licenses on behalf of the PEFC Council, if appropriate, in accordance with PEFC ST 2001:2020 of the PEFC Council technical document (Requirements for use of the logo).

PEFC Sweden is also responsible for keeping an up-to-date register of all the on- and off-product logo users given licenses by PEFC Sweden and of the certificate holders in the country, as well as for transferring the data to the PEFC Council in accordance with the specifications outlined in the PEFC Council Internal Rules on the Registration System.

PEFC Sweden is guided by a Board of Directors and its daily activities are managed by its staff members including the National Secretary.

### **Swedish Forest Certification System (SFCS)**

The SFCS consists of six standards that describe the system for PEFC-certification of forestry:

- PEFC SWE 001:5 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (Appendix D includes the normative standard setting procedures)
- PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard
- PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard
- PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group certification
- PEFC SWE 005 Certification Bodies
- PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies

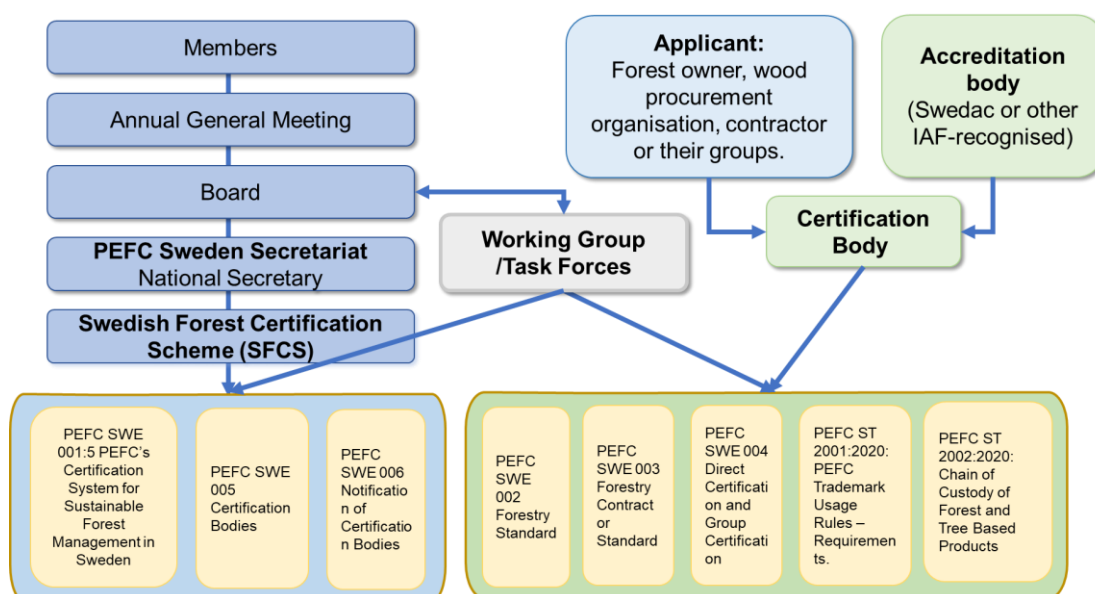
The standard documents SWE 001–005 were revised during the conformity assessment process in September 2023 (time-critical revision).

The PEFC-system has adopted the international (normative) standards for chain of custody and the use of PEFC trademark:

- PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard
- PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products
- PEFC ST 2001:2020: PEFC Trademark Usage Rules – Requirements.



**Figure 5.1 Structure of the Applicant System**



## Organisations in Accreditation and Certification

Certification bodies carrying out forestry, contractor, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally recognized accreditation body that comply with the rules and contract terms of International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The SFCS accreditation and certification procedures in forest management certification are described in the standards PEFC SWE 005 Certification Bodies and PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies. The Swedish national accreditation body is SWEDAC, an authority mandated by the government to carry out accreditation in Sweden (under the Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation).

The SFCS recognises accreditations to SFCS forest or chain of custody certifications, issued by other IAF affiliated national accreditation bodies.

## Applicants

The certification applicants can be forest owners, wood procurement organizations, forestry contractors, and subsequent industrial stages, as certification of these types is recognised by the SFCS.

The applicants are not restricted based on the size or the types of woodland or forest they own or manage. Group certification is available for forest owners, wood procurement organisations, or contractor groups who have come together to make a single certification application. Each type of the listed applicants applies for own group certification.

## 6. STANDARD-SETTING PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Introduction

The standard-setting procedures of the SFCS are included as an annex to the normative document PEFC SWE 001:5 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (5.12.2023, Revised in September 2023, Appendix D).

Appendix D, with other applicable parts of PEFC SWE 001:5, was assessed for conformity against the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

A summary of the main findings is provided below, following the structure of the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The checklist is included in annex 1 (PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process, p. 46).

The assessment identified **no nonconformities** in the standard-setting procedures of the SFCS.

### 6.2 Findings of the Assessment

#### Standardizing Body

The PEFC SWE 001:5 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden is a normative document that describes the legal status and the organisational structure of the standardising body and the requirements for documentation. Appendix D in the document sets the requirements for the SFCS standard-setting procedures.

The assessment did not identify nonconformities. The following **comment** was raised as a recommendation related to benchmark 5.2.3:

- Benchmark 5.2.3. Chapter 7 of Appendix D refers to *procedures for the standard-setting process* and adds: *This includes information on objectives, scope, and the different stages of the standard-setting process and its schedule.* We recommend this part be rephrased as the current wording is ambiguous on whether this refers only to the standard-setting procedures (as described in Appendix D) or intends to include additional information.

#### Standard-Setting Process

The Appendix D requirements for the standard-setting process are written from the viewpoint of standard revision, which is currently the relevant scope for the system. Therefore, benchmark requirements related specifically to the development of a new standard were considered as not applicable.

The assessment found no nonconformities with the benchmark requirements under this chapter. One **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 6.4.6: Appendix D leaves some room for interpretation regarding when different types of voting are applied and what triggers an appeal process. The issue is exacerbated by the SFCS not applying the concept of sustained opposition. It is recommended that the description is revised during the next standard revision to allow for unambiguous and consistent interpretation.

#### Approval and Publication

PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix D includes a brief section on approval of a standard proposal, and another titled "The approved standard". The requirements set by these sections meet part of the benchmark requirements, but there are shortcomings especially related to the contents that are required to be included in the standards. No nonconformities were identified in the assessment.

### **Periodic Review of Standards**

PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix D includes separate chapters on Review, Mechanism on collection of feedback, and Revision of the standard. The chapter on Review includes the requirements for the gap analysis. Stakeholder consultations are included in several parts of the requirements.

The assessment did not identify nonconformities.

#### **Comment:**

- Benchmark 8.5.2: It is recommended that the requirement for the revision decision to be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body is also included explicitly in the body text of the standard-setting procedures.

### **Revision of Standards**

As with the previous subsection, the main equivalent for this part of PEFC ST 1001:2017 is the PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix D, Chapter 4 Revision of the standard. The SFCS requirements for standard revision were assessed to be in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

## **6.3 Assessment of Conformity**

The assessment identified no nonconformities regarding requirements for standard-setting procedures between the SFCS and the PEFC ST 1001:2017. Therefore, the SFCS standard-setting procedures **comply** with the PEFC requirements.

## **7. STANDARD-SETTING PROCESS**

### **7.1 Introduction**

The implemented standard-setting process of the SFCS was assessed against the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements based on supporting documentation and descriptions provided by PEFC Sweden. The full list of documents and supporting files used as a reference is provided in conjunction with the checklist in Annex. All documentation is also included in the list provided under section 4.1.

The main document where the process has been described is the Development Report (Updated table of contents July 20, 2023).

The summary of the main findings from the assessment of the standard-setting process against the requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017 is presented below, following the structure of the PEFC ST 1001:2017. The checklist is included in Annex (PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process, p. 46)

The assessment identified **five (5) minor nonconformities** in the standard-setting process.

### **7.2 Findings of the Assessment**

#### **Standardizing Body**

The standardising body has kept the documented information as required by the benchmark. The documentation is abundant, public and generally well-prepared. Processes for dealing with complaints and appeals cannot be assessed as no complaints or appeals were reportedly received by the PEFC Sweden.

No nonconformities in the process were identified in relation to the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements under this subsection.

#### **Standard-Setting Process**

The standard-setting process was implemented as a (normal) standard revision process. Benchmark requirements regarding the creation of a new standard were deemed not applicable in the assessment. The standard development was considered in the assessment to have been by large in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements, including, e.g., working group composition and operation, and the implemented public consultation. One minor nonconformity was identified in the assessment:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 6.5.1 (a). The announcement of the public consultation was sent on the same day, not the day before the start of the public consultation. The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

#### **Approval and Publication**

The standard approval and publication process was found to have been in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements. No nonconformities were found but one **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 7.2.2 (d): The approval date is not indicated in the standards revised in September and received by the assessor on October 2, 2023. The date will be added as soon as the PEFC Sweden Board has formally approved the revised standards.

#### **Periodic Review of Standards**

PEFC Sweden carried out a review of the standard, including a stakeholder mapping, a gap analysis, and a public consultation to collect stakeholder feedback, and arrived at the decision

that standard revision was necessary. Despite the relatively comprehensive and participatory process, one minor nonconformity with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 was identified:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 8.5.4. The type of revision was not specified by the standardising body. The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.

### **Revision of Standards**

The PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements concerning editorial revision and time-critical revision under this chapter were deemed not applicable, as the process was carried out as a normal standard revision. This revision process was found to have been largely in line with the benchmark requirements. Three minor nonconformities were identified, related to normal revision:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.1. One minor nonconformity remains with the process; the announcement of the public consultation was sent on the same day, not the day before the start of the public consultation, as stipulated by benchmark 6.5.1 (a). The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.4.1. The application date of the standard is not defined. PEFC Sweden anticipates the application date of the standard to be in January 2024, following the international endorsement of the standard. Since the application date is a mandatory element of the standard, the process is not in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017. The nonconformity should be subject to corrective action within six (6) months.
- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 9.4.2. The application date of the standard is not defined. PEFC Sweden anticipates the application date of the standard to be in January 2024, following the international endorsement of the standard. Since the application date is a mandatory element of the standard, the process is not in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017. The nonconformity should be subject to corrective action within six (6) months.

### **7.3 Assessment of Conformity**

Altogether, the PEFC Sweden's standard-setting process can be considered of a high standard, with extensive public communication, stakeholder participation, process documentation, and general transparency.

The assessment identified minor nonconformities related to three individual benchmarks. These nonconformities were not considered to have damaged the integrity of the standard-setting process and they are recommended to be noted for correction during the next standard-setting process. Therefore, the assessor concludes that the standard-setting process **complies to a satisfactory extent** with the PEFC requirements.

## **8. FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD**

### **8.1 Introduction**

#### **Relevant Standard Documents**

Sustainable forest management requirements of SFCS are set by the following three main documents:

- PEFC SWE 002:5: Forestry Standard (revised in September 2023)
- PEFC SWE 003:5: Forestry Contractor Standard (revised in September 2023)
- PEFC SWE 004:5: Direct Certification and Group Certification (revised in September 2023)

In addition, PEFC SWE 001:5 (PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden) sets requirements that are relevant to the SFCS's sustainable forest management system.

#### **Forestry Contractor Standard**

A large part of the interventions in the forests in Sweden are carried out by forest contractors. To make it easier for the certified forest owner to comply with the requirements, SFCS requires that forest contractors and wood procurement organisations are also certified. This means that the implementation of individual operations within the forestry sector may be delegated to a certified operator (wood procurement organisation, contractor.) PEFC Sweden requires forest owners (and their organisations) to use only certified contractors.

For wood to be certified, its origin shall be a certified forest, it shall be harvested by a certified contractor and procured by a certified wood procurement organization. PEFC SWE (001:5 and 004:5) clearly states that the responsibility for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard falls upon the forest owner. Therefore, although the implementation of individual forest operations may be delegated to certified operators, the responsibility for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard remains with the forest owner.

SFCS includes a separate standard for forestry contractor certification, PEFC SWE 003:5. In addition, requirements that are relevant for forestry contractor certification are set by the other two SFM-related standards, PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5.

The PEFC Sweden forest contractor standard PEFC SWE 003:5 is included as a part of this conformity assessment. The standard is assessed against the requirements set by the PEFC ST 1003:2018, by using the following approach:

- In case of nonconformities, when assessing the requirements of PEFC SWE 003:5 against the PEFC ST 1003:2018, the severity of the nonconformity is determined based on the impact on the certification system, recognizing that the forest owner is in SFCS responsible for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard.
- PEFC SWE 003:5 includes requirements that go beyond the PEFC international benchmark requirements. Such PEFC SWE 003:5 requirements are assessed to determine whether they contradict PEFC international requirements in any way. **An additional checklist is included for this in Annex 1** ("PEFC Sweden Checklist – Forestry Contractor Standard", p. 345).

#### **Assessment of the Sustainable Forest Management Requirements**

The SFM requirements of SFCS, as set by the aforementioned standard documents, were assessed against the benchmark requirements set by the PEFC ST 1003:2018. A summary of the findings is presented below, following the structure of the PEFC ST 1003:2018. The checklist is in Annex (Checklist: Sustainable Forest Management, page 121).

The assessment identified **four (4) minor nonconformities** with individual benchmark requirements.

## 8.2 Findings of the Assessment

### Context of the National Standard and the Organisations Applying a PEFC Endorsed Standard

This chapter of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 involves an array of general requirements regarding the national SFM standard. No nonconformities were identified in SFCS against these requirements.

#### Leadership

One minor nonconformity was identified in relation to the requirements set by the “Leadership” -chapter of the PEFC ST 1003:2018:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 5.2. While PEFC SWE 004:5 requires umbrella organisations to provide a commitment as per the benchmark 5.1 requirements, the public availability of this commitment is subjected to a request. The PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines *publicly available* as *generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request*. Therefore, the PEFC SWE 004:5 does not fully meet the benchmark 5.2 requirement.

#### Planning

The SFCS requirements that meet those of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 chapter “Planning” are generally found scattered across the different standard documents.

One minor nonconformity was identified:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 6.2.7. In PEFC SWE 004:5, availability of the information listed in the benchmark 6.2.7 is subjected to an external request. The PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines *publicly available* as *generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request*. Therefore, the PEFC SWE 004:5 does not fully meet the benchmark 6.2.7 requirement.

#### Support

SFCS was found to be in line with the requirements set by the “Support” -chapter of the PEFC ST 1003:2018. One **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 7.4.1. The PEFC SWE 001:5 requirements for complaint and dispute resolution mechanisms are interpreted by the assessor to cover issues related to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions, though these are not specifically mentioned.

#### Operation

The “Operation” chapter of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 focuses on more technical forest management requirements. The corresponding requirements of SFCS are included by large in the PEFC SWE 002:5 Forestry Standard.

The assessment identified two minor nonconformities in SFCS:

- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 8.1.4 (b). The national standards do not specify the upper limit of the extent of the conversion in relation to the forest types in the certified area.



- **Minor nonconformity:** Benchmark 8.6.5. SFCS has a clear intention to enable sound coexistence of local traditional livelihoods and sustainable forest management, but it does not include normative requirements that would directly correspond with those of the benchmark 8.6.5. .

In addition, the following **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 8.4.1. Maintaining or enhancing biodiversity on a genetic level is not currently explicitly required. Integrating that into the standard could be considered.

The benchmark requirement of 8.1.6 on conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations was deemed not applicable in the context of Sweden. Swedish forests established through planting are considered as semi-natural, as opposed to forest plantations, due to application of native tree species and various other structural features that replicate the conditions of unmanaged natural forests. In Sweden, practical examples of plantations with trees include Christmas tree cultivations and wooden energy crops, and these are not legally considered as forest land. Replacing a degraded forest with a forest plantation is not considered as a relevant scenario in Sweden in the same manner as intended by the benchmark.

## Performance Evaluation

The performance evaluation as per the PEFC ST 1003:2018 consists of three different components. Their scope, as interpreted by the assessor, is as follows:

- *Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation* (section 9.1 of the PEFC ST 1003:2018). A continuous internal process for monitoring performance with regard to the sustainable forest management standard.
- *Internal audit* (section 9.2 of the PEFC ST 1003:2018). Carried out periodically, as opposed to continuously, but initiated and managed internally. An audit is, by definition, undertaken by individuals independent of the process.
- *Management review* (section 9.3 of the PEFC ST 1003:2018). An annual process for monitoring performance with regard to the whole management system of the certificate holder. Utilises findings from the two former components and seeks continual improvement.

The SFCS sets performance evaluation requirements for directly certified organisations, groups and umbrella organisations, and forestry contractors. Due to the complexity of the system and the description related, the scope of the requirements is not always fully unambiguous (while not necessarily signalling a nonconformity either).

Many of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 benchmark requirements for performance evaluation in SFM are similar to the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark requirements for performance evaluation in group forest management. Where the two benchmark standards apply a scope that overlaps in the practical context of SFCS, the assessment conclusions presented herein are in line with those presented under chapter 8 of this report.

The assessment identified no nonconformities related to this chapter.

## Improvement

SFCS requirements regarding nonconformities and dealing with them are included in standard PEFC SWE 004:5 and its Appendix 1, titled “Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants”. SFCS requirements were found to be in line with the benchmark requirements.

## 8.3 Assessment of Conformity

The additional checklist for assessment of forestry contractor standard requirements extending beyond the benchmark (PEFC Sweden Checklist – Forestry Contractor Standard, page 363)



did not identify such requirements that would conflict with the PEFC ST 1003:2018. Consequently, this aspect does not prevent endorsement of PEFC SWE 003:5.

However, due to the identified nonconformities against two benchmarks in the regular SFM checklist, the SFCS requirements for SFM **do not fully comply** with the PEFC ST 1003:2018. In the assessors' view, the remaining minor nonconformities do not inhibit endorsement of the system, under the condition that they are corrected within six months.

## **9. GROUP CERTIFICATION MODEL**

### **9.1 Introduction**

The Swedish Forest Certification System (SFCS) describes the group forest management certification in the following three documents:

- PEFC Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden - PEFC SWE 001:5 (revised in September 2023).
- Direct Certification and Group Certification - PEFC SWE 004:5 (revised in September 2023).
- Certification Bodies - PEFC SWE 005:5 (revised in September 2023).

The definition of “participant” is in PEFC SWE 004:5 wider than PEFC ST 1002:2018 and includes in addition to forest owner also forest contractor and wood procurement organisation. The different categories of participants (i.e., forest owner, forest contractor and wood procurement organisation) have separate group certificates, as defined in PEFC SWE 005:5. PEFC Sweden requires information exchange between certificate holders, especially in case of nonconformities.

In the assessment of the conformity of the SFCS group certification against PEFC International Standards, with regards to the requirements on the “participant”:

- The focus is on the forest owner. The forest owner is in PEFC Sweden responsible for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard (PEFC SWE 002:5) and the participant is by PEFC ST 1002:2018 defined as the forest owner/manager. This implies that to meet PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements, the PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the forest owner must fulfil the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmarks.
- The PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the forest contractor are assessed as well. This is because PEFC SWE 004:5 includes in the “participant” definition the forest contractor, which implies group certification for forest contractors. This again is closely linked to the PEFC Sweden forest contractor standard (PEFC SWE 003:5), which is to be assessed as a part of this assignment.
- In case of nonconformities, when assessing the requirements of the forest contractor (as a “participant”) in PEFC SWE 004:5 against PEFC ST 1002:2018, the severity of the nonconformity is determined based on the impact on the certification system, recognizing that the forest owner is in PEFC Sweden responsible for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard.

A summary of the findings is presented below. The checklist is in annex 1 (Checklist: Group Forest Management Certification, page 279).

The assessment identified one minor nonconformity at the benchmark level.

### **9.2 Findings of the Assessment**

#### **Context of the Group Organisation**

SFCS defines group certification to be the “certification of a group of forest owners/wood procurement organizations or forestry contractors through a so-called “umbrella organization”. SFCS does not define a separate group organisation and group entity, but the tasks of these two entities are combined within the umbrella organisation. Hence, the umbrella organisation administers the group certificate. The umbrella organization is to be registered as a legal entity with board and executive management.

Therefore, the SFCS group certification includes two entities, the umbrella organization, and the participants. SFCS recognises three different types of participants (forest owner, contractor and wood procurement organisations) with each of them having separate group certificates.

The relationship between the umbrella organisation and the participants is defined including responsibilities of the two entities. The responsibilities are outlined in separate chapters for each of the participant types (forest owner, forest contractor, wood procurement organisation).

Terms and definitions are provided in PEFC SWE 001:5. PEFC SWE 004:5 outlines in an appendix the requirements for the group management system.

## **Leadership**

PEFC SWE 004:5 defines the leadership for the group management certificate to be under the umbrella organisation. The umbrella organisation is responsible for the functions defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018. PEFC SWE 004:5 does not define a “group management policy”.

The functions and responsibilities of the participants are outlined in separate chapters for each of the participant types.

The following **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 5.1.2 (c, e, f). With regards to the forest contractors (them defined as “participants”), PEFC SWE 004:5 does require forest contractors to:
  - provide the umbrella organisation with information about previous group participation.
  - provide the umbrella organisation with information about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications. However, the forest owner is ultimately responsible for adherence to sustainable forest management.
  - to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.

However, PEFC SWE 004:5 clearly states that the “responsibility for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard falls upon the forest owner”, including the responsibility to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions.

## **Planning**

Requirements on planning is in PEFC SWE 004:5 outlined in Appendix 2 (Requirements on management systems of certified organizations). PEFC SWE 004:5 requires any changes in the group management system to be planned and documented.

In the SFCS group certification, the responsibility for meeting the requirements of the sustainable forestry standard falls upon the forest owner. Therefore, SFCS does not include the option of fulfilling any requirements on the sustainable forest management standard at the group level, i.e., at the level of the umbrella organisation.

## **Support**

PEFC SWE 004:5 outlines the requirements for support to uphold the group management system in the chapters defining the requirements of the umbrella organisation (Chapters 4.3 and 4.5) and in Appendix 2. The umbrella organisation is required to allocate resources needed to introduce, maintain and continuously improve what PEFC SWE 004:5 is referring to as “the certified business”. PEFC SWE includes requirements on competence and communication but on a more general level than what is defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018.

The following **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark 7.4 (d). Although the “how to communicate” is defined, the channels of communication are required to be the website only.

## Operation

PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the umbrella organization to define the processes needed for the operations to be in accordance with the standards. In addition, it is required that the umbrella organization plans and implements the processes that are defined within the operations. PEFC SWE does not include the option of fulfilling any requirements on the sustainable forest management standard at the group level, i.e., at the level of the umbrella organisation.

## Performance evaluation

PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on performance evaluation include both an on-going internal monitoring programme and annual internal audits. PEFC SWE 004:5 define separate audits for the different categories of participants (forest owner, contractor, procurement organisation).

The assessment identified **one nonconformity**:

- Benchmark 9.2.2 d: PEFC SWE 004:5 includes requirements on the routines for the internal audit but does not explicitly include requirements on the selection of the auditors to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process.

### Comment:

- Benchmark 9.3.2.2. The method to determine the size of the sample differs in PEFC SWE 004:5 from PEFC ST 1002:2018 when it comes to the forest contractors. Here the sample size requirement is not based on the square root of the number of participants, but, when random sample is used, to cover at least 10 % of the contractor companies in each affiliated category. The internal audits of the group certificate of the forest owners and the group certificate of the contractors are separate audits and PEFC SWE 004:5 does not require any links between them. The forest owner is ultimately responsible for the adherence to the sustainable forest management standard and hence the sampling requirements with regards to the forest owner must fulfil the requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018.

## Improvement

PEFC SWE 004:5 includes requirements on how to act to nonconformities as well as retaining documented information as evidence of corrective actions taken.

## 9.3 Assessment of Conformity

The assessment identified one minor nonconformity in the group certification model. Therefore, the SFCS requirements for group certification **do not fully comply** with the PEFC ST 1003:2018. However, in the assessor's view the remaining minor nonconformity does not inhibit endorsement of the system, given that it is corrected within a six-month period.

## 10. CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 10.1 PEFC Sweden Requirements for Certification and Accreditation of Forest Management

The SFCS has certification options for forest and chain of custody certification for forest owners, forestry contractors, and timber procurement organisations.

The certification and accreditation arrangements are defined in the following documents:

- Certification Bodies (PEFC SWE 005:5, revised in September 2023)
- Notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or contractor and/or CoC certification in Sweden (PEFC SWE 006)
- Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2003:2020) and also in
- PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (PEFC SWE 001:5, revised in September 2023),
- Direct Certification and Group Certification (PEFC SWE 004:5, revised in September 2023),

According to PEFC SWE 005 on Requirements to certification bodies: *the certification body operating forest-, contractor-, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally approved accreditation body to perform certification against PEFC SWE TD V.* The PEFC SWE documents 005 and PEFC SWE 006 on Notification of certification bodies by PEFC Sweden, set the core requirements for certification and accreditation procedures.

PEFC Sweden requires that accreditation be issued by a national accreditation body that is part of the IAF or its European regional group (EA). PEFC Sweden recognizes accreditations issued by any national accreditation body that complies with the requirements of IAF and PEFC Sweden. Accreditation bodies that are part of IAF shall operate their management system that conforms to the ISO 17011 standard on *Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*. Compliance with the standard ensures that the accreditation body is impartial and independent from assessed certification bodies and provides accreditation services with adequate resources and high competence.

The national accreditation body in Sweden is SWEDAC.

PEFC SWE 005 (3.3) specifies that in the certification of individual forest management units or contractors, certification bodies shall conform to the standard ISO 17065 on *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services* and in certification of groups of forest management units or contractors they shall conform to the standard ISO 17021 on *Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*. Both ISO standards together with the PEFC SWE standards e.g., PEFC SWE 005 and 006 set satisfactory provisions for certification bodies on planning and implementation of audits, resource allocation, competence building, and independent, impartial decision-making.

PEFC Annex 6 requires that certification bodies shall apply management system standard ISO 17021 in forest management certification, whereas SFCS refers to product certification standard (ISO 17065). This issue is raised as a comment.

PEFC SWE 005 also obliges certification bodies to make a public summary of audit reports of certification, re-certification and annual audits. The certificate holder has the responsibility to publish the reports.

The checklist is in Annex (Checklist: Certification and Accreditation Procedures, p. 30).

The SFCS provisions for certification bodies conducting forest management or contractor certification **comply** with PEFC Annex 6.

## 10.2 Accreditation Requirements for Chain of Custody Certification and Logo Use

PEFC Sweden has adopted the international PEFC chain of custody standard (PEFC ST 2002:2020) and consequently the PEFC standard on Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2003:2020).

The PEFC ST 2003:2020 also requires that certification bodies are responsible for controlling PEFC logo use and consulting relevant external parties during audits.

The SFCS **complies** with the PEFC requirements for certification bodies conducting chain of custody certifications.

## 10.3 Notification of Certification Bodies

The standard PEFC SWE standard 006 on *Notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or contractor and/or chain of custody certification in Sweden defines the terms for notification of certification bodies for forest management and chain of custody certification*. It also includes the detailed contract terms signed by PEFC Sweden and the certification bodies. The standard does not specifically prohibit non-discrimination but its procedures are non-discriminatory.

The SFCS notification rules **comply** with the requirements of the PEFC Annex 6 and PEFC ST 2003:2020.

## 10.4 Assessment of Conformity

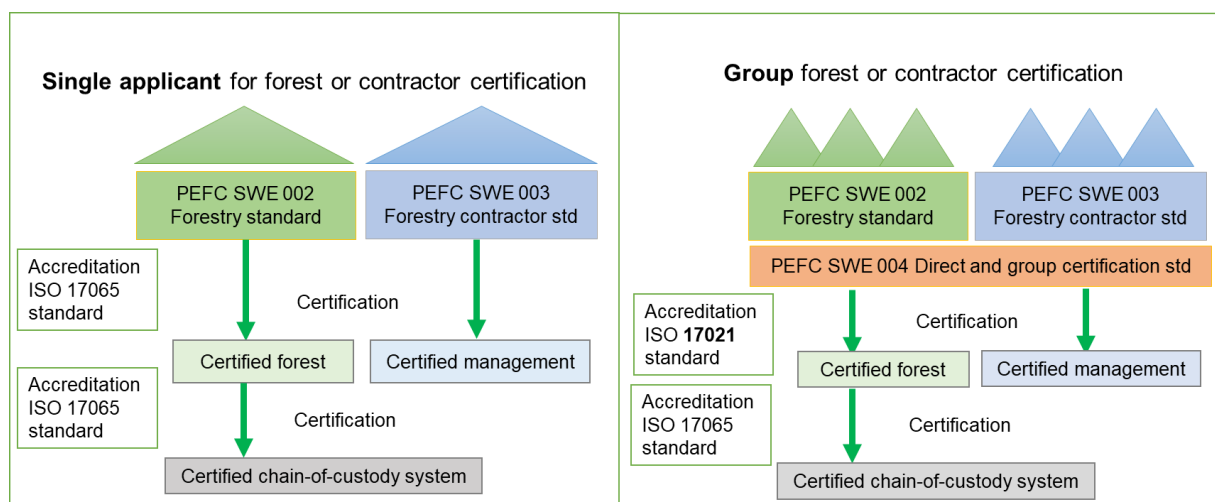
The assessment found no nonconformities in accreditation requirements:

The following **comment** was raised:

- Benchmark Annex 6, 3.1, 4, and 5 (checklist questions 2, 9 and 21): the SFCS assumes that certification of individual forest management units or contractors is product certification and accreditation shall conform to the ISO 17065 product certification standard. Accreditation to SFM group certification (forest owners or contractors) on the other hand shall conform to management system standard ISO 17021. PEFC Annex 6 requires that forest management certification shall be carried in line with ISO 17021 management system standard. Both standards set robust and internationally recognized requirements for certification bodies (see Figure 10.1).

PEFCC is in the process of updating the accreditation requirements (Annex 6) and it is likely that it will allow, in the future, the national certification systems to apply either product or environmental management system standards in their accreditation requirements.

**Figure 10.1 Product and management system certification options**



## 11. STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

### 11.1 International Consultation

An international stakeholder consultation was launched on February 27, 2023, on the website of PEFC International. No comments from stakeholders were received through this process by the deadline of April 27, 2023.

### 11.2 National Consultation on Standard-Setting

Indufor sent questionnaires in the Swedish language to a total of 106 stakeholders in March 2023 to inquire about their views on the standard-setting process and on its performance. An English translation of the stakeholder questionnaire form is included in Annex 2, p. 353.

A total of 13 answers were received. Their distribution by stakeholder category is shown in Table 11.1. Please note that some respondents marked several categories.

**Table 11.1 Number of Responses Received by Stakeholder Category**

#	Stakeholder category	No. of responses
1	Forest and timber industry	5
2	Industry association/lobbying organisation	2
3	Forest owner/manager	4
4	Environmental NGO	1
5	Social NGO	1
6	Member Organisation	2
Total		15

Out of the 13 responses, nine participated in the standard revision process (either as member organisations of the Working Group or Steering Group or by submitting feedback) and four replied that they did not participate. Two of the four respondents who did not participate in the standard revision process indicated that they would have wanted to participate. The participating stakeholders reported that they had received an invitation to participate from the PEFC Sweden.

The following aspects came out in the responses concerning the stakeholders' main interest in participating in the standard development process:

- PEFC constitutes an important certification for the organisation's member companies
- It is important to have a representation of "downstream" users of wood, especially the woodworking industry such as furniture, wooden houses, wooden floors, carpentry, etc.
- Present the views of the company, the organisation's members, the certification group, the forest owners.
- The organisation cherishes sustainable forestry that favours both nature and cultural values as well as economic and social interests.
- Production and environment as well as entrepreneurial issues are important.
- A large part of Swedish forest owners are PEFC certified, and the outcome of the standard development has a direct impact on routines and maintenance measures. PEFC is an important part of forestry's work with sustainability. The PEFC standard must therefore maintain high quality in order to be credible and a relevant tool in the forest owners' sustainability work.
- Questions about internal audits.

Out of the 13 participating stakeholders, 7 stated that in their opinion all parties relevant to standard development had been proactively identified, invited, and given the possibility to participate in the standard development. Five participants replied "I don't know" and one said



“No” and mentioned that their membership companies require raw materials that are certified either according to PEFC or FSC.

Nine stakeholders that participated in the standard development process agreed that the organiser had provided adequate material before the process. Six agreed that the standard-setting working group represented different interests in a balanced way, while two disagreed saying that the ENGO representation was weak, and one did not know. Eight respondents thought that all aspects of the standard or its development process were covered, and six of them said that no aspects deserve further consideration. One respondent did not know about the procedures, and two did not have a view on aspects requiring further consideration. One respondent thought that the timing of the process requires further consideration, e.g., time should be allocated for a careful check of the contents and review of the language.

Five respondents who participated in the process were aware of the dispute settlement procedures in case of conflicting views in the standard development, while four were not aware. Five respondents were aware (or thought so, with little doubt) of any substantive or procedural complaints by stakeholders during the standard development. The only example given, mentioned that there were two different proposals from the working groups.

According to the results of the questionnaire:

- The stakeholders participating in the standard formulation were given meaningful opportunity to contribute to the standard formulation and to submit comments for further consideration.
- Views and comments submitted by participants were considered in an open and transparent way by 10 respondents. Two persons replied “no” to this question; one had not received feedback on other participants' opinions and comment and the other required clearer templates for proposals and changes.
- Eight respondents agreed that all comments received in public consultations were discussed and addressed in an objective and transparent way. One did not know.
- A general view (8 agreements, one “I do not know”) was that the requirements in the standard were agreed through consensus

Other comments received from the stakeholder feedback questionnaire include:

- *It is important that we keep the standard as concise as possible. My concern is that it says the same thing in several places.*
- *Professional and well-structured process.*
- *There was a working group that did not have time to properly finish their proposals for the forums. The PEFC Secretariat should have noticed it earlier and given more support to that group. A vice-chairman or extra secretary might have been needed when it was noticed that the work was not progressing. Selection of chairmen for the working groups is central to how the work will move forward. Here, the office could probably have "scratched" a bit before the work started in order to have a group of candidates who had time to invest in the process of revising the standard.*
- *Overall an open and good process. Worked well with team [Indufor's note: MS Teams] meetings. Saves a lot of time and makes it possible to have short reconciliations. Recommended!*

## Annex 1

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### **PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist**

## PEFC Checklist (1) - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6)

### 1 Scope

This document covers the requirements for certification and accreditation procedures for PEFC forest management certification outlined in Annex 6 of the PEFC Council Technical Document (*Certification and accreditation procedures*).

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	<p>PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (PEFC SWE 001:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023</p> <p>Direct Certification and Group Certification (PEFC SWE 004:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023</p> <p>Certification Bodies (PEFC SWE 005:5) December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023</p> <p>Notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or contractor and/or CoC certification in Sweden (PEFC SWE 006) September 2, .2021</p> <p>Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2003:2020) January 17, 2020</p> <p>Guidelines for auditing management systems (ISO 19011:2018)</p>

## 2 Checklist

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Certification Bodies</b>			
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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001: PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden, 8.1.3 <i>Certification bodies: PEFC is based on independent systems for accreditation and certification. Compliance ...shall be audited by a third party, i.e., an independent, accredited certification body..... Certification bodies shall be accredited by an acknowledged accreditation body and notified by the Swedish PEFC in accordance with PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies: 3.1 Accreditation: <i>The certification body operating forestry-, contractor-, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally approved accreditation body in order to perform certification against PEFC SWE TD V.</i></p> <p><i>The accreditation body shall have an agreement with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and/or the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA). The accreditation body shall conform to the procedures described in document SS-EN 17011 and other documents acknowledged by IAF/EA</i></p> <p><i>3.3 Forest- and contractor certification At direct certification, the certification body shall meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and at group certification meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021. The instructions in this document complement, but do</i></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>not</i> replace, the instructions given in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021.</p> <p>8 Be independent from the certified organization and not be part of its forestry business.”</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> SFCS requires impartial third party certification by certification bodies that are committed and comply with the impartiality and other requirements of International Accreditation Forum and ISO standard 17011.</p>
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 3.1  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies: 3.3 Forestry- and contractor certification: <i>At direct certification, the certification body shall meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and at group certification meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021. The instructions in this document complement, but do not replace, the instructions given in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> SFCS assumes that certification of individual forest management units or contractors is product certification and accreditation shall conform to the ISO 17065 product certification standard. Accreditation to SFM group certification (forest owners or contractors) on the other hand shall conform to management system standard ISO 17021. Both standards set robust and internationally recognized requirements for certification bodies.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			PEFCC is in the process of updating the accreditation requirements (Annex 6) and it is likely that it will allow in the future, the national certification systems to apply either product or environmental management system standards in their accreditation requirements.
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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.3 Forestry- and contractor certification: <i>The instructions in this document complement, but do not replace, the instructions given in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021. The certification body shall:</i></p> <p><i>Have good knowledge regarding forest management and forestry contracts and its economic, social, and environmental effects.</i></p> <p><i>Have good knowledge regarding the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management.</i></p> <p><i>Have special competence regarding laws and other requirements critical to activities practiced in forestry.</i></p> <p><i>Have documented experience within the field of expertise.</i></p> <p><i>Have auditors which are adequately trained and that have practical experience within the field of expertise.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to demonstrate the auditors' qualifications for work within the field of expertise.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System requires that audit team has the technical competence to forest certification.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.3 Forestry- and contractor certification: <i>Have good knowledge regarding the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System requires a good understanding of the PEFC forest certification system applied under the PEFC Sweden.</p>
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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.3 Forestry- and contractor certification: <i>Have auditors which are adequately trained and that possess practical experience within the field of expertise.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to demonstrate the auditors' qualifications for work within the field of expertise</i></p> <p><i>5. Requirements for auditors, 5.1 Forest- and contractor certification</i></p> <p><i>Qualification criteria for auditors that are used for evaluation of certification are based on methods for product certification at direct certification, and on auditing methods for certification of environmental management systems at group certification, complemented by expert knowledge within the business area.</i></p> <p><i>1 meet the requirements as stipulated ...under ...ISO 17021 and/or .....ISO 17065, including the general requirements in the ...ISO 19011</i></p> <p><i>2. master the contents of the Swedish PEFC certification system ...encompassing the documents PEFC SWE 001-006</i></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>3. <i>have adequate training and documented experience of forest management and forestry contracts and its economic, social, and environmental effects</i></p> <p>4. <i>have special competence regarding laws and other requirements critical to operations practiced in the forestry sector</i></p> <p>5. <i>have adequate training and documented experience from auditing work within the field being subject to audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The required compliance with the ISO 17065, ISO 17021 standards together with the additional System requirements set adequate competence requirements for auditors</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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 5.1 Forestry- and contractor certification: <i>Qualification criteria for auditors that are used for evaluation of certification are based on methods for product certification at direct certification, and on auditing methods for certification of environmental management systems, complemented by expert knowledge within the business area. The auditors shall:</i></p> <p>1. <i>meet the requirements as stipulated within the framework of accredited certification of management systems under SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021 and/or general requirements at product certification SS-EN/ISO/IEC 17065, including the general requirements as defined in the standard <u>SS-EN ISO 19011</u></i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System requires compliance to the general requirements of ISO 19011.</p>





No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [4]	Annex 6, 3.2	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 5.1 Forestry- and contractor certification:</p> <p><i>2. master the contents of the Swedish PEFC certification system ...</i></p> <p><i>3. have adequate training and documented experience of forest management and forestry contracts and its economic, social, and environmental effects</i></p> <p><i>4. have special competence regarding laws and other requirements critical to operations practiced in the forestry sector</i></p> <p><i>5. have adequate training and documented experience from auditing work within the field being subject to audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System has additional requirements</p>
<b>Certification procedures</b>				
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 6. Certification and audit: <i>The certification body shall have established routines for forest- and contractor certification (direct and in group) and/or chain of custody certification.</i></p> <p>The procedures include, among others:</p> <p><i>Audit plan with all activities in an audit</i></p> <p><i>Audits in group certification</i></p> <p><i>Reporting</i></p> <p><i>Decision-making</i></p> <p><i>Addressing of nonconformities</i></p> <p>Audit shall apply a risk-based approach.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>The ISO standards 17065 and 17021 set additional management system requirements to certification bodies.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System sets adequate provisions for internal management procedures of certification bodies.</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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.3 Forest- and contractor certification: <i>At direct certification, the certification body shall meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and at group certification meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> SFCS assumes that certification of individual forest management units or contractors is product certification and accreditation shall conform to the ISO 17065 product certification standard. Accreditation to SFM group certification (forest owners or contractors) on the other hand shall conform to management system standard ISO 17021. Both standards set robust and internationally recognized requirements for certification bodies.</p> <p>PEFCC is in the process of updating the accreditation requirements (Annex 6) and it is likely that it will allow in the future, the national certification systems to apply either product or environmental management system standards in their accreditation requirements.</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  Y	<p>ISO 19011 standard provides guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. The application of ISO 19011 standard to other types of audits is possible, provided that special consideration is given to the specific competence needed.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden has a product certification approach in direct certification of forest owners and management system certification approach in certifying groups of forest owners.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification <i>Bodies</i>, 5.1 <i>Forestry- and contractor certification: The auditors shall:</i></p> <p><i>meet the requirements as stipulated within the framework of accredited certification of management systems under SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021 and/or general requirements at product certification SS-EN/ISO/IEC 17065, including the general requirements as defined in the standard SS-EN ISO 19011</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The required compliance with ISO 17650 and ISO 17021 standards (cf. PEFC SWE 005 3.3.) sets robust provisions for auditing procedures (e.g., requirements for resources, process, impartiality and CB's management system). The provision that auditors shall conform to the guidelines of ISO 19011 adds to the qualification requirements of CBs.</p>
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 7.1.4 Information about issued certificate: <i>The certification body shall, without delay and in accordance with instructions from the Swedish PEFC, report information on new, as well as changes in, issued certificates.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 6.4 Surveillance audits: <i>Surveillance audits are conducted at least once a year during the certificate's period of validity. Surveillance audits may be of a more limited scope than certification audits. The period between audits shall not exceed one year.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System requires annual surveillance audits.</p>
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 7. Certificate: <i>A certificate for forestry- and contractor certification in group (umbrella organizations) is valid for five years at the most. Direct forestry- and contractor certificates are valid for five years at the most.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Re-certification is required every five years.</p>
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 6.2 Audit report: <i>...A public summary shall be demonstrated after every completed certification, <b>re-certification and annual audit</b> that leads to a decision on forestry certification according to PEFC.</i></p> <p><i>The certification body is responsible for the contents and elaboration of the summary.... The public summary shall be made available to the certified organization and include the following information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>contact details of CB as well as specification of relevant accreditations</i></li> <li>- <i>description of the organization and ... business that have been certified</i></li> <li>- <i>date of current and ...planned audit</i></li> </ul>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>- <i>an account of important observations, strong and weak points, certification decision, any provisions and recommendations.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004 Direct and Group Certification:</p> <p>3.1 <i>Basic requirements at direct certification</i></p> <p>3.1.6 <i>After every completed certification audit that leads to a decision on certification according to PEFC, as well as after every re-certification when the certificate is prolonged, a public summary made by the certification body shall be published on the website of the certificate holder.</i></p> <p>3.1.7 <i>Certified organizations shall make public what PEFC-certificates that have been issued to the organization, as well as which certification body that has issued the certificates.</i></p> <p>4.2 <i>Basic requirements of umbrella organization</i></p> <p>4.2.1.9 <i>After every completed certification audit that leads to a decision on forestry certification or contractor certification according to PEFC, as well as after every re-certification when the certificate is prolonged, a public summary made by the certification body shall be published on the website of the certificate holder (umbrella organization).</i></p> <p>4.2.1.10 <i>Certified organizations shall make public what PEFC-certificates that have been issued to the organization as well as which certification body that has issued the certificates.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<b>Justification:</b> The System requires publication of summaries to the reports issued after certification or re-certification audits, and also after annual audits.
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 6.1.1: <i>The audit team collects a sufficient amount of audit evidence in order to assess whether the business of the person subject to audit meets the requirements. Relevant external information from authorities and stakeholders concerned shall thereby be taken into consideration.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Auditors shall collect information from external parties</p>
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures?	Annex 6, 4	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies: The System describes requirements for CBs and audit process for forest and contractor certification for individual group applicants.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>
<b>Accreditation procedures</b>				
18.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.1 Accreditation: <i>The certification body operating forestry-, contractor-, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally approved accreditation body in order to perform certification against PEFC SWE TD V. This means that the accreditation body shall have an agreement with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and/or the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA). The accreditation body shall conform to the procedures described in document SS-EN 17011</i></p>



No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>and other documents acknowledged by IAF/EA. Swedac is the national accreditation body of Sweden.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The certification bodies shall be accredited by the Swedish national accreditation body or by other internationally approved accreditation body that comply with the IAF Multilateral Agreement or respective EA requirements and conforms to ISO 17011 standard.</p>
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies</p> <p><i>7.1.1 At direct certification for forestry and contractor certificates</i></p> <p><i>9. Name, accreditation reference and number of the certification body</i></p> <p><i>7.1.2 At group certification for ...(umbrella organizations)</i></p> <p><i>7. Name, accreditation reference and number of the certification body</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System requires that certificates include information on accreditation</p>
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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.1 Accreditation: <i>The certification body operating forestry-, contractor-, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally approved accreditation body in order to perform certification against PEFC SWE TD V. This means that the accreditation body shall have an agreement with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and/or the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA). The accreditation body</i></p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>shall conform to the procedures described in document SS-EN 17011 and other documents acknowledged by IAF/EA.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Certification bodies shall be accredited by the Swedish national accreditation body or by other internationally approved accreditation body that complies with the IAF Multilateral Agreement or respective EA requirements and conforms to ISO 17011 standard.</p>
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  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.1 Accreditation: <i>The certification body operating forestry-, contractor-, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally approved accreditation body in order to perform certification against PEFC SWE TD V.</i></p> <p>3.3 Forestry- and contractor certification</p> <p><i>At direct certification, the certification body shall meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and at group certification meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021. The instructions in this document complement, but do not replace, the instructions given in SS-EN ISO/IEC 17065 and SS-EN ISO/IEC 17021.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> SFCS assumes that certification of individual forest management units or contractors is product certification and accreditation shall conform to the ISO 17065 product certification standard. Accreditation to SFM group certification (forest owners or contractors) on the other hand shall conform to management system</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>standard ISO 17021. Both standards set robust and internationally recognized requirements for certification bodies.</p> <p>PEFCC is in the process of updating the accreditation requirements (Annex 6) and it is likely that it will allow in the future, the national certification systems to apply either product or environmental management system standards in their accreditation requirements.</p>
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6  Y	<p>PEFC SWE 005: Certification Bodies, 3.2 Notification: <i>The certification body operating forestry-, contractor-, or chain of custody certification in Sweden shall be notified by the Swedish PEFC in accordance with PEFC SWE 006 – Notification of Certification Bodies</i> that describes the rules for notification.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The System has procedures for notification of certification bodies.</p>
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6  Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The notification rules or the rules for certification bodies do not set any requirements that would enable discrimination in the notification process.</p>

## PEFC Checklist (2) - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers the requirements for standard-setting procedures and process as defined in the revised 2017 issue of PEFC ST 1001, *Standard Setting – Requirements*.

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

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (PEFC SWE 001:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023, hereafter "Document 001"). Including Appendix D. Swedish PEFC standard-setting procedures ("Appendix D"). Forestry Standard (PEFC SWE 002:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023
Descriptive documents	GAP analysis SWE TD V translated (hereafter "GAP analysis") PEFC SWE TD V Application Overview PEFC SWE 001-005 development report (TD V) Update TOC 2023-06-20 Procedures document (Procedurdokumenten) 2021-02-21
Supporting files	Collated Minutes from Working Group Meetings 1-5 Correspondence reminder invitation email PEFC Society of Conservation (2021-03-18) Correspondence reminder invitation email PEFC WWF (2021-05-27) From PEFC Sweden web page posted on 23 February 2021.pdf Invitation and information email (2022-02-24) Minutes of the PEFC Sweden General Assembly (2020-05-26 and 2021-06-01) Minutes of the PEFC Board Meetings (2020-12-02, 2021-02-09, 2021-04-13, and 2021-12-05) PEFCs standard revision 2021_2022 infofolder.pdf Public consultation email (2022-04-04)

## 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Standardising Body</b>			
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	Y	<p>Document 001, 8.1.1 PEFC Sweden economic association: <i>PEFC Sweden is an economic association which organization is described in Figure 6. PEFC Sweden is, in accordance with its statutes, responsible for the development and operation of the certification scheme. To that end, the Board has adopted a standard setting procedure, including review of the Swedish PEFC-system (Appendix D).</i></p> <p>Appendix D, section 4.3 includes requirements for the working group and procedures for formal adoption of the standard.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Document 001 describes the legal status and the organisational structure of the standardising body (PEFC Sweden). Appendix D of the Document 001 presents the PEFC Sweden's written procedures for standard-setting activities, including working group for consensus-building and procedures for formal adoption of the standard.</p>
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: <i>The Working group meetings shall be documented and published on the web <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Received comments during the standard setting process - before and after the draft is presented - shall be documented. Received letters and verbal comments by phone or live shall be summarized. All comments shall be presented to the Working group, discussed, and taken into consideration. When such proposals improve the criteria or indicators, they shall be included in the standard. All received comments shall be</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>documented. Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the Working group and task forces and draft standards. All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard. A development report shall be published on the website along with the approved standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D, 6. The documentation details record-keeping requirements.</p>
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.5: Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: <i>The standard revision and formation of task forces and working group shall strive for balance regarding gender and organization. No interest shall dominate or be dominated in the Working Group.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D, section 4.5 describes procedures for a balanced representation of stakeholders.</p>
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Procedures for the standard-setting process are described in Document 001, Appendix D.</p>
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.5: Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: <i>The stakeholders of the Working group shall reach consensus on the decision to recommend the final proposal for formal approval. To reach consensus, the Working group may use the following alternative procedures to find out whether there are any differences of opinion:</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discussions and negotiations</li> <li>• a face-to-face meeting with verbal yes/no voting, show of hands for yes/no voting; a statement on consensus from the chairperson where no dissenting opinions are announced (verbally or by show of hands); a formal closed voting procedure, etc.</li> <li>• a meeting via telephone conference with verbal yes/no voting,</li> <li>• a meeting via e-mail where request for agreement or objection are addressed to the members and where members provide a written response (instead of voting), or</li> <li>• combinations of these.</li> </ul> <p><i>If consensus cannot be reached among all individual Working group participants, the stakeholder organizations shall be grouped in the following three categories and appoint one spokes-person per organization: ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Procedures for reaching consensus are described in section 4.5 of Appendix D and in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, chapter 2 describes procedures for standard review and chapter 4 describes procedures for standard revision.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</p>
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall review its	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 1. Introduction: <i>PEFC's national standard-setting process is guided by the international reference standard PEFC ST 1001:2017 Standard-setting. PEFC ST 1001 is based on ISO/IEC Guide 59 and ISO/IEC Guide 2 and includes, i.a., the requirement that the national organizations responsible for</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.			<i>development of PEFC's forestry- and chain-of-custody standards shall develop their own written procedures in accordance with the reference standard. This procedure shall be publicly available and in the standard revision process, anyone shall have the possibility to give feedback on the procedure and the process.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The draft procedures were published on the designated standard revision web page: <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022</a> . PEFC Sweden reports that in every working group meeting the members were informed that they were welcome to comment on the procedures. Also, some feedback on the procedures was sent in via public consultation and subsequently implemented.
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	Y	Appendix D, 1. Introduction: <i>PEFC's national standard-setting process is guided by the international reference standard PEFC ST 1001:2017 Standard-setting. PEFC ST 1001 is based on ISO/IEC Guide 59 and ISO/IEC Guide 2 and includes, i.a., the requirement that the national organizations responsible for development of PEFC's forestry- and chain-of-custody standards shall develop their own written procedures in accordance with the reference standard. This procedure shall be publicly available and in the standard revision process,</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>anyone shall have the possibility to give feedback on the procedure and the process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirement to keep documented information on standard-setting procedures is included in Appendix D of Document 001.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The standard-setting procedures are documented in Appendix D.</p>
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	Y	<p><i>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, stakeholder mapping, invited stakeholders, participants in the Working group and task forces, draft standards and final approval by the standardising body.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D requires keeping documented information from stakeholder identification mapping.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation. Stakeholders were identified as members and non-members from the forest sector, environmental NGO's in Sweden and the national association of the Sami</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>people (SSR). It was decided that all stakeholders would best be reached via email.</p> <p>Development report Appendix 2 presents a list of invited organisations – result of stakeholder mapping.</p>
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... <i>Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the working group and task forces and draft standards.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D mentions <i>invited stakeholders</i> as one of the documents to retain and is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development report Appendix 2 presents a list of invited organisations – result of stakeholder mapping.</p>
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: <i>The Working group meetings, including the list of participants, shall be documented and published on the web www.pefc.se. Received comments during the standard setting process - before and after the draft is presented - shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D requires keeping documented information of participants in each working group meeting.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Development report Appendix 1 presents a list of participants in the working group and task forces. Minutes from working group meetings 1-5 include a list of participants in each working group meeting.
(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal: <i>A synopsis of received comments regarding substantial issues shall be addressed by the Working group. The received feedback and the outcome of their treatment in the Working group shall be made available on www.pefc.se.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D sets requirements that meet the requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	Development report, 3 Mechanism for collection of feedback: <i>Feedback on the standard that is received during its period of validity at meetings, trainings, and contacts, is collected and recorded by the PEFC-secretariat. A summary of the comments collected over time regarding TD IV is presented in the GAP analysis document.</i> GAP analysis, chapter 3 includes a list of comments received. Development report, 4.16 Evaluation and feed back: <i>A questionnaire was distributed to all participants in task forces and the working group during</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>November 2022 and the results were collected and documented as a preparation for next standard revision. In addition the chairman of the working group and the chairs of the task forces were asked to provide input from the chairmanship perspective. The secretariat also put together some hints and tips for the next revision.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden the proposed handling for each comment was documented in an Excel sheet which was sent out to the participants (including all organisations that had commented).</p>
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... <i>Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the working group and task forces and draft standards.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D mentions <i>draft standards</i> as one of the documents to retain. The final version of the standard is submitted to the PEFC Council with the application and published on the PEFC Sweden website.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Standard drafts are managed and kept by PEFC Sweden.</p>
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: <i>The Working group meetings shall be documented and published on the web <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Received comments during</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>the standard setting process - before and after the draft is presented - shall be documented. Received letters and verbal comments by phone or live shall be summarized. All comments shall be presented to the Working group, discussed, and taken into consideration. When such proposals improve the criteria or indicators, they shall be included in the standard. All received comments shall be documented. Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the Working group and task forces and draft standards.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D requires documentation the operation of the working group.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development report, 4.8 Communications and record-keeping: ... <i>Agendas, minutes and material for the meetings of the working group were published on the web page ...</i> In addition, the working group meeting minutes document the outcomes from working group considerations.</p>
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: <i>The Working group meetings shall be documented and published on the web <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. ...</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal: <i>Once the Working group has reached consensus, the standard is formally handed over to the Board of PEFC Sweden for further handling within the PEFC system. The consensus on the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>standard proposal shall be documented in the minutes of the working group meeting.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D, 4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal requires the working group a consensus before the submission of the standard to the board of PEFC Sweden, and requires the documentation of evidence of consensus.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Minutes from working group meeting 2022-10-06: 13. <i>Decision on standard proposals. The Chairman asked whether the Working group could approve the standard proposal, including the working group meeting corrections, for submission to the PEFC Board for further consideration. The working group answered yes to the question. The Chairman asked the Working group whether this decision can be considered to have been taken by consensus and the Working group replied in the affirmative to this as well.</i></p>
(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2. Review: <i>The PEFC Sweden general assembly is responsible for initiating the review of the forest standard within 5 years from the approval of the previous standard (as of the date of decision by the Swedish board). At review of the standard, the stakeholder identification mapping shall be updated. The review shall include a GAP-analysis against any new PEFC-standards, other regulations, and legislation. ...</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: <i>... Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the Working group and task forces and draft standards.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The review process is documented in the gap analysis and Appendix D requires that this documentation is retained.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Gap analysis includes the documentation of the review process.</p>
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... <i>Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, stakeholder mapping, invited stakeholders, participants in the Working group and task forces, draft standards and final approval by the standardising body.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D requires the documentation of <i>final approval by the standardising body</i>.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development report, 4.14 Formal approval of the standard: <i>The board of PEFC Sweden passed the decision to submit the proposed standard TD V for review and approval 5 December 2022. The publication date was set to 16th January 2023 (due to Christmas break).</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... <i>Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the working group and task forces and draft standards.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Stored in electronic and printed form at Franzégatan 1 Stockholm. The conformity with this requirement can only be assessed after the period defined in the benchmark.</p>
5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... <i>The Working group meetings, including the list of participants, shall be documented and published on the web <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Received comments during the standard setting process - before and after the draft is presented - shall be documented. Received letters and verbal comments by phone or live shall be summarized. All comments shall be presented to the Working group, discussed, and taken into consideration. When such proposals improve the criteria or indicators, they shall be included in the standard. All received comments shall be documented. Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, stakeholder mapping, invited stakeholders, participants in the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>Working group and task forces, draft standards and final approval by the standardising body.</i></p> <p><i>All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.</i></p> <p><i>A development report shall be published on the website along with the approved standard.</i></p> <p><i>Appendix D, 7. Openness and transparency: ... The Working group shall make the procedures for the standard-setting process publicly available via <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. This includes information on objectives, scope, and the different stages of the standard-setting process and its schedule. ...</i></p> <p><i>The complete standard-setting process shall be summarized in a public report in English and published on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> and which is part of the documentation that is submitted in the international application.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The information required by Appendix D to be made public include the development report and the standard-setting procedures. This does not explicitly meet all the documented information listed under benchmark 5.2.1 (a–j).</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Chapter 7 of Appendix D refers to <i>procedures for the standard-setting process</i> and adds: <i>This includes information on objectives, scope, and the different stages of the standard-setting process and its schedule.</i> We recommend this to be rephrased as the current wording is ambiguous on whether this refers only to the standard-setting procedures (as described in Appendix D) or intends to include additional information.</p>
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Documentation that meets the requirements set by the benchmark 5.2.1 (a–j) has been published on <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022">the PEFC Sweden's website: https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022</a>
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	Y	Appendix D, 8. Appeal and complaint procedures: ... <i>When a complaint has been received, the Working group shall, via its board:</i> a) <i>confirm receipt of the complaint to the complainant ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The procedures are in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> No complaints were received during this revision.
(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	Y	Appendix D, 8. Appeal and complaint procedures: <i>When a complaint has been received, the Working group shall, via its board: ...</i> b) <i>gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint in an impartial and objective manner, and decide on the complaint, ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The procedures are described in Document 001 Appendix D, 8. Appeal and complaint procedures.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> No complaints were received during this revision.
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 8. Appeal and complaint procedures: <i>When a complaint has been received, the Working group shall, via its board: ...</i> <i>c) formally, within three months, inform the complainant about the decision made on the complaint and its handling.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The procedures described in Document 001 Appendix D, 8. Appeal and complaint procedures are in line with the PEFC requirements.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> No complaints were received during this revision.
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	Y	Appendix D, 3 Mechanism for collection of feedback: <i>To enable collection of feedback on the standard, both during implementation and in connection with review and revision, a permanent feedback mechanism for this purpose shall be set up at the PEFC Sweden's website. Feedback on the standard that is received during its period of validity at meetings, trainings, and contacts, is collected and recorded by the PEFC-secretariate.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The procedures are described in Document 001 Appendix D, 3 Mechanism for collection of feedback

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> A permanent feedback link was established at <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022</a>
<b>Standard-setting process</b>			
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	Y	Appendix D, 2. Review: <i>The PEFC Sweden general assembly is responsible for initiating the review of the forest standard within 5 years from the approval of the previous standard (as of the date of decision by the Swedish board). At review of the standard, the stakeholder identification mapping shall be updated. The review shall include a GAP-analysis against any new PEFC-standards, other regulations, and legislation. The owner of the standard shall consider new research and knowledge and relevant emerging issues. Received feedback on applicable standard that have been collected via meetings and through the feedback mechanism on the website shall be considered in the review. The review may result in a need for revision (of greater or lesser scope) or that the standard is not in need of revision.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The requirements set for the review process in practice require the definition of a standard scope.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The scope of the standard that was to be revised was practically set by the previous operative version of the standard and its review process.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard".
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.
(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively,</li> <li>• unintended consequences of implementation,</li> <li>• actions to address the identified risks, and</li> </ul>	Procedures	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment 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.  NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 7. Openness and transparency: <i>The Working group's activities shall be currently documented at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>, in Swedish. The drafts to Forest standard shall be translated into English and documented on the web, <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. The Working group shall make the procedures for the standard-setting process publicly available via <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. This includes information on objectives, scope, and the different stages of the standard-setting process and its schedule.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The procedures include the requirements stated in the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Description of the stages of the standard development and a proposed timetable was included in the presentation given by PEFC Sweden in the first working group meeting (available online: <a href="https://cdn.pefc.org/pefc.se/media/2021-04/c2cd815c-ed4f-4855-8533-4acf0b2cb94f/c80600d4-79f1-5ec5-acdb-f77ed3d1fc7e.pdf">https://cdn.pefc.org/pefc.se/media/2021-04/c2cd815c-ed4f-4855-8533-4acf0b2cb94f/c80600d4-79f1-5ec5-acdb-f77ed3d1fc7e.pdf</a> ). According to PEFC Sweden, the timetable was also continuously adjusted during the process and published online at <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022</a> .
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> See 6.1.1 (a) and (e) procedures.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> See 6.1.1 (a) and (e) process.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>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 communication would be best to reach them.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p>Document 001 Appendix D, 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>Members and non-members, as defined in §4 in the statutes of the PEFC Sweden, with an interest in promoting forest certification according to the PEFC-system, shall have the possibility to participate in the Standard Working Group:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I. Forestry including transports of roundwood to industry/terminal</i></li> <li><i>II. Wood processing including distribution and trade in forest products in the value chain up to consumer</i></li> <li><i>III. Organizations for social, environmental, and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The nine different stakeholder groups that are identified in Agenda 21 shall be considered in the stakeholder identification mapping. As a minimum, the following shall be included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Forest owners</i></li> <li>• <i>Business and industry</i></li> <li>• <i>Indigenous peoples</i></li> <li>• <i>Non-governmental organizations</i></li> <li>• <i>Scientific- and technological community</i></li> <li>• <i>Workers and trade unions</i></li> </ul> <p><i>A stakeholder identification mapping shall be made that identifies the relevant sectors and the likely key-issues in each sector. The mapping shall identify key stakeholders and which means of communication would be best to reach them. The mapping shall also identify if any stakeholder is disadvantaged. The stakeholder mapping shall be available on request.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation. Stakeholders were identified as members and non-members from the forest sector, environmental NGO's in Sweden and the national association of the Sami people (SSR). It was decided that all stakeholders would best be reached via email.</p> <p>The board of PEFC Sweden set a target to get at least two additional organisations preferably related to environment or gender equality to join the revision. (Minutes from board meeting at <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten-2021-02-09">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten 2021-02-09</a>).</p> <p>Environmental organisations, the National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR), women forest owners and female professionals in the forest sector were approached by additional emails from the secretariat. A separate meeting was held with SSR where the procedure and process was explained. SSR did express interest in participating and was included in the task force No 2 Forestry and environmental issues however were not able to pursue its participation due to staff and priority issues. They were however kept informed throughout the process (calls, and agendas for task force and working group).</p> <p>We were very happy to include the participation of two new stakeholders: Spillkråkan (women forest owners) and NYKS (women and non-binary forest professionals).</p> <p>Additional information by PEFC Sweden: The stakeholder list from last revision was updated taking into account organisational changes and new names within the defined stakeholder groups. Women in the forest sector were recognised as a new key stakeholder group.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The described stakeholder identification process is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
<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"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and industry,</li> <li>• indigenous people,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <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	Y	<p>Document 001 Appendix D, 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping: ... <i>The nine different stakeholder groups that are identified in Agenda 21 shall be considered in the stakeholder identification mapping. As a minimum, the following shall be included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Forest owners</i></li> <li>• <i>Business and industry</i></li> <li>• <i>Indigenous peoples</i></li> <li>• <i>Non-governmental organizations</i></li> <li>• <i>Scientific- and technological community</i></li> <li>• <i>Workers and trade unions</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The procedures for the identification of stakeholder groups are in line with the PEFC requirements.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The process is described in Development report 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping and is in line with the PEFC requirements.</p>
6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any	Procedures	N	Document 001 Appendix D, 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping: ... <i>A stakeholder identification mapping shall be made that identifies the relevant</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.</p>			<p><i>sectors and the likely key-issues in each sector. The mapping shall identify key stakeholders and which means of communication would be best to reach them. The mapping shall also identify if any stakeholder is disadvantaged.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D, 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping requires the identification of any disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: ...<i>The board of PEFC Sweden set a target to get at least two additional organisations preferably related to environment or gender equality to join the revision. (Minutes from board meeting at <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten</a> 2021-02-09).</i></p> <p><i>Environmental organisations, the National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR), women forest owners and female professionals in the forest sector were approached by additional emails from the secretariat. A separate meeting was held with SSR where the procedure and process was explained. SSR did express interest in participating and was included in the task force No 2 Forestry and environmental issues however were not able to pursue its participation due to staff and priority issues. They were however kept informed throughout the process (calls, and agendas for task force and working group).</i></p> <p><i>We were very happy to include the participation of two new stakeholders: Spillkråkan (women forest owners) and NYKS (women and non-binary forest professionals).</i></p> <p>Additional information provided by PEFC Sweden notes that <i>women in the forest sector were recognised as a new key stakeholder group.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> Despite the word “key stakeholders” being used sparsely in the SFCS, in practice key stakeholders as well as potentially disadvantaged stakeholders were identified and reached out for through special means.
<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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: <i>A general invitation to identified organized stakeholders shall be published on the web: <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. The members of PEFC Sweden shall be invited by mail/e-mail. Invitation letter/e-mail shall also be sent to stakeholders with specific interests/competencies for the standard revision, including nation-al environmental- and Sami organizations. The invitations shall be made at least four weeks in advance of the first meeting with the Standard Working Group. The invitation shall include information on the possibilities for stakeholders to participate in the process, purpose, scope, time-plan, and the different steps in the standard revision process. The invitation shall also include the standard revision procedure (or a link to it) and information on the possibility to provide feedback on the procedure, the scope, and the process. The invitation shall also include an invitation to the stakeholders to nominate representatives. The information and the invitations shall be publicly available on the website of the standard revision. PEFC Sweden shall identify any barriers or constraints to stakeholders to: stakeholders to participate in the revision and work to remedy those constraints. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The procedures are described in Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision and are in line with the PEFC St 1001:2017..</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.4 Announcement of the standard-setting and invitation of stakeholders: <i>The stakeholders were invited by email 2021-02-24 (ID 17), and the invitation was placed on the website of PEFC Sweden. When registering participants were requested to submit their organisation's desired focus areas for</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>the revision. Based on that and on collated comments on the standard the secretariat proposed the scope and task forces for the revision process.</i></p> <p>Information from PEFC Sweden: A heads-up to members with information on scope and proposed timing of the first working group meeting was sent on 2020-12-04 (available on request). A "save-the-date" was also published as a new item on PEFC Sweden's web page 2020-12-21 <a href="https://pefc.se/nyheter/spara-datamet-den-23-e-mars-2021-startar-pefc-s-standardrevision">https://pefc.se/nyheter/spara-datamet-den-23-e-mars-2021-startar-pefc-s-standardrevision</a> "</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development report, 4.4 Announcement of the standard-setting and invitation of stakeholders describes the process. The invitations were sent in a timely manner and through suitable media.</p>
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ... <i>The invitation shall include information on the possibilities for stakeholders to participate in the process, purpose, scope, time-plan, and the different steps in the standard revision process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The different steps in the standard revision process are included in the description of required items in the invitation to standard revision.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.4 Announcement of the standard-setting and invitation of stakeholders: <i>The stakeholders were invited by email 2021-02-24 (ID 17), and the invitation was placed on the website of PEFC Sweden. When registering participants were requested to submit their organisation's desired focus areas for</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>the revision. Based on that and on collated comments on the standard the secretariat proposed the scope and task forces for the revision process.</i></p> <p>Information from PEFC Sweden: A heads-up to members with information on scope and proposed timing of the first working group meeting was sent on 2020-12-04 (available on request). A "save-the-date" was also published as a new item on PEFC Sweden's web page 2020-12-21 <a href="https://pefc.se/nyheter/spara-datamet-den-23-e-mars-2021-startar-pefc-s-standardrevision">https://pefc.se/nyheter/spara-datamet-den-23-e-mars-2021-startar-pefc-s-standardrevision</a></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The invitation of 2021-02-24 included a link to the PEFC Sweden's website which provided an overview of the standard-setting process (<i>From PEFC Sweden web page posted on 23 February 2021.pdf</i>). Also, the earlier heads-up message of 2020-12-04 included a brief description of the revision process (<i>PEFCs standardrevision 2021_2022 infolder.pdf</i>).</p>
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ...<i>The invitation shall include information on the possibilities for stakeholders to participate in the process, purpose, scope, time-plan, and the different steps in the standard revision process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> As set by the benchmarks 6.1.2 and 6.1.1 (a &amp; e), the proposal elements required in the case of a standard revision are the scope of the standard and a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable. Appendix D requires these elements to be communicated in conjunction with the invitation to participate in the standard revision process.</p>
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The invitation of 2021-02-24 included a link to the PEFC Sweden's website which provided the required proposal elements ( <i>From PEFC Sweden web page posted on 23 February 2021.pdf</i> ). Also, the earlier heads-up message of 2020-12-04 included the stages of standard development and their expected timetable ( <i>PEFCs standardrevision 2021_2022 infolder.pdf</i> ).
(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ... <i>The invitation shall include information on the possibilities for stakeholders to participate in the process, purpose, scope, time-plan, and the different steps in the standard revision process.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The procedures described in Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision are in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	Development Report, 4.4 Announcement of the standard-setting and invitation of stakeholders: <i>The stakeholders were invited by email 2021-02-24 (ID 17), and the invitation was placed on the website of PEFC Sweden.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The invitation of stakeholders gives the required information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process.
(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	Y	Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ... <i>The invitation shall also include an invitation to the stakeholders to nominate representatives...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The procedure is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation. Stakeholders were identified as members and non-members from the forest sector, environmental NGO's in Sweden and the national association of the Sami people (SSR). It was decided that all stakeholders would best be reached via email.</p> <p>The board of PEFC Sweden set a target to get at least two additional organisations preferably related to environment or gender equality to join the revision. (Minutes from board meeting at <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten-2021-02-09">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten 2021-02-09</a>).</p> <p>Environmental organisations, the National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR), women forest owners and female professionals in the forest sector were approached by additional emails from the secretariat. A separate meeting was held with SSR where the procedure and process was explained. SSR did express interest in participating and was included in the task force No 2 Forestry and environmental issues however were not able to pursue its participation due to staff and priority issues. They were however kept informed throughout the process (calls, and agendas for task force and working group).</p> <p>We were very happy to include the participation of two new stakeholders: Spillkråkan (women forest owners) and NYKS (women and non-binary forest professionals).</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group were sent in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: <i>A general invitation to identified organized stakeholders shall be published on the web: <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. ...The invitation shall also include the standard revision procedure (or a link to it) and information on the possibility to provide feedback on the procedure, the scope, and the process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The procedure is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Invitation email (2021-02-24) instructs to website <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022</a> where feedback instructions are given.</p>
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: <i>The invitation shall also include the standard revision procedure (or a link to it) and information on the possibility to provide feedback on the procedure, the scope, and the process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The procedures are in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Invitation email (2021-02-24) instructs to website <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/standardrevision-2021-2022</a> with the standard setting procedures were described in a procedures document dated 2021-02-21</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.3.2 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 7 Openness and transparency: ...<i>The working group shall before, and during the process consider feedback from the stakeholders and be prepared to review the standard setting procedures.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> No feedback on the standard-setting process was received after the initial public announcement.</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	Y	<p>Document 001, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: <i>The standard revision and formation of task forces and working group shall strive for balance regarding gender and organization. No interest shall dominate or be dominated in the Working group.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.3.1 Establishment of a Standard Working Group: <i>In an open seminar, the proposed procedures and preconditions provided by the board of PEFC Sweden shall be presented and discussed.</i></p> <p><i>The first task for the Working group is to constitute and appoint a board for the Working group, consisting of 9 individuals including a chairperson.</i></p> <p><i>The Working group shall appoint task forces responsible for handling parts of the standard or specific subject matters. The task forces shall develop proposals that are submitted to the Working group. When appointing members of task forces, a single stakeholder should not be represented by more than one person. The size of the task forces should be limited to 8 - 12 participants. Geography, competence and relevant experience should also be considered. Affected stakeholders and stakeholders that can influence the implementations should be</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>represented. Acceptance or denial of nominations shall be possible to motivate in relation to the requirement for balanced representation in the working group/committee and available resources for standard-setting.</i></p> <p><i>The proposal below on task forces may serve as a point of departure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Production &amp; environment for the forest- and environmental standard</i></li> <li><i>Social issues and the contractor standard</i></li> <li><i>Overall structural issues and other parts of the standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Document 001 is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.7.5 Gender balance: <i>“There were 37 women and 41 men participating in the working group including task forces. There were three female and two male chairs.”</i></p> <p>Development report, 4.7.2 Revision Working Group (WG TD V): “... The Working group consisted of representatives from the following stakeholder categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Organizations representing the forestry value chain including transportation of wood to industry/ terminal</li> <li>II. Organizations representing the wood processing chain including distribution and trade of forest products in the added value chain up to consumer</li> <li>III. Organizations for social, environmental and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the stakeholders defined above (I-III), specialists (scientists and other experts) were invited to the Working group to bring in expertise. Mårten</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Larsson, expert on Forestry and sustainability (formerly Swedish Forest Industries) was appointed by the working group as the chair of the working group and the board of trustees. The list of the Working group TD V participants is included in Appendix 1 of this report.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The development report reflects the correct application of the PEFC requirements for the composition of the working group.</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	Y	<p>Document 001, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: <i>The standard revision and formation of task forces and working group shall strive for balance regarding gender and organization. No interest shall dominate or be dominated in the Working group.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.3.1 Establishment of a Standard Working Group: <i>In an open seminar, the proposed procedures and preconditions provided by the board of PEFC Sweden shall be presented and discussed. The first task for the Working group is to constitute and appoint a board for the Working group, consisting of 9 individuals including a chairperson.</i></p> <p><i>The Working group shall appoint task forces responsible for handling parts of the standard or specific subject matters. The task forces shall develop proposals that are submitted to the Working group. When appointing members of task forces, a single stakeholder should not be represented by more than one person. The size of the task forces should be limited to 8 - 12 participants. Geography, competence and relevant experience should also be considered. Affected stakeholders and stakeholders that can influence the implementations should be represented. Acceptance or denial of nominations shall be possible to motivate in</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>relation to the requirement for balanced representation in the working group/committee and available resources for standard-setting.</i></p> <p><i>The proposal below on task forces may serve as a point of departure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Production &amp; environment for the forest- and environmental standard</i></li> <li><i>Social issues and the contractor standard</i></li> <li><i>Overall structural issues and other parts of the standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Document 001 and Appendix D are in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.7.2, Revision Working Group (WG TD V): ...<i>The Working group consisted of representatives from the following stakeholder categories:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I. Organizations representing the forestry value chain including transportation of wood to industry/ terminal</i></li> <li><i>II. Organizations representing the wood processing chain including distribution and trade of forest products in the added value chain up to consumer</i></li> <li><i>III. Organizations for social, environmental and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management.</i></li> </ul> <p>Development Report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation. Stakeholders were identified as members and non-members from the forest sector, environmental NGO's in Sweden and the national association of the Sami people (SSR). It was decided that all stakeholders would best be reached via email.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>The board of PEFC Sweden set a target to get at least two additional organisations preferably related to environment or gender equality to join the revision. (Minutes from board meeting at <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten</a> 2021-02-09).</p> <p>Environmental organisations, the National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR), women forest owners and female professionals in the forest sector were approached by additional emails from the secretariat. A separate meeting was held with SSR where the procedure and process was explained. SSR did express interest in participating and was included in the task force No 2 Forestry and environmental issues however were not able to pursue its participation due to staff and priority issues. They were however kept informed throughout the process (calls, and agendas for task force and working group).</p> <p>We were very happy to include the participation of two new stakeholders: Spillkråkan (women forest owners) and NYKS (women and non-binary forest professionals).</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The working group formulation conformed with requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</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	Y	<p>Document 001, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: <i>The standard revision and formation of task forces and working group shall strive for balance regarding gender and organization. No interest shall dominate or be dominated in the Working group.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.3.1 Establishment of a Standard Working Group: <i>...When appointing members of task forces, a single stakeholder should not be represented by more than one person. The size of the task forces should be limited to 8 - 12 participants. Geography, competence and relevant experience</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>should also be considered. Affected stakeholders and stakeholders that can influence the implementations should be represented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Document 001 and Appendix D are in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.7.2 Revision Working Group (WG TD V): <i>The working group consisted of representatives from the following stakeholder categories:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I. Organizations representing the forestry value chain including transportation of wood to industry/ terminal</i></li> <li><i>II. Organizations representing the wood processing chain including distribution and trade of forest products in the added value chain up to consumer</i></li> <li><i>III. Organizations for social, environmental and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management."</i></li> </ul> <p>Development Report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation. Stakeholders were identified as members and non-members from the forest sector, environmental NGO's in Sweden and the national association of the Sami people (SSR). It was decided that all stakeholders would best be reached via email.</i></p> <p><i>The board of PEFC Sweden set a target to get at least two additional organisations preferably related to environment or gender equality to join the revision. (Minutes from board meeting at <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten</a> 2021-02-09).</i></p> <p><i>Environmental organisations, the National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR), women forest owners and female professionals in the forest sector were</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>approached by additional emails from the secretariat. A separate meeting was held with SSR where the procedure and process was explained. SSR did express interest in participating and was included in the task force No 2 Forestry and environmental issues however were not able to pursue its participation due to staff and priority issues. They were however kept informed throughout the process (calls, and agendas for task force and working group).</i></p> <p><i>We were very happy to include the participation of two new stakeholders: Spillkråkan (women forest owners) and NYKS (women and non-binary forest professionals)."</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The working group formulation conformed with requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>Members and non-members, as defined in §4 in the statutes of the PEFC Sweden, with an interest in promoting forest certification according to the PEFC-system, shall have the possibility to participate in the Standard Working Group:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. Forestry including transports of roundwood to industry/terminal</i></li> <li><i>ii. Wood processing including distribution and trade in forest products in the value chain up to consumer</i></li> <li><i>iii. Organizations for social, environmental, and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The nine different stakeholder groups that are identified in Agenda 21 shall be considered in the stakeholder identification mapping. As a minimum, the following shall be included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Forest owners</i></li> </ul>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Business and industry</i></li> <li>• <i>Indigenous peoples</i></li> <li>• <i>Non-governmental organizations</i></li> <li>• <i>Scientific- and technological community</i></li> <li>• <i>Workers and trade unions</i></li> </ul> <p><i>A stakeholder identification mapping shall be made that identifies the relevant sectors and the likely key-issues in each sector. The mapping shall identify key stakeholders and which means of communication would be best to reach them. The mapping shall also identify if any stakeholder is disadvantaged. The stakeholder mapping shall be available on request.</i></p> <p><i>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ...PEFC Sweden shall identify any barriers or constraints to stakeholders to participate in the revision and work to remedy those constraints and proactively seek participation from key stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC Sweden shall establish goals for participation in the standard-setting process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D does not set targets for the participation of key stakeholders, nor does it require their participation to be sought proactively.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.7.2 Revision Working Group (WG TD V): ...</p> <p><i>The Working group consisted of representatives from the following stakeholder categories:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I. Organizations representing the forestry value chain including transportation of wood to industry/ terminal</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>II. Organizations representing the wood processing chain including distribution and trade of forest products in the added value chain up to consumer</i></li> <li>• <i>III. Organizations for social, environmental and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management.</i></li> </ul> <p>Development Report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat (Appendix 2). All stakeholder groups were represented in the mapping and invitation. Stakeholders were identified as members and non-members from the forest sector, environmental NGO's in Sweden and the national association of the Sami people (SSR). It was decided that all stakeholders would best be reached via email.</i></p> <p><i>The board of PEFC Sweden set a target to get at least two additional organisations preferably related to environment or gender equality to join the revision. (Minutes from board meeting at <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-styrelsemoten</a> 2021-02-09).</i></p> <p><i>Environmental organisations, the National Union of the Swedish Saami People (SSR), women forest owners and female professionals in the forest sector were approached by additional emails from the secretariat. A separate meeting was held with SSR where the procedure and process was explained. SSR did express interest in participating and was included in the task force No 2 Forestry and environmental issues however were not able to pursue its participation due to staff and priority issues. They were however kept informed throughout the process (calls, and agendas for task force and working group).</i></p> <p><i>We were very happy to include the participation of two new stakeholders: Spillkråkan (women forest owners) and NYKS (women and non-binary forest professionals).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden has done thorough work in identifying and inviting special groups to the working group and paid close attention to this particular requirement. PEFC Sweden set targets for participation of new important stakeholder groups although they did not use the word "key stakeholder".
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	Y	Appendix D, 4.4 Rules of procedure for task forces: <i>The task forces shall be organized in an open and transparent manner where:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working drafts shall be available to all members of the task force</li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The working drafts have evidently been available to all members of the working group.
(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	Y	Appendix D, 4.4 Rules of procedure for task forces: ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All members of the task force shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the working drafts</li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The working group meeting minutes (Minutes of the working group meetings 1-5) indicate that all working group members were given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the process.
(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	Y	Appendix D, 4.4 Rules of procedure for task forces: ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Comments and views from all members of the task force/working group shall be considered in an open and transparent manner and decisions as well as proposed changes shall be recorded</i></li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The working group meeting minutes (Minutes of the working group meetings 1-5) indicate that feedback and views given were considered in an open and transparent way.
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	Y	Appendix D, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: <i>The stakeholders of the Working group shall reach consensus on the decision to recommend the final proposal for formal approval. To reach consensus, the Working group may use the following alternative procedures to find out whether there are any differences of opinion:</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>discussions and negotiations</i></li> <li><i>a face-to-face meeting with verbal yes/no voting, show of hands for yes/no voting; a statement on consensus from the chairperson where no dissenting opinions are announced (verbally or by show of hands); a formal closed voting procedure, etc.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Minutes from the working group meeting 2022-10-06 show statement of consensus by the Chair.</p>
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a meeting via telephone conference with verbal yes/no voting,</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b>  <b>Justification:</b> The final consensus was reached in a face-to-face working group meeting on 2022-10-06.</p>
	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: ...</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a meeting via e-mail where request for agreement or objection are addressed to the members and where members provide a written response (instead of voting),</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The final consensus was reached in a face-to-face working group meeting on 2022-10-06.</p>
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>or combinations of these.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable.</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The final consensus was reached in a face-to-face working group meeting on 2022-10-06.</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 threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures: ... To reach consensus, the Working group may use the following alternative procedures to find out whether there are any differences of opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussions and negotiations</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>a face-to-face meeting with verbal yes/no voting, show of hands for yes/no voting; a statement on consensus from the chairperson where no dissenting opinions are announced (verbally or by show of hands); a formal closed voting procedure, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>a meeting via telephone conference with verbal yes/no voting,</i></li> <li>• <i>a meeting via e-mail where request for agreement or objection are addressed to the members and where members provide a written response (instead of voting), or</i></li> <li>• <i>combinations of these.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>If consensus cannot be reached among all individual Working group participants, the stakeholder organizations shall be grouped in the following three categories and appoint one spokes-person per organization:</i></p> <p><i>I. Forestry: e.g., Forest owners, Forest owners' associations, The Federation of Swedish Forest Owners, Larger forest owners, a joint committee for the Church's forests, and Forestry contractor organizations.</i></p> <p><i>II. Wood processing: e.g., Regional sawmill associations, The Swedish Sawmill Federation, the Association of Swedish Forest Industries, Large forest or forest industry companies which are not represented by any trade organization, National trade organizations involved in wood processing and sale of wood, other national trade associations with operations in primary wood processing and forest energy.</i></p> <p><i>III. Organizations representing social-, environmental-, and cultural interests linked to sustainable forest management: e.g., National environmental organizations, Swedish trade unions representing forestry and forest industries, National organizations connected to forests and forestry in hunting, recreation, outdoor life, sports, local folklore and the cultural history, The Swedish</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>Association of Local Authorities, and the Association of Country Councils, and others.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The Board of the PEFC Sweden shall decide which category a Working group organization belongs to. The stakeholder organization shall appoint its own spokesperson.</i></li> <li><i>• The decision-making process shall reach consensus, including the appeal and complaint procedures under paragraph 8.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Appendix D, 8 Appeal and complaint procedures: During the standard-setting process, the Working group shall, via its board, aim for total consensus of the entire group. The group may however initially disagree. This may be the case for in the Working group internally raised matters, or for external ideas and proposals. In such cases, the appeal- and complaint procedure shall be initiated by the board of the Working group. ...</i></p> <p><i>In case the working group proposal for settlement is not reaching consensus in the Working group, it shall vote by category (I-III), one vote per organization. The majority in each category (I-III) shall form the opinion of the category. If all three categories agree, the result is the Working group's agreement. If two categories agree and one disagrees, the board of the Working group shall appoint an arbitration board of three persons which shall consider whether prerequisites for PEFC interpretation of consensus (ISO) have been met and settle the dispute or send it back to the Working group.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The SFCS standard-setting procedures practically apply two decision-making thresholds. In the type of voting that is intended for finding out whether there are any differences of opinion, a single vote is sufficient to signal</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>an initial disagreement. In the type of voting that involves stakeholder grouping, 3/3 groups are required to agree based on their internal majority vote.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Appendix D leaves some room for interpretation regarding when different types of voting are applied and what triggers an appeal process. The issue is exacerbated by the SFCS not applying the concept of <i>sustained opposition</i>. It is recommended that the description is revised during the next standard revision to allow for unambiguous and consistent interpretation.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The final consensus was reached in a face-to-face working group meeting on 2022-10-06 without a vote.</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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 8 Appeal and complaint procedures: <i>The first step in the appeal process shall be to appoint an independent person from outside the Working group, well informed on the matter under dispute. Such a person shall bring in the necessary external expertise and together with the disagreeing in the Working group, form a working group to settle the dispute. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The SFCS does not apply the concept of <i>sustained opposition</i>. It is, however, featured indirectly as the lack of consensus. Appendix D requires discussions and negotiations to be held for reaching consensus. The first step of the appeal procedure also practically builds on these elements.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The process did not involve persisting stakeholder disagreement that would have counted as sustained opposition.
(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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 8 Appeal and complaint procedures: ... <i>The first step in the appeal process shall be to appoint an independent person from outside the Working group, well informed on the matter under dispute. Such a person shall bring in the necessary external expertise and together with the disagreeing in the Working group, form a working group to settle the dispute. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The framework for negotiations to be held for dispute settlement is not strictly defined by the Appendix D, and as pointed out by PEFC Sweden, is open for the chair and the working group to decide as appropriate. This may involve negotiations held outside the working group between stakeholders directly and facilitated by the appointed independent person, which is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirement.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The process did not involve persisting stakeholder disagreement that would have counted as sustained opposition.</p>
(c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The standardising body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 8 Appeal and complaint procedures: ... <i>If the character of the subject matter motivates it, a public consultation may be used as a help to settle the dispute.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The Appendix D appeal procedure recognises additional public consultation as a potential means for resolving issues on which the working group has been unable to reach consensus.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The process did not involve persisting stakeholder disagreement that would have counted as sustained opposition.
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	Y	Appendix D, 8 Appeal and complaint procedures: <i>During the standard-setting process, the Working group shall, via its board, aim for total consensus of the entire group. The group may however initially disagree. This may be the case for in the Working group internally raised matters, or for external ideas and proposals. In such cases, the appeal- and complaint procedure shall be initiated by the board of the Working group. ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The process did not involve persisting stakeholder disagreement that would have counted as sustained opposition.
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media,	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.5 Public consultation: <i>The Working group shall arrange an open seminar to agree on the proposal for forest standard. The proposal for forest standard shall be clearly announced and be available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
NOTE <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.			<p>60 days together with an invitation to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements. The start and end dates of the consultation shall be clearly specified in the announcement (which has to be made at least the day before the start date). It is also of special importance that key-stakeholders and stakeholders that have chosen not to participate, are informed about the consultation.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	N	<p>Development report, 3.8 Public consultation: <i>A draft of the proposal was published for public consultation on the standard revision web page between 2022-04-04 till 2022-06-03. The public consultation was announced via a press-release on PEFC Sweden's web page and via stakeholder mapping mailing lists including the stakeholders mentioned in section XX. The comments were collected by the secretariat, processed by the task forces and on working group on its meeting 2022-10-06 and the decisions compiled and published on the standard-revision web page along with the minutes of the meeting.</i></p> <p>The public information email on the public consultation was sent on 2022-04-04 saying that the public consultation is open between 2022-04-04 and 2022-06-03.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The announcement on the public consultation was sent on the same day, not the day before the start of the public consultation. The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.5 Public consultation: <i>The Working group shall arrange an open seminar to agree on the proposal for forest standard. The proposal for forest standard shall be clearly announced and be available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 60 days together with an invitation to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements. The start and end dates of the consultation shall be clearly specified in the announcement. It is also of special importance that key-stakeholders and stakeholders that have chosen not to participate, are informed about the consultation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> An email with information and a link to the web page was sent out to the complete list of invited organisations on 2022-04-04.</p>
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ... <i>PEFC Sweden shall identify any barriers or constraints to stakeholders to participate in the revision and work to remedy those constraints.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.3.5 Public consultation: ... <i>It is also of special importance that key-stakeholders and stakeholders that have chosen not to participate, are informed about the consultation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden's requirement to address potential barriers of disadvantaged stakeholders to participate in the standard-setting activities is</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			universal across the process. Subsection 4.3.5 of Appendix D also mentions key stakeholders in the context of the benchmark requirement.
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 3.8 Public consultation: <i>A draft of the proposal was published for public consultation on the standard revision web page between 2022-04-04 till 2022-06-03. The public consultation was announced via a press-release on PEFC Sweden's web page and via stakeholder mapping mailing lists including the stakeholders mentioned in section 5.3.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The methods for invitations were sufficient as all stakeholders read and speak Swedish and have access to email.</p>
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.5 Public consultation: <i>The Working group shall arrange an open seminar to agree on the proposal for forest standard. The proposal for forest standard shall be clearly announced and be available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 60 days together with and invitation to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements. The start and end dates of the consultation shall be clearly specified in the announcement. It is also of special importance that key-stakeholders and stakeholders that have chosen not to participate, are informed about the consultation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 3.8 Public consultation: <i>A draft of the proposal was published for public consultation on the standard revision web page...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The draft was made available on the PEFC Sweden website.
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.5 Public consultation: ...<i>The proposal for forest standard shall be clearly announced and be available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 60 days together with and invitation to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements. The start and end dates of the consultation shall be clearly specified in the announcement. It is also of special importance that key-stakeholders and stakeholders that have chosen not to participate, are informed about the consultation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The procedures are in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 3.8 Public consultation: <i>A draft of the proposal was published for public consultation on the standard revision web page between 2022-04-04 till 2022-06-03.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The public consultation was between 2022-04-04 and 2022-06-03, which is 61 days with both the start date and the end date included.</p>
(f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal: <i>A synopsis of received comments regarding substantial issues shall be addressed by the Working group. The received feedback and the outcome of their treatment in the Working group shall be made available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Those who provided feedback shall be informed about how their feedback was addressed. Once the Working group has reached consensus, the standard is formally handed over to the Board of PEFC Sweden for further handling within the PEFC system.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.4 Rules of procedure for task forces: ...</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Comments and views from all members of the task force/working group shall be considered in an open and transparent manner and decisions as well as proposed changes shall be recorded</i></li> </ul> <p>Appendix D, 6. Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Working group meetings shall be documented and published on the web <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Received comments during the standard setting process - before and after the draft is presented - shall be documented. Received letters and verbal comments by phone or live shall be summarized. All comments shall be presented to the Working group, discussed, and taken into consideration.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The standard requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 3 Mechanism for collection of feedback: <i>To enable collection of feedback on the standard, a permanent feedback mechanism for this purpose was set up at the Swedish PEFC's website (<a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/svenska-pefc-standarden">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/svenska-pefc-standarden</a>). Feedback on the standard that is received during its period of validity at meetings, trainings, and contacts, is collected and recorded by the PEFC-secretariat. A summary of the comments collected over time regarding TD IV is presented in the GAP analysis document.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Information from <i>PEFC Sweden</i>: During the revision, a contact point for comments, feedback, and complaints was established and a link was put on the designated standard revision web page. The proposed handling for each comment was documented in an Excel sheet which was sent out to the participants (including all organisations that had commented).</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal: <i>A synopsis of received comments regarding substantial issues shall be addressed by the Working group. The received feedback and the outcome of their treatment in the Working group shall be made available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Those who provided feedback shall be informed about how their feedback was addressed. Once the Working group has reached consensus, the standard is formally handed over to the Board of PEFC Sweden for further handling within the PEFC system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The procedures are in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Information from <i>PEFC Sweden</i>: <i>The proposed handling for each comment was documented in an excel sheet which was sent out to the participants (including all organisations that had commented).</i></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	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D does not involve a second round of public consultation. However, the scope of Appendix D does not include the development of a new standard. Instead, it includes standard revision, as is currently relevant for PEFC Sweden.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment 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	NA	<p>Document 001, 5. Pilot testing: <i>New elements of the standard that are taken into consideration by the Working group, and that are not well known and up to now practiced, shall be practically tested in the field. Criteria and indicators that the Working group preliminarily agrees on and wishes to include, but which are new and difficult to define to certified organizations/ companies or certifiers, shall also be tested in the field. Such practical tests shall be documented at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> and experiences gained shall be included in the final standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard. Nevertheless, the SFCS includes pilot testing for selected new elements of a revised standard.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden carried out a standard revision, not the development of a new standard.</p>
<b>Approval and Publication</b>			
<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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal: <i>A synopsis of received comments regarding substantial issues shall be addressed by the Working group. The received feedback and the outcome of their treatment in the Working group shall be made available on <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a>. Those who provided feedback shall be informed about how their feedback was addressed. Once the Working group has reached consensus, the standard is formally handed over to the Board of PEFC Sweden for further handling within the PEFC system.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: <i>When the Board has received the standard proposal approved by the Working group, the documents shall be published in an appropriate way and be made publicly available. This shall be made on the date of application at the latest.</i></p> <p><i>The Board of PEFC Sweden shall decide on date of application and date for end of transition period for the revised standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Minutes from working group meeting 2022-10-06 (ID 15): 13. <i>Decision on standard proposals. The Chairman asked whether the Working group could approve the standard proposal, including the working group meeting corrections, for submission to the PEFC Board for further consideration. The working group answered yes to the question. The Chairman asked the Working group whether this decision can be considered to have been taken by consensus and the Working group replied in the affirmative to this as well.</i></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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: <i>When the Board has received the standard proposal approved by the Working group, the documents shall be published in an appropriate way and be made publicly available. This shall be made on the date of application at the latest.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Documents were made publicly available on the PEFC Sweden website and de facto free of charge.
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:			
(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: ... <i>The standard shall include contact information to PEFC Sweden, and the text, 'The official language of this is Swedish. If there are any inconsistencies between the Swedish version and the endorsed version in English the English version is the reference. Printed copies are available from PEFC Sweden on request at a charge covering printing and postage.'</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 includes the identification and contact information of PEFC Sweden on its cover.
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: ... <i>The standard shall include contact information to PEFC Sweden, and the text, 'The official language of this is Swedish. If there are any inconsistencies between the Swedish version and the endorsed version in English the English version is the reference. Printed copies are available from PEFC Sweden on request at a charge covering printing and postage.'</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.
	Process	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5, Copyright notice: <i>The official language of this is Swedish. If there are any inconsistencies between the Swedish version and the endorsed version in English the English version is the reference.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 includes the official language of the standard.
(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	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: ... <i>The standard shall include contact information to PEFC Sweden, and the text, 'The official language of this is Swedish. If there are any inconsistencies between the Swedish version and the endorsed version in English the English version is the reference. Printed copies are available from PEFC Sweden on request at a charge covering printing and postage.'</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.
	Process	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5, Copyright notice: <i>The official language of this is Swedish. If there are any inconsistencies between the Swedish version and the endorsed version in English the English version is the reference.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 includes the benchmark-required note concerning the English version of the standard.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(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	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: ... <i>The approval date and periodic review date shall also be included in the standard.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 states the date for the next periodic review (2027-12-05) <b>Comment:</b> The approval date is not indicated in the standards revised in September and received by the assessor on October 2, 2023. The date will be added as soon as the PEFC Sweden Board has formally approved the revised standards.
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	N	Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: ... <i>The standard shall include contact information to PEFC Sweden, and the text, 'The official language of this is Swedish. If there are any inconsistencies between the Swedish version and the endorsed version in English the English version is the reference. Printed copies are available from PEFC Sweden on request at a charge covering printing and postage.'</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> A note informing about this opportunity is included on the PEFC Sweden website: <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/svenska-pefc-standarden">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/svenska-pefc-standarden</a>
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 6. Documentation: ... <i>A development report shall be published on the web site along with the approved standard.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D requires that the development report be publicly available.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The development report was published on the PEFC Sweden website.
<b>Periodic review of standards</b>			
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	Y	Appendix D 2. Review: <i>The PEFC Sweden general assembly is responsible for initiating the review of the forest standard within 5 years from the approval of the previous standard (as of the date of decision by the Swedish board). At review of the standard, the stakeholder identification mapping shall be updated. The review shall include a GAP-analysis against any new PEFC-standards, other regulations, and legislation. The owner of the standard shall consider new research and knowledge and relevant emerging issues. Received feedback on applicable standard that have been collected via meetings and through the feedback mechanism on the website shall be considered in the review. The review may result in a need for revision (of greater or lesser scope) or that the standard is not in need of revision. If the conclusion is that the standard is not in need of revision, the stakeholders shall be consulted to capture other needs of</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>revision of the standard. This consultation may be either through public consultation at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 30 days, and/or through stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders shall be given a reasonable time to be able to either provide feedback in the public consultation or participate in meeting. Figure 9 provides an overview of the complete review- and revision process. It is possible to take a decision on revision directly without a separate review process.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The standard meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development Report 1 Introduction: <i>The Swedish PEFC Standard (technical document, TD) shall be reviewed and if needed revised within 5 years from the approval of the previous standard. The current standard PEFC SWE TD IV was approved 2016-04-20 and revised between 17 March 2021 and 6 October 2022.</i></p>
<p>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.</p> <p>NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2. Review: <i>...Received feedback on applicable standard that have been collected via meetings and through the feedback mechanism on the website shall be considered in the review.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The standard meets the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><b>Justification:</b> A permanent note on the opportunity to submit feedback exists on the web page (both for existing standard <a href="https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/svenska-pefc-standarden">https://pefc.se/vara-standarder/svenska-pefc-standarden</a> ) and at the standard revision web page.</p>
8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2. Review: <i>Received feedback on applicable standard that have been collected via meetings and through the feedback mechanism on the website shall be considered in the review.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 3. Mechanism for collection of feedback: <i>To enable collection of feedback on the standard, both during implementation and in connection with review and revision, a permanent feedback mechanism for this purpose shall be set up at the PEFC Sweden's website.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback on the standard that is received during its period of validity at meetings, trainings, and contacts, is collected and recorded by the PEFC-secretariate.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The Appendix D requirements for recording feedback cover all relevant sources of feedback.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 3 Mechanisms for the collection of feedback: <i>Feedback on the standard that is received during its period of validity at meetings, trainings, and contacts, is collected and recorded by the PEFC-secretariat.</i></p> <p>Development report, 3.3 Announcement of the standard-setting and invitation of stakeholders: <i>The stakeholders were invited by email 2022-02-24 (ID 17) and the invitation was placed on the website of PEFC Sweden. When registering participants were requested to submit their organisation's desired focus areas for the revision. Based on that and on collated comments on the standard the secretariat proposed the scope and task forces for the revision process. This was</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>documented in a spread sheet and provided to the task forces at the start of the process.</i></p> <p><i>GAP Analysis: Chapter 3. "Comments received by the office", lists the comments collected by PEFC Sweden during the validity of TD IV.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The process was in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</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	Y	<p><i>Document 001, 2 Review: ...At review of the standard, the stakeholder identification mapping shall be updated. The review shall include a GAP-analysis against any new PEFC-standards, other regulations, and legislation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements are met.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Development report, Gap analysis: <i>A gap analysis was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat and the analysis concluded that a revision of the system was needed.</i></p>
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	Y	<p><i>Appendix D, 4.3 The work of the Standard Working group: The Standard Working group shall invite the stakeholders to open seminars to discuss the standard-setting process as well as offer interested parties to take part in the task forces. The Standard Working group shall arrange a series of seminars (either in connection to the Standard Working group's regular meetings or under separate arrangements) where invited scientists and other experts give presentations on research areas of relevance to the standard."</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements are met.
	Process	Y	<p>Development report, 4.6 The science community and other expertise: <i>In order to strengthen the process and to ensure a science-based standard, scientists and other experts were invited to the working group meetings to provide insights on selected topics relevant to the standard. The topics/experts/scientists were proposed by the task forces.</i></p> <p>Several seminars on topics including outdoor and recreation, future forest management, continuous-cover forest, etc., were given. Relevant universities and research organisations were also part of the stakeholder mapping and invited to join the revision."</p> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The requirements of the PEFC ST 1001:2017 were met.
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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2. Review: <i>...If the conclusion is that the standard is not in need of revision, the stakeholders shall be consulted to capture other needs of revision of the standard. This consultation may be either through public consultation at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 30 days, and/or through stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders shall be given a reasonable time to be able to either provide feedback in the public consultation or participate in meeting.</i></p> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The stakeholder consultation required by the PEFC ST 1001:2017 is covered by the Swedish PEFC standard.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The feedback and the gap analysis identified a need to revise the standard.
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping: ... <i>The nine different stakeholder groups that are identified in Agenda 21 shall be considered in the stakeholder identification mapping. ... A stakeholder identification mapping shall be made that identifies the sectors that are relevant and why, likely key-issues for each sector shall be defined as well as which means of communication would be best to reach them. The mapping shall also identify if any stakeholder is disadvantaged.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Development report, 4.3 Stakeholder identification mapping: <i>A stakeholder mapping was conducted by the PEFC national secretariat.</i>
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	Y	Appendix D, 2. Review: ... <i>If the conclusion is that the standard is not in need of revision, the stakeholders shall be consulted to capture other needs of revision of the standard. This consultation may be either through public consultation at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 30 days, with start and end dates communicated in a timely manner, and/or through stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders shall be given</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<i>a reasonable time to be able to either provide feedback in the public consultation or participate in meeting.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The feedback and the gap analysis identified a need to revise the standard. Therefore, a public consultation for this purpose was not required.
(b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 2. Review: ... <i>If the conclusion is that the standard is not in need of revision, the stakeholders shall be consulted to capture other needs of revision of the standard. This consultation may be either through public consultation at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 30 days, and/or through stakeholder meetings. ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The feedback and the gap analysis identified a need to revise the standard. Therefore, stakeholder meetings for this purpose were not required.
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 2. Review: ... <i>If the conclusion is that the standard is not in need of revision, the stakeholders shall be consulted to capture other needs of revision of the standard. This consultation may be either through public consultation at <a href="http://www.pefc.se">www.pefc.se</a> for at least 30 days, with start and end dates communicated in a timely manner, and/or through stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders shall be given</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>a reasonable time to be able to either provide feedback in the public consultation or participate in meeting</i></p> <p>Appendix D, 4.2 Invitation to standard revision: ... <i>The invitations shall be made at least four weeks in advance of the first meeting with the Standard Working Group.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017</p>
	Process	Y	<p>1. Development report, 4.4 Announcement of the standard-setting and invitation of stakeholders: <i>The stakeholders were invited by email 2021-02-24 (ID 17), and the invitation was placed on the website of PEFC Sweden.</i></p> <p>A “save-the-date” was also published as a new item on PEFC Sweden’s web page 2020-12-21 <a href="https://pefc.se/nyheter/spara-datomet-den-23-e-mars-2021-startar-pefc-s-standardrevision">https://pefc.se/nyheter/spara-datomet-den-23-e-mars-2021-startar-pefc-s-standardrevision</a></p> <p>PEFC Sweden also sent a heads-up to members on the upcoming standard revision on 2020-12-04.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The announcements to stakeholders were sent in a timely manner.</p> <p>Stakeholders were notified directly on standard revision. Notifying members specifically on the standard review alone was not relevant, as standard revision was known to be required due to the update of the international SFM benchmark requirements (PEFC ST 1003:2018).</p>
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard’s implementation, the outcome of the gap	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2. Review: ... <i>The review shall include a GAP-analysis against any new PEFC-standards, other regulations, and legislation. The owner of the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
analysis and the consultations, the standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.			<p><i>standard shall consider new research and knowledge and relevant emerging issues. Received feedback on applicable standard that have been collected via meetings and through the feedback mechanism on the website shall be considered in the review. The review may result in a need for revision (of greater or lesser scope) or that the standard is not in need of revision. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D is in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017 requirements.</p>
	Process	Y	<p>GAP analysis, 1 Introduction: <i>PEFC Sweden must initiate review/revision of the Swedish national forest standard (PEFC TD IV document 001-005) before 20 April 2021. New international standards for standard setting, group certification and sustainable forest management mean that our process and standards need to be reviewed to ensure that we meet the new requirements. In many cases, these are things that we already have in place in the Swedish standard and/or in Swedish praxis. Other requirements are new to us and must somehow be addressed in a revision. The purpose of this document is to identify the requirements that are new in the international regulatory framework and to evaluate whether adaptation is needed. The document also summarizes the views on the standard and standard revision process received by the office from existing and new stakeholders. Finally, a plan is proposed for further work in 2020.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The decision is recorded in the minutes of the PEFC Sweden Board meeting 2021-02-09. The rationale for the decision is provided in the GAP analysis.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2. Review: <i>The PEFC Sweden general assembly is responsible for initiating the review of the forest standard within 5 years from the approval of the previous standard ... The review may result in a need for revision (of greater or lesser scope) or that the standard is not in need of revision.</i></p> <p>Appendix D, Figure 9 indicates that the decision to revise the standard shall be made at the highest decision-making body of PEFC Sweden.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D indicates that the revision decision shall be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> It is recommended that the requirement for the revision decision to be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body is also included explicitly in the body text of the standard-setting procedures.</p>
	Process	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The decision to revise the standard was made at the PEFC Sweden Board meeting on 2021-02-09 and recorded in the minutes.</p>
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	Y	<p>Appendix D, section 2.1: <i>... If the decision is to reaffirm the existing standard the decision and its justification shall be announced at the PEFC Sweden web page.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> SFCS requires the standardising body to justify its decision to reaffirm a standard and make the justification publicly available.</p>
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> A decision was made to revise the standard, not to reaffirm it.
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	Y	<p>Appendix D, chapter 4, Revision of the standard: <i>PEFC Sweden shall specify the type of revision (full, editorial or time-critical).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Appendix D requires the standardising body to specify the type of revision.</p>
	Process	N	<p>The Annual General Meeting held on the 2021-02-09 decided to revise the Swedish PEFC Standard. The type of revision was not specified <a href="https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-arsstammor">https://pefc.se/det-har-ar-pefc/om-svenska-pefc/protokoll-arsstammor</a></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The type of revision was not specified by the standardising body. The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.</p>
<b>Revision of standards</b>			
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	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The Appendix D procedures are set from the viewpoint of standard revision, which is currently the relevant scope for PEFC Sweden. There are no nonconformities between the scheme's procedure requirements for standard revision and the procedures stipulated by section 6 of the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	N	<b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> There is one minor nonconformity with benchmark requirement for process: 6.5.1 (a). The nonconformity should be noted and corrected during the next standard-setting process.
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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2.1 Editorial and time-critical revisions: <i>Editorial and time-critical revisions shall follow the requirements in PEFC international benchmark standard PEFC ST 1001:2017. If needed the requirements are implemented taking into account the conditions in Sweden and the revision at hand.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Editorial revisions are recognized, and they are required to directly follow the international benchmark requirements set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> No editorial changes have been made.</p>
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2.1 Editorial and time-critical revisions: <i>Editorial and time-critical revisions shall follow the requirements in PEFC international benchmark standard PEFC ST 1001:2017. If needed the requirements are implemented taking into account the conditions in Sweden and the revision at hand.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Time-critical revisions are recognized, and they are required to directly follow the international benchmark requirements set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The revision was not implemented as a time-critical revision.
9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:			
(a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 2.1 Editorial and time-critical revisions: <i>Editorial and time-critical revisions shall follow the requirements in PEFC international benchmark standard PEFC ST 1001:2017. If needed the requirements are implemented taking into account the conditions in Sweden and the revision at hand.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Time-critical revisions are required to directly follow the international benchmark requirements set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> The revision was not implemented as a time-critical revision.
(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	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.2 (a) - Procedures.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.2 (a) - Process.
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	Y	<p>Appendix D, 2.1 Editorial and time-critical revisions: <i>Editorial and time-critical revisions shall follow the requirements in PEFC international benchmark standard PEFC ST 1001:2017. If needed the requirements are implemented taking into account the conditions in Sweden and the revision at hand.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Time-critical revisions are required to directly follow the international benchmark requirements set by the PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The revision was not implemented as a time-critical revision.</p>
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.3 (a) - Procedures.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.3 (a) - Process.</p>
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.3 (a) - Procedures.</p>
	Process	NA	<p><b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.3 (a) - Process.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(d) The standardising body shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.3 (a) - Procedures.
	Process	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 9.3.3 (a) - Process.
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Y	Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: <i>When the Board has received the standard proposal approved by the Working group, the documents shall be published in an appropriate way and be made publicly available. ...The Board of PEFC Sweden shall decide on date of application and date for end of transition period for the revised standard.</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The period from publication of the standard until application date shall not exceed one year. ....</i></li> <li><i>The transition period shall not exceed one year, except from during justified exceptional circumstances when implementation of revised standard requires a longer period.</i></li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The application date and the transition period requirements are in line with the PEFC ST 1001:2017.
	Process	N	Minutes from PEFC Sweden board meeting 2022-12-05: 8. <i>Standard proposal PEFC technical document V. At the forum meeting on October 6, the standards forum approved the proposal for a new PEFC standard (TD V document 001 – 005) for submission to the Swedish PEFC board. The CEO explained the handling of the documents and the pending international process. Decision: The board decided on 2022-12-05 to approve the forum's standard proposal and</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p><i>forward the standard for international review. The board also decided that the standard proposal should be published on 16-01-2023.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The application date of the standard is not defined. PEFC Sweden anticipates the application date of the standard to be in January 2024, following the international endorsement of the standard. Since the application date is a mandatory element of the standard, the process is not in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.</p>
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	Y	<p>Appendix D, 4.3.7 The approved standard: ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The period from publication of the standard until application date shall not exceed one year. This period is needed for approval of revised standards, to introduce changes, and for information dissemination and training.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The maximum period between the standard publication and the application date is set in line with the PEFS ST 1001:2017.</p>
	Process	N	<p>Minutes from working group meeting 2022-10-06: 6. The procedure – Schedule and other information. ...An international approval can be expected in January 2024 with a transition period of one year.</p> <p>Minutes from PEFC Sweden board meeting 2022-12-05: 8. Standard proposal PEFC technical document V. ...The board also decided that the standard proposal should be published on 16-01-2023.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assessment basis	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>Justification:</b> The application date of the standard is not defined. PEFC Sweden anticipates the application date of the standard to be in January 2024, following the international endorsement of the standard. Since the application date is a mandatory element of the standard, the process is not in line with PEFC ST 1001:2017.
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	Y	Document 001, 3 Validity and transition rules: <i>This Technical Document (TD V), PEFC SWE 001-006, was approved by the Board of PEFC Sweden on 2022-12-05 and by PEFC International on xxxxx. TD IV is valid for already issued PEFC-certificates during a transition period of 1 year after the entering into force of the new revised TD V.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> A one-year transition period is mentioned in Document 001, 3 Validity and transition rules.
	Process	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Minutes from the working group meeting 2022-10-06: 6. <i>The procedure – Schedule and other information. ...An international approval can be expected in January 2024 with a transition period of one year.</i>

## PEFC Checklist (3) - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2018, *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*. Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (PEFC SWE 001:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023 Forestry Standard (PEFC SWE 002:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023 Forestry Contractor Standard (PEFC SWE 003:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023 Direct Certification and Group Certification (PEFC SWE 004:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023

### 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard</b>		
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	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> All requirements are applicable at the participant/management unit level.



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.		
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> The sustainable forest management requirements of the PEFC SWE 002:5, as well as any additional requirements/specifications of the SFCS, are generally clear, performance-based and auditable.
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	Y	PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard (Sw: PEFC-standarden): Refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i>  PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management: <i>3.4.1 Choice of forest management system</i>  <i>The clear-felling system is the most common and most evaluated forest management system in Sweden. Other forest management systems, such as continuous cover forestry, may be relevant in relation to the individual forest owner's goals and conditions.</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>These methods shall be tested and aim for an active, long term, and sustainable forestry.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.1.1 Other management methods, such as continuous cover forestry methods, may be applied provided that the methods in question are site-adapted and provide conditions for long term management, sustainable production, as well as consider nature-, cultural-, and social values of the forest. <u>Completed measures shall be documented in the forest management plan.</u> The requirements of the Forestry Standard shall be observed also when the forest is managed with other management systems than the clear-felling system.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration:</p> <p><i>3.4.2.1 Plant- and seed material shall be adequate for the site in question and have a documented origin.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.6 Dead wood:</p> <p><i>3.4.6.8 Deviation from creating and retaining fresh dead wood of coniferous trees is allowed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>when there is a documented risk of mass propagation of noxious insects</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.9 Exotic tree species:</p> <p><i>3.4.9.1 Presence of exotic tree species shall be documented in the forest management plan. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.4.9.4 Larger forest owners shall have programs in place for the control of propagation into formally protected and voluntarily set-aside forest land. Larger forest owners shall</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>also show consideration at stand- and landscape level when exotic tree species are used. This shall be clear from the forest management plan or other documentation.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.9.5 Larger forest owners, with land holdings situated within the area of reindeer husbandry (3§ The Reindeer Husbandry Act (1971:437)) shall not establish stands with exotic species on sites that are of special importance to reindeer herding, unless otherwise is agreed during consultation. Such sites shall be documented in connection with consultations or through the Sami communities' land use accounts, reindeer management plans, or national accounts on reindeer herding.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.7 Set-asides for environmental purposes: ...</i></p> <p><i>Any relaxations of the rules must be documented in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.1.1 Areas on the forest holding that are of great significance for recreation and outdoor life shall be identified and documented prior to any forestry operation, at the latest.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.7 Work organization: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.7.2 The company shall conduct and document at least two formal workplace meetings a year. Exemptions can be made for companies with three employees or less, where the requirement is one workplace meeting. When the company has only one employee, staff appraisal may be included.</i></p> <p><i>Risk assessment and work environment issues shall be included in at least one workplace meeting per year.</i></p> <p><i>4.7.3 Staff appraisals, which include needs for skills development, shall be held at least once a year. The employer shall be able to demonstrate how this is done, through appropriate documentation.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.11 Skills development: <i>Systematic skills development shall be included as an important component of the certified company's staff policy. ...</i></p> <p><i>4.11.7 Completed courses shall be documented.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 1. Introduction: <i>...The requirement to hire certified contractors implies that the execution of individual forestry operations may easily be delegated to certified operators (contractors) through documented contracts.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.3 PEFC-certification:</p> <p><i>4.3.6 Accept that the umbrella organization and the certification body conduct controls of compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization, the certification body, and where applicable, the PEFC Sweden or PEFC International, shall be given access to relevant documentation and information, as well as access to relevant facilities (for example financial statement that is not public or verification on purchase of chemicals).</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.4 Forest management planning:</p> <p><i>4.4.1 A plan-producing company shall establish and document routines for the production of forest management plans which comply with the requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, Appendix 1. The documentation shall include field-work and quality assurance.</i></p> <p><i>4.4.2 Regarding forest management planners, the company shall document that the qualifications of planners meet the requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.9 Hazardous waste:</p> <p><i>4.9.5 Any person who hands over hazardous waste for carriage shall, together with the transporter (the receiver), make sure that a transport document is established which</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>includes information on sort of waste, quantity of waste, and who leaves and receives the waste respectively. The transport document shall be signed by the supplier (the contractor).</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.10 Emergency preparedness and preventive measures:</p> <p><i>4.10.1 The emergency preparedness shall be documented, available, and reviewed annually, in a way ensuring that all persons concerned understands it. It shall include necessary first aid equipment and preparedness for personal injury. ...</i></p> <p><i>4.10.5 Preventive measures against forest fire shall be taken when fire risk is at hand, in accordance with documented routines and specified responsibilities that have been established together with the client.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification:</p> <p><i>3.1.5 Annually implement and document the management review. The management review shall review and ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.10 At collaboration between individual landowners on any of the landowners' holdings, provide special information, guidance, and surveillance to ensure that applicable parts of the standard requirements are met, as well as to follow up and document this.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 1. Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants: <i>...The umbrella organisation shall document the nonconformities.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Document management, The organization shall maintain routines for identification, maintenance, filing, usage and protection concerning integrity and confidentiality, of the governing and reporting documents that are necessary to the certified forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5, PEFC SWE 002:5, PEFC SWE 003:5, and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;</p> <p>Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim “100% PEFC certified”, and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website <a href="http://www.pefc.org">www.pefc.org</a>.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 8. The Swedish PEFC certification system, 8.2 Implementation, 8.2.4 Chain of custody certification: <i>The PEFC-system includes a chain of custody standard to secure information on the origin of raw material. The chain of custody standard also specifies requirements for the certified company’s management system and for working conditions for employees. Chain of custody certification within the framework of the PEFC Sweden’s certification system is conducted in accordance with requirements specified in the international PEFC-standard PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard (Sw: PEFC-standarden): Refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i></p> <p>PEFC 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry, 3.2.3 Direct certification of wood procurement organizations: <i>Concerns wood procurement organizations that are performing forestry operations on forest land of certified forest owners. A forestry certificate is issued to the wood procurement organization. The certification shall cover the entire wood procurement organization’s forest management.</i></p> <p><i>3.2.3.1 The procurement organisation must have a valid certificate according to PEFC ST 2002:2020 (or be included in a group certificate for PEFC ST 2002:2020) and is</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>responsible for ensuring that the necessary information (PEFC ST 2002:2020 5.1.1) is retrieved from the certified forest owner and that the claim 100% PEFC certified is used for communicating the origin. Only products from PEFC certified forest owners and areas covered by a valid PEFC SFM certificate can be traded with a PEFC certified claim.</i></p> <p>PEFC 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification, 4.4.3 Responsibilities of affiliated wood procurement organizations:</p> <p><i>4.4.3.5 The procurement organisation must have a valid certificate according to PEFC ST 2002:2020 (or be included in a group certificate for PEFC ST 2002:2020) and is responsible for ensuring that the necessary information (PEFC ST 2002:2020 5.1.1) is retrieved from the certified forest owner and that the claim 100% PEFC certified is used for communicating the origin. Only products from PEFC certified forest owners and areas covered by a valid PEFC SFM certificate can be traded with a PEFC certified claim.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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;	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 4.1 e).</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;	Y	<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> See 4.1 e).</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> See 4.1 e).
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.	Y	<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry: <i>Forestry certification is confirmed by means of a certificate issued by an accredited certification body after independent third-party audit. The forest owner/wood procurement organization is responsible for: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.2.1.10 The organization shall identify what interested stakeholders that are relevant to the forest management and determine the interested stakeholders' relevant expectations on the forest management.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>...A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.13 The umbrella organization shall identify what interested stakeholders that are relevant to the forest management and determine the interested stakeholders' relevant needs and expectations on the forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. <i>Direct certification</i>, 3.2 <i>Direct certification of forestry</i>:</p> <p>3.2.1.10 <i>The organization shall identify what interested stakeholders that are relevant to the forest management and determine the interested stakeholders' relevant expectations on the forest management.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. <i>Group certification</i>, 4.2 <i>Basic requirements for umbrella organization</i>: ...A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</p> <p>4.2.1.13 <i>The umbrella organization shall identify what interested stakeholders that are relevant to the forest management and determine the interested stakeholders' relevant needs and expectations on the forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Context of the organization - Scope: Applicability for and delimitations of the umbrella organization's/organization's management system shall be determined and documented.</i></p> <p><i>Group certification and its conditions are described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4, and definitions in PEFC SWE 001, Appendix B.</i></p> <p><i>Requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification, chapter 3, and definitions in PEFC SWE 001, Appendix B.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: ...<i>Forest management comprises the cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental, and economic effects of both planned and completed forest management operations. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 1. Introduction: ...<i>Continual improvement work and continuous identification of nonconformities are cornerstones of the standard and certified organizations shall together aim for improvement of its implementation by informing each other about observed deficiencies.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Performance evaluation, Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Applicable parts (Sw: Tillämpliga delar)</i>: Any requirements in the Swedish PEFC standard (documents 001 - 004) controlling an operation or management which the certificate holder/participant performs.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification:</p> <p><i>Directly certified organizations shall:</i></p> <p>3.1.3 For own forest management/contracted forest management, commit to conform to applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and continuously work for a sustainable forest management and for improvements of the management system. The commitment shall be public on the website of the certificate holder.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: ...A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</p> <p>4.2.1.7 Commitment to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard, to comply with 4.2.1.6, as well as that the umbrella organization and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management. The umbrella organization shall, upon request, provide this commitment.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 1. Introduction: ...Continual improvement work and continuous identification of nonconformities are cornerstones of the standard and certified organizations shall together aim for improvement of its implementation by informing each other about observed deficiencies.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification:</p> <p><i>Directly certified organizations shall: ...</i></p> <p>3.1.3 For own forest management/contracted forest management, commit to conform to applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and continuously work for a sustainable forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>management and for improvements of the management system. The commitment shall be public on the website of the certificate holder.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: ... <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.7 Commitment to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard, to comply with 4.2.1.6, as well as that the umbrella organization and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management. The umbrella organization shall, upon request, provide this commitment.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Performance evaluation: Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve forest management and its management system. ...</i></p> <p>See also 5.1 (a).</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification:</p> <p><i>Directly certified organizations shall:</i></p> <p><i>3.1.3 For own forest management/contracted forest management, commit to conform to applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and continuously work for a sustainable forest management and for improvements of the management system. The commitment shall be public on the website of the certificate holder.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.7 Commitment to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard, to comply with 4.2.1.6, as well as that the umbrella organization and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management. The umbrella organization shall, upon request, provide this commitment.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> While PEFC SWE 004:5 requires umbrella organisations to provide a commitment as per the benchmark 5.1 requirements, the public availability of this commitment is subjected to a request. The PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines <i>publicly available</i> as <i>generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request</i>. Therefore, the PEFC SWE 004:5 does not fully meet the benchmark 5.2 requirement.</p>
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Leadership: Management system requirements - group: The umbrella organization shall design its business and provide the group members with information and procedures to secure compliance with the standard. If nonconformities occur, the umbrella organization is responsible for the handling of nonconformities. Measuring and evaluation of compliance with the standard is made by means of the umbrella organization conducting annual internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants.</i></p> <p><i>The umbrella organization shall run its business in accordance with PEFC SWE 004 (chapters 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5).</i></p> <p><i>The responsibility of participants in PEFC SWE 004 (chapters 4.4, 4.6 and for contractors also in PEFC SWE 003).</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Management system requirements - direct: The organization shall define the roles and responsibilities that are of relevance for the forest management's compliance with the PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><i>Requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. The roles and responsibilities are described in detail in the PEFC SWE 004:5 chapters 3 and 4.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard (Sw: PEFC-standarden): Refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Planning, Risks and opportunities: The organization shall, in relation to frequency and scope of the operations, consider risks and opportunities for compliance with the PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note: <i>"Applies to direct (individual) certification as well as group certification."</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<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.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.7 Monitoring:</p> <p><i>7.7.1 State of and changes in forests</i></p> <p><i>The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SUAS) is responsible for official statistics on current state of and changes in Sweden's forests. The basis for this is the annual inventory work made by SUAS through the National Forest Inventory and the Swedish Forest Soil Survey. The main purpose of the National Forest Inventory is to describe the state of and changes in Sweden's forests, including their health and vitality (see Figures 1 – 4). The information collected is used, for example, for follow-up and assessment of current forest-, environmental, and energy policy. The National Forest Inventory has been carried out since 1923. The Swedish Forest Soil Survey is a detailed inventory of the status of forest soils.</i></p> <p><i>NILS (National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden) is an umbrella for national environmental monitoring programs. The purpose of the inventories is to collect, analyze, and present data on what landscapes and habitat types look like in Sweden and change over time by means of field inventories and aerial photo interpretation of permanent sample plots in all types of terrestrial environments in the Swedish landscape. NILS is run by SUAS since 2003 on commission by the Environmental Protection Agency.</i></p> <p><i>7.7.2 Environment, social issues, and production in forestry</i></p> <p><i>The Forest Agency is responsible for official statistics in the fields of "production in forestry", "employment in forestry", and "environment and social issues in forestry". The agency performs inventories as well as questionnaires and interviews to collect data regarding the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><i>The system for follow-up of shown consideration is undergoing development. The purpose is to reduce the risk of subjective assessments being made and to build on the work of the forest sector's target scenarios for conservation action in forest management. During 2015 and 2017 field inventories were carried out according to a</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>new method and in 2019 an evaluation was made that shows the need for further development. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: ...<i>Forest management comprises the cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental, and economic effects of both planned and completed forest management operations. In addition to own results, data, and results from the National Forest Inventory and from The Forest Agency's monitoring of environmental consideration may be used. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ...<i>At the establishment of the forest management plan, the classification into forestry objectives shall be based on conservation value assessment in the field. The forest management plan shall be developed with consideration to a landscape-ecological perspective. The information in the plan shall be quality assured.</i></p> <p><i>A forest management plan may be valid over time if it is continuously updated with current information regarding e.g., stand data, ancient remains, and other cultural heritage sites.</i></p> <p><i>In case of significantly changed conditions (e.g., storm, fire, insect infestation, changed conservation values), and/or significantly changed management, a new field assessment is required for the plan to be considered valid. In the case of larger additional purchases or division of forest land, a new prioritization of nature conservation set-asides may be required. Changed requirements within the PEFC-standard that affects the forest management plan shall be introduced in the plan at the nearest plan update, and 10 years after the standard has entered into force at the latest. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		PEFC Sweden's note: "A forest management plan shall be in place based on inventories and assessments (Document 002 Appendix 1). Forest owners with less than 20 ha shall have a map with set-asides, registered key habitats sites with conservations values formally protected areas, ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites that are registered by the competent authority. In addition, all forest owners have access to high-resolution data (volume, basal area, biomass, average tree height, average diameter at breast height, soil moisture class, terrain) and other information at the Forest Agency website ("Mina sidor" i.e. "My pages")."
6.2 Management plan		
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:		
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ...A certified forest owner shall within 2 years from the date of certification demonstrate or submit to the umbrella organization or the certification body an approved forest management plan encompassing the entire forest holding under the same ownership. In case of any changes in the property under the same ownership, the forest owner shall have revised the plan to accommodate to the new situation within 2 years at the latest. ...</p> <p>A forest management plan may be valid over time if it is continuously updated with current information regarding e.g., stand data, ancient remains, and other cultural heritage sites.</p> <p>In case of significantly changed conditions (e.g., storm, fire, insect infestation, changed conservation values), and/or significantly changed management, a new field assessment is required for the plan to be considered valid. In the case of larger additional purchases or division of forest land, a new prioritization of nature conservation set-asides may be required. Changed requirements within the PEFC-standard that affects the forest management plan shall be introduced in the plan at the nearest plan update, and 10 years after the standard has entered into force at the latest.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A forest management plan that is not continuously updated is not valid if 10 years has passed and updating is not made. For forest holdings with average site class lower than 2,5 m<sup>3</sup> forest cubic metres/ha and year, 15 years apply. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note: "A note on operations, planning and management plans: In the Swedish system the plan is a collection of data on the FMU and provides recommendations for forest operations. The operative planning and implementation of the forest management is based on the plan but not a part of it. The PEFC system requests a forest management plan which is adapted to the FM standard which is why some of the requirements are not necessarily found in Appendix 1 but in the standard itself."</p>
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.3 Forest management plan: <i>The Swedish PEFC-system is based on forest owners having a forest management plan adapted to certification. The forest management plan is a basis for planning the management of the forest holding.</i></p> <p><i>3.1.1 For forest holdings of 20 ha productive forest land or more, there shall be a forest management plan adapted to certification in accordance with Appendix 1. An evaluated and described method for conservation value assessment shall form the basis for the forestry objectives.</i></p> <p><i>3.1.2 For forest holdings with less than 20 ha productive forest land, there shall be a map showing voluntary set-asides, registered key-habitats, sites with conservation values, formally protected areas, ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites that are registered by concerned authority.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: <i>...A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>The forest owner's objective for the forest holding shall be considered in the forest management plan. When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 1. Introduction: <i>...In addition, the principles, rules, and guidelines prescribed by the Swedish forestry legislation and other applicable national legislation constitute a platform for the standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: <i>...When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) adequately covering forest resources.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: <i>...A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan. ...</i></p> <p><i>Requirements for general information in the forest management plan: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>5. Commentaries to the holding including information on ancient remains, other cultural heritage sites, registered key-habitats, formally protected areas, and water protection areas</p> <p>6. Map showing:</p> <p>a. property- and land use class boundaries</p> <p>b. forestry objectives</p> <p>7. Distribution of area on land use classes</p> <p>8. Tree-covered low-productive forest land may be described separately</p> <p>9. Age class distribution</p> <p>10. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>11. Summary of proportion of productive forest land consisting of:</p> <p>a. mesic and moist soil</p> <p>b. current and future stands dominated by deciduous trees, or: In those cases where conditions are lacking for 5% of stands dominated by deciduous trees, current existence of deciduous trees and objective for increased volume of deciduous timber shall be described. ...</p> <p>13. Growth and proposed harvesting level.</p> <p>Stand-specific information in the forest management plan:</p> <p>The stand-specific information shall be adapted to the prerequisites of the chosen management method. In the case of alternative management methods, other parameters may be relevant.</p> <p>1. Area</p> <p>2. Age</p> <p>3. Forestry objective</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4. <i>Distribution of tree species</i>  5. <i>Site index</i>  6. <i>Maturity class</i>  7. <i>Volume</i>  8. <i>Classification of soil moisture ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: <i>A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>The forest owner's objective for the forest holding shall be considered in the forest management plan. When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective. ...</i></p> <p><i>At the establishment of the forest management plan, the classification into forestry objectives shall be based on conservation value assessment in the field. The forest management plan shall be developed with consideration to a landscape-ecological perspective. The information in the plan shall be quality assured. ...</i></p> <p><i>Requirements for general information in the forest management plan: ...</i></p> <p><i>5. Commentaries to the holding including information on ancient remains, other cultural heritage sites, registered key-habitats, formally protected areas, and water protection areas ...</i></p> <p><i>Stand-specific information in the forest management plan:</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>12. Information on ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites</p> <p>13. Areas of special significance to outdoor life and recreation.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.1 The Forestry Act, 7.4.1.2 Notification of regeneration felling: ...<i>The Forestry Act regulates minimum age for regeneration felling. A forest owner is obliged to regenerate the forest after harvesting (§5 Forestry Act) and to establish and manage new forest (§8). For management units larger than 50 ha, the regeneration felling must not be made to such an extent that more than half of the unit's productive forest land will consist of bare forest land and forest younger than 20 years. For management units larger than 1000 and 5000 ha there are further regulations. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan:</p> <p><i>NOTE: For currently certified forest owners with valid plans, these requirements are applied when the plan is to be renewed.</i></p> <p><i>A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>The forest owner's objective for the forest holding shall be considered in the forest management plan. When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A certified forest owner shall within 2 years from the date of certification demonstrate or submit to the umbrella organization or the certification body an approved forest management plan encompassing the entire forest holding under the same ownership. In case of any changes in the property under the same ownership, the forest owner shall have revised the plan to accommodate to the new situation within 2 years at the latest.</i></p> <p><i>At the establishment of the forest management plan, the classification into forestry objectives shall be based on conservation value assessment in the field. The forest management plan shall be developed with consideration to a landscape-ecological perspective. The information in the plan shall be quality assured.</i></p> <p><i>A forest management plan may be valid over time if it is continuously updated with current information regarding e.g., stand data, ancient remains, and other cultural heritage sites.</i></p> <p><i>In case of significantly changed conditions (e.g., storm, fire, insect infestation, changed conservation values), and/or significantly changed management, a new field assessment is required for the plan to be considered valid. In the case of larger additional purchases or division of forest land, a new prioritization of nature conservation set-asides may be required. Changed requirements within the PEFC-standard that affects the forest management plan shall be introduced in the plan at the nearest plan update, and 10 years after the standard has entered into force at the latest.</i></p> <p><i>A forest management plan that is not continuously updated is not valid if 10 years has passed and updating is not made. For forest holdings with average site class lower than 2,5 m3 forest cubic metres/ha and year, 15 years apply.</i></p> <p><i>Requirements for general information in the forest management plan:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Plan producer</i></li> <li><i>2. The forest owner's objective for the forest management</i></li> <li><i>3. Information on which forest holdings that are part of the plan</i></li> <li><i>4. Time when the inventory was made</i></li> </ol>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>5. Commentaries to the holding including information on ancient remains, other cultural heritage sites, registered key-habitats, formally protected areas, and water protection areas</p> <p>6. Map showing:</p> <p>a. property- and land use class boundaries</p> <p>b. forestry objectives</p> <p>7. Distribution of area on land use classes</p> <p>8. Tree-covered low-productive forest land may be described separately</p> <p>9. Age class distribution</p> <p>10. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>11. Summary of proportion of productive forest land consisting of:</p> <p>a. mesic and moist soil</p> <p>b. current and future stands dominated by deciduous trees, or:</p> <p><i>In those cases where conditions are lacking for 5% of stands dominated by deciduous trees, current existence of deciduous trees and objective for increased volume of deciduous timber shall be described.</i></p> <p>12. Summary of forestry objectives</p> <p>13. Growth and proposed harvesting level.</p> <p><i>Stand-specific information in the forest management plan:</i></p> <p><i>The stand-specific information shall be adapted to the prerequisites of the chosen management method. In the case of alternative management methods, other parameters may be relevant.</i></p> <p>1. Area</p> <p>2. Age</p> <p>3. Forestry objective</p> <p>4. Distribution of tree species</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>5. <i>Site index</i>  6. <i>Maturity class</i>  7. <i>Volume</i>  8. <i>Classification of soil moisture</i>  9. <i>Proposals for action</i>  10. <i>Information on measures to preserve or create dominance of deciduous trees in identified stands</i>  11. <i>For stands classified as NO, NS and K/PF:</i></p> <p><i>a. Reason behind the classification</i>  <i>b. Actions to preserve and reinforce existing values</i></p> <p>12. <i>Information on ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites</i>  13. <i>Areas of special significance to outdoor life and recreation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note: <i>"The concept of annual allowable cut does not exist in Sweden which is why this was removed in this revision as it was deemed misleading. Instead a requirement to include growth and proposed harvesting level was added."</i></p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production:</p> <p><i>If non-wood forest products, which are not included in the concept of public access, are regularly harvested and commercially used, the resource in question should be monitored and the harvesting levels must be sustainable.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Note: Typical NWFPs in Sweden include berries and mushrooms, which the public is allowed to pick freely in privately owned forests. This can involve commercial use of these NWFPs; however, the level of utilisation does not have a practical effect on their long-term sustainability. Game management in Sweden is controlled at the landscape level by the state and therefore not applicable to be included in FMU level management plans. Utilisation of other NWFPs is currently marginal but cannot be considered fully irrelevant regarding the national SFM requirements.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note on benchmark 6.2.1: "In the Swedish system the plan is a collection of data on the FMU and provides recommendations for forest operations. The operative planning and implementation of the forest management is based on the plan but not a part of it. The PEFC system requests a forest management plan which is adapted to the FM standard which is why some of the requirements are not necessarily found in Appendix 1 but in the standard itself."</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Forestry objective (Sw. Målklass): Concept used in forest management planning. For each forest compartment, a forestry objective is assigned to guide the future development of that compartment. The following forestry objectives are used:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PG – production with general consideration</i></li> <li>• <i>K/PF – multiple objectives, production with enhanced consideration</i></li> <li>• <i>NS – area set aside for nature conservation where management is needed to preserve conservation values</i></li> <li>• <i>NO – area set aside for nature conservation where no interventions are made</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ...A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The forest owner's objective for the forest holding shall be considered in the forest management plan. When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective. ...</i></p> <p><i>At the establishment of the forest management plan, the classification into forestry objectives shall be based on conservation value assessment in the field. The forest management plan shall be developed with consideration to a landscape-ecological perspective. The information in the plan shall be quality assured. ...</i></p> <p><i>Stand-specific information in the forest management plan: ...</i></p> <p><i>10. Information on measures to preserve or create dominance of deciduous trees in identified stands</i></p> <p><i>11. For stands classified as NO, NS and K/PF:</i></p> <p><i>a. Reason behind the classification</i></p> <p><i>b. Actions to preserve and reinforce existing values</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note: "<i>The PEFC standard requirements are implemented in the forest management plan according to document 002 Appendix 1. A key concept is the forestry objective (bullet 3 in the list of compartment specific parameters). The forestry objective is defined in document 001 Appendix B</i>".</p>
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	Y	PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.8 Research and development: <i>There is a long tradition of cooperation regarding research and development between public agencies and the forest sector. Research is carried out at several universities, colleges,</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>and sector research bodies, often in collaboration with companies and organizations. Results and scientific findings are gradually implemented in the forestry sector.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 2. Scope, 2.2 Research: <i>A forestry that is based on science and best practice is fundamental to PEFC. Scientific findings change with new knowledge, and cooperation with research and education is encouraged.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>...Forestry shall be sustainable and based on scientifically tested and site-adapted methods and principles. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note: "The PEFC standard and hence the management plans are based on scientific results"</p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry: <i>Forestry certification is confirmed by means of a certificate issued by an accredited certification body after independent third-party audit. The forest owner/wood procurement organization is responsible for: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.2.1.8 In the case of external request about the certification, information on nature conservation set-asides/implemented nature conservation measures within the holding or requested local geographic area, shall be made available. Information on the economic conditions of the holding, such as growth and timber volumes, is not public, neither are results from conservation value assessments or information on vulnerable species.</i></p> <p><i>3.2.1.9 Forest owners with ≥ 5 000 hectares of productive forest land shall at external request make available information within requested local geographic area concerning the following:</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Description of current situation, objectives and management including a map/register</i></li> <li>• <i>Areas with special conservation values</i></li> <li>• <i>Excerpt from current record on ancient remains for the holding</i></li> <li>• <i>Sites of special significance for reindeer herding that have been identified in collaboration with concerned Sami community</i></li> <li>• <i>Areas that have been subject to burning and areas where burning is planned</i></li> <li>• <i>Areas where forest fertilization is planned</i></li> <li>• <i>Areas on the forest holding that are of great significance for recreation and outdoor life according to 4.1.1. in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.14 In the case of external request about the certification, information on nature conservation set-asides/implemented nature conservation measures within the holding or requested local geographic area, shall be made available either directly or via the umbrella organization. Information on the economic conditions of the holding, such as growth and timber volumes, is not public, neither are results from conservation value assessments or information on vulnerable species.</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.15 Forest owners with ≥ 5 000 hectares of productive forest land shall at external request make available information within requested local geographic area concerning the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Description of current situation, objectives and management including a map/register.</i></li> <li>• <i>Areas with special conservation values.</i></li> <li>• <i>Excerpt from current record on ancient remains for the holding.</i></li> <li>• <i>Sites of special significance for reindeer herding that have been identified in collaboration with concerned Sami community.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas that have been subject to burning and areas where burning is planned.</li> <li>• Areas where forest fertilization is planned.</li> <li>• Areas on the forest holding that are of great significance for recreation and outdoor life according to 4.1.1. in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> In PEFC SWE 004:5, availability of the information listed in the benchmark 6.2.7 is subjected to an external request. The PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines <i>publicly available</i> as <i>generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request</i>. Therefore, the PEFC SWE 004:5 does not fully meet the benchmark 6.2.7 requirement.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry:</p> <p><i>3.2.1.8 ... Information on the economic conditions of the holding, such as growth and timber volumes, is not public, neither are results from conservation value assessments or information on vulnerable species.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.14 ... Information on the economic conditions of the holding, such as growth and timber volumes, is not public, neither are results from conservation value assessments or information on vulnerable species.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The national standards do not require a summary of the management plan to be publicly available, only per external request. PEFC ST 1001:2017 defines “publicly available” as <i>generally accessible to the interested public in any form and without the need for a request</i>. However, this nonconformity is addressed in benchmark</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		6.2.7, and the PEFC 004:5 requirements related to confidential information are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
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>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC’s requirements on contractors: <i>Contractor is responsible for complying with Swedish legislation and the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification: <i>Directly certified organizations shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.1.2 Comply with Swedish legislation relevant to forestry. Have access to relevant legislation, e.g., through “Regelrätt skogsbruk”.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.5 Comply with Swedish legislation of relevance to forestry. Have access to relevant legislation, e.g., through “Regelrätt skogsbruk”.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.1 Complying with Swedish legislation of relevance to the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 003:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		PEFC Sweden's note: "Regelrätt skogsbruk" is a web based and widely used service for applicable legislation in the forest sector."
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.	Y	See 6.3.1.1. <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 003:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
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.	Y	See also 6.3.1.1. <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Corruption as such is not a concept in Swedish legislation, but there exist national laws against e.g., bribing, breach of trust, fraud, conflict of interest, and embezzlement, in addition to international legislation and conventions which Sweden has ratified (e.g. United Nations Convention against Corruption). Sources: <a href="https://www.transparency.se/korruption">https://www.transparency.se/korruption</a> , <a href="https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/ratification-status.html">https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/ratification-status.html</a> .
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.	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>...Forest management shall prevent undesired forest fires and unlawful activities like illegal logging and illegal land-use. ...</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system: ...</p> <p><i>7.4.4 Protection of private property and the right of public access</i></p> <p><i>The constitution on government form is one of the four constitutional laws. Its fifteen chapters contains the principles for the Swedish constitution, a catalogue on fundamental freedoms and rights, rules for working modalities of the Government, the Parliament, and other authorities, as well as rules for their competence.</i></p> <p><i>Of the civil freedoms and rights, chapter 2, §15 "Protection of private property and the right of public access" is of special importance to forest owners. Here it is stated that each person's property is secured while no person can be forced to give up their property to the public or to any private entity without compensation. Here, the right of public access is also described, which is a unique possibility for everyone to enjoy any part of nature. With this right also follow the obligation to show consideration for nature and wildlife, for landowners and for other people. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency summarizes the right of public access in the words "not disturb – not destroy"</i></p> <p><i>7.4.8 The Reindeer Husbandry Act – a right of the Sami, Sweden's indigenous people</i></p> <p><i>The Sami have been assigned the status of indigenous people in Sweden through parliamentary decision. The constitution states that the Sami right to pursue reindeer herding is regulated by law. The Reindeer Husbandry Act gives the Sami population the right to use land and water for personal maintenance as well as maintenance of their reindeers – the right of reindeer husbandry. The Reindeer Husbandry Act also stipulates in what areas reindeer husbandry may be pursued, that is, within the area for reindeer husbandry divided into year-round pasture and winter pastureland.</i></p> <p><i>7.4.9 The Code of Land Laws in the forest</i></p> <p><i>The Land Code (1970:994) lays down provisions for real property. According to the Land Code, land is considered real property and is divided into real property units.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Lantmäteriet (Land Registration Division) is a public agency belonging to the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure as of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023. Lantmäteriet is responsible for division of, registration of, and changes to real property in Sweden. Lantmäteriets Real Property Register contains information about Sweden's real property which is fundamental to society and the market economy. ...</i></p> <p><i>7.4.11 The Hunting Act and forestry</i></p> <p><i>The Hunting Act (1987:259) lays down provisions regarding wildlife management, hunting rights, and in what way hunting shall be carried out within Swedish territory. The Hunting Act stipulates that hunting rights holders and landowners have a common responsibility to support the game through active measures. In addition to this act, provisions of other acts are applicable as regards protection and management of the game. According to the Act on wildlife management areas (2000:592), two or more holdings may be joined into one wildlife management area for the purpose of promoting wildlife management through coordination of hunting and measures to protect and support wildlife.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements: The business that are of importance to Swedish PEFC-certification shall be practiced so that current laws, Swedish collective agreements, and practice of the labour market are observed. PEFC-certified forest owners, wood procurement organizations, and contractors shall work for a forestry-related community of values based on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The right of ownership and the possibility to own and manage forests under reasonable conditions ...</i></li> <li><i>• Social and cultural consideration ...</i></li> <li><i>• The right of public access which provides the public with the possibility to visit nature ...</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.1 Handling applications from forest owners/wood procurement organizations regarding forest certification in accordance with PEFC Sweden. The applications shall be examined and approved, and affiliation shall be confirmed by means of a signed agreement between the umbrella organization and the forest owner/wood procurement organization. The agreement shall include a clear commitment from the affiliated forest owner/procurement organisation to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and any routines and instructions from the umbrella organization including preventive and corrective measures. All part-owners, or qualified representative with authorization or other verification, shall sign the agreement.</i></p> <p>See also 6.3.1.1.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. Swedish legislation covers the benchmark requirement.</p>
<p>6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix C. Policy for balancing the interests of forestry and reindeer husbandry:</p> <p><i>1. Background</i></p> <p><i>PEFC is based on the Rio Declaration/principles (UNCED 1992) for sustainable forest management (SFM) with balance between economic, environmental, and social interests. These principles have been further elaborated by the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), now Forest Europe, and by similar processes in other parts of the world, which constitute the platform for all national PEFC systems. Reindeer husbandry shall, in the context of sustainable forest management, be defined as an important sector for the interior of northern Sweden regarding the overall goals for economic, environmental, and social interests.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.		<p><i>In Sweden, forestry and reindeer husbandry are practiced on the same land. Both sectors are, in different ways, of great importance to the regional and local development in the northern parts of Sweden. The reindeer herding area encompasses around 40% of Sweden's land surface, independent of landowner category. Forestry is practiced within the reindeer herding area both by privately and publicly owned companies and others (large scale forestry), and by approximately 50 000 individual smaller private forest owners (family forestry). Reindeer herding is practiced by 51 Sami communities within the reindeer herding area.</i></p> <p><b>2. Purpose</b></p> <p><i>This policy defines how dialogue and collaboration between the parties involved shall take place, according to the PEFC Sweden, to maintain a sound balance between forestry and reindeer husbandry. <u>The different considerations made in Sweden regarding the legal, customary, and traditional rights, as specified in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, have guided the elaboration of this policy.</u> The purpose is to develop procedures for appropriate consideration in sustainable forest management to meet the interests of reindeer husbandry, including <u>free and informed consent through regional and local dialogue and collaboration based on mutual respect.</u> This policy does not deal with issues relating to hunting and fishing rights on the forest property. All forest owners who are certified in accordance with the Swedish PEFC system shall observe this policy.</i></p> <p><b>3. Boundaries and areas for reindeer herding in wintertime</b></p> <p><i>The boundaries that apply to year-round pastureland are defined in the Swedish Reindeer Herding Act. The boundaries for winter-time pasture areas are based on Swedish common law. In some areas of the counties Dalarna, Härjedalen and Norrbotten, the boundaries for reindeer herding rights have been determined by means of judicial decisions.</i></p> <p><i>In February 2006, a Government Commission for determining the boundaries for reindeer herding presented a proposal for different kinds of boundaries entitled "The</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Sami people's common law grounds" (Samernas sedvanemarker, SOU 2006:14). The Swedish PEFC system has taken the proposed boundaries for wintertime grazing into account. However, both parties shall have the right to call for judicial review of these boundaries. In areas with "less probable right of reindeer herding", the Swedish PEFC system does not lay down specific certification requirements for forest management regarding reindeer herding.</i></p> <p><i>Practical rules for interpretation and application in the Swedish PEFC system are provided in 3.1 - 3.2 below, in line with boundary proposal in SOU 2006:14.</i></p> <p><i>3.1 Areas with proven or probable reindeer herding rights (SOU 2006:14)</i></p> <p><i>Within areas with proven or probable reindeer herding rights all rules and criteria in this policy shall apply in all respects.</i></p> <p><i>If such areas are converted by judicial decisions or changed by parliamentary resolutions into the category without reindeer herding rights, the certified forest owner shall be open to observe the rules and criteria in this policy within the framework of herding agreements. Such herding agreements presuppose that the forest owner will be fully compensated by the affected Sami community or by the State for land use and for any damages made to the forest.</i></p> <p><i>3.2 Areas without reindeer herding rights (SOU 2006:14)</i></p> <p><i>In the counties of Dalarna, Härjedalen and Norrbotten there are areas that have been determined by judicial decision to be without reindeer herding rights. In these areas, certified forest owners shall be open to sign reindeer herding agreements including the right to agreed compensation for land use and forest damages. Such compensation shall be paid by the affected Sami community or by the State.</i></p> <p><i>4. Consideration to the interests of reindeer husbandry</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>In areas defined under paragraph 3.1, consideration is shown which, as far as possible, is based on the priorities laid down in reindeer herding plans from the Sami communities concerned.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration for Sami cultural values applies in all its aspects according to the general rules and criteria for conservation of and consideration for cultural remains etc.</i></p> <p><i>The following consideration shall be shown, object by object, where applicable (requirements according to PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard):</i></p> <p><i>3.8.1 Consultation within the year-round pastureland shall be made in accordance with the forestry legislation.</i></p> <p><i>3.8.2 In areas with proven or probable right of reindeer herding (according to SOU 2006:14), the following consideration shall be shown, object by object.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- On lichen and lichen-rich vegetation types, gentle soil scarification techniques shall be carried out in such a way that forest regeneration is secured while soil impact is minimized.</i></li> <li><i>- In forest stands with important occurrence of hanging lichens, site adapted regeneration felling shall be practiced and edge zones rich in hanging lichens shall be preserved along water courses and mires as well as groups of trees with hanging lichens.</i></li> <li><i>- Forest fertilization shall not be carried out in stands of lichen, lichen-rich, and dry dwarf shrubs with strains of lichen, if not otherwise agreed in connection to consultation in accordance with §20 and §31 the Forestry Act.</i></li> <li><i>- Prescribed burning shall not be carried out on land of the types lichen and lichen-rich and which are important from the point of view of reindeer herding, if not otherwise agreed in connection to consultation in accordance with §20 and §31 the Forestry Act.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>- Special consideration at felling shall be shown to migration tracks, places for rounding up and sorting of reindeer herds, and sites used for grazing reindeers during migration, so that the function of these sites are not unnecessarily impaired.</p> <p>- The above consideration shall be shown without current land use being substantially impeded in the affected part of the forest holding (stand or equivalent).</p> <p>5. Regional and local dialogue and collaboration</p> <p>The Swedish PEFC system supports the principle of regional and local dialogue and collaboration between the sectors of reindeer husbandry and forestry, with the purpose of developing appropriate consideration in a sustainable forest management. This means to overall deliberate and seek consensus on principles and strategies, where consideration to the needs and prerequisites of each sector, as well as the different conditions of large-scale forestry and family forestry, form an important basis.</p> <p>The Swedish PEFC system has identified long-term regional and local dialogue and collaboration as key to achieving a sound balance between the forestry and reindeer husbandry interests. The family forestry through the Swedish Federation of Forest Owners (Federation of Swedish Farmers, Norra Skogsägarna, Skogsägarna Norrskog, and Skogsägarna Mellanskog) and the reindeer husbandry sector through the Swedish Sami National Association, work on basis of the principle of mutual respect and a common holistic view on the relation between the sectors. The model for regional and local collaboration between family forestry and reindeer herding is founded on the jointly gained experiences from previous agreements on contact and collaboration, the dialogue project jointly implemented during 2001-04 where the main purpose was to increase knowledge about each other's sectors, the pilot project on method development implemented in Jämtland during 2013-14, and the letter of intent signed in 2016-04-29 by the Swedish Federation of Forest Owners and the Swedish Sami National Association. The ongoing work aims at promoting a positive development for both sectors regarding the usage of the same land areas, by continuously developing the methods for dialogue between the sectors. Collaboration between reindeer</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>husbandry and family forestry is also important to employment and infrastructure as well as the development of both sectors in the interior of northern Sweden.</i></p> <p><i>The directly certified forest owners concerned and umbrella organizations within the Swedish PEFC are responsible for jointly inviting to dialogue and collaboration and then act in accordance with the agreements reached.</i></p> <p><i>6. Disputes</i></p> <p><i>The Swedish PEFC shall handle any disputes between the forestry and reindeer husbandry interests after receiving notice from either party or from the two parties jointly. This shall be done in accordance with established rules in PEFC SWE 001.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system: ...</p> <p><i>7.4.15 Human rights: In Sweden human rights are protected via the constitution and other laws and regulations. In addition, the European convention on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are implemented as law since 1995.</i></p> <p>See also 6.3.1.1.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. Swedish legislation covers the benchmark requirement.</p>
6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions		



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.</p> <p>Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 4. References: <i>The Swedish PEFC-system for sustainable forest management is based on requirements and guidelines laid down by PEFC International, as shown by current technical documents on: <a href="http://www.pefc.org">www.pefc.org</a>. Certification of forestry in the PEFC system takes as its point of departure, among others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Lisbon Declaration: The Lisbon Resolution (L2): Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (<a href="http://www.foresteurope.org">http://www.foresteurope.org</a>).</i></li> <li><i>ILO core conventions (<a href="http://www.ilo.org">www.ilo.org</a>, Appendix A).</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix A. ILO-conventions and recommendations: No. 87, <i>Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention</i></p> <p>No. 90, <i>Equal Remuneration Recommendation</i></p> <p>No. 98, <i>Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention</i></p> <p>No. 100, <i>Equal Remuneration Convention</i></p> <p>No. 105, <i>Abolition of Forced Labour Convention</i></p> <p>No. 111, <i>Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention</i></p> <p>No. 135, <i>Workers' Representatives Convention</i></p> <p>No. 138, <i>Minimum Age Convention</i></p> <p>No. 146, <i>Minimum Age Recommendation</i></p> <p>No. 154, <i>Collective Bargaining Convention</i></p> <p>No. 155, <i>Occupational Safety and Health Convention</i></p> <p>No. 163, <i>Collective Bargaining Recommendation</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 recognises the ILO fundamental instruments. Sweden has ratified all eight fundamental ILO conventions referred to by the PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>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.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system: ...</p> <p><i>7.4.7 The Work Environment Act: The purpose of the act is to prevent poor health and accidents at work as well as to achieve a good work environment in general. The Work Environment Act contains provisions on obligations for employers and others responsible for safety and health to prevent poor health and accidents at work. There are also provisions on cooperation between employer and employee, for example rules on activities of safety representatives. The Swedish Work Environment Authority supervises compliance with this act and regulations issued under this act.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.7 Work organization: <i>PEFC-certified companies strive for continuous improvements which allow employees and the business to develop. The work situation shall be adapted to individual medical and ergonomic premises. ...</i></p> <p><i>4.7.2 The company shall conduct and document at least two formal workplace meetings a year. Exemptions can be made for companies with three employees or less, where the requirement is one workplace meeting. When the company has only one employee, staff appraisal may be included.</i></p> <p><i>Risk assessment and work environment issues shall be included in at least one workplace meeting per year. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.8 Work environment: <i>PEFC-certified companies shall work for a good and secure work environment within the framework of current legislation and good industry practice. A reasonable time of transition shall be allowed for measures requiring larger economic investments, for example rebuilding and replacement of machinery. Work environment- and health care work shall have a preventive purpose to remove health risks.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.8.1 Employer and employees shall collaborate and systematically work to improve the work environment (SAM) in a way that encompasses all employees of the forest-related business.</p> <p>4.8.2 Safety- and emergency routines shall be in place at the workplace and be established in a way ensuring that they are known and understood by everyone concerned.</p> <p>4.8.3 Staff shall have access to staff facilities in accordance with Swedish legislation on work environment and applicable collective agreement.</p> <p>4.8.4 A safety committee shall be in place at any workplace where at least 50 workers are employed on a regular basis, or if the employees so require. A local agreement may be reached which allows these issues to be handled by a body that also handles other issues.</p> <p>4.8.5 Companies with five or more employees shall have a safety representative. Regional safety representatives and/or the occupational health service are appropriate partners in safety work.</p> <p>4.8.6 The employer is responsible for seeing to it that appropriate occupational health services regarding work conditions are at hand. Occupational health service refers to an independent expert resource within the field of work environment and rehabilitation. The occupational health service shall particularly work to prevent and set aside health risks at workplaces as well as be competent to identify and describe the relations between work environment, organization, productivity, and health. The occupational health service shall also be able to provide support in crisis management.</p> <p>4.8.7 If the work entails the use of chemicals, routines shall be in place to ensure that these are used in accordance with laws and ordinances and follow the instructions given by the producer. A list of chemicals and safety data sheets shall be available. Staff shall have the necessary competence, training, and equipment.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors: <i>Contractor is responsible for complying with Swedish legislation and the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.1 Applicable requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, chapter 4</i></p> <p><i>PEFC-certified contractor shall, in addition to the requirements of this standard, comply with the following parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.7 Work organization</li> <li>• 4.8 Work environment ...</li> </ul> <p><i>4.2 Family businesses:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 Family businesses that have employees for which LAS (Employment Protection Act) is not applicable (family members) need not comply with 4.5.1-4.5.3, 4.7 and 4.9 of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard (besides legislative requirements).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5, PEFC SWE 002:5, and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.5 Employer responsibilities: ...</p> <p><i>4.5.2 Employment- and work conditions shall, for all employees, be in accordance with current legislation. In addition, the provisions of the Swedish collective agreement shall form the basis for contracts between employers and employees. In those cases an employee demands a collective agreement to be in place, such an agreement shall be signed.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.8 Dangerous goods:</p> <p><i>4.8.1 Any person carrying dangerous goods, and who is not covered by requirements concerning driver training according to ADR-S chapter 8.2, shall have training in</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>accordance with chapter 1.3 in ADR-S. Any person carrying fuels for vehicles or equipment equivalent to 60 litres per transport unit at the most, shall have adequate competence for the handling, e.g., in the form of an adapted ADR-S 1.3 training course.</p> <p>See also 6.3.4.1.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5, and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors: <i>Contractor is responsible for complying with Swedish legislation and the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.1 Applicable requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, chapter 4</i></p> <p><i>PEFC-certified contractor shall, in addition to the requirements of this standard, comply with the following parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>4.5 Employer responsibilities ...</i></li> </ul> <p><i>4.2 Family businesses:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 Family businesses that have employees for which LAS (Employment Protection Act) is not applicable (family members) need not comply with 4.5.1-4.5.3, 4.7 and 4.9 of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard (besides legislative requirements).</i></p> <p>See also 6.3.4.2 PEFC SWE 002:5 requirement 4.5.2.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. Swedish legislation and collective bargaining agreements cover the benchmark requirement.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system: ...</p> <p><i>7.4.5 The Discrimination Act</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of this act is to combat discrimination, harassment and in other ways promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation, or age. The Equality Ombudsman is assigned the task of supervising compliance with this law.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements:</p> <p><i>The business that are of importance to Swedish PEFC-certification shall be practiced so that current laws, Swedish collective agreements, and practice of the labour market are observed. PEFC-certified forest owners, wood procurement organizations, and contractors shall work for a forestry-related community of values based on: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A forestry sector with equal rights and opportunities and gender equality ...</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.9 Equal rights and opportunities: <i>PEFC wants to promote equal rights and opportunities and counteract every form of discrimination so that everyone feels welcome in the forestry sector. It shall be possible to combine employment and parenthood.</i></p> <p><i>4.9.1 Employer and employee shall collaborate to achieve equal rights and opportunities in working life. The work shall be based on the Discrimination Act and the employer shall be able to demonstrate how this is done.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry: <i>Forestry certification is confirmed by means of a certificate issued by an accredited certification body after independent third-party audit. The forest owner/wood procurement organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p>3.2.1.2 <i>For own forest management, apply the Swedish PEFC requirements for management systems in accordance with Appendix 2 and to comply with applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.3 Direct certification of contractors: <i>Concerns contracted forest management or parts of contracted forest management that are performing forestry operations on forest land of certified forest owners. The contractor is responsible for complying with the requirements of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and applicable parts of chapter 4 Social requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p><i>At work on forest land of certified forest owners, applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard shall be complied with. Contractor certification is confirmed by means of a certificate which is issued by an accredited certification body after independent third-party audit. The certificate is issued to the contractor. Contractor certification requires that all employees and/or machinery used in the contracted forest management form the basis for the certification.</i></p> <p>3.3.1.1 <i>For own contracted forest management, apply PEFC Sweden's requirements on management system in accordance with Appendix 2.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>...A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements: ...</p> <p>4.2.1.6 Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary routines for handling and improvement of the group.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support, Resources: The organization shall determine and allocate the resources needed to introduce, maintain, and continuously improve the certified forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>The requirement is applicable to forest owners, procurement organisations, and contractors.</p>
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.10 Competence in forestry: <i>Staff that are well qualified for the work performed is an important component in implementation of the PEFC-standard. For further definition of the standard's competence requirements, reference is made to SYN (Skogsbrukets yrkessnämnd), or another representative of the sector, chosen by the PEFC. SYN is a collaboration body composed of sector stakeholders that promotes provision of competence and skills development within the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><i>Staff that are planning, supervising, or performing forestry work, and in their role have a substantial influence on how measures are implemented in the forest, shall have required qualifications, in accordance with the standard. For any additional professional categories, qualification requirements may be specified by the PEFC Sweden in</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>collaboration with SYN. Staff performing forestry work shall have a good understanding of the PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><i>Competence can be obtained via courses according to SYN or the equivalent. Courses may include theoretical parts (e.g., web-based courses) as well as/or fieldwork-parts and the standard's competence requirements may be met through several part-courses/courses.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.1 Staff that are planning, supervising, or performing forestry work shall have for the purpose adequate competence in nature- and cultural environment conservation in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.2 Staff that are planning, supervising, or performing precautionary ditching or cleaning of ditches shall have qualifications in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.3 Staff that are planning, supervising, or performing soil scarification shall have qualifications in soil scarification/soil management in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.4 Staff responsible for planning and/or classification of an area into forestry objectives prior to an operation shall have qualifications in forest-related conservation value assessment in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.5 Forest management planners shall have qualifications equivalent to higher education in forest management planning, in forest-related conservation value assessment in accordance with SYN or equivalent, and according to requirements established by the plan producer.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.6 Staff operating a forestry harvester or skidder shall have qualifications in efficient driving techniques, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• minimization of fuel consumption, and</i></li> <li><i>• minimization of soil damages.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>4.10.7 In the case of gaps in the level of education, adequate management and supervision shall be applied during a transition period until competence requirements are met.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.8 For staff employed at a seasonal basis that lacks competence in forestry, the quality of the work and compliance with the PEFC-requirements shall be ensured by management, supervision, training, or by other means.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.9 When school classes or organizations with youth activities are hired, the competence in forestry, quality of the work, and observance of the PEFC-requirements shall be ensured through management and supervision by a person that meets the PEFC competence requirements for the forestry operation in question.</i></p> <p><i>Conditions for hiring are laid down in PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification, 3.2.1.7 and 4.4.1.7.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.10 Recurrent seasonal workers, except from planters, shall after three months meet applicable competence requirements.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.11 Skills development: Systematic skills development shall be included as an important component of the certified company's staff policy.</i></p> <p><i>4.11.1 Training needs for all staff shall be identified through dialogue with the employees.</i></p> <p><i>4.11.2 Competence in nature- and cultural environment conservation shall be refreshed at least every fifth year in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.11.3 Competence in precautionary ditching/cleaning of ditches shall be refreshed at least every fifth year in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>4.11.4 Competence in soil scarification/soil management shall be refreshed at least every fifth year in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.11.5 Competence in forest management planning shall be refreshed at least every fifth year in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.11.6 Competence in conservation value assessment shall be refreshed at least every fifth year in accordance with SYN or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>4.11.7 Completed courses shall be documented.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.12 Family businesses:</p> <p><i>In family business on own forest holding (which have no external employees) or in cases where individual landowners are collaborating on any of the landowners' forest holdings, the requirements in 4.5.1 – 4.5.3, and 4.6 – 4.11 (besides legal requirements) need not be applied.</i></p> <p><i>4.12.1 Performers of forestry operations shall have a good understanding of applicable PEFC-requirements. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 2. Directions for site-specific work instructions: <i>The site-specific work instruction shall include all information necessary to implement the operation in line with the PEFC-requirements, other applicable requirements, and current contracts. Important map information shall be indicated on the instruction's map...</i></p> <p><i>The points below (of relevance for the operation) shall be included or be ensured according to agreed routine with the contractor: ...</i></p> <p><i>4. Map of current area</i></p> <p><i>5. Planned consideration for natural and cultural environments ...</i></p> <p><i>8. Instructions for water passage</i></p> <p><i>9. Forestry objective for the area</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>10. <i>Known conservation- and cultural values in or close to the working area that may be affected by the operation.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.1 Applicable requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, chapter 4:</p> <p><i>PEFC-certified contractor shall, in addition to the requirements of this standard, comply with the following parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.4 Company responsibilities</li> <li>• 4.5 Employer responsibilities</li> <li>• 4.6 Insurances</li> <li>• 4.7 Work organization</li> <li>• 4.8 Work environment</li> <li>• 4.9 Equal rights and opportunities</li> <li>• 4.10 Competence in forestry</li> <li>• 4.11 Skills development</li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.5 Site-specific work instruction:</p> <p><i>4.5.1 The client's site-specific work instruction (including map) concerning agreed operation shall be observed.</i></p> <p><i>Unforeseen events of significance in connection with the operation shall be communicated to the client. If a need for significant adjustments arises in connection with the operation, these shall be agreed with the client.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.2 In the absence of, or in case of deficiencies in, the client's site-specific work instruction, a nonconformity report shall be made in accordance with the client's routines for nonconformities. What shall be included in a site-specific work instruction is described in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, Appendix 2.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5.3 <i>In the case of repeated nonconformities according to 4.5.2, or if no action is taken, the nonconformity shall be notified to the client's certification body or conveyed via the contractor's umbrella for group-certification.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for: ...</i></p> <p>4.3.1.4 <i>Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>applicable requirements and suitable training, for these to be able to maintain their forest certification,</i></li> <li>• <i>the commitment by the umbrella organisation and its members to comply with the PEFC standard and work with continual improvement and the importance of everyone's contribution to the group performance</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5, PEFC SWE 003:5, and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. According to PEFC Sweden, forest owners are subject to the training requirements if they professionally perform forest operations. Very small forest owners are exempt from the training requirements but they must know the PEFC requirements overall.</p>
7.3 Communication		
7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 13. External views, complaints, and disputes: <i>Improvements and identification of nonconformities to current requirements are two cornerstones of the Swedish PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><i>Certified companies/organizations, certification bodies and the accreditation body (Swedac) have routines in place to receive and handle external feedback and complaints. The PEFC Sweden economic association has the overall responsibility for</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>correct and impartial handling of matters of dispute in connection with certification according to the Swedish PEFC-standard. Disputes that cannot be settled by the certification body or by Swedac are addressed to PEFC Sweden.</i></p> <p><i>The decisions made by the accreditation body (Swedac), certification bodies or PEFC Sweden's dispute panel concerning complaints and/or settlement of disputes, must be observed by the PEFC Sweden economic association and by certified actors concerned.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix C. Policy for balancing the interests of forestry and reindeer husbandry, 4. Consideration to the interests of reindeer husbandry: <i>In areas defined under paragraph 3.1, consideration is shown which, as far as possible, is based on the priorities laid down in reindeer herding plans from the Sami communities concerned.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration for Sami cultural values applies in all its aspects according to the general rules and criteria for conservation of and consideration for cultural remains etc.</i></p> <p><i>The following consideration shall be shown, object by object, where applicable (requirements according to PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard):</i></p> <p><i>3.8.1 Consultation within the year-round pastureland shall be made in accordance with the forestry legislation.</i></p> <p><i>3.8.2 In areas with proven or probable right of reindeer herding (according to SOU 2006:14), the following consideration shall be shown, object by object. ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- Forest fertilization shall not be carried out in stands of lichen, lichen-rich, and dry dwarf shrubs with strains of lichen, if not otherwise agreed in connection to consultation in accordance with §20 and §31 the Forestry Act.</i></li> <li><i>- Prescribed burning shall not be carried out on land of the types lichen and lichen-rich and which are important from the point of view of reindeer herding, if not otherwise agreed in connection to consultation in accordance with §20 and §31 the Forestry Act.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.1 Consideration for social values, recreation, and outdoor life: <i>The forest owner has a positive attitude towards local outdoor- and sports activities. For a successful cooperation around such activities, a dialogue with mutual responsibility is required. ...</i></p> <p>4.1.2 <i>In the cases an area in line with 4.4.1 has been identified, the forest owner or representative of the forest owner shall, based on local conditions and when it is warranted by the situation, take appropriate information- and dialogue measures prior to any forestry operations are started.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any signs or notice sheets shall include contact information. In the cases informative signs/sheets are used, these shall be posted or handed out at least 14 days prior to any operation is started.</i></li> <li>• <i>In the case of forestry operations adjacent to schools, other public facilities, or close to residential areas, information shall be provided, or dialogue, e.g., information meeting, be offered.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support, External communication: The organization shall have routines for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>information on certified status,</i></li> <li>• <i>trademark usage,</i></li> <li>• <i>public summary of issued audit reports, and</i></li> <li>• <i>handling of feedback/complaints.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5, PEFC SWE 002:5, and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 Appendix A are applicable to both forest owners and contractors.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 13. External views, complaints, and disputes: <i>Improvements and identification of nonconformities to current requirements are two cornerstones of the Swedish PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><i>Certified companies/organizations, certification bodies and the accreditation body (Swedac) have routines in place to receive and handle external feedback and complaints. The PEFC Sweden economic association has the overall responsibility for correct and impartial handling of matters of dispute in connection with certification according to the Swedish PEFC-standard. Disputes that cannot be settled by the certification body or by Swedac are addressed to PEFC Sweden.</i></p> <p><i>The decisions made by the accreditation body (Swedac), certification bodies or PEFC Sweden's dispute panel concerning complaints and/or settlement of disputes, must be observed by the PEFC Sweden economic association and by certified actors concerned.</i></p> <p><i>13.1 Complaints on certified actors</i></p> <p><i>Complaints regarding issued certificates or usage of the PEFC-logotype are addressed to the holder of the certificate and/or concerned certification body.</i></p> <p><i>13.2 Complaints on certification bodies</i></p> <p><i>Complaints regarding certification bodies, their competence or working modalities, are addressed to the accreditation body (Swedac).</i></p> <p><i>13.3 Disputes</i></p> <p><i>Disputes concerning interpretation of PEFC-standard requirements and that cannot be settled by the certification body or accreditation body, are handled by a dispute panel which is established by the Board of PEFC Sweden.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The Board may transfer the matter of dispute to PEFC International when the issue concerns interpretation of documents established by PEFC International.</i></p> <p><i>13.3.1 Application for settlement of a dispute</i></p> <p><i>Disputes concerning interpretation of PEFC-requirements for forestry-, forestry contractor-, or chain of custody certification are addressed to the chairman of PEFC Sweden, which organizes a dispute panel in consultation with the disputing parties.</i></p> <p><i>Before the matter may be subject to formal handling, the parties concerned shall demonstrate that they have tried to settle the dispute by themselves, with the help of appropriate external support if necessary. Request for help in dispute settlement shall be addressed to the chairman of PEFC Sweden in written form and include relevant documentation.</i></p> <p><i>13.3.2 Organization of PEFC Sweden's dispute panel</i></p> <p><i>PEFC's dispute panel shall be constituted by an independent chairman and two additional members with appropriate qualifications. The Board of PEFC Sweden economic association appoints as chairman of the dispute panel an independent lawyer with the appropriate qualifications. The disputing parties appoint one member each. The respective party bears the costs concerning his/her member and PEFC Sweden bears the costs concerning the chairman, unless otherwise agreed.</i></p> <p><i>13.3.3 The work of the dispute panel</i></p> <p><i>The chairman of the dispute panel is independently responsible for the panel's working modalities. If needed, expert opinions may be obtained from the PEFC's task forces, or other appropriate experts. The chairman of the dispute panel may, in consultation with the National Secretary of PEFC Sweden, and within reasonable limits, decide on costs for the work of the dispute panel as well as for any contributions by impartial experts.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support, External communication: The organization shall have routines for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>information on certified status,</i></li> <li>• <i>trademark usage,</i></li> <li>• <i>public summary of issued audit reports, and</i></li> <li>• <i>handling of feedback/complaints.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018. The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 Appendix 2 are applicable to both forest owners and contractors.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The PEFC SWE 001:5 requirements for complaint and dispute resolution mechanisms are interpreted by the assessor to cover issues related to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions, though these are not specifically mentioned.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support, Document management: The organization shall maintain routines for identification, maintenance, filing, usage and protection concerning integrity and confidentiality, of the governing and reporting documents that are necessary to the certified forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support, Document management: The organization shall maintain routines for identification, <u>maintenance</u>, filing, usage and protection concerning integrity and confidentiality, of the governing and reporting documents that are <u>necessary</u> to the certified forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
8. Operation		
8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>Forestry shall be sustainable and based on scientifically tested and site-adapted methods and principles. Sustainable forest management refers to long-term management with the aim of preserving or enhancing the values of the forest holding in the form of forest production, climate benefit, conservation values, and social values. Forestry shall have a market perspective and make use of available market information and studies. ...</i></p> <p><i>Forest management comprises the cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental, and economic effects of both planned and completed forest management operations. ...</i></p> <p><i>One of PEFC's cornerstones for a sustainable forest management is to safeguard and promote the environmental values of the forest. Flora, fauna, soil, and water shall be taken into consideration at every forestry operation. As a complement to adjusted forestry measures, areas shall also be completely set aside for environmental purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Forest owners shall strive to maintain or enhance the biological diversity in the landscape through good environmental consideration at forestry operations and set-</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>asides for nature conservation in line with this standard. Nature conservation set-asides in excess of the requirements of this standard can be regarded as society's responsibility where the forest owner, in dialogue with public agencies, should seek a long-term solution.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: <i>An important component in a sustainable forestry is the long-term productive capacity of the forest land, which shall be made use of and managed at forestry operations. Measures to increase productivity should be considered if it is deemed to have a positive impact on the climate benefit. Use of improved forest reproductive material and fertilization are examples of such measures to increase production.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.1 Choice of forest management system:</p> <p><i>3.4.1.1: Other management methods, such as continuous cover forestry methods, may be applied provided that the methods in question are site-adapted and provide conditions for long term management, sustainable production, as well as consider nature-, cultural-, and social values of the forest. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: <i>An important component in a sustainable forestry is the long-term productive capacity of the forest land, which shall be made use of and managed at forestry operations. Measures to increase productivity should be considered if it is deemed to have a positive impact on the climate benefit. Use of improved forest reproductive material and fertilization are examples of such measures to increase production.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3.4.1 Choice of forest management system: <i>The clear-felling system is the most common and most evaluated forest management system in Sweden. Other</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>forest management systems, such as continuous cover forestry, may be relevant in relation to the individual forest owner's goals and conditions. These methods shall be tested and aim for an active, long term, and sustainable forestry.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.1.1 Other management methods, such as continuous cover forestry methods, may be applied provided that the methods in question are site-adapted and provide conditions for long term management, sustainable production, as well as consider nature-, cultural-, and social values of the forest. Completed measures shall be documented in the forest management plan. The requirements of the Forestry Standard shall be observed also when the forest is managed with other management systems than the clear-felling system.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: <i>To establish suitable conditions for an economically viable forest production, reliable regeneration methods shall be used. The choice of plant material shall be based on research and available tools should be used to ensure good survival and growth for a future climate.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.3 Pre-commercial thinning and thinning: <i>Pre-commercial thinning and thinning shall be performed so that forests with high production- and natural values, in accordance with established objectives, are created.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: <i>Forest owners shall, by means of appropriate silvicultural methods, work for the creation of vital forests by preventing damages to forests caused by factors such as frost, snow, wind, drought, and flooding. The risk of damages by pests such as fungi and insects shall be minimized through application of the provisions and general advice of the Forestry Act.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.6 Forest fuel: <i>Extraction of timber and forest fuel is a natural part of an active forestry and shall be carried out in a manner ensuring that the long-term productivity of the land is preserved.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan:  <i>...Requirements for general information in the forest management plan: ...</i>  13. <i>Growth and proposed harvesting level. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry, 3.2.3 Direct certification of wood procurement organizations: <i>Concerns wood procurement organizations that are performing forestry operations on forest land of certified forest owners. A forestry certificate is issued to the wood procurement organization. The certification shall cover the entire wood procurement organization's forest management.</i></p> <p><i>3.2.3.2 A basis for a systematic work to reduce fossil carbon dioxide emissions is knowledge about current state. Wood procurement organizations shall therefore establish goals and action plan for the reduction of climate impact and establish a yearly calculation of fossil carbon dioxide emissions from completed harvesting. The calculation shall cover the total fossil emissions from harvester and skidder from own machinery and from contractors hired by the organization. The organization shall establish its own routine for the emissions calculation. The routine shall include the calculation model, as well as any templates and assumptions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification, 4.4.3 Responsibilities of affiliated wood procurement organizations:</p> <p><i>4.4.3.4 A basis for a systematic work to reduce fossil carbon dioxide emissions is knowledge about current state. Wood procurement organizations shall therefore</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>establish goals and action plan for the reduction of climate impact and establish a yearly calculation of fossil carbon dioxide emissions from completed harvesting. The calculation shall cover the total fossil emissions from harvester and skidder from own machinery and from contractors hired by the organization. The organization shall establish its own documented routine for the emissions calculation. The routine shall include the calculation model, as well as any templates and assumptions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.10 Competence in forestry:</p> <p><i>4.10.6 Staff operating a forestry harvester or skidder shall have qualifications in efficient driving techniques, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• minimization of fuel consumption...</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.7 Preventive environmental requirements:</p> <p><i>4.7.6 Harvesters and skidders with &gt;100 hours of annual driving time shall have engines that meet at least stage 1 according to EU-directive 97/68/EC and EU-regulation (EU) 2016/1628.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5, PEFC SWE 003:5, and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.1 The Forestry Act, 7.4.1.2 Notification of regeneration felling: <i>Regeneration felling of areas larger than 0,5 hectares shall be notified to the Forest Agency six weeks in advance at the latest. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Notification of regeneration felling shall include: the size of the area to be felled, description of actions planned to secure regeneration, a map and description of planned measures to show consideration for natural- and cultural environments as well as to reindeer husbandry, where relevant. <u>A notification must also be submitted where felling of an area larger than 0,5 ha is planned to convert forest land to other land use.</u> ...</i></p> <p><i>Submitted notification of felling is a public document which is published at the Forest Agency's website (<a href="https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/sjalvservice/karttjanster/skogliga-grunddata">https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/sjalvservice/karttjanster/skogliga-grunddata</a>), which means that external interests have the possibility to express any point of view on a planned felling before the operation takes place. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.1 The Forestry Act, 7.4.1.3 Land-use change:</p> <p><i>In Sweden, as a general rule, ownership of land does not contain any authority to change current land use. The basic principle is that changes in land use require review and approval by a public body — a court or administrative authority. An activity or measure that may significantly change the natural environment, and which is not covered by a permit or notification obligation according to other provisions in the Environmental Code, must be notified for consultation.</i></p> <p><i>The supervisory authority is able to order the reporting party to take the necessary measures to limit or prevent damage to the natural environment. If such measures are not sufficient, and it is necessary for the protection of the natural environment, the authority may prohibit the activity.</i></p> <p><i>Changes in land use like afforestation of pastures and agricultural land must be notified for consultation to the County Administrative Board. The ecological value of the land is taken into account by the authorities <a href="https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/samhallsplanering/samrad-vid-andring-av-markanvandning-pa-jordbruksmark/">https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/samhallsplanering/samrad-vid-andring-av-markanvandning-pa-jordbruksmark/</a>.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.1 Conversion of forest land: <i>The PEFC-system works for preservation of forest land and a long-term management of the entire range of forest values.</i></p> <p><i>3.1.1 Conversion of forest land to other land use shall only be made to a limited extent and where such conversion is consistent with current legislation, and after all necessary permissions have been obtained/consultation carried out. Examples of this are when conversion aims at development of infrastructure related to forestry or society at large (roads, wind power etc.), research, improvement of conditions for outdoor life, or preservation or development of cultural values or biological diversity. When forest land that has previously been under agriculture is again converted to agricultural use, this is considered to meet the criteria described above.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	N	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.1 Conversion of forest land: <i>The PEFC-system works for preservation of forest land and a long-term management of the entire range of forest values.</i></p> <p><i>3.1.1 Conversion of forest land to other land use shall only be made to a <u>limited extent</u>...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The national standards do not specify the upper limit of the extent of the conversion in relation to the forest types in the certified area.</p>
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	Y	<p>See 8.1.4 (a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> Based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Y	See 8.1.4 (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Y	See 8.1.4 (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> Based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
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	Y	PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.1 The Forestry Act, 7.4.1.3 Land-use change: <i>In Sweden, as a general rule, ownership of land does not contain any authority to change current land use. The basic principle is that changes in land use require review and approval by a public body — a court or administrative authority. An activity or measure that may significantly change the natural environment, and which is not covered by a permit or notification obligation according to other provisions in the Environmental Code, must be notified for consultation.</i>  <i>The supervisory authority is able to order the reporting party to take the necessary measures to limit or prevent damage to the natural environment. If such measures are not sufficient, and it is necessary for the protection of the natural environment, the authority may prohibit the activity.</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Changes in land use like afforestation of pastures and agricultural land must be notified for consultation to the County Administrative Board. The ecological value of the land is taken into account by the authorities <a href="https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/samhallsplanering/samrad-vid-andring-av-markanvandning-pa-jordbruksmark/">https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/samhallsplanering/samrad-vid-andring-av-markanvandning-pa-jordbruksmark/</a>.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification: <i>Directly certified organizations shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.1.2 Comply with Swedish legislation relevant to forestry. Have access to relevant legislation, e.g., through “Regelrätt skogsbruk”.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.5 Comply with Swedish legislation of relevance to forestry. Have access to relevant legislation, e.g., through “Regelrätt skogsbruk”.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.1 Complying with Swedish legislation of relevance to the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not directly address afforestation of non-forest land. However, it requires compliance with applicable legislation, which in Sweden also covers processes for allowing afforestation of non-forest land.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's comments:</p> <p><i>“Changes in land use like afforestation of pastures and agricultural land must be notified for consultation to the County Administrative Board. The ecological value of the land is</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>taken into account by the authorities <a href="https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/samhallsplanering/samrad-vid-andring-av-markanvandning-pa-jordbruksmark/#E-1850713083">https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/samhallsplanering/samrad-vid-andring-av-markanvandning-pa-jordbruksmark/#E-1850713083</a>”“There is nothing that PEFC can add. The existing processes are comprehensive.</p> <p>The example from Indufor on peatlands and wetlands requiring drainage: New drainage requires permit from the county administrative board and are generally not allowed in south and central Sweden. (The authorities are generally very restrictive regarding any drainage operations.) <a href="https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/branscher-och-verksamheter/markavvattning/">https://www.naturvardsverket.se/vagledning-och-stod/branscher-och-verksamheter/markavvattning/</a> Also note that the Swedish PEFC standard contains hard restrictions on drainage especially on peatland 3.4.10.1 – 3.4.10.5.</p> <p>Meadows and small-scale grazing sites may have high ecological values which the legislative procedures cover. The PEFC standard does contribute to their preservation via PEFC SWE 002 3.7.5 “Other tree covered land with at least 10% crown density, and where grazing or mowing is practiced to an extent sufficient to provide good living conditions for flora/fauna dependent on this, may be set aside according to forestry objective NS.”</p> <p>“Since legislation does not allow afforestation of these areas the list of “unless”-factors becomes obsolete. For b, legislation is a product of democratic processes in a country C and E are in practice covered by the legislation d, is not relevant since the proportion is zero with or without certification .</p> <p>/ Possible land types that are non-forest ecosystems with ecological values would be peatlands or pastures. If they are ecologically important they should not be planted according to legislation. ...</p> <p>Meadows and small-scale pastures may have high ecological values which the legislative procedures cover. The PEFC standard does encourage their preservation via PEFC SWE 002 3.7.5 “Other tree covered land with at least 10% crown density, and where grazing or mowing is practiced to an extent sufficient to provide good living conditions for flora/fauna dependent on this, may be set aside according to forestry</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		objective NS." Afforestation (if allowed) does not destroy the carbon stock of pastures (which may have a high carbon stock below ground). /
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	Y	See 8.1.5. (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not directly address afforestation of non-forest land. However, based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and	Y	See 8.1.5. (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not directly address afforestation of non-forest land. However, based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	Y	See 8.1.5. (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not directly address afforestation of non-forest land. However, based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	Y	See 8.1.5. (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not directly address afforestation of non-forest land. However, based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	Y	See 8.1.5. (a)  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not directly address afforestation of non-forest land. However, based on the provided information, the Swedish legislation seems to sufficiently cover the benchmark requirement.
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	NA	<b>Conclusion: Not applicable</b>  <b>Justification:</b> Swedish forests established through planting are considered as semi-natural, as opposed to forest plantations, due to application of native tree species and various other structural features that replicate the conditions of unmanaged natural forests. In Sweden, practical examples of plantations with trees include Christmas tree cultivations and wooden energy crops, and these are not legally considered as forest land. Therefore, replacing a degraded forest with a forest plantation is not considered as a relevant or applicable scenario in Sweden in the same manner as intended by the benchmark.
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	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	NA	See 8.1.6 (a)
<b>8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</b>		
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.1 The Forestry Act:</p> <p><i>7.4.1.3 Establishment of new forest</i></p> <p><i>§5 in the Forestry Act establishes that new forest must be established on productive forest land [1] if the wood-producing capacity of the land after felling or due to damage to the forest is not used in an acceptable way, [2] if the land is unused, or [3] if the condition of the forest is clearly unsatisfactory. Action according to the first paragraph must be taken in cases specified in 1 and 2 without delay and in cases specified in 3 within a reasonable time.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: <i>Forest owners shall, by means of appropriate silvicultural methods, work for the creation of vital forests by preventing damages to forests caused by factors such as frost, snow, wind, drought, and flooding. The risk of damages by pests such as fungi and insects shall be minimized through application of the provisions and general advice of the Forestry Act.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.8.1 Variation in stand age and tree species shall be aimed at, at forest holding level.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.8.2 Risk-preventive measures and active forest protection shall be carried out in accordance with the forestry legislation. E.g. the forest Agency and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences provides information about factors affecting forest health which should be used as a basis for monitoring.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.9 Landscape ecology: <i>The landscape ecological perspective is important in all forest management planning. There may be different elements that contribute to the landscape-ecological values at the forest holding. It can be, e.g., set-asides for nature conservation, edge zones towards water, and towards bare or tree-covered low-productive land. These values are considered at forestry operations, and when so is reasonable, measures are taken to actively improve those values.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.12 Burning: <i>Historically, especially dry soils have been burning at regular intervals, which has resulted in a specific flora and fauna. Since today's forests seldom burn, such species are rare. To increase the area of burnt forest is therefore an important nature conservation measure.</i></p> <p><i>The requirements concerning burning apply to forest holdings of at least 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.1 Choice of forest management system: <i>The clear-felling system is the most common and most evaluated forest management system in Sweden. Other forest management systems, such as <u>continuous cover forestry</u>, may be relevant in relation to the individual forest owner's goals and conditions. These methods shall be tested and aim for an active, long term, and sustainable forestry.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.1.1 Other management methods, such as continuous cover forestry methods, may be applied provided that the methods in question are site-adapted and provide conditions for long term management, sustainable production, as well as consider nature-, cultural-, and social values of the forest. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: <i>To establish suitable conditions for an economically viable forest production, reliable regeneration methods shall be used. The choice of plant material shall be based on research and available tools should be used to ensure good survival and growth for a future climate.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.2.1 Plant- and seed material shall be adequate for the site in question and have a documented origin.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.4 Conservation trees/potential conservation trees: <i>All forestry operations are of importance for the creation of future conservation values. Conservation trees are valuable to biological diversity and may contribute to the forest's aesthetical values.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC takes a positive view on the possibility to apply longer rotation periods also in production stands, e.g., for the purpose of producing special timber qualities, for social reasons, or according to the forest owner's wishes.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.4.4.1 <i>At thinning and regeneration felling, all conservation trees shall be retained to live, die, decompose, and decay. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.5 Deciduous trees: <i>Deciduous trees in the forest stands are important both to biological diversity, for cultural heritage sites, and for the forest's aesthetic values. PEFC strives to increase the proportion of older and thicker deciduous trees as well as the area dominated by deciduous trees.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.6 Dead wood: <i>Dead wood is an important element for biological diversity and often in short supply in managed forests. Therefore, a fundamental ambition for PEFC is to increase the amount of standing dead trees, old windthrows, high stumps, etc. The biological value of the dead wood, which depends on thickness, degree of decay, tree species, and location, shall be taken into consideration.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: ...</p> <p>3.4.8.1 <i>Variation in stand age and tree species shall be aimed at, at forest holding level.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.12 Burning: <i>Historically, especially dry soils have been burning at regular intervals, which has resulted in a specific flora and fauna. Since today's forests seldom burn, such species are rare. To increase the area of burnt forest is therefore an important nature conservation measure.</i></p> <p><i>The requirements concerning burning apply to forest holdings of at least 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.12.1 Where the terrain is suitable, conservation- and controlled burning shall, during a five-year-period, be implemented on an area equivalent to at least 5% of the regeneration area on dry and mesic soils that are suitable for burning.</p> <p><i>Exemptions are made for regions where natural fires have been of subordinate significance. This includes forests in the sub-alpine region, western parts of Västergötland, western parts of Småland, Bohuslän, Halland, Skåne, southern parts of Blekinge as well as Öland and Gotland. Exemptions are also made for urban woodlands and areas adjacent to buildings. Burning shall not be implemented on lichen-rich soils of significance to reindeer husbandry.</i></p> <p>3.12.8 Before burning is begun, local provisions regarding notification must have been fulfilled and necessary permissions must have been obtained. The forest owner has the sole responsibility for fire breakouts that do not meet the criteria for the concept of "räddningstjänst" (rescue services) according to Lagen om skydd mot olyckor (the Act on protection against accidents).</p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.10 Emergency preparedness and preventive measures:</p> <p><i>4.10.5 Preventive measures against forest fire shall be taken when fire risk is at hand, in accordance with documented routines and specified responsibilities that have been established together with the client.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: ...</p> <p><i>3.2.1 To prevent soil compaction and to ensure the productive capacity of the forest land, soil conservation measures shall be implemented when needed. Examples of such</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied.		<p><i>measures are reinforcement of tracks with logging debris and use of soil relieves. Alternatively, felling and timber extraction are performed when the ground is frozen.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: <i>To establish suitable conditions for an economically viable forest production, reliable regeneration methods shall be used. The choice of plant material shall be based on research and available tools should be used to ensure good survival and growth for a future climate.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.2.1 Plant- and seed material shall be adequate for the site in question and have a documented origin.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water:</p> <p><i>Forestry may affect soil and water in different ways. Extraction of timber and forest fuel decreases the amount of available nutrients, and soil damages may imply that nutrient turn-over in the soil is negatively affected, that the soil is compacted, as well as that ground- and surface water is affected through transport of sludge or soluble nutrients and heavy metals. Felling- and silvicultural work need to be performed throughout the year, which places stringent demands on planning and implementation. The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. Water protection areas should be protected against present and future risks. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.1 Measures shall be planned with respect to season and soil stability so that damages to soil and water are avoided. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.10.5 Appropriate methodology and technology shall be used to prevent soil damages in harvesting operations, especially where transports intersect watercourses.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.10.6 Soil damages shall be taken care of in case they are causing a direct flux of sludge and humus into a lake or watercourse, or if they constitute a hindrance for accessibility to frequently used roads, tracks, trails, etc. In every other case, restoration risks doing more harm than good.</p> <p>3.10.7 On land where there is risk of erosion, intermittent soil scarification methods shall be used.</p> <p>3.10.8 At harvesting in steep conditions, the risk for avalanches and slides shall be considered and evaluated in relation to possible costs for risk minimization.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.11 Edge- and buffer zones: ...</p> <p>3.11.3 Rutting at edge- and buffer zones shall be avoided.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.7 Preventive environmental requirements:</p> <p>4.7.5 The equipment and methodology that is needed in order to prevent soil damages at logging shall be used. Operations shall be planned and executed in accordance with applicable requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, paragraph 3.10.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.9 Hazardous waste: ...</p> <p>4.9.1 Any person who has a business in which hazardous waste arises shall, for every sort of waste, keep notes on quantity of waste and where the waste is transported, and where applicable, register this with responsible authority. The notes shall be kept.</p> <p>4.9.2 When hazardous waste is returned to service provider, recycling plant, or other receiver licensed for handling of hazardous waste, control of license (or notification)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.		<p><i>shall be performed. This is not necessary if the receiver is the municipality, or the person engaged by the municipality.</i></p> <p><i>4.9.3 Any person who carries hazardous waste by his-/herself shall notify this and, where applicable, obtain permission from responsible authority.</i></p> <p><i>4.9.4 Any person who hands over hazardous waste for carriage or other handling to somebody else (e.g., service provider) shall make sure that this person has the necessary permissions for the handling. This control is not necessary if the receiver is the municipality, or the person engaged by the municipality.</i></p> <p><i>4.9.5 Any person who hands over hazardous waste for carriage shall, together with the transporter (the receiver), make sure that a transport document is established which includes information on sort of waste, quantity of waste, and who leaves and receives the waste respectively. The transport document shall be signed by the supplier (the contractor).</i></p> <p><i>4.9.6 Other residual products shall be brought out of the forest and be handled in an appropriate way.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.10 Emergency preparedness and preventive measures:</i></p> <p><i>4.10.2 Clearing equipment, specifically developed for the purpose, shall always be carried and used when needed. The clearing equipment shall include digging spade, absorbent, drop cloths, and a collection vessel that is adequate for the purpose.</i></p> <p><i>4.10.3 At service and maintenance work, equipment for collection of spillage shall be used. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry: ... The forest owner/wood procurement organization is responsible for: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.2.1.3 For own forest management, meet applicable requirements of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for: ...</i></p> <p>4.4.1.2 Complying with applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard and PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and apply routines assigned by the umbrella organization.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 003:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: <i>Forest owners shall, by means of appropriate silvicultural methods, work for the creation of vital forests by preventing damages to forests caused by factors such as frost, snow, wind, drought, and flooding. <u>The risk of damages by pests such as fungi and insects shall be minimized through application of the provisions and general advice of the Forestry Act.</u></i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.11 Pest control methods: <i>PEFC's aim is a forestry free of chemical pest control products.</i></p> <p>3.4.11.1 <i>Chemical products for pest control may only be used in exceptional cases when other suitable methods are not at hand. The usage shall follow the regulations by Swedish authorities. Any usage of chemical pest control products shall be possible to motivate.</i></p> <p>3.4.11.2 <i>The use of plants treated with chemical pesticides or use of chemical pesticides in connection with planting is not permitted in the PEFC-certified forestry.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.11 Pest control methods: <i>PEFC's aim is a forestry free of chemical pest control products.</i>  <i>3.4.11.1 Chemical products for pest control may only be used in exceptional cases when other suitable methods are not at hand. The usage shall follow the regulations by Swedish authorities. Any usage of chemical pest control products shall be documented and possible to motivate.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.11 Pest control methods: ...  <i>Note: For example, the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons and pesticides classified as WHO Type 1A and 1B is prohibited.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
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.	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.11 Pest control methods: ...  <i>Note: For example, the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons and pesticides classified as WHO Type 1A and 1B is prohibited.</i>  <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.11 Pest control methods: <i>PEFC's aim is a forestry free of chemical pest control products.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.11.1 Chemical products for pest control may only be used in exceptional cases when other suitable methods are not at hand. The usage shall follow the regulations by Swedish authorities. Any usage of chemical pest control products shall be possible to motivate.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.8 Work environment:</p> <p><i>4.8.7 If the work entails the use of chemicals, routines shall be in place to ensure that these are used in accordance with laws and ordinances and follow the instructions given by the producer. A list of chemicals and safety data sheets shall be available. Staff shall have the necessary competence, training, and equipment.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.6 Forest fuel: ...</p> <p><i>3.6.2 In connection with extraction of forest fuel, the landowner shall obtain information, e.g., via scientific findings or the Forest Agency, on the need for, and benefits of, ash restoration to the site or other part of the forest holding. The need and benefit may refer to the land's productive capacity or to water quality. If needed, and where practical and economic prerequisites for ash restoration prevail, ash shall be restored to suitable land within the forest holding. Fertilization may be an appropriate measure to maintain productive capacity of the land.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.8 Reindeer husbandry:</p> <p><i>3.8.2 In areas with verified or probable right of reindeer herding (in accordance with SOU 2006:14), the following consideration shall be shown, object by object: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Forest fertilization shall not be carried out in stands of lichen type, if not otherwise agreed in connection with consultation in according to §20 and §31 of the Forestry Act.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.2 The Environmental Code:</p> <p><i>7.4.2.2 Notification of consultation: Any forestry operation that may affect the natural environment in a significant way shall, according to law (chapter 12, §6 the Environmental Code), be notified to the Forest Agency for consultation at least six weeks in advance of the operation. See the Forest Agency's website for forestry operations that must be notified. ...</i></p> <p><i>The Forest Agency has also assembled legislation and general advice in a handbook to be consulted at fertilization.</i></p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note related to the quote from PEFC SWE 001:5: "Forest fertilization is one such operation [a forestry operation that may affect the natural environment in a significant way]."</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>Forestry shall be sustainable and based on scientifically tested and site-adapted methods and principles. Sustainable forest management refers to long-term management with the aim of preserving or enhancing the values of the forest holding in the form of forest production, climate benefit, conservation values, and social values. Forestry shall have a market perspective and make use of available market information and studies. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>...Forestry shall have a market perspective and make use of available market information and studies. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: <i>An important component in a sustainable forestry is the long-term productive capacity of the forest land, which shall be made use of and managed at forestry operations. Measures to increase productivity should be considered if it is deemed to have a positive impact on the climate benefit. Use of improved forest reproductive material and fertilization are examples of such measures to increase production.</i></p> <p>3.2.1 <i>To prevent soil compaction and to ensure the productive capacity of the forest land, soil conservation measures shall be implemented when needed. Examples of such measures are reinforcement of tracks with logging debris and use of soil relievers. Alternatively, felling and timber extraction are performed when the ground is frozen.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: <i>Forestry may affect soil and water in different ways. Extraction of timber and forest fuel decreases the amount of available nutrients, and soil damages may imply that</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>nutrient turn-over in the soil is negatively affected, that the soil is compacted, as well as that ground- and surface water is affected through transport of sludge or soluble nutrients and heavy metals. Felling- and silvicultural work need to be performed throughout the year, which places stringent demands on planning and implementation. The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. Water protection areas should be protected against present and future risks. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.1 Measures shall be planned with respect to season and soil stability so that damages to soil and water are avoided. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.10.5 Appropriate methodology and technology shall be used to prevent soil damages in harvesting operations, especially where transports intersect watercourses.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.6 Soil damages shall be taken care of in case they are causing a direct flux of sludge and humus into a lake or watercourse, or if they constitute a hindrance for accessibility to frequently used roads, tracks, trails, etc. In every other case, restoration risks doing more harm than good.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.7 On land where there is risk of erosion, intermittent soil scarification methods shall be used.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.8 At harvesting in steep conditions, the risk for avalanches and slides shall be considered and evaluated in relation to possible costs for risk minimization.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.7 Preventive environmental requirements:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.7.5 <i>The equipment and methodology that is needed in order to prevent soil damages at logging shall be used. Operations shall be planned and executed in accordance with applicable requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, paragraph 3.10.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.9 Timber measurement and quality assurance: <i>The timber measurement act lays down provisions on measurement accuracy for timber measurements used as a basis for payment. The bulk of harvested timber in Sweden is measured by an independent organisation jointly owned by buyers and sellers. Harvesting in Sweden is conducted by well-calibrated harvesters, many of which are certified for accurate measurement and optimisation of cross-cutting according to standards developed by the trading parties. (<a href="https://www.biometria.se/">https://www.biometria.se/</a>)</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>If non-wood forest products, which are not included in the concept of public access, are regularly harvested and commercially used, the resource in question should be monitored and the harvesting levels must be sustainable.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: <i>An important component in a sustainable forestry is the long-term productive capacity of the forest land, which shall be made use of and managed at forestry operations. Measures to increase productivity should be considered if it is deemed to have a positive impact on the climate benefit. Use of improved forest reproductive material and fertilization are examples of such measures to increase production.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>In the context of Swedish forestry, the SFCS requirement to maintain the long-term productive capacity of the forest land can be considered to meet the benchmark requirement for harvesting levels of wood not to exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term. The productive capacity is understood to refer specifically to production of wood in the context established by the PEFC SWE 002:5.</p> <p>Note: Typical NWFPs in Sweden include berries and mushrooms, which the public is allowed to pick freely in privately owned forests. Their level of utilisation does not have a practical effect on their long-term sustainability. Game management in Sweden is controlled on the landscape level by the state and therefore not applicable in FMU level forest management. Utilisation of other NWFPs is currently marginal but cannot be considered completely irrelevant regarding national SFM requirements.</p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: ...</p> <p><i>3.2.1 To prevent soil compaction and to ensure the productive capacity of the forest land, soil conservation measures shall be implemented when needed. Examples of such measures are reinforcement of tracks with logging debris and use of soil relievers. Alternatively, felling and timber extraction are performed when the ground is frozen.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: ... <i>The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.10.2 At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: ...<i>One of PEFC's cornerstones for a sustainable forest management is to safeguard and promote the environmental values of the forest. Flora, fauna, soil, and water shall be taken into consideration at every forestry operation. As a complement to adjusted forestry measures, areas shall also be completely set aside for environmental purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Forest owners shall strive to maintain or enhance the biological diversity in the landscape through good environmental consideration at forestry operations and set-asides for nature conservation in line with this standard. Nature conservation set-asides in excess of the requirements of this standard can be regarded as society's responsibility where the forest owner, in dialogue with public agencies, should seek a long-term solution.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: ...</p> <p><i>3.4.8.1 Variation in stand age and tree species shall be aimed at, at forest holding level.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.9 Landscape ecology: <i>The landscape ecological perspective is important in all forest management planning. There may be different elements that contribute to the landscape-ecological values at the forest holding. It can be, e.g., set-asides for nature conservation, edge zones towards water, and towards bare or tree-covered low-productive land. These values are</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>considered at forestry operations, and when so is reasonable, measures are taken to actively improve those values.</i></p> <p><i>3.9.1 Forest owners with <math>\geq 5\,000</math> ha of continuous productive forest land shall plan from a landscape-ecological perspective, with respect to the consolidation of the forest holding and other local conditions.</i></p> <p><i>3.9.2 Forest owners with less than 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land shall consider regional plans for nature conservation or the equivalent in connection with forest management planning. This means that adjustment of consideration is made at the level of the forest holding so that the management contributes to conservation values being preserved and, when needed, enhanced in the landscape at hand, e.g., regarding the amount of dead wood, area of older forest rich in deciduous trees, or area of forest with high conservation values.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.12 Burning: Historically, especially dry soils have been burning at regular intervals, which has resulted in a specific flora and fauna. Since today's forests seldom burn, such species are rare. To increase the area of burnt forest is therefore an important nature conservation measure.</i></p> <p><i>The requirements concerning burning apply to forest holdings of at least 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ...A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>The forest owner's objective for the forest holding shall be considered in the forest management plan. When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective. ...</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>At the establishment of the forest management plan, the classification into forestry objectives shall be based on conservation value assessment in the field. The forest management plan shall be developed with consideration to a landscape-ecological perspective. The information in the plan shall be quality assured. ...</i></p> <p><i>Requirements for general information in the forest management plan: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>2. The forest owner's objective for the forest management ...</i></li> <li><i>5. Commentaries to the holding including information on ancient remains, other cultural heritage sites, registered key-habitats, formally protected areas, and water protection areas</i></li> <li><i>6. Map showing:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. property- and land use class boundaries</i></li> <li><i>b. forestry objectives ...</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Maintaining or enhancing biodiversity on a genetic level is not currently explicitly required. Integrating that into the standard could be considered.</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.</p> <p>Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.7 Monitoring, 7.7.1 State of and changes in forests: <i>The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SUAS) is responsible for official statistics on current state of and changes in Sweden's forests. The basis for this is the annual inventory work made by SUAS through the National Forest Inventory and the Swedish Forest Soil Survey. The main purpose of the National Forest Inventory is to describe the state of and changes in Sweden's forests, including their health and vitality (see Figures 1 – 4). The information collected is used, for example, for follow-up and assessment of current forest-, environmental, and energy policy. The National Forest Inventory has been carried out since 1923. The Swedish Forest Soil Survey is a detailed inventory of the status of forest soils.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>NILS (National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden) is an umbrella for national environmental monitoring programs. The purpose of the inventories is to collect, analyze, and present data on what landscapes and habitat types look like in Sweden and change over time by means of field inventories and aerial photo interpretation of permanent sample plots in all types of terrestrial environments in the Swedish landscape. NILS is run by SUAS since 2003 on commission by the Environmental Protection Agency.</i></p> <p><i>7.7.2 Environment, social issues, and production in forestry</i></p> <p><i>The Forest Agency is responsible for official statistics in the fields of “production in forestry”, “employment in forestry”, and “environment and social issues in forestry”. The agency performs inventories as well as questionnaires and interviews to collect data regarding the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><i>The system for follow-up of shown consideration is undergoing development. The purpose is to reduce the risk of subjective assessments being made and to build on the work of the forest sector’s target scenarios for conservation action in forest management. During 2015 and 2017 field inventories were carried out according to a new method and in 2019 an evaluation was made that shows the need for further development. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ...A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>The forest owner’s objective for the forest holding shall be considered in the forest management plan. When the forest management plan is established, consideration shall be given to regional objectives for handling of nature consideration and/or a landscape-ecological perspective. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>At the establishment of the forest management plan, the classification into forestry objectives shall be based on conservation value assessment in the field. The forest management plan shall be developed with consideration to a landscape-ecological perspective. The information in the plan shall be quality assured. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Conservation value assessment (Sw. Naturvärdesbedömning): Methodology to assess the area's prerequisites for biological diversity, as it is reflected in the occurrence of habitat characteristics and habitats important to the organisms.</i></p> <p><i>Forestry objective (Sw. Målklass): Concept used in forest management planning. For each forest compartment, a forestry objective is assigned to guide the future development of that compartment. The following forestry objectives are used:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PG – production with general consideration</i></li> <li>• <i>K/PF – multiple objectives, production with enhanced consideration</i></li> <li>• <i>NS – area set aside for nature conservation where management is needed to preserve conservation values</i></li> <li>• <i>NO – area set aside for nature conservation where no interventions are made</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.2 The Environmental Code, 7.4.2.3 Ordinance on species protection: <i>The Government may decide on legal protection of a certain species of flora or fauna if there is a risk of the species going extinct or becoming subject to plundering. The Government's decision on protection of a species of flora or fauna may apply throughout the country, in a single county, or part of a county. The provisions on protection of species are laid down in chapter 8 of the Environmental Code. The EU's Habitats Directive (92/43 EEG) and the Birds Directive are incorporated</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.		<p><i>into the species protection ordinance, which is divided into species protected according to EU-legislation and nationally protected species. More than 300 species of flora and fauna are under legal protection nationally. In addition, there are around 50 species under legal protection in one or several counties. Legal protection most often means that the species is totally protected – it is forbidden to pick, catch, kill or in any other way collect or damage any specimen of the protected species. It is also forbidden to remove or damage any seeds, eggs, roe, or nests of the species.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>Forestry shall be practiced in a way that complies with applicable legislation and industry practice. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.1 The Forestry Act, 7.4.1.2 Notification of regeneration felling: <i>...A forest owner is obliged to regenerate the forest after harvesting (§5 Forestry Act) and to establish and manage new forest (§8). For management units larger than 50 ha, the regeneration felling must not be made to such an extent that more than half of the unit's productive forest land will consist of bare forest land and forest younger than 20 years. For management units larger than 1000 and 5000 ha there are further regulations.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: <i>To establish suitable conditions for an economically viable forest production, reliable regeneration methods shall be used. The choice of plant material shall be based on research and available tools should be used to ensure good survival and growth for a future climate.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.4.2.1 Plant- and seed material shall be adequate for the site in question and have a documented origin.</p> <p>3.4.2.2 Regeneration measure shall have been implemented within three years from the time of regeneration felling. Control of regeneration shall be implemented within three years after planting at the latest, and five years at the latest after seeding or natural regeneration. ...</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: <i>To establish suitable conditions for an economically viable forest production, reliable regeneration methods shall be used. The choice of plant material shall be based on research and available tools should be used to ensure good survival and growth for a future climate.</i></p> <p>3.4.2.1 Plant- and seed material shall be adequate for the site in question and have a documented origin. ...</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.9 Exotic tree species: <i>As exotic tree species count species which do not naturally grow in Sweden. Some of these may have advantages such as higher growth, advantageous wood qualities, better adaptation to damage from game or a changing climate. When exotic tree species are used, risks such as forest infestations, effects on biological diversity, and self-propagation shall be taken into account. Native species shall always be considered.</i></p> <p>3.4.9.1 Presence of exotic tree species shall be documented in the forest management plan.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.4.9.2 Larger forest owners (forest holdings <math>\geq 5000</math> ha productive forest land) shall limit the use of exotic tree species so that the total area of stands dominated by exotic tree species does not exceed 20% of the productive forest land area.</p> <p>3.4.9.3 Forest owners that have exotic tree species on their forest land shall limit and remove any propagation into existing formal and voluntary set-asides on own forest land.</p> <p>3.4.9.4 Larger forest owners shall have programs in place for the control of propagation into formally protected and voluntarily set-aside forest land. Larger forest owners shall also show consideration at stand- and landscape level when exotic tree species are used. This shall be clear from the forest management plan or other documentation.</p> <p>3.4.9.5 Larger forest owners, with land holdings situated within the area of reindeer husbandry (3§ The Reindeer Husbandry Act (1971:437)) shall not establish stands with exotic species on sites that are of special importance to reindeer herding, unless otherwise is agreed during consultation. Such sites shall be documented in connection with consultations or through the Sami communities' land use accounts, reindeer management plans, or national accounts on reindeer herding.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: ...<i>Forest owners shall strive to maintain or enhance the biological diversity in the landscape through good environmental consideration at forestry operations and set-asides for nature conservation in line with this standard.</i> ...</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration:</p> <p>3.4.2.2 <i>Regeneration measure shall have been implemented within three years from the time of regeneration felling. Control of regeneration shall be implemented within three</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>years after planting at the latest, and five years at the latest after seeding or natural regeneration.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.7 Set-asides for environmental purposes:</p> <p><i>3.7.3 Set-asides are a means for the forest owner to restore or create conditions to tie together habitats meriting protection where this is appropriate. At selection and demarcation, areas shall be prioritized according to the below:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Areas with very high conservation values</i></li> <li><i>2. Areas with high conservation values or areas of great significance for recreation and outdoor life</i></li> <li><i>3. Areas with developable conservation values, other social values, or cultural heritage sites.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>When assessing conservation values, a method that is evaluated and described shall be used.</i></p> <p><i>Areas of great significance for recreation and outdoor life may be, for example, school forests or outdoor recreation areas with a high degree of utilization, high experiential qualities, and good accessibility and reachability.</i></p> <p><i>Areas with developable conservation values may be areas that are prioritized in public agencies' regional plans or forests with structures and components of importance to nature conservation, for example dead or dying trees, thick deciduous trees, or old trees.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.9 Landscape ecology: <i>The landscape ecological perspective is important in all forest management planning. There may be different elements that contribute to the landscape-ecological values at the forest holding. It can be, e.g., set-asides for nature conservation, edge zones towards water, and towards bare or tree-covered low-productive land. These values are</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>considered at forestry operations, and when so is reasonable, measures are taken to actively improve those values. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.9.1 Forest owners with <math>\geq 5\,000</math> ha of continuous productive forest land shall plan from a landscape-ecological perspective, with respect to the consolidation of the forest holding and other local conditions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.11 Edge- and buffer zones: <i>Edge zones and buffer zones are important to biological diversity on forest land as well as to adjacent land use classes. Edge zones and buffer zones are also a means to create the conditions for binding together habitats worthy of protection. Different areas have different prerequisites, and the buffer zones shall be adjusted to the current conditions.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> SFCS does not require the promotion of afforestation, reforestation or other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity. However, SFCS does address the issue of ecological connectivity mostly through set-asides.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note: <i>"Afforestation issues are in general not very relevant in Sweden with a forest coverage of almost 70% and a small net gain of 0,2% of forest land per year (PEFC SWE 001)."</i></p>
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: ...</p> <p><i>3.4.2.4 Reproductive material with genetically modified reproductive material, GMO, may not be used.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.		
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>...Forest owners shall strive to maintain or enhance the biological diversity in the landscape through good environmental consideration at forestry operations and set-asides for nature conservation in line with this standard. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.1 Choice of forest management system: <i>The clear-felling system is the most common and most evaluated forest management system in Sweden. Other forest management systems, such as <u>continuous cover forestry</u>, may be relevant in relation to the individual forest owner's goals and conditions. These methods shall be tested and aim for an active, long term, and sustainable forestry.</i></p> <p>3.4.1.1 <i>Other management methods, such as continuous cover forestry methods, may be applied provided that the methods in question are site-adapted and provide conditions for long term management, sustainable production, as well as consider nature-, cultural-, and social values of the forest. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.4 Conservation trees/potential conservation trees: <i>All forestry operations are of importance for the creation of future conservation values. Conservation trees are valuable to biological diversity and may contribute to the forest's aesthetical values.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC takes a positive view on the possibility to apply longer rotation periods also in production stands, e.g., for the purpose of producing special timber qualities, for social reasons, or according to the forest owner's wishes.</i></p> <p>3.4.4.1 <i>At thinning and regeneration felling, all conservation trees shall be retained to live, die, decompose, and decay. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.5 Deciduous trees: <i>Deciduous trees in the forest stands are important both to biological diversity, for cultural heritage sites, and for the forest's aesthetic values. PEFC strives to increase the proportion of older and thicker deciduous trees as well as the area dominated by deciduous trees.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.6 Dead wood: <i>Dead wood is an important element for biological diversity and often in short supply in managed forests. Therefore, a fundamental ambition for PEFC is to increase the amount of standing dead trees, old windthrows, high stumps, etc. The biological value of the dead wood, which depends on thickness, degree of decay, tree species, and location, shall be taken into consideration.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: ...</p> <p><i>3.4.8.1 Variation in stand age and tree species shall be aimed at, at forest holding level.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.9 Landscape ecology: <i>The landscape ecological perspective is important in all forest management planning. There may be different elements that contribute to the landscape-ecological values at the forest holding. It can be, e.g., set-asides for nature conservation, edge zones towards water, and towards bare or tree-covered low-productive land. These values are considered at forestry operations, and when so is reasonable, measures are taken to actively improve those values.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.12 Burning: <i>Historically, especially dry soils have been burning at regular intervals, which has resulted in a specific flora and fauna. Since today's forests seldom burn, such species are rare. To increase the area of burnt forest is therefore an important nature conservation measure.</i></p> <p><i>The requirements concerning burning apply to forest holdings of at least 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.7 Set-asides for environmental purposes:</p> <p><i>3.7.1 At least 5% of the productive forest land shall be set aside for environmental consideration (forestry objective NO or NS). Set-aside areas shall be indicated in a forest management plan. Exempted are forest holdings with less than 20 hectares of productive forest land where areas with conservation values are lacking.</i></p> <p><i>3.7.4 In areas set aside for nature conservation purposes, where management is needed to preserve or enhance conservation values, measures shall be taken. Only measures that aim to preserve or enhance biological diversity are allowed. In areas set aside for recreation and outdoor life or cultural environments, only measures that aim to preserve or enhance social values and, conservation values, and/or cultural heritage values are allowed.</i></p> <p><i>3.7.5 Other tree-covered land with at least 10% crown density, and where grazing or mowing is practiced to an extent sufficient to provide good living conditions for flora/fauna dependent on this, may be set aside according to forestry objective NS.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b>  <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>The system covers a range of focus areas for enhancement of eco-systems and biodiversity through the management regime, including restrictions for extracting forest fuels (3.6), set-asides (3.7), landscape ecology (3.9), methods for protecting soil and water (3.10), edge and buffer zones (3.11), burning (3.12), regeneration (3.4.2), pre-commercial thinning and thinning (3.4.3), conservation trees/potential conservation trees (3.4.4), deciduous trees (3.4.5), dead wood (3.4.6).</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.2 Regeneration: <i>To establish suitable conditions for an economically viable forest production, reliable regeneration methods shall be used. The choice of plant material shall be based on research and available tools should be used to ensure good survival and growth for a future climate.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.3 Pre-commercial thinning and thinning: <i>Pre-commercial thinning and thinning shall be performed so that forests with high production- and natural values, in accordance with established objectives, are created.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.4 Conservation trees/potential conservation trees: <i>All forestry operations are of importance for the creation of future conservation values. Conservation trees are valuable to biological diversity and may contribute to the forest's aesthetical values.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC takes a positive view on the possibility to apply longer rotation periods also in production stands, e.g., for the purpose of producing special timber qualities, for social reasons, or according to the forest owner's wishes.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.4.1 At thinning and regeneration felling, all conservation trees shall be retained to live, die, decompose, and decay. If the total number of conservation trees at regeneration felling amounts to less than 10 per hectare on average, these shall be complemented with potential conservation trees so that 10 trees on average per hectare are always retained.</i></p> <p><i>In stands where it is difficult to distinguish conservation trees, all deciduous conservation trees are retained, and at least 10 coniferous conservation trees/potential conservation trees on average per hectare.</i></p> <p><i>For trees and groups of trees in production stands that have obtained the characteristics of conservation trees, but for which felling has been postponed for a specific purpose,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>for example for special timber qualities or social values, objective and purpose shall be described in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.4.2 Felling of a stand of seed trees is in this context considered part of regeneration felling. Provided that enough conservation trees and potential conservation trees have been retained at regeneration felling, additional potential conservation trees need not be retained when seed trees are felled.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.4.3 Felling of a conservation tree is only allowed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• if the operation favours another conservation tree, deemed to have higher conservation values</i></li> <li><i>• in the case of road construction, risk of damages to humans or buildings, as well as for trees in the vicinity of overhead wires</i></li> <li><i>• if they risk damaging ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites</i></li> <li><i>• if silvicultural measure is significantly impeded.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The harvested tree is retained as fresh dead wood.</i></p> <p><i>A conservation tree may be in a stage of dying or alive. A conservation tree must have special conservation values and differ from the stand that is to be harvested.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of conservation trees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• trees that are different from the rest of the stand, especially thick and/or old trees</i></li> <li><i>• thick trees with manifest wide and thick branched/flat crown</i></li> <li><i>• thick spruces that have previously grown without competition, so called “enclosed pasture spruces”</i></li> <li><i>• thick aspens and alders, unless they appear in abundance</i></li> <li><i>• the following trees when they occur in stands dominated by conifers: tree-like willow, rowan, Swedish whitebeam, maple, linden, bird cherry, wild cherry, or thick common hazel</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>solitary or smaller groups of valuable deciduous trees in the boreal forest landscape</i></li> <li>• <i>thick common junipers</i></li> <li>• <i>trees with manifest open fire scars</i></li> <li>• <i>trees with hollows and trees with nests of dry twigs</i></li> <li>• <i>trees with evident traces of cultural activity.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Trees that are part of the ordinary management program, e.g., seed trees, shelterwood trees, and saw timber stands do not count as conservation trees.</i></p> <p><i>Potential conservation trees are living ordinary trees, representative of the stand, that are retained to develop into conservation trees during the following rotation period. As potential conservation trees are chosen those trees deemed to have the best possibility to develop conservation values. Potential conservation trees are preferably retained in or adjacent to consideration patches (e.g., groups of trees and edge zones).</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.5 Deciduous trees: <i>Deciduous trees in the forest stands are important both to biological diversity, for cultural heritage sites, and for the forest's aesthetic values. PEFC strives to increase the proportion of older and thicker deciduous trees as well as the area dominated by deciduous trees.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.5.1 Where conditions exist for deciduous trees on the forest holding, an area equivalent to at least 5% of the area of mesic and moist forest soils shall be managed to become dominated by deciduous trees. Stands dominated by deciduous trees in all soil moisture classes may be included. It shall be indicated in the forest management plan which compartments that have been identified.</i></p> <p><i>On forest holdings where conditions for at least 5% of stands dominated by deciduous trees are lacking, and where rational deciduous forest management cannot be practiced due to browsing, soil conditions, climatic conditions, or where it conflicts with the Forestry Act, forest management shall be practiced for an increased volume of deciduous timber at the level of the forest holding. Existing occurrence of deciduous</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>trees and objective for increased deciduous timber volume shall be described in the forest management plan.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.5.2 In stands where natural conditions permit, deciduous trees shall be safeguarded in pre-commercial thinning and thinning operations, so that they constitute at least 10% of the number of stems until last thinning. Until regeneration felling, there shall be at least 20 deciduous trees per hectare on average. Exempted are mixed stands of pine and aspen where the risk of Melampsora rust must be considered.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.6 Dead wood: <i>Dead wood is an important element for biological diversity and often in short supply in managed forests. Therefore, a fundamental ambition for PEFC is to increase the amount of standing dead trees, old windthrows, high stumps, etc. The biological value of the dead wood, which depends on thickness, degree of decay, tree species, and location, shall be taken into consideration.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.1 Older dead wood shall be safeguarded in forestry operations. The dead wood shall if possible be retained intact in its original location.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.2 In production stands with a large proportion of older dead wood, at least 20 of the biologically most valuable dead trees/old windthrown trees, on average per hectare, shall be retained.</i></p> <p><i>Areas with a larger amount of dead forest, which is not retained for conservation purposes, may be taken care of to make regeneration possible in accordance with the provisions of the forestry legislation, but an increase of the consideration area or set-aside as NS-, or NO-stands should be considered.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.3 From second thinning until regeneration felling (except from in stands of valuable broad-leaved trees), thick dead wood consisting of at least three fresh high stumps, logs, lying or ring-barked trees on average per hectare shall be created. Trees that have been purposely damaged for the purpose of creating dead wood may also be counted. If</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>there is already three fresh units of snow-breaks, wind-thrown trees, or equivalent on average per hectare within the area, additional dead wood need not be created.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.4 Felling of a stand of seed trees is considered part of the regeneration felling. Provided that enough dead wood was retained at regeneration felling, additional amounts of dead wood need not be created when the seed trees are harvested.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.5 At regeneration felling in stands of oak and beech, dead wood shall be created so that, when it is time for termination of the stand, there are at least two dead trees of the main tree species on average per hectare. From other valuable deciduous trees, single fresh high stumps, logs, lying or ring-barked trees shall be created during the final stage of the thinning phase.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.6 In connection with felling alongside tracks/hiking trails or where there is a risk of damage to humans or buildings, dead wood that risks being wind-thrown shall be cut and retained in the form of high stumps or left on the ground.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.7 In connection with extraction of logging residues, consideration shall be shown in the form of retaining thick deciduous- and pine treetops.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.8 Deviation from creating and retaining fresh dead wood of coniferous trees is allowed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• when there is a documented risk of mass propagation of noxious insects</i></li> <li><i>• after larger/extensive infestation in area declared by the Forest Agency as special area for combating of pests.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.7 Forests that shall be managed with enhanced consideration: Individual stands sometimes include areas with higher conservation values than its surroundings, such as water courses, vertical surfaces, and scree slopes. These shall be given special consideration at forestry operations to safeguard biodiversity. Forests containing</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>conservation values, which are not prioritized for set aside, shall be managed with high ambitions as regards nature conservation.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health: <i>Forest owners shall, by means of appropriate silvicultural methods, work for the creation of vital forests by preventing damages to forests caused by factors such as frost, snow, wind, drought, and flooding. The risk of damages by pests such as fungi and insects shall be minimized through application of the provisions and general advice of the Forestry Act.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.8.1 Variation in stand age and tree species shall be aimed at, at forest holding level.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.8.2 Risk-preventive measures and active forest protection shall be carried out in accordance with the forestry legislation. E.g. the forest Agency and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences provides information about factors affecting forest health which should be used as a basis for monitoring.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.6 Forest fuel: <i>Extraction of timber and forest fuel is a natural part of an active forestry and shall be carried out in a manner ensuring that the long-term productivity of the land is preserved.</i></p> <p><i>3.6.1 Extraction of forest fuel shall only be made on land that is suitable for this, and where there is no risk of soil damages.</i></p> <p><i>3.6.2 In connection with extraction of forest fuel, the landowner shall obtain information, e.g., via scientific findings or the Forest Agency, on the need for, and benefits of, ash restoration to the site or other part of the forest holding. The need and benefit may refer to the land's productive capacity or to water quality. If needed, and where practical and economic prerequisites for ash restoration prevail, ash shall be restored to suitable land within the forest holding. Fertilization may be an appropriate measure to maintain productive capacity of the land.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.7 Set-asides for environmental purposes:</p> <p><i>3.7.1 At least 5% of the productive forest land shall be set aside for environmental consideration (forestry objective NO or NS). Set-aside areas shall be indicated in a forest management plan. Exempted are forest holdings with less than 20 hectares of productive forest land where areas with conservation values are lacking.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.9 Landscape ecology: <i>The landscape ecological perspective is important in all forest management planning. There may be different elements that contribute to the landscape-ecological values at the forest holding. It can be, e.g., set-asides for nature conservation, edge zones towards water, and towards bare or tree-covered low-productive land. These values are considered at forestry operations, and when so is reasonable, measures are taken to actively improve those values.</i></p> <p><i>3.9.1 Forest owners with <math>\geq 5\,000</math> ha of continuous productive forest land shall plan from a landscape-ecological perspective, with respect to the consolidation of the forest holding and other local conditions.</i></p> <p><i>3.9.2 Forest owners with less than 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land shall consider regional plans for nature conservation or the equivalent in connection with forest management planning. This means that adjustment of consideration is made at the level of the forest holding so that the management contributes to conservation values being preserved and, when needed, enhanced in the landscape at hand, e.g., regarding the amount of dead wood, area of older forest rich in deciduous trees, or area of forest with high conservation values.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: <i>Forestry may affect soil and water in different ways. Extraction of timber and forest fuel decreases the amount of available nutrients, and soil damages may imply that nutrient turn-over in the soil is negatively affected, that the soil is compacted, as well as that ground- and surface water is affected through transport of sludge or soluble</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>nutrients and heavy metals. Felling- and silvicultural work need to be performed throughout the year, which places stringent demands on planning and implementation. The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. Water protection areas should be protected against present and future risks. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.1 Measures shall be planned with respect to season and soil stability so that damages to soil and water are avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.2 At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.5 Appropriate methodology and technology shall be used to prevent soil damages in harvesting operations, especially where transports intersect watercourses.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.6 Soil damages shall be taken care of in case they are causing a direct flux of sludge and humus into a lake or watercourse, or if they constitute a hindrance for accessibility to frequently used roads, tracks, trails, etc. In every other case, restoration risks doing more harm than good.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.7 On land where there is risk of erosion, intermittent soil scarification methods shall be used.</i></p>

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		<p>3.10.8 <i>At harvesting in steep conditions, the risk for avalanches and slides shall be considered and evaluated in relation to possible costs for risk minimization.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.11 Edge- and buffer zones: <i>Edge zones and buffer zones are important to biological diversity on forest land as well as to adjacent land use classes. Edge zones and buffer zones are also a means to create the conditions for binding together habitats worthy of protection. Different areas have different prerequisites, and the buffer zones shall be adjusted to the current conditions.</i></p> <p>3.11.1 <i>In edge zones/forest edges and at lakes and watercourses, deciduous trees and bushes shall be favoured to create a layered and uneven-aged edge zone.</i></p> <p>3.11.2 <i>On sites where a buffer zone is needed but is lacking, measures shall be taken as soon as possible for the creation of a functional buffer zone, which breadth shall be adjusted to the object to be protected and conditions on the site.</i></p> <p>3.11.3 <i>Rutting at edge- and buffer zones shall be avoided.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.12 Burning: <i>Historically, especially dry soils have been burning at regular intervals, which has resulted in a specific flora and fauna. Since today's forests seldom burn, such species are rare. To increase the area of burnt forest is therefore an important nature conservation measure.</i></p> <p><i>The requirements concerning burning apply to forest holdings of at least 5 000 hectares of continuous productive forest land.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
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	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.2 The Environmental Code, 7.4.2.2 Notification of consultation: <i>Any forestry operation that may affect the natural environment in a significant way shall, according to law (chapter 12, §6 the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.		<p><i>Environmental Code</i>), be notified to the Forest Agency for consultation at least six weeks in advance of the operation. See the Forest Agency's website for forestry operations that must be notified.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>Infrastructure such as construction and maintenance of forest roads shall be planned and constructed so that damages to forest ecosystems are minimised.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: ...</p> <p><i>3.2.1 To prevent soil compaction and to ensure the productive capacity of the forest land, soil conservation measures shall be implemented when needed. Examples of such measures are reinforcement of tracks with logging debris and use of soil relieves. Alternatively, felling and timber extraction are performed when the ground is frozen.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: ... <i>The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.10.2 At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note related to PEFC SWE 001:5, 7.4.2.2: <i>“construction of forest roads, construction of tractor roads that involve digging and excavation on a larger scale and construction of base roads across valuable wetlands and valuable watercourses are operations that must be notified for consultation with the Forest Agency.”</i></p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.5 Game: <i>Forest owners shall aim for adaptation of the size of ungulate populations so that the long-term societal objectives regarding forest management and nature conservation may be obtained. A close cooperation between the forestry sector and hunters is a prerequisite for obtaining the objective of vital game populations which is on balance with the fodder supply. The forest owner shall have general knowledge about how the management of ungulate that he or she is affected by works, and how one as a landowner may cooperate in the management.</i></p> <p>3.5.1 <i>The forest owner shall be aware of the basis of Swedish wildlife management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>If the societal objectives regarding damages to forests from ungulates are not achieved, ungulate populations shall be adjusted accordingly.</i></li> <li><i>To assess whether societal objectives regarding forest damages of ungulates are achieved, moose-grazing-inventory (ÅBIN) shall be used as an objective and quality assured method.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Guidance: The size of ungulate populations may be considered well-balanced when:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>rowan, aspen, willow, and oak have the possibility to grow into trees in those parts of the country where they occur naturally</i></li> <li><i>it is possible to regenerate the forest land with suitable tree species</i></li> <li><i>at least 7 out of 10 regenerated stems of pine are undamaged at 5 m height.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>A prerequisite for achieving the objectives regarding rowan, aspen, sallow, and oak (RASE) is that these are retained/promoted to a sufficient extent at pre-commercial thinning.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.4 Conservation trees/potential conservation trees: <i>All forestry operations are of importance for the creation of future conservation values. Conservation trees are valuable to biological diversity and may contribute to the forest's aesthetical values.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC takes a positive view on the possibility to apply longer rotation periods also in production stands, e.g., for the purpose of producing special timber qualities, for social reasons, or according to the forest owner's wishes.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.4.1 At thinning and regeneration felling, all conservation trees shall be retained to live, die, decompose, and decay. If the total number of conservation trees at regeneration felling amounts to less than 10 per hectare on average, these shall be complemented with potential conservation trees so that 10 trees on average per hectare are always retained.</i></p> <p><i>In stands where it is difficult to distinguish conservation trees, all deciduous conservation trees are retained, and at least 10 coniferous conservation trees/potential conservation trees on average per hectare.</i></p> <p><i>For trees and groups of trees in production stands that have obtained the characteristics of conservation trees, but for which felling has been postponed for a specific purpose, for example for special timber qualities or social values, objective and purpose shall be described in the forest management plan.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.4.4.2 <i>Felling of a stand of seed trees is in this context considered part of regeneration felling. Provided that enough conservation trees and potential conservation trees have been retained at regeneration felling, additional potential conservation trees need not be retained when seed trees are felled.</i></p> <p>3.4.4.3 <i>Felling of a conservation tree is only allowed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>if the operation favours another conservation tree, deemed to have higher conservation values</i></li> <li>• <i>in the case of road construction, risk of damages to humans or buildings, as well as for trees in the vicinity of overhead wires</i></li> <li>• <i>if they risk damaging ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites</i></li> <li>• <i>if silvicultural measure is significantly impeded.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The harvested tree is retained as fresh dead wood.</i></p> <p><i>A conservation tree may be in a stage of dying or alive. A conservation tree must have special conservation values and differ from the stand that is to be harvested.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of conservation trees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>trees that are different from the rest of the stand, especially thick and/or old trees</i></li> <li>• <i>thick trees with manifest wide and thick branched/flat crown</i></li> <li>• <i>thick spruces that have previously grown without competition, so called “enclosed pasture spruces”</i></li> <li>• <i>thick aspens and alders, unless they appear in abundance</i></li> <li>• <i>the following trees when they occur in stands dominated by conifers: tree-like willow, rowan, Swedish whitebeam, maple, linden, bird cherry, wild cherry, or thick common hazel</i></li> <li>• <i>solitary or smaller groups of valuable deciduous trees in the boreal forest landscape</i></li> <li>• <i>thick common junipers</i></li> </ul>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>trees with manifest open fire scars</i></li> <li>• <i>trees with hollows and trees with nests of dry twigs</i></li> <li>• <i>trees with evident traces of cultural activity.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Trees that are part of the ordinary management program, e.g., seed trees, shelterwood trees, and saw timber stands do not count as conservation trees.</i></p> <p><i>Potential conservation trees are living ordinary trees, representative of the stand, that are retained to develop into conservation trees during the following rotation period. As potential conservation trees are chosen those trees deemed to have the best possibility to develop conservation values. Potential conservation trees are preferably retained in or adjacent to consideration patches (e.g., groups of trees and edge zones).</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.6 Dead wood: <i>Dead wood is an important element for biological diversity and often in short supply in managed forests. Therefore, a fundamental ambition for PEFC is to increase the amount of standing dead trees, old windthrows, high stumps, etc. The biological value of the dead wood, which depends on thickness, degree of decay, tree species, and location, shall be taken into consideration.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.1 Older dead wood shall be safeguarded in forestry operations. The dead wood shall if possible be retained intact in its original location.</i></p> <p><i>3.4.6.2 In production stands with a large proportion of older dead wood, at least 20 of the biologically most valuable dead trees/old windthrown trees, on average per hectare, shall be retained.</i></p> <p><i>Areas with a larger amount of dead forest, which is not retained for conservation purposes, may be taken care of to make regeneration possible in accordance with the provisions of the forestry legislation, but an increase of the consideration area or set-aside as NS-, or NO-stands should be considered.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.4.6.3 <i>From second thinning until regeneration felling (except from in stands of valuable broad-leaved trees), thick dead wood consisting of at least three fresh high stumps, logs, lying or ring-barked trees on average per hectare shall be created. Trees that have been purposely damaged for the purpose of creating dead wood may also be counted. If there is already three fresh units of snow-breaks, wind-thrown trees, or equivalent on average per hectare within the area, additional dead wood need not be created.</i></p> <p>3.4.6.4 <i>Felling of a stand of seed trees is considered part of the regeneration felling. Provided that enough dead wood was retained at regeneration felling, additional amounts of dead wood need not be created when the seed trees are harvested.</i></p> <p>3.4.6.5 <i>At regeneration felling in stands of oak and beech, dead wood shall be created so that, when it is time for termination of the stand, there are at least two dead trees of the main tree species on average per hectare. From other valuable deciduous trees, single fresh high stumps, logs, lying or ring-barked trees shall be created during the final stage of the thinning phase.</i></p> <p>3.4.6.6 <i>In connection with felling alongside tracks/hiking trails or where there is a risk of damage to humans or buildings, dead wood that risks being wind-thrown shall be cut and retained in the form of high stumps or left on the ground.</i></p> <p>3.4.6.7 <i>In connection with extraction of logging residues, consideration shall be shown in the form of retaining thick deciduous- and pine treetops.</i></p> <p>3.4.6.8 <i>Deviation from creating and retaining fresh dead wood of coniferous trees is allowed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>when there is a documented risk of mass propagation of noxious insects</i></li> <li>• <i>after larger/extensive infestation in area declared by the Forest Agency as special area for combating of pests.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
<p>8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.2 Productive capacity of the forest land: <i>An important component in a sustainable forestry is the long-term <u>productive capacity</u> of the forest land, which shall be made use of and managed at forestry operations. Measures to increase productivity should be considered if it is deemed to have a positive impact on the climate benefit. Use of improved forest reproductive material and fertilization are examples of such measures to increase production.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: <i>Forestry may affect soil and water in different ways. Extraction of timber and forest fuel decreases the amount of available nutrients, and soil damages may imply that nutrient turn-over in the soil is negatively affected, that the soil is compacted, as well as that ground- and surface water is affected through transport of sludge or soluble nutrients and heavy metals. Felling- and silvicultural work need to be performed throughout the year, which places stringent demands on planning and implementation. The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. Water protection areas should be protected against present and future risks. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.1 Measures shall be planned with respect to season and soil stability so that damages to soil and water are avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.2 At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration.</p> <p>3.10.5 Appropriate methodology and technology shall be used to prevent soil damages in harvesting operations, especially where transports intersect watercourses.</p> <p>3.10.6 Soil damages shall be taken care of in case they are causing a direct flux of sludge and humus into a lake or watercourse, or if they constitute a hindrance for accessibility to frequently used roads, tracks, trails, etc. In every other case, restoration risks doing more harm than good.</p> <p>3.10.7 On land where there is risk of erosion, intermittent soil scarification methods shall be used.</p> <p>3.10.8 At harvesting in steep conditions, the risk for avalanches and slides shall be considered and evaluated in relation to possible costs for risk minimization.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>Forestry shall be practiced in a way that complies with applicable legislation and industry practice. Forestry shall be sustainable and based on scientifically tested and site-adapted methods and principles. Sustainable forest management refers to long-term management with <u>the aim of preserving or enhancing the values of the forest holding in the form of forest production, climate benefit, conservation values, and social values...</u></i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.3 Forest management plan: <i>The Swedish PEFC-system is based on forest owners having a forest management plan adapted to certification. The forest management plan is a basis for planning the management of the forest holding.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.1.1 <i>For forest holdings of 20 ha productive forest land or more, there shall be a forest management plan adapted to certification in accordance with Appendix 1. An evaluated and described method for conservation value assessment shall form the basis for the forestry objectives.</i></p> <p>3.1.2 <i>For forest holdings with less than 20 ha productive forest land, there shall be a map showing voluntary set-asides, registered key-habitats, sites with conservation values, formally protected areas, ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites that are registered by concerned authority.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ...A forest management plan shall contain a detailed description of the forest holding as a whole. Each compartment shall be assigned a forestry objective that indicates the long-term management objective. The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan. ...</p> <p><i>Requirements for general information in the forest management plan: ...</i></p> <p>5. <i>Commentaries to the holding including information on ancient remains, other cultural heritage sites, registered key-habitats, formally protected areas, and water protection areas ...</i></p> <p><i>Stand-specific information in the forest management plan: ...</i></p> <p>12. <i>Information on ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites</i>  13. <i>Areas of special significance to outdoor life and recreation.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 2. Directions for site-specific work instructions: <i>The site-specific work instruction shall include all information necessary to implement the operation in line with the PEFC-requirements, other applicable requirements, and current contracts. Important map information shall be indicated on the instruction's map...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The points below (of relevance for the operation) shall be included or be ensured according to agreed routine with the contractor: ...</i></p> <p>4. <i>Map of current area</i>  5. <i>Planned consideration for natural and cultural environments ...</i>  8. <i>Instructions for water passage</i>  9. <i>Forestry objective for the area</i>  10. <i>Known conservation- and cultural values in or close to the working area that may be affected by the operation.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: <i>Forestry may affect soil and water in different ways. Extraction of timber and forest fuel decreases the amount of available nutrients, and soil damages may imply that nutrient turn-over in the soil is negatively affected, that the soil is compacted, as well as that ground- and surface water is affected through transport of sludge or soluble nutrients and heavy metals. Felling- and silvicultural work need to be performed throughout the year, which places stringent demands on planning and implementation. The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. Water protection areas should be protected against present and future risks. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</i></p> <p>3.10.1 <i>Measures shall be planned with respect to season and soil stability so that damages to soil and water are avoided.</i></p> <p>3.10.2 <i>At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</p> <p>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration.</p> <p>3.10.5 Appropriate methodology and technology shall be used to prevent soil damages in harvesting operations, especially where transports intersect watercourses.</p> <p>3.10.6 Soil damages shall be taken care of in case they are causing a direct flux of sludge and humus into a lake or watercourse, or if they constitute a hindrance for accessibility to frequently used roads, tracks, trails, etc. In every other case, restoration risks doing more harm than good.</p> <p>3.10.7 On land where there is risk of erosion, intermittent soil scarification methods shall be used.</p> <p>3.10.8 At harvesting in steep conditions, the risk for avalanches and slides shall be considered and evaluated in relation to possible costs for risk minimization.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.11 Edge- and buffer zones: Edge zones and buffer zones are important to biological diversity on forest land as well as to adjacent land use classes. Edge zones and buffer zones are also a means to create the conditions for binding together habitats worthy of protection. Different areas have different prerequisites, and the buffer zones shall be adjusted to the current conditions.</p> <p>3.11.1 In edge zones/forest edges and at lakes and watercourses, deciduous trees and bushes shall be favoured to create a layered and uneven-aged edge zone.</p> <p>3.11.2 On sites where a buffer zone is needed but is lacking, measures shall be taken as soon as possible for the creation of a functional buffer zone, which breadth shall be adjusted to the object to be protected and conditions on the site.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.11.3 Rutting at edge- and buffer zones shall be avoided.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.5 Game: <i>Forest owners shall aim for adaptation of the size of ungulate populations so that the long-term societal objectives regarding forest management and nature conservation may be obtained. A close cooperation between the forestry sector and hunters is a prerequisite for obtaining the objective of vital game populations which is on balance with the fodder supply. The forest owner shall have general knowledge about how the management of ungulate that he or she is affected by works, and how one as a landowner may cooperate in the management.</i></p> <p>3.5.1 The forest owner shall be aware of the basis of Swedish wildlife management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If the societal objectives regarding damages to forests from ungulates are not achieved, ungulate populations shall be adjusted accordingly. ...</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.11 Pest control methods: <i>PEFC's aim is a forestry free of chemical pest control products.</i></p> <p>3.4.11.1 <i>Chemical products for pest control may only be used in exceptional cases when other suitable methods are not at hand. The usage shall follow the regulations by Swedish authorities. Any usage of chemical pest control products shall be possible to motivate.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: <i>Forestry may affect soil and water in different ways. Extraction of timber and forest fuel decreases the amount of available nutrients, and soil damages may imply that nutrient turn-over in the soil is negatively affected, that the soil is compacted, as well as</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>that ground- and surface water is affected through transport of sludge or soluble nutrients and heavy metals. Felling- and silvicultural work need to be performed throughout the year, which places stringent demands on planning and implementation. The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. Water protection areas should be protected against present and future risks. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.1 Measures shall be planned with respect to season and soil stability so that damages to soil and water are avoided.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.2 At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.5 Appropriate methodology and technology shall be used to prevent soil damages in harvesting operations, especially where transports intersect watercourses.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.6 Soil damages shall be taken care of in case they are causing a direct flux of sludge and humus into a lake or watercourse, or if they constitute a hindrance for accessibility to frequently used roads, tracks, trails, etc. In every other case, restoration risks doing more harm than good.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.7 On land where there is risk of erosion, intermittent soil scarification methods shall be used. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.11 Edge- and buffer zones: <i>Edge zones and buffer zones are important to biological diversity on forest land as well as to adjacent land use classes. Edge zones and buffer zones are also a means to create the conditions for binding together habitats worthy of protection. Different areas have different prerequisites, and the buffer zones shall be adjusted to the current conditions.</i></p> <p>3.11.1 <i>In edge zones/forest edges and at lakes and watercourses, deciduous trees and bushes shall be favoured to create a layered and uneven-aged edge zone.</i></p> <p>3.11.2 <i>On sites where a buffer zone is needed but is lacking, measures shall be taken as soon as possible for the creation of a functional buffer zone, which breadth shall be adjusted to the object to be protected and conditions on the site.</i></p> <p>3.11.3 <i>Rutting at edge- and buffer zones shall be avoided.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system, 7.4.2 The Environmental Code, 7.4.2.2 Notification of consultation: <i>Any forestry operation that may affect the natural environment in a significant way shall, according to law (chapter 12, §6 the Environmental Code), be notified to the Forest Agency for consultation at least six weeks in advance of the operation. See the Forest Agency's website for forestry operations that must be notified.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>Infrastructure such as construction and maintenance of forest roads shall be planned and constructed so that damages to forest ecosystems are minimised.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.10 Methods for protection of soil and water: ... <i>The construction of forest roads should be coordinated across property</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>boundaries when this is possible and not be placed directly adjacent to lakes, wetlands, sensitive habitats, other cultural heritage sites or frequently used trails. ...</i></p> <p><i>3.10.2 At the planning of forestry operations and road construction, special consideration shall be shown to wetlands and water environments.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.3 New roads shall be established in a way that preserves the running of natural watercourses and that minimizes damages to watercourses and hindrance for migration. New road ditches shall not fall directly into watercourses, lakes, or wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>3.10.4 In connection with repair of roads, road drains shall be fixed so that they do not constitute a barrier for migration. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>PEFC Sweden's note related to PEFC SWE 001:5, 7.4.2.2: "<i>construction of forest roads, construction of tractor roads that involve digging and excavation on a larger scale and construction of base roads across valuable wetlands and valuable watercourses are operations that must be notified for consultation with the Forest Agency.</i>"</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements: <i>The business that are of importance to Swedish PEFC-certification shall be practiced so that current laws, Swedish collective agreements, and practice of the labour market are observed. PEFC-certified forest owners, wood procurement organizations, and contractors shall work for a forestry-related community of values based on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The right of ownership and the possibility to own and manage forests under reasonable conditions</i></li> <li><i>A forestry sector with equal rights and opportunities and gender equality</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A safe and healthy work environment</i></li> <li>• <i>Adequate qualifications for the work being carried out</i></li> <li>• <i>Social and cultural consideration</i></li> <li>• <i>Thriving rural areas with viable local businesses</i></li> <li>• <i>The right of public access which provides the public with the possibility to visit nature</i></li> <li>• <i>Good relations with the surrounding world and other stakeholders being active in the forest</i></li> <li>• <i>A business that is regulated in contracts between parties with mutual respect and responsibility</i></li> </ul> <p><i>4.1 Consideration for social values, recreation, and outdoor life</i></p> <p><i>The social values of forests are all the good from the forest that humans benefit from: experience values, public health, jobs, and rural development. The concept also includes the economic and historical development of how forests have contributed to the country's prosperity and how this has influenced peoples view on the forests. The forest sector's target scenarios for conservation actions in forest management provide guidance for communication and management of forests of significance to recreation and outdoor life. The target scenarios concern different types of areas of importance to recreation and outdoor life. Communication around measures that may affect the social values is important. The communication is adapted to the potential impact of the measures, target group, and the forest owner's pre-conditions.</i></p> <p><i>The forest owner safeguards and pay attention to the right of public access and welcomes the public to the forest in the respectful way described by the right of public access. The right of public access provides the public with the possibility to visit nature for recreation and outdoor life, provided that this does not cause any damage or inconvenience to the forest owner.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The forest owner has a positive attitude towards local outdoor- and sports activities. For a successful cooperation around such activities, a dialogue with mutual responsibility is required.</i></p> <p><i>4.1.1 Areas on the forest holding that are of great significance for recreation and outdoor life shall be identified and documented prior to any forestry operation, at the latest.</i></p> <p><i>4.1.2 In the cases an area in line with 4.4.1 has been identified, the forest owner or representative of the forest owner shall, based on local conditions and when it is warranted by the situation, take appropriate information- and dialogue measures prior to any forestry operations are started.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any signs or notice sheets shall include contact information. In the cases informative signs/sheets are used, these shall be posted or handed out at least 14 days prior to any operation is started.</i></li> <li>• <i>In the case of forestry operations adjacent to schools, other public facilities, or close to residential areas, information shall be provided, or dialogue, e.g., information meeting, be offered.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>4.1.3 The passability on frequently used tracks and trails shall be preserved at forestry operations, meaning among other things that debris from forest felling shall be removed and that soil scarification and soil damages shall be avoided. Tracks and trails that have been damaged shall be repaired so that original passability is restored.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.2 Rural development: PEFC Sweden supports the principle of a sound rural development in all parts of Sweden. Small- and large-scale forestry, including tourism based on natural- and cultural environments, all constitute important platforms for development of the rural economy. Forest owners as well as wood procurement organizations and service organizations shall strive to apply the silvicultural- and forest management methods, as well as the sales and processing of forest products, that are the most appropriate for preserving and developing jobs, competitiveness, and profitability. In addition, forest owners and organizations shall</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>strive to ensure sales of timber, timber deliveries, and service systems in all parts of the country, including in sparsely populated areas where transport distances are long.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 At tendering processes for forestry services, local contractors shall be included. The size of the contract work should be adjusted so that local contractor businesses may participate on market terms.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.2 How the adjustment in line with 4.2.1 is made shall be described in a routine.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ... <i>The area set aside for nature- and/or social consideration shall be indicated in the forest management plan...</i></p> <p><i>Stand-specific information in the forest management plan:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>12. Information on ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>13. Areas of special significance to outdoor life and recreation. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.4 Forest management planning:</p> <p><i>4.4.1 A plan-producing company shall establish and document routines for the production of forest management plans which comply with the requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, Appendix 1. The documentation shall include field-work and quality assurance.</i></p> <p><i>4.4.2 Regarding forest management planners, the company shall document that the qualifications of planners meet the requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		PEFC Sweden's note: <i>"In Sweden, the right of common access means that everyone can access any forest for recreation, mushrooming, berry picking as long as no crops, cattle or planted trees are damaged or disturbed."</i>
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.	Y	See 8.6.1. <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018: Swedish legislation guarantees public access to forests.
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.	Y	PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.13 Cultural environment: <i>At forestry operations on land with presence of cultural heritage sites, guidance is provided by the forest sector's target scenarios for conservation actions in forest management. Regarding ancient remains, notice or decision from the County Administrative Board applies at first hand. Remains with extension in the terrain (ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites) demand special planning prior to any operation to avoid damages and special attention shall be paid to communication between client and operator.</i>  3.13.1 <i>Forestry operations shall be implemented so that ancient remains and surrounding consideration areas are not damaged, and so that damages to other cultural heritage sites are minimized.</i>  3.13.2 <i>In connection with forest management planning and site planning, all known and newly identified ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites shall be marked in the forest management plan and in the site-specific work instruction. A routine for up-dating of information shall be in place.</i>  3.13.3 <i>Special conservation values that are part of cultural environments, e.g., species of trees and bushes of the cultural landscape or where the composition of species bears the imprint of earlier usage, shall be considered, and favoured to an appropriate extent.</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>3.13.4 Other trees that are growing on and adjacent to ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites and their visible structures, shall normally be removed.</p> <p>3.13.5 Cultural heritage stumps shall be created to indicate the presence of ancient remains and other cultural heritage sites unless this is clearly apparent in any other way.</p> <p>When it is not possible or may cause danger or does not add any signal value to create cultural heritage stumps, the remain may be marked out in another way that is clear, e.g., with grade stakes.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements: <i>The business that are of importance to Swedish PEFC-certification shall be practiced so that current laws, Swedish collective agreements, and practice of the labour market are observed. PEFC-certified forest owners, wood procurement organizations, and contractors shall work for a forestry-related community of values based on: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Thriving rural areas with viable local businesses...</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.2 Rural development: <i>PEFC Sweden supports the principle of a sound rural development in all parts of Sweden. Small- and large-scale forestry, including tourism based on natural- and cultural environments, all constitute important platforms for development of the rural economy. Forest owners as well as wood procurement organizations and service organizations shall strive to apply the silvicultural- and forest management methods, as well as the sales and processing of forest products, that are the most appropriate for preserving and developing jobs, competitiveness, and profitability. In addition, forest owners and organizations shall strive to ensure sales of timber, timber deliveries, and service systems in all parts of the country, including in sparsely populated areas where transport distances are long.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.2.1 At tendering processes for forestry services, local contractors shall be included. The size of the contract work should be adjusted so that local contractor businesses may participate on market terms.</p> <p>4.2.2 How the adjustment in line with 4.2.1 is made shall be described in a routine.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.3 Forestry and reindeer husbandry: <i>The relations between reindeer husbandry and forestry build on mutual respect for, and the balancing of, different land-use needs in the northern parts of Sweden. Collaboration at the local level, and a balancing of different needs adapted to the specific situation, shall be sought for to arrive at solutions that are the most appropriate with respect to the local situation. Regarding family-forest enterprises, agreements between the Swedish Federation of Forest Owners and the Swedish Sami Association serve as a basis for collaboration, together with the policy "Familjeskogsbruk och renskötsel i samverkan för Norrland" (Family forestry and reindeer husbandry in collaboration for the northern parts of Sweden).</i></p> <p><i>Consideration for the interests of reindeer husbandry shall be shown in accordance with the Forestry Act, §§ 13b, 14, 18b, 20, and 31. Regarding consultation, provisions, and general advice according to §§ 20 and 31 of the Forestry Act shall be applied, unless otherwise agreed outside the reindeer herding year-round pasture lands. See further "Policy for balancing the interests of Forestry and Reindeer herding", PEFC SWE 001 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden, Appendix C.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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	N	PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.2 Rural development: ...

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.		<p>4.2.1 At tendering processes for forestry services, local contractors shall be included. The size of the contract work should be adjusted so that local contractor businesses may participate on market terms.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.8 Research and development: <i>There is a long tradition of cooperation regarding research and development between public agencies and the forest sector. Research is carried out at several universities, colleges, and sector research bodies, often in collaboration with companies and organizations. Results and scientific findings are gradually implemented in the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><i>Citizen research in the forest includes e.g. "Artportalen" <a href="https://www.artportalen.se/">https://www.artportalen.se/</a> where forest managers and others can make use of reports on rare and endangered species. This information can also be utilized by the forest agency e.g. when a notification of felling is submitted.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5 includes Appendix C titled <i>Policy for balancing the interests of forestry and reindeer husbandry</i>. This policy aims to maintaining a sound balance between forestry and reindeer husbandry practised by Sami people in Northern Sweden.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> SFCS has a clear intention to enable sound coexistence of local traditional livelihoods and sustainable forest management, but it does not include normative requirements that would directly correspond with those of the benchmark 8.6.5.</p> <p>Note: Appendix C of the PEFC SWE 001:5 focuses on maintaining a balance between traditional reindeer herding and commercial forestry, rather than utilisation of traditional knowledge in the context of sustainable forest management.</p>
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.2 Rural development: <i>PEFC Sweden supports the principle of a sound rural development in all parts of Sweden. Small- and large-scale forestry, including tourism based on natural- and cultural environments, all</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.		<p><i>constitute important platforms for development of the rural economy. Forest owners as well as wood procurement organizations and service organizations shall strive to apply the silvicultural- and forest management methods, as well as the sales and processing of forest products, that are the most appropriate for preserving and developing jobs, competitiveness, and profitability. In addition, forest owners and organizations shall strive to ensure sales of timber, timber deliveries, and service systems in all parts of the country, including in sparsely populated areas where transport distances are long.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 At tendering processes for forestry services, local contractors shall be included. The size of the contract work should be adjusted so that local contractor businesses may participate on market terms.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.2 How the adjustment in line with 4.2.1 is made shall be described in a routine.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.3 Forestry and reindeer husbandry: The relations between reindeer husbandry and forestry build on mutual respect for, and the balancing of, different land-use needs in the northern parts of Sweden. Collaboration at the local level, and a balancing of different needs adapted to the specific situation, shall be sought for to arrive at solutions that are the most appropriate with respect to the local situation. Regarding family-forest enterprises, agreements between the Swedish Federation of Forest Owners and the Swedish Sami Association serve as a basis for collaboration, together with the policy "Familjeskogsbruk och renskötsel i samverkan för Norrland" (Family forestry and reindeer husbandry in collaboration for the northern parts of Sweden).</i></p> <p><i>Consideration for the interests of reindeer husbandry shall be shown in accordance with the Forestry Act, §§ 13b, 14, 18b, 20, and 31. Regarding consultation, provisions, and general advice according to §§ 20 and 31 of the Forestry Act shall be applied, unless otherwise agreed outside the reindeer herding year-round pasture lands. See further "Policy for balancing the interests of Forestry and Reindeer herding", PEFC SWE 001 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden, Appendix C.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.2 Direct certification of forestry: <i>Forestry certification is confirmed by means of a certificate issued by an accredited certification body after independent third-party audit. The forest owner/wood procurement organization is responsible for: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.2.1.7 For the purpose of promoting youths' interest in the forest sector, school classes, or organizations with youth activities, may be hired for forestry measures. The measures shall meet the requirements regarding young peoples' work environment according to the Work Environment Authority's provisions. The compensation may amount to a maximum of one price base amount per client for each respective contractor and year. The compensation shall follow market conditions in relation to the specific measure.</i></p> <p><i>The client shall ensure that current legislation and provisions for hiring young people, as well as the PEFC-standard, is complied with.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.7 For the purpose of promoting youths' interest in the forest sector, school classes, or organizations with youth activities, may be hired for forestry measures. The measures shall meet the requirements regarding young peoples' work environment according to the Work Environment Authority's provisions. The compensation may amount to a maximum of one price base amount per client for each respective contractor and year. The compensation shall follow market conditions in relation to the specific measure.</i></p> <p><i>The client shall ensure that current legislation and provisions for hiring young people, as well as the PEFC-standard, is complied with.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 2. Scope, 2.2 Research:</p> <p><i>A forestry that is based on science and best practice is fundamental to PEFC. Scientific findings change with new knowledge, and cooperation with research and education is encouraged.</i></p> <p><i>In cases where PEFC-certified forestry is included in research connected to university, college, or research institute, or that is performed in line with the model for adaptive forest management, deviations from the standard may be allowed.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: 7. Forestry in Sweden, 7.7 Monitoring, 7.7.1 State of and changes in forests: <i>The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SUAS) is responsible for official statistics on current state of and changes in Sweden's forests. The basis for this is the annual inventory work made by SUAS through the National Forest Inventory and the Swedish Forest Soil Survey. The main purpose of the National Forest Inventory is to describe the state of and changes in Sweden's forests, including their health and vitality (see Figures 1 – 4). The information collected is used, for example, for follow-up and assessment of current forest-, environmental, and energy policy. The National Forest Inventory has been carried out since 1923. The Swedish Forest Soil Survey is a detailed inventory of the status of forest soils.</i></p> <p><i>NILS (National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden) is an umbrella for national environmental monitoring programs. The purpose of the inventories is to collect, analyze, and present data on what landscapes and habitat types look like in Sweden and change over time by means of field inventories and aerial photo interpretation of</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>permanent sample plots in all types of terrestrial environments in the Swedish landscape. NILS is run by SUAS since 2003 on commission by the Environmental Protection Agency.</i></p> <p><i>7.7.2 Environment, social issues, and production in forestry</i></p> <p><i>The Forest Agency is responsible for official statistics in the fields of “production in forestry”, “employment in forestry”, and “environment and social issues in forestry”. The agency performs inventories as well as questionnaires and interviews to collect data regarding the forestry sector.</i></p> <p><i>The system for follow-up of shown consideration is undergoing development. The purpose is to reduce the risk of subjective assessments being made and to build on the work of the forest sector’s target scenarios for conservation action in forest management. During 2015 and 2017 field inventories were carried out according to a new method and in 2019 an evaluation was made that shows the need for further development. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: ... Forest management comprises the cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental, and economic effects of both planned and completed forest management operations. In addition to own results, data, and results from the National Forest Inventory and from The Forest Agency’s monitoring of environmental consideration may be used. ...</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ... A forest management plan may be valid over time if it is continuously updated with current information regarding e.g., stand data, ancient remains, and other cultural heritage sites.</i></p> <p><i>In case of significantly changed conditions (e.g., storm, fire, insect infestation, changed conservation values), and/or significantly changed management, a new field assessment is required for the plan to be considered valid. In the case of larger additional purchases or division of forest land, a new prioritization of nature conservation</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>set-asides may be required. Changed requirements within the PEFC-standard that affects the forest management plan shall be introduced in the plan at the nearest plan update, and 10 years after the standard has entered into force at the latest. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 002:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
<p>9.1.2 The standard requires that health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production, 3.4 Forest management, 3.4.8 Forest health:</p> <p><i>3.4.8.2 Risk-preventive measures and active forest protection shall be carried out in accordance with the forestry legislation. E.g. the forest Agency and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences provides information about factors affecting forest health which should be used as a basis for monitoring.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: Appendix 1. PEFC-adapted forest management plan: ... <i>A forest management plan may be valid over time if it is continuously updated with current information regarding e.g., stand data, ancient remains, and other cultural heritage sites.</i></p> <p><i>In case of significantly changed conditions (e.g., storm, fire, insect infestation, changed conservation values), and/or significantly changed management, a new field assessment is required for the plan to be considered valid. In the case of larger additional purchases or division of forest land, a new prioritization of nature conservation set-asides may be required. Changed requirements within the PEFC-standard that affects the forest management plan shall be introduced in the plan at the nearest plan update, and 10 years after the standard has entered into force at the latest. ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 3. Environment and production: <i>If non-wood forest products, which are not included in the concept of public access, are regularly harvested and commercially used, the resource in question should be monitored and the harvesting levels must be sustainable.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.7 Work organization: <i>PEFC-certified companies strive for continuous improvements which allow employees and the business to develop. The work situation shall be adapted to individual medical and ergonomic premises. ...</i></p> <p><i>4.7.2 The company shall conduct and document at least two formal workplace meetings a year. Exemptions can be made for companies with three employees or less, where the requirement is one workplace meeting. When the company has only one employee, staff appraisal may be included.</i></p> <p><i>Risk assessment and work environment issues shall be included in at least one workplace meeting per year.</i></p> <p><i>4.7.3 Staff appraisals, which include needs for skills development, shall be held at least once a year. The employer shall be able to demonstrate how this is done, through appropriate documentation.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 002:5: 4. Social requirements, 4.8 Work environment:</p> <p><i>4.8.1 Employer and employees shall collaborate and systematically work to improve the work environment (SAM) in a way that encompasses all employees of the forest-related business.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.1 Applicable requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, chapter 4: <i>PEFC-certified contractor shall, in</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>addition to the requirements of this standard, comply with the following parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.4 Company responsibilities</li> <li>• 4.5 Employer responsibilities</li> <li>• 4.6 Insurances</li> <li>• <u>4.7 Work organization</u></li> <li>• 4.8 Work environment</li> <li>• 4.9 Equal rights and opportunities</li> <li>• 4.10 Competence in forestry</li> <li>• 4.11 Skills development</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 002:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system		
a) conforms to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the organisation's requirements for its management system;</li> <li>• the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard</li> </ul>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5: Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard (Sw: PEFC-standarden): Refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification: <i>Directly certified organizations shall: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>3.1.4 Appoint internal auditors that shall be well versed in the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management. The auditors shall conduct an independent and impartial audit of the forestry forest management/contracted forest management.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: ...The umbrella organization conducts annually an internal audit of the umbrella administration and the participants in accordance with the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: [Group] The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring/monitoring and internal audit, management review is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4.</i></p> <p><i>[Direct] The organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and its management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard, the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit and, where applicable, associated samples. The outcome of the internal audit shall be analysed and evaluated to provide a basis for governing of the forest management.</i></p> <p><i>Basic requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.1.</i></p> <p><i>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 and PEFC SWE 004:5 are in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.5 The umbrella organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and the management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard and the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants. The arrangement of the audit for group certified forest owners and wood procurement organizations is described in the paragraphs 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>[Group] The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring/monitoring and internal audit, management review is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4.</i></p> <p><i>[Direct] The organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and its management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard, the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit and, where applicable, associated samples. The outcome of the internal audit shall be analysed and evaluated to provide a basis for governing of the forest management.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Basic requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.1.</i></p> <p><i>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
<b>9.2.2 Organisation</b> 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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification: <i>Directly certified organizations shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.1.4 Appoint internal auditors that shall be well versed in the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management. The auditors shall conduct an independent and impartial audit of the forestry forest management/contracted forest management.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>... The umbrella organization conducts annually an internal audit of the umbrella administration and the participants in accordance with the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for: ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.3.1.5 <i>The umbrella organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and the management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard and the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants. The arrangement of the audit for group certified forest owners and wood procurement organizations is described in the paragraphs 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners, 4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.2.6 ... <i>In the case of internal audits based on random sample, the following risk-based sampling categories apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participants with <math>\geq 50\,000</math> ha of productive forest land shall be subject to internal audit every year.</i></li> <li>• <i>Participants with <math>\geq 5000</math> ha, <math>&lt; 50\,000</math> ha of productive forest land shall be subject to internal audit at least once every fifth year. ...</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners, 4.3.3 Special requirements at group certification of wood procurement organizations:</p> <p>4.3.3.6 <i>Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At least 30% of affiliated wood procurement organizations shall be subject to audit annually and during a three-year period, all affiliated organization shall have been subject to audit at least once.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 Controlling annually through internal audit that the contracted forest management meets the requirements according to PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants. Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the contracted forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits and evaluation of the annual self-assessment, shall be given special consideration. When random sampling is used, the following apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The sample shall be chosen randomly to ensure that the result is valid for the group.</i></li> <li><i>• At least 10% of the affiliated contractor companies in each affiliated category shall be subject to audit annually.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations:</p> <p><i>Internal audit</i></p> <p><i>[Group] The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring/monitoring and internal audit, management review is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4.</i></p> <p><i>[Direct] The organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and its management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard, the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit and, where applicable,</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>associated samples. The outcome of the internal audit shall be analysed and evaluated to provide a basis for governing of the forest management.</p> <p>Basic requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.1.</p> <p>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>See also 9.2.2 (a) in the Group Forest Management checklist.</p>
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	Y	<p>See 9.2.2 (a)</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Internal audit: [Group] The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring/monitoring and internal audit, management review is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4.</i></p> <p><i>[Direct] The organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and its management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard, the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit and, where applicable, associated samples. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit. The outcome of the internal audit shall be analysed and evaluated to provide a basis for governing of the forest management.</i></p> <p><i>Basic requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.1.</i></p> <p><i>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification: <i>Directly certified organizations shall: ...</i></p> <p><i>3.1.4 Appoint internal auditors that shall be well versed in the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management. The auditors shall conduct an independent and impartial audit of the forestry forest management/contracted forest management.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.6 For impartial and objective audits the umbrella organisation shall have routines to ensure that the appointed internal auditors are:</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Well versed in the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management</i></li> <li>• <i>Independent of the forest management subject to audit</i></li> <li>• <i>Familiar with the conditions of forest owners'/wood procurement organizations' forest management.</i></li> <li>• <i>Qualified as regards environmental-, social and forestry-related issues</i></li> <li>• <i>Have appropriate basic competence, e.g., via course approved by MIS (Environmental auditors in Sweden).</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors: <i>The umbrella organisation is, within its business, responsible for:</i></p> <p>4.5.1.12 <i>Appointing internal auditors that shall be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Well versed in the Swedish PEFC forest certification system for sustainable forest management</i></li> <li>• <i>Independent of the area audited</i></li> <li>• <i>Familiar with the conditions of forestry contractors' business</i></li> <li>• <i>Qualified as regards environmental-, social and forestry-related issues</i></li> <li>• <i>Appropriate basic qualification is e.g., a course approved by MIS (Environmental auditors in Sweden).</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p>4.3.1.7 <i>The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors: <i>The umbrella organisation is, within its business, responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Internal audit: [Group] The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring/monitoring and internal audit, management review is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4.</i></p> <p><i>[Direct] The organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and its management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard, the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit and, where applicable, associated samples. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit. The outcome of the internal audit shall be analysed and evaluated to provide a basis for governing of the forest management.</i></p> <p><i>Basic requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.1.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the organisation to analyse the outcome of the internal audit practically require that the result of the audit is reported to the relevant management.</p>
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and based on that, formulate necessary corrective action. Analysis and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.12 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners, 4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization shall at group certification of forest owners, in addition to the requirements in 4.3.1.1 – 4.3.1.12, also comply with the following: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration. ...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners, 4.3.3 Special requirements at group certification of wood procurement organizations: <i>The umbrella organization shall at group certification of wood procurement organizations, in addition to the requirements in 4.3.1.1 -4.3.1.12, also comply with the following: ...</i></p> <p><i>4.3.3.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Internal audit: [Group] The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring/monitoring and internal audit, management review is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4.</i></p> <p><i>[Direct] The organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and its management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard, the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit and, where applicable, associated samples. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit. The outcome of the internal audit shall be analysed and evaluated to provide a basis for governing of the forest management.</i></p> <p><i>Basic requirements for direct certification in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 3.1.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires documentation of the audits.</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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Follow up of previous year's review ...</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>... At the management review, the following issues shall be covered: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Changes of significance for the forest management and associated management system ...</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nonconformities and corrective actions;</li> <li>• monitoring and measurement results;</li> <li>• audit results;</li> </ul>	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: ... <i>At the management review, the following issues shall be covered: ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Outcome of internal and external audit as well as associated analysis</i></li> <li>• <i>Outcome of monitoring</i></li> <li>• <i>Handling of nonconformities within the forest management ...</i></li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
d) opportunities for continual improvement	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Corrective action for the forest management to be run in accordance with requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></li> </ul> <i>At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.
9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Management review: The management review shall be implemented</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.		<p><i>annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Corrective action for the forest management to be run in accordance with requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system and that necessary changes are made.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Management review: ... The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PECF ST 1003:2018.</p>
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:		
<p>a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</p> <p>i. take action to control and correct it;</p> <p>ii. deal with the consequences;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 3. <i>Direct certification, 3.1 Basic requirements at direct certification:</i></p> <p><i>3.1.8 In cases where certified organizations have information which indicates major nonconformities with the standard on the part of another party, they shall inform the other party. A routine for the handling of such cases shall be in place.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.11 In cases where certified organisations have information which indicates major nonconformities with the standard on the part of another party, they shall inform the other party. A routine for the handling of such cases shall be in place.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and based on that, formulate necessary corrective action. Analysis and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.9 Issuing nonconformities to group-certified forest owners/wood procurement organizations which do not comply with the requirements of the forestry standard and inform and advise to correct the shortcomings (see Appendix 1).</i></p> <p><i>When handling nonconformities, the umbrella organization may, based on observations that affect other certified party, provide external feedback to that party. This is to prevent nonconformities and to strengthen PEFC as certification system.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification: <i>The affiliated forest owner or wood procurement organization is, through the agreement, responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.12 Handling nonconformities and take corrective and preventive actions in accordance with instructions from the umbrella organization (see Appendix 1).</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: 4. Group certification, 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors: The umbrella organisation is, within its business, responsible for:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.15 Issuing nonconformities to contractors that are not meeting the requirements of the contractor standard and inform and advise to correct the shortcomings (see Appendix 1).</i></p> <p><i>When handling nonconformities, the umbrella organization may, based on observations that affect other certified party, provide external feedback to that party. This is to prevent nonconformities within the umbrella organization and to strengthen PEFC as certification system.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 1. Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants: <i>The instructions below describe how nonconformities, corrective action, and termination shall be handled regarding group-certified forest owners, wood procurement organizations and forestry contractors. ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Improvement: [Direct] Nonconformity and corrective action</i></p> <p><i>When a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:</i></p> <p><i>a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</i></p> <p><i>i. take action to control and correct it;</i></p> <p><i>ii. deal with the consequences;</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. reviewing the nonconformity;</i></li> <li><i>ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</i></li> <li><i>iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;</i></li> <li><i>c) implement any action needed;</i></li> <li><i>d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;</i></li> <li><i>e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.</i></p> <p><i>The organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;</i></li> <li><i>b) the results of any corrective action.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 003:5: 4. PEFC's requirements on contractors, 4.3 PEFC-certification: 4.3.7 <i>Group-certified contractors shall handle nonconformities and take corrective action in accordance with instructions from the umbrella organization (PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification, Appendix 1).</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 1 provides instructions on how nonconformities, corrective action, and termination shall be handled.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018..</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:	Y	<p>See 10.1.1 (a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
c) implement any action needed;	Y	See 10.1.1 (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	Y	See 10.1.1 (a) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up of previous year's review</li> <li>• Changes of significance for the forest management and associated management system</li> <li>• Outcome of internal and external audit as well as associated analysis</li> <li>• Handling of nonconformities within the forest management</li> <li>• Corrective action for the forest management to be run in accordance with</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><i>At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system and that necessary changes are made. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	Y	<p>See 10.1.1 (a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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;	Y	<p>See 10.1.1 (a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>
b) the results of any corrective action.	Y	<p>See 10.1.1 (a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 and PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</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 sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5: Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follow up of previous year's review</i></li> <li>• <i>Changes of significance for the forest management and associated management system</i></li> <li>• <i>Outcome of internal and external audit as well as associated analysis</i></li> <li>• <i>Outcome of monitoring</i></li> <li>• <i>Handling of nonconformities within the forest management</i></li> <li>• <i>Corrective action for the forest management to be run in accordance with requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system and that necessary changes are made . The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>Continual improvement</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p>

## PEFC Checklist (4) - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements*.

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

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative document	Direct Certification and Group Certification (PEFC SWE 004:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023
Normative document	PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden (PEFC SWE 001:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023.
Normative document	Certification Bodies (PEFC SWE 005:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023

### 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>4. Context of the group organisation</b>		
<b>4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context</b> 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	Y	PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Umbrella organization: Certified organization that concludes a certification contract with forest owners, contractors, and wood procurement organizations in group. The term "umbrella</i>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>b) other groups and/or</p> <p>c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.</p>		<p><i>organization” refers in this standard to the organization that administers the group certification. When referring to both the administration and its affiliated members, the notion “umbrella organization and its members” is used.</i></p> <p><i>Participant: Refers to forest owner/contractor or wood procurement organization affiliated to a group certificate. Affiliated members have, by agreement with the umbrella organization, the responsibility to observe the requirements of the PEFC-standard and to undergo audits in accordance with routines described by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>The certificate for the group is held by an umbrella organization which provides the participants with information and routines to ensure that the certification requirements are complied with. The umbrella organization commits, on behalf of its members, to comply with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The certificate is issued by an accredited certification body after independent third-party audit. The umbrella organization conducts annually an internal audit of the umbrella administration and the participants in accordance with the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Context of the organization - Scope: Applicability for and delimitations of the umbrella organization’s/organization’s management system shall be determined and documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 defines the relationship between the umbrella organisation and the participants as well as which types of participants may be part of the group organisation, i.e., forest owner, contractor and wood procurement organisations.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5 also requires that the organization’s/organization’s management system shall be determined and documented.</p> <p>Note: PEFC SWE 004:5 defines an umbrella organisation with tasks and requirements that cover both a group organisation and a group entity.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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 b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements of the umbrella organisation:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.13 The umbrella organization shall identify what interested stakeholders that are relevant to the business and determine the interested stakeholders' relevant expectations on the business."</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018</p> <p>Note: PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark talks about "group management system" while PEFC SWE 004:5 talks about "the business". The group management system is in PEFC ST 1002:2018 defined as a "set of interrelated or interacting elements of an organisation to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the sustainable forest management standard. "The business" referred to in SWE 004:5 is to be in line with the Swedish PEFC system. Consequently, there is no conflict in using different terminology here.</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),	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Participant (Note to translation: Is also referred to as affiliated members or just affiliates): Refers to forest owner/contractor or wood procurement organization affiliated to a group certificate. Affiliated members have, by agreement with the umbrella organization, the responsibility to observe the requirements of the PEFC-standard and to undergo audits in accordance with routines described by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><i>Umbrella organization Note to translation: Corresponds to "group entity": Certified</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>organization that concludes a certification contract with forest owners, contractors, and wood procurement organizations in group. The term "umbrella organization" refers in this standard to the organization that administers the group certification. When referring to both the administration and its affiliated members, the notion "umbrella organization and its members" is used.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE include in two elements in the group organisation, the participant and the umbrella organisation, and they are defined in PEFC SWE 001.</p>
b) the certified area,	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Under the same ownership: Forest holding that has the same ownership structure, independent of ownership shares.</i></p> <p><i>Certified forest area: Sum of the certificate holder's and/or group affiliate's total forest area (productive and non-productive)</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE defines what is the certified area.</p>
c) the group certificate	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Group certification: Certification of a group of forest owners/wood procurement organizations or forestry contractors through a so-called umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 includes a definition of group certification.</p>
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.1 ...The applications shall be examined and approved, and affiliation shall be confirmed by means of a signed agreement between the umbrella organization and</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>the forest owner/wood procurement organization.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.3 Issuing proof of forest certification, with a period of validity of at least one year, to affiliated forest owners/wood procurement organizations.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Although PEFC SWE 004:5 does not include <i>per se</i> a definition of “the document confirming participation in the group certification”, PEFC SWE 004:5 include requirements on such a document and the requirements implicitly provide for the definition.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Scope: Applicability for and delimitations of the umbrella organization's/organization's management system shall be determined and documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark</p>
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	NA	<p><b>Not applicable</b> in PEFC Sweden. All requirements are to be fulfilled at the participants' level (clarified and confirmed by PEFC Sweden)</p>
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Scope: Applicability for and delimitations of the umbrella organization's/organization's management system shall be determined and documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires that the scope of the management system shall be “documented” which implies the scope being available as documented information.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: ... <i>The umbrella organization conducts annually an internal audit of the umbrella administration and the participants in accordance with the requirements of this standard.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.1.5 <i>The umbrella organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and the management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard and the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system.. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants.</i></p> <p>4.3.2.6 <i>Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Operations: The umbrella organization shall define the processes, and their operating criteria, needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation. The organization shall verify that these processes are observed and that decided changes are incorporated. The control shall be adjusted so that defined processes and compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard can be followed up. Processes and implemented control shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>Performance evaluation: Monitoring programme. The umbrella organisation shall implement a monitoring programme which provides confidence in the conformity with the PEFC-standard. The organisation shall determine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>what shall be monitored and measured,</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitable methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation as applicable to ensure valid results</li> <li>• when the monitoring and measurement shall be performed</li> <li>• when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated</li> <li>• what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results..</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 BENCHMARKS.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, 8.2.1.2 Forestry certification of wood procurement organizations: <i>PEFC Sweden requires forestry certification of companies that, within the PEFC-system, are planning, leading, and implementing forestry measures, establishing forest management plans, and trading wood. For the trading of wood, a chain of custody certificate is also required.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE requirements are in line with the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark.</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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.6 Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary routines for handling and improvement of the group.</i></p> <p><i>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.5 Controlling annually, through internal audit, that the business meets the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 Controlling annually through internal audit that the business meets the requirements according to PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations; Context of the organization – Scope: Applicability for and delimitations of the umbrella organization's/organization's management system shall be determined and documented.</i></p> <p><i>Management review: At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC Sweden requires the organisation to implement a management system. The requirement on “maintain an effective management system” is fulfilled through the PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the management review. The requirement on “covering all participants” is fulfilled through the various PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the management system, e.g., on the internal audit.</p>
<p>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;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, 8.2.3 Direct certification or group certification: ... <i>there is the possibility to associate with a group certification, where a central body, an umbrella organization, assists with expertise, administration, control, and follow-up of participants.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>The certificate for the group is held by an umbrella organization which provides the participants with information and routines to ensure that the certification requirements are complied with.... A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.4 Agreement with accredited and notified certification body regarding certification and maintenance of the certification.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.5 Reporting, on a regular basis, statistics to the PEFC Sweden, in accordance with specific instructions.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 states that the umbrella organisation “holds a group certificate for...” which is equivalent to “representing” in PEFC ST 1002:2018. PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the umbrella organisation include “Agreement with accredited and notified certification body regarding certification and maintenance of the certification” as well as “Reporting, on a regular basis... to the PEFC Sweden, in accordance with specific instructions”. These PEFC SWE 004:5</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		requirements fulfil PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements on “communications and relationship with certification body”.
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	Y	<p>c 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.6 Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary routines for handling and improvement of the group.</i></p> <p><i>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization’s management system with the management to ensure the system’s continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. ... The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.7 A procedure for the affiliation process shall be elaborated by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization’s management system with the management to ensure the system’s continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.5.1.13. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Context of the organization – Scope: Applicability for and delimitations of the umbrella organization’s/organization’s management system shall be determined and documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<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)</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>The umbrella organization is responsible for:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.1 Handling applications from forest owners/wood procurement organizations regarding forest certification in accordance with PEFC Sweden. The applications shall be examined and approved, and affiliation shall be confirmed by means of a signed agreement between the umbrella organization and the forest owner/wood procurement organization. All part-owners, or qualified representative with authorization or other verification, shall sign the agreement.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.3 Register and keep up to date relevant information on every affiliated forest owner, specified by: Property designation/-s, Name and address to forest owner/representative of the forest holding/-s, Date of entering into the agreement, Area of forest land, • Compliance with the requirements of the PEFC standard, and preventive and/or corrective actions taken.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.4 Control that every forest holding under the same ownership of an affiliated forest owner, and associated forestry business, are covered by certification according to the PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.1 Handling applications for forestry contractor certification in accordance with PEFC Sweden.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.3 Signing agreement on group certification. The agreement shall be valid for at least one year.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.8 Registering and keeping up to date information on affiliated contractors that form part of the group for contractor certification, specified by: Name of company, Organization number, Contact person, Address, Date of entering into the agreement, Information on what main category the contractor belongs to.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.
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	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 1. Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants: <i>The instructions below describe how nonconformities, corrective action, and termination shall be handled regarding group-certified forest owners, wood procurement organizations and forestry contractors.</i></p> <p><i>Handling of nonconformities is an important part of improvement work of participants. The umbrella organization determines that nonconformity with the standard is at hand.</i></p> <p><i>Termination: Termination shall be approved by the umbrella organization, after probation of the grounds for termination. Ground for termination is not corrected major nonconformity or if the participant in any other way has grossly disregarded its obligations. The participant shall be notified in writing about termination of group certification. Any party whose agreement on group certification has been terminated may request that probation is made in accordance with the Swedish PEFC routines for dispute settlement (chapter 13, PEFC SWE 001 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden).</i></p> <p><i>In the case of termination grounded on major nonconformity where evidence for corrected nonconformity cannot be demonstrated, a forest owner that has been terminated may not be affiliated to any umbrella organization for group-certification according to PEFC within 12 months from termination.</i></p> <p><i>The umbrella organization shall establish routines for nonconformities, terminations, and re-affiliations.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 Appendix 1 includes procedures for nonconformities, corrective actions and termination regarding participants (group affiliates), including the requirements to establish routines for nonconformities, terminations, and re-affiliations.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>f) to keep documented information of:</p> <p>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,</p> <p>ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),</p> <p>iii. the certified area,</p> <p>iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: 4.3.1.7 <i>The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p>4.3.2.3 <i>Register and keep up to date relevant information on every affiliated forest owner, specified by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Property designation/-s</i></li> <li>• <i>Name and address to forest owner/representative of the forest holding/-s</i></li> <li>• <i>Date of entering into the agreement</i></li> <li>• <i>Area of forest land</i></li> <li>• <i>Compliance with the requirements of the PEFC standard, and preventive and/or corrective actions taken</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations:</p> <p><i>Operations: The umbrella organization shall define the processes, and their operating criteria, needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation. The organization shall verify that these processes are observed and that decided changes are incorporated. The control shall be adjusted so that defined processes and compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard can be followed up. Processes and implemented control shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring programme: The umbrella organisation shall implement a monitoring programme which provides confidence in the conformity with the PEFC-standard. The organisation shall determine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>what shall be monitored and measured,</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitable methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation as applicable to ensure valid results</li> <li>• when the monitoring and measurement shall be performed</li> <li>• when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated</li> <li>• what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</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>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>The umbrella organization commits, on behalf of its members, to comply with the requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners</p> <p>4.3.1.1 Handling applications from forest owners/wood procurement organizations regarding forest certification in accordance with PEFC Sweden. <i>The applications shall be examined and approved, and affiliation shall be confirmed by means of a signed agreement between the umbrella organization and the forest owner/wood procurement organization. The agreement shall include a clear commitment from the affiliated forest owner/procurement organisation to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and any routines and instructions from the umbrella organization including preventive and corrective measures. All part-owners, or qualified representative with authorization or other verification, shall sign the agreement.</i></p> <p>Appendix 1. Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Instructions: Minor nonconformity: Action: Written information to the participant regarding the nonconformity with requirement for corrective action. The action is followed-up by the umbrella. Recurring or not corrected</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>minor nonconformities lead to major nonconformity.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Instructions: Major nonconformity: Information to the participant regarding the nonconformity with requirement for corrective action. The umbrella organization is responsible for seeing to it that a causal analysis and action plan is made, either by the umbrella or by the participant. The action is followed-up by the umbrella. If corrective action is not taken within the agreed period, there are reasons for termination.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Improvement: Improvement is described in PEFC SWE 004, chapter 4. When a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;</i></li> <li><i>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;</i></li> <li><i>implement any action needed;</i></li> <li><i>review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;</i></li> <li><i>make changes to the management system, if necessary.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018..</p>
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.3 Issuing proof of forest certification, with a period of validity of at least one year, to affiliated forest owners/wood procurement organizations.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</p> <p>4.5.1.6 When the contractor complies with all requirements of the PEFC-standard that are applicable to the business, confirm this by issuing a proof of group certification according to PEFC.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>The certificate for the group is held by an umbrella organization which provides the participants with information and routines to ensure that the certification requirements are complied with.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners</p> <p>4.3.1.2 Making sure, prior to making an agreement, that the forest owner, or an authorized representative for the forest owner/wood procurement organization, is well informed of the contents of the agreement and that the business meets applicable requirements of the PEFC-standard. Routines for this control shall be elaborated by the umbrella organization.</p> <p>4.3.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about applicable requirements and suitable training, for these to be able to maintain their forest certification.</p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</p> <p>4.5.1.2 Making sure, prior to signing an agreement, that the contractor is well informed about the contents of the agreement and what it takes to comply with the Swedish PEFC standard.</p> <p>4.5.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the contractor about applicable requirements and suitable training, for the contractor to maintain the contractor certification.</p> <p>4.5.1.5 Offering and/or directing affiliated contractors to routines in support of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>compliance with PEFC-requirements.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.9 Issuing nonconformities to group-certified forest owners/wood procurement organizations which do not comply with the requirements of the forestry standard and inform and advise to correct the shortcomings (see Appendix 1).</i></p> <p><i>When handling nonconformities, the umbrella organization may, based on observations that affect other certified party, provide external feedback to that party. This is to prevent nonconformities and to strengthen PEFC as certification system.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.10 In the case of major nonconformities, and if the forest owner/wood procurement organization is affiliated to more than one umbrella organization, observed nonconformity shall without delay be communicated to such other party.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.11 Handling nonconformities identified in other umbrella organization for forest owners/wood procurement organizations that are affiliated to more than one umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions....</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.15 Issuing nonconformities to contractors that are not meeting the requirements of the contractor standard and inform and advise to correct the shortcomings (see Appendix 1).</i></p> <p><i>When handling nonconformities, the umbrella organization may, based on observations that affect other certified party, provide external feedback to that party.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>This is to prevent nonconformities within the umbrella organization and to strengthen PEFC as certification system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> With regard to the forest contractors (them defined and “participants”); PEFC SWE 004:5 does not explicitly state requirements on how to address nonconformities reported from group members (i.e., forest contractors) which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification. However, the forest owners are ultimately responsible for adherence to sustainable forest management, and the requirements on forest owners, with regards to addressing nonconformities are in line with PEFC ST 1002.2018.</p>
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Performance evaluation: The umbrella organisation shall implement a monitoring programme which provides confidence in the conformity with the PEFC-standard. The organisation shall determine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>what shall be monitored and measured,</i></li> <li>• <i>suitable methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation as applicable to ensure valid results</i></li> <li>• <i>when the monitoring and measurement shall be performed</i></li> <li>• <i>when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated</i></li> <li>• <i>what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.5 Controlling annually, through internal audit, that the business meets the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants...</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 Controlling annually through internal audit that the business meets the requirements according to PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and based on that, formulate necessary corrective action. Analysis and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.3.1.7.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented. The</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.5.1.13.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.4 Agreement with accredited and notified certification body regarding certification and maintenance of the certification.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.X Provide assistance and co-operation to the certification body, the accreditation body, PEFC International and PEFC Sweden for relevant data, documentation and other necessary information as well as access to any relevant facilities in relation to implementation of the PEFC Standard.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2.5 Reporting, on a regular basis, statistics to the PEFC Sweden, in accordance with specific instructions.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
<p>5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants</p> <p>The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:</p>		
<p>a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>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.</p> <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>organizations at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.2 Complying with applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard and PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and apply routines assigned by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.1 Handling applications from forest owners/wood procurement organizations regarding forest certification in accordance with PEFC Sweden. The applications shall be examined and approved, and affiliation shall be confirmed by means of a signed agreement between the umbrella organization and the forest owner/wood procurement organization. The agreement shall include a clear commitment from the affiliated forest owner/procurement organisation to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and any routines and instructions from the umbrella organization including preventive and corrective measures. All part-owners, or qualified representative with authorization or other verification, shall sign the agreement.</i></p> <p>4.6 Responsibility of affiliated contractors at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.6.1.1 Meeting the requirements of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard, as well as applicable parts of chapter 4 Social requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.6.1.2 At work on forest land of certified forest owners, applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard shall be complied with.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.2 Making sure, prior to signing an agreement, that the contractor is well informed about the contents of the agreement and what it takes to comply with the Swedish PEFC standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.3 Signing agreement on group certification. The agreement shall be valid for at least one year.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Appendix 1. Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants: Termination: <i>In the case of termination grounded on major nonconformity where evidence for corrected nonconformity cannot be demonstrated, a forest owner that has been terminated may not be affiliated to any umbrella organization for group-certification according to PEFC within 12 months from termination. The umbrella organization shall establish routines for nonconformities, terminations, and re-affiliations Routines for re-affiliation shall include measures to fulfil requirements 4.3.1.1 – 4.3.1.3.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Applicable parts: Any requirements in the Swedish PEFC standard (documents 001 - 004) controlling an operation or management which the certificate holder/participant performs.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.3 At application, inform about any memberships in, and/or exclusions from other PEFC-group certificates.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> With regard to the forest contractors (them defined and “participants”); PEFC SWE 004:5 does require forest contractors to provide the umbrella organisation with information about previous group participation.</p>
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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p>



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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.4.1.2 <i>Complying with applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard and PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and apply routines assigned by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p>4.6 Responsibility of affiliated contractors at group certification:</p> <p>4.6.1.1 <i>Meeting the requirements of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard, as well as applicable parts of chapter 4 Social requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p>4.6.1.2 <i>At work on forest land of certified forest owners, applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard shall be complied with.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Applicable parts: Any requirements in the Swedish PEFC standard (documents 001 - 004) controlling an operation or management which the certificate holder/participant performs.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
<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;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p> <p>4.4.1.11 <i>Accepting that the umbrella organization and the certification body perform inspections of compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization, the certification body, and, where applicable, the PEFC Sweden or PEFC International, shall be given access to relevant documentation and information as well as access to relevant facilities.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Applicable parts: Any requirements in the Swedish PEFC standard (documents 001 - 004) controlling an operation or management which the certificate holder/participant performs.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.3 At application, inform about any memberships in, and/or exclusions from other PEFC-group certificates.</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.13 Inform the umbrella organisation about any major nonconformities with the PEFC-standard that have been issued by other umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p> <p>PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirement states “nonconformities”, while PEFC SWE 004:5 states in its requirement major nonconformities. According to PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements, “recurring or not corrected minor nonconformities lead to major nonconformity.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> With regards to the forest contractors (them defined and “participants”); PEFC SWE 004:5 does require forest contractors to provide the umbrella organisation with information about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications. However, the forest owner is ultimately responsible for adherence to sustainable forest management.</p>
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.12 Handling nonconformities and take corrective and preventive actions in accordance with instructions from the umbrella organization (See Appendix 1).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Justification:</b> The requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> With regards to the forest contractors (them defined and “participants”); PEFC SWE 004:5 does require forest contractors to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity. However, PEFC SWE 004:5 clearly states that the “responsibility for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard falls upon the forest owner”. Consequently, the responsibility to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions falls on the forest owner.</p>
5.2 Commitment and policy		
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: ...<i>The umbrella organization commits, on behalf of its members, to comply with the requirements of the PEFC-standard... A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.7 Commitment to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard, to comply with 4.2.1.6, as well as that the umbrella organization and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard: refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the umbrella organisation to comply with “the PEFC standard”. The meaning of “the PEFC standard” is defined.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.6 Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary routines for handling and improvement of the group.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 Appendix 2 (Requirements on management systems of certified organizations) include requirements on the management system both when it comes to direct certification and group certification. Through this, the group certification requirements are integrated into the management system.</p>
c) to continuously improve the group management system; d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization: <i>A certified umbrella organization which holds a group certificate for forest owners, contractors, and/or wood procurement organizations, shall comply with the following requirements:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.6 Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary routines for handling and improvement of the group.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1.7 Commitment to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard, to comply with 4.2.1.6, as well as that the umbrella organization and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management.</i></p> <p><i>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about applicable requirements and suitable training, for these to be able to maintain their forest certification.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5.1.4 <i>Informing, on a regular basis, the contractor about applicable requirements and suitable training, for the contractor to maintain the contractor certification.</i></p> <p>4.5.1.5 <i>Offering and/or directing affiliated contractors to routines in support of compliance with PEFC-requirements.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Leadership: The umbrella organization shall design its business and provide the group members with information and procedures to secure compliance with the standard.</i></p> <p><i>Management review: The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the business and its management system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the umbrella organisation to provide a commitment to comply with operating a management system, that is outlined in Appendix 2. Appendix defines a management review to be implemented annually to “continuously improve the business and its management system.”</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the umbrella organisation “and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management”. The responsibilities of the umbrella organization include the support to participants (both forest owners and forest contractors) in the form of information and suitable training.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p>4.2.1.7 <i>Commitment to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard, to comply with 4.2.1.6, as well as that the umbrella organization and its members continuously work for a sustainable forest management. The umbrella organization shall, upon request, provide this commitment.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the commitment to be provided upon request. This implies that the commitment is documented information.</p> <p>PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark is with regards to a group management policy guidance ("may") and not a requirement.</p>
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.1 ... The applications shall be examined and approved, and affiliation shall be confirmed by means of a signed agreement between the umbrella organization and the forest owner/wood procurement organization.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.2 Making sure, prior to making an agreement, that the forest owner, or an authorized representative for the forest owner/wood procurement organization, is well informed of the contents of the agreement...</i></p> <p>4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.2 Complying with applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard and PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and apply routines assigned by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Participants are through signing the agreement with the umbrella organisation implicitly providing this commitment to follow PEFC Sweden requirements and the responsibility of the forest owner includes the "application of routines assigned by the umbrella organization", which is interpreted as the management system.</p>
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>4.3.1.1 Handling applications from forest owners/wood procurement organizations regarding forest certification in accordance with PEFC Sweden. ...The agreement shall include a clear commitment from the affiliated forest owner/procurement organisation to comply with applicable parts of the PEFC-standard and any routines and instructions from the umbrella organization including preventive and corrective measures.</i></p> <p>4.4 Responsibility of forest owners and wood procurement organizations at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.4.1.2 Complying with applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard and PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and apply routines assigned by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><i>4.4.1.9 For own forest management, meet applicable parts of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard. Exempted are family businesses without employees in forest management.</i></p> <p>4.6 Responsibility of affiliated contractors at group certification:</p> <p><i>4.6.1.1 Meeting the requirements of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard, as well as applicable parts of chapter 4 Social requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.6.1.2 At work on forest land of certified forest owners, applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard shall be complied with.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
6. Planning		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Planning - Any planned changes in the umbrella organization's management system shall be documented and implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Operation - The umbrella organization shall define the processes, and their operating criteria, needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation. The organization shall verify that these processes are observed and that decided changes are incorporated. The control shall be adjusted so that defined processes and compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard can be followed up. Processes and implemented control shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Although a group management plan is not explicitly stated, PEFC SWE 004:5 refers to “defining the processes needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard” (which implicitly implies the group management system) and further states that “The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation” (which include the aspects of planning) as well as “the observation of the processes are verified and decided changes are incorporated”.</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.	NA	<b>Not applicable</b> , all requirements are to be fulfilled at the participants' level.
7. Support		
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support - Resources: The organization shall determine and allocate the resources needed to introduce, maintain, and continuously improve the certified</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.		<p><i>forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Support – Qualifications: The organization shall ensure that staff involved in the management system has the necessary competence and understanding of the PEFC system and the forest sector.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires that the organization to ensure that the staff involved have the necessary competence and understanding of the PEFC system and the forest sector. This implicitly implies that necessary competencies are defined.</p>
<p>7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning:</p> <p>a) the group management policy;</p> <p>b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.2 Making sure, prior to making an agreement, that the forest owner, or an authorized representative for the forest owner/wood procurement organization, is well informed of the contents of the agreement and that the forest management meets applicable requirements of the PEFC-standard. Routines for this control shall be elaborated by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>applicable requirements and suitable training, for these to be able to maintain their forest certification,</i></li> <li><i>the commitment by the umbrella organisation and its members to comply with the PEFC standard and work with continual improvement and the importance of everyone's contribution to the group performance.</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.2 Making sure, prior to signing an agreement, that the contractor is well informed about the contents of the agreement and what it takes to comply with the Swedish PEFC standard.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the contractor about applicable requirements and suitable training, for the contractor to maintain the contractor certification.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard: Refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 include requirements on communication with the participants to raise their awareness and understanding, including that “the forest management meets applicable requirements of the PEFC-standard”. This implicitly covers the contents of the group management policy.</p>
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.9 After every completed certification audit that leads to a decision on forestry certification or contractor certification according to PEFC, as well as after every re-certification when the certificate is prolonged, a public summary made by the certification body shall be published on the website of the certificate holder (umbrella organization).</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about ... - the commitment by the umbrella organisation and its members to comply with the PEFC standard and work</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>with continual improvement and the importance of everyone's contribution to the group performance.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness... The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.12 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. ...The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.16 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires regular informing to the participants. PEFC SWE 004:5 requires a public summary after every completed certification audit to raise awareness on the results of the audit, i.e. the status of the implementation of the certificate. An annual internal audit, which is focusing on sustainable forest management, is to be carried out annually and the results are required to be published on the website, hence raising awareness among participants on the outcome of the internal audit, i.e. the contribution of the participants towards sustainable forest management.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the implementation of a management review, where the management system's effectiveness is assessed.</p>
d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.2.1.6 <i>Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary routines for handling and improvement of the group.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.1.4 <i>Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about ... - the commitment by the umbrella organisation and its members to comply with the PEFC standard and work with continual improvement and the importance of everyone's contribution to the group performance.</i></p> <p>4.3.1.12 <i>The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.1.2 <i>Making sure, prior to making an agreement, that the forest owner, or an authorized representative for the forest owner/wood procurement organization, is well informed of the contents of the agreement and that the business meets applicable requirements of the PEFC-standard. Routines for this control shall be elaborated by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</p> <p>4.5.1.2 <i>Making sure, prior to signing an agreement, that the contractor is well informed about the contents of the agreement and what it takes to comply with the Swedish PEFC standard.</i></p> <p>4.5.1.16 <i>The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification: PEFC SWE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires the umbrella organisation to ensure that the participants are aware of certification requirements. This implicitly includes the management system and</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>the consequences of not adhering to the requirements, including the management system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires regular informing to participants on the commitment to comply with the PEFC standard and work with continual improvement and the importance of everyone's contribution to the group performance.</li> <li>• Requirements on publishing results of the audits implicitly imply making participants aware of the consequences of not following the requirements of PEFC Sweden, including the management system.</li> </ul>
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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.9 After every completed certification audit... a public summary made by the certification body shall be published on the website of the certificate holder (umbrella organization).</i></p> <p><i>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative, about ... ii) the commitment by the umbrella organisation and its members to comply with the PEFC standard and work with continual improvement and the importance of everyone's contribution to the group performance.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.12 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p><i>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the contractor about applicable requirements and suitable training, for the contractor to maintain the contractor certification.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5.1.16 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>External communication: The organization shall have routines for: i) information on certified status, ii) trademark usage, iii) public summary of issued audit reports, iv) handling of feedback/complaints and, v) relevant recipients of the external communication.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 defines in its requirements the issues to be communicated internally (participants) as well as externally.</p>
b) when to communicate;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.1.4 <i>Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, ...</i></p> <p>4.5.1.4 <i>Informing, on a regular basis, the contractor ...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 includes requirements on “when to communicate” in form of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal information (participants) to be “regularly”</li> <li>• External communication after each audit.</li> </ul>
c) with whom to communicate;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.1.4 <i>Informing, on a regular basis, the forest owner/wood procurement organization, and/or authorized representative...</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.4 Informing, on a regular basis, the contractor ...</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: Support - <i>External communication: The organization shall have routines for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>information on certified status,</i></li> <li><i>trademark usage,</i></li> <li><i>public summary of issued audit reports,</i></li> <li><i>handling of feedback/complaints and</i></li> <li><i>relevant recipients of the external communication.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
d) how to communicate.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.9 After every completed certification audit...a public summary made by the certification body shall be published on the website of the certificate holder (umbrella organization).</i></p> <p><i>4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.12 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.16 The umbrella organization shall publish a summary of the outcome of the internal audit on its website.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 defines as a method for external and internal communication to be the website.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Although the “how to communicate is defined, the channels of communication are required to be the website only.</p>
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, 13. External views, complaints, and disputes:</p> <p><i>13.1 Complaints on certified actors. Complaints regarding issued certificates or usage of the PEFC-logotype are addressed to the holder of the certificate and/or concerned certification body.</i></p> <p><i>13.3 Disputes. Disputes concerning interpretation of PEFC-standard requirements and that cannot be settled by the certification body or accreditation body, are handled by a dispute panel which is established by the Board of PEFC Sweden.</i></p> <p><i>13.3.1 Application for settlement of a dispute. Disputes concerning interpretation of PEFC-requirements for forestry-, forestry contractor-, or chain of custody certification are addressed to the chairman of PEFC Sweden, which organizes a dispute panel in consultation with the disputing parties.</i></p> <p><i>Before the matter may be subject to formal handling, the parties concerned shall demonstrate that they have tried to settle the dispute by themselves, with the help of appropriate external support if necessary. Request for help in dispute settlement shall be addressed to the chairman of PEFC Sweden in written form and include relevant documentation.</i></p> <p><i>13.3.2 Organization of PEFC Sweden's dispute panel</i></p> <p><i>13.3.3 The work of the dispute panel</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 001:5 include mechanisms for resolving complains and disputes concerning PEFC requirements. Since PEFC requirements include both</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		the management system and sustainable forest management, the PEFC SWE 001:5 requirement is in line with the PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark.
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; b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed; c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Document management: The organization shall maintain routines for identification, maintenance, filing, usage and protection concerning integrity and confidentiality, of the governing and reporting documents that are necessary to the certified forest management.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE include requirements on maintenance of the governing and reporting documents, which is equivalent to PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirement in “up to date”.</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	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Operations: The umbrella organization shall define the processes, and their operating criteria, needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation. The organization shall verify that these processes are observed and that decided changes are incorporated. The control shall be adjusted so that defined processes and compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard can be followed up. Processes and implemented control shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark.</p> <p>Note: In PEFC Sweden the group entity and the group organisation are the same, the “umbrella organisation”.</p>
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Operations: The umbrella organization shall define the processes, and their operating criteria, needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation. The organization shall verify that these processes are observed and that decided changes are incorporated. The control shall be adjusted so that defined processes and compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard can be followed up. Processes and implemented control shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> With regards to PEFC ST 1002:2018 6.1; PEFC 004:5 requires the organisation to plan and implement the processes defined in the operation.</p> <p>PEFC ST 1002:2018 6.2 is not applicable in PEFC Sweden.</p>
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
<p>a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;</p> <p>b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;</p> <p>c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Operations: The umbrella organization shall define the processes, and their operating criteria, needed for the operation to be run in accordance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The organization is responsible for planning and implementation of these in the operation. The organization shall verify that these processes are observed and that decided changes are incorporated. The control shall be adjusted so that defined processes and compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard can be followed up. Processes and implemented control shall be documented.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.
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; b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results; c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed; d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated; e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Performance evaluation: Monitoring programme: The umbrella organisation shall implement a monitoring programme which provides confidence in the conformity with the PEFC-standard. The organisation shall determine:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>what shall be monitored and measured,</i></li> <li>• <i>suitable methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation as applicable to ensure valid results</i></li> <li>• <i>when the monitoring and measurement shall be performed</i></li> <li>• <i>when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated</i></li> <li>• <i>what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.</i></li> </ul> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmarks.
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.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</p> <p>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.3.1.7. The management review shall be documented.</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The internal and external audits look into the implementation of sustainable forest management requirements. PEFC SWE 004:5 requires that the umbrella organisation analyses the audits and based on this determines the performance of the group management and the effectiveness of the group management system. Therefore, PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>
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;	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: 4.3.1.5 The umbrella organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and the management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard and the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The audit shall cover both the umbrella

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;</p> <p>c) is effectively implemented and maintained.</p>		<p><i>organization and its participants. The arrangement of the audit for group certified forest owners and wood procurement organizations is described in paragraphs 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.3.1.7. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.5.1.13. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit.</i></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Terms and definitions: <i>(The) PEFC-standard Refers to the documents (or part of documents) which contains requirements on forest management: PEFC SWE 001, PEFC SWE 002, PEFC SWE 003 and PEFC SWE 004.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the umbrella organisation to conduct an annual audit that measures and evaluates compliance with the PEFC standard. Based on the annual audit the umbrella organisation is required to review the management system “to ensure the system’s continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness”. If the reference to the PEFC standard implies the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard, the PEFC SWE 004:5 requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmark.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.5 The umbrella organization shall annually conduct an internal audit of the forest management and the management system to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard and the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants. The arrangement of the audit for group certified forest owners and wood procurement organizations is described in paragraphs 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. ...In the case of internal audits based on random sample...</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 Controlling annually through internal audit that the business meets the requirements according to PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard. The audit</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants... When random sampling is used...</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		
<p>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;</p> <p>b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 Controlling annually through internal audit that the contracted forest management meets the requirements according to PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard. The audit shall cover both the umbrella organization and its participants. ...When random sampling is used, the following apply.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Performance evaluation: The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the implementation of an annual audit programme, with requirements in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p> <p>Note: PEFC SWE 004:5 includes separate requirements for the annual audit of forest owners (4.3.2.6), wood procurement organisations (4.3.3.6) as well as forest contractors (4.5.1.11). The forest owner is ultimately responsible for the adherence to the sustainable forest management standard and therefore the PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the annual audit of the forest owners are decisive.</p>
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.6 Appointing internal auditors that shall be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Well versed in the Swedish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management</i></li> <li>• <i>Independent of the business subject to audit</i></li> <li>• <i>Familiar with the conditions of forest owners'/wood procurement organizations' business</i></li> <li>• <i>Qualified as regards environmental-, social and forestry-related issues</i></li> <li>• <i>Have appropriate basic competence, e.g., via course approved by MIS (Environmental auditors in Sweden).</i></li> </ul> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.12 Appointing internal auditors that shall be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Well versed in the Swedish PEFC forest certification system for sustainable forest management</i></li> <li>• <i>Independent of the area audited</i></li> <li>• <i>Familiar with the conditions of forestry contractors' business</i></li> <li>• <i>Qualified as regards environmental-, social and forestry-related issues</i></li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Appropriate</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 include requirements on the competence of internal auditors.</p>
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	N	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations:</p> <p><i>Internal audit: The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit.</i></p> <p><i>The planning of the internal audit shall include methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits. The audit criteria and scope for the (each) audit shall be defined. This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Minor nonconformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 includes requirements on the routines for the internal audit, but does not explicitly include requirements on the selection of the auditors to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and...</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and ....</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Internal audit: The umbrella organization shall annually implement an internal audit of the umbrella organization and its participants to measure and evaluate compliance with the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization shall define the procedure for the internal audit.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements on the umbrella organisation to analyse the outcome of the internal audit imply that the result of the audit is reported to the relevant group management (i.e., the umbrella organisation).</p>
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>Performance evaluation: ...This includes to define how the internal audit is planned, implemented, and evaluated, as well as associated documentation of completed audit.</i></p> <p>Document management: <i>The organization shall maintain routines for identification, maintenance, filing, confidentiality, and usage of the governing and reporting documents that are necessary to the certified business.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.
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: a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p><i>In the case of internal audits based on random sample, the following risk-based sampling categories apply:</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 ... When random sampling is used, the following apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The sample shall be chosen randomly to ensure that the result is valid for the group.</i></li> <li><i>At least 10% of the affiliated contractor companies in each affiliated category shall be subject to audit annually.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 includes requirements for the determination of sample size.</p>
b) determination of sample categories(9.3.3);	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>In the case of internal audits based on random sample, the following apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Participants with <math>\geq 50\,000</math> ha of productive forest land....</i></li> <li><i>• Participants with <math>\geq 5000</math> ha, <math>&lt; 50\,000</math> ha of productive forest land....</i></li> <li><i>• Among participants with <math>&lt; 5000</math> ha of productive forest land....</i></li> </ul> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 ... When random sampling is used, the following apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The sample shall be chosen randomly to ensure that the result is valid for the group.</i></li> <li><i>• At least 10% of the affiliated contractor companies in each affiliated category shall be subject to audit annually.</i></li> </ul> <p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Risk-based sampling categories: Risk-based sampling categories for forest owners were elaborated during the standard revision to account for the overarching most important risk factors. It was concluded that the size of the management unit was linked to the scale and intensity of operations, processes and products, interaction with local communities and other businesses e.g. reindeer herding (where applicable) as well as to the ratio of own administration and management of operations and training. For management units above 50 000 ha the risk is regarded as high due to the scale of the operations and for management units between 5 000 and 50 000 the risk is regarded as medium.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 define sample categories for the forest owners based on the size of the ownership. With regards to forest contractors, the sample categories are defined in line with the contractor categories (PEFC SE 001:05</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Terms and Definitions): i) felling operations contractors, ii) silviculture contractors, and forest management planning contractors.
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5 (See 9.3.1.1 b)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 outlines how the sample is to be distributed per size of forest holding (forest owners) and affiliated contractor category and therefore PEFC SWE 004:5 is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 Benchmark.</p>
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5 (See 9.3.1.1 b)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 outlines the procedures for the selection of participants.</p>
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	NA	PEFC ST 1002:2018 9.3.1.2 wording “may” imply that this is not a requirement but guidance.
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. <i>Terms and definitions: Participant. Refers to forest owner/contractor or wood procurement organization affiliated to a group certificate. Affiliated members have, by agreement with the umbrella organization, the responsibility to observe the requirements of the PEFC-standard and to undergo audits in accordance with routines described by the umbrella organization.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 005:5</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)														
		<p><b>Table 1. Certificates that may be issued in the Swedish PEFC-system</b></p> <table><tr><th>Type of certificate</th><th>Issued to</th></tr><tr><td>PEFC Forestry certificate – forest owners</td><td>Forest owners</td></tr><tr><td>PEFC Forestry certificate – wood procurement organization*</td><td>Wood procurement organizations</td></tr><tr><td>PEFC Contractor certificate</td><td>Contractors</td></tr><tr><td>PEFC Group certificate – forest owners</td><td>Umbrella organizations that affiliate forest owners</td></tr><tr><td>PEFC Group certificate – wood procurement organizations*</td><td>Umbrella organizations that affiliate wood procurement organizations</td></tr><tr><td>PEFC Group certificate – contractors</td><td>Umbrella organizations that affiliate contractors</td></tr></table> <p><i>* For wood procurement organizations, chain-of-custody certification according to PEFC is also required</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE recognizes three different types of participants. Each of the group certificate types includes only one type of participant and each of the group forest certification types include its requirement for the sampling.</p> <p>The forest owner is ultimately responsible for the adherence to the sustainable forest management standard and hence the sampling requirements with regards to the forest owner must fulfil the requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018. PEFC SWE 004:5 does not within the forest owner group certificate recognize the participation of pre-existing organizations or groups or the members' participation, but only forest owners are participants.</p>	Type of certificate	Issued to	PEFC Forestry certificate – forest owners	Forest owners	PEFC Forestry certificate – wood procurement organization*	Wood procurement organizations	PEFC Contractor certificate	Contractors	PEFC Group certificate – forest owners	Umbrella organizations that affiliate forest owners	PEFC Group certificate – wood procurement organizations*	Umbrella organizations that affiliate wood procurement organizations	PEFC Group certificate – contractors	Umbrella organizations that affiliate contractors
Type of certificate	Issued to															
PEFC Forestry certificate – forest owners	Forest owners															
PEFC Forestry certificate – wood procurement organization*	Wood procurement organizations															
PEFC Contractor certificate	Contractors															
PEFC Group certificate – forest owners	Umbrella organizations that affiliate forest owners															
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PEFC Group certificate – contractors	Umbrella organizations that affiliate contractors															

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.	Y	<p>PEFS SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 In the case of internal audits based on random sample, the following apply:</i></p> <p><i>The total sample shall at least include numbers according to Table 1 and Figure 1 below.</i></p> <p><b>Table 1. Functions for sample sizes</b></p> <table><tr><th>Interval</th><th>Function (<i>n</i>)</th></tr><tr><td><math>0 &lt; n \leq 100</math></td><td><math>0,2 \times n</math></td></tr><tr><td><math>100 &lt; n \leq 500</math></td><td><math>16,25 + 0,0375 \times n</math></td></tr><tr><td><math>500 &lt; n \leq 1000</math></td><td><math>20 + 0,03 \times n</math></td></tr><tr><td><math>1000 &lt; n \leq 5000</math></td><td><math>37,5 + 0,0125 \times n</math></td></tr><tr><td><math>5000 &lt; n \leq 10000</math></td><td>100</td></tr><tr><td><math>10000 &lt; n</math></td><td><math>\sqrt{n}</math></td></tr></table> <p>Where <i>n</i> is the number of proofs of certification in the group.</p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.11 ... When random sampling is used, the following apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The sample shall be chosen randomly to ensure that the result is valid for the group.</i></li><li><i>At least 10% of the affiliated contractor companies in each affiliated</i></li></ul>	Interval	Function ( <i>n</i> )	$0 < n \leq 100$	$0,2 \times n$	$100 < n \leq 500$	$16,25 + 0,0375 \times n$	$500 < n \leq 1000$	$20 + 0,03 \times n$	$1000 < n \leq 5000$	$37,5 + 0,0125 \times n$	$5000 < n \leq 10000$	100	$10000 < n$	$\sqrt{n}$
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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>category shall be subject to audit annually.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5 (See 9.3.2.1)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The forest owner is ultimately responsible for the adherence to the sustainable forest management standard and hence the sampling requirements with regard to the forest owner must fulfil the requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018. The sampling with regards to forest contractors provides an added value for auditing compliance with sustainable forest management. PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The method to determine the size of the sample differs in PEFC SWE 004:5 from PEFC ST 1002:2018 when it comes to the forest contractors. The forest owner is ultimately responsible for the adherence to the sustainable forest management standard and hence the sampling requirements with regards to the forest owner must fulfil the requirements of the PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:		
a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined; b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits; c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme; d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements;	Y	<p>PEFS SWE 004:5, 4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>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.</p> <p>e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground.</p> <p>Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.</p>		<p>4.5.1.11 ... <i>Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the business. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits and evaluation of the annual self-assessment, shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE requires the design of the internal audit to be risk-based and to consider results and experiences from previous audits.</p> <p>PEFC ST 1002:2018 9.3.1.2 wording “may” imply that this is not a requirement but guidance.</p>
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:		
<p>a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);</p> <p>b) size of management units (different size classes);</p> <p>c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);</p> <p>d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;</p> <p>e) deforestation and forest conversion;</p> <p>f) rotation period(s);</p> <p>g) richness of biological diversity;</p> <p>h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;</p> <p>i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;</p> <p>j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Risk-based sampling categories: Risk-based sampling categories for forest owners were elaborated during the standard revision to account for the overarching most important risk factors. It was concluded that the size of the management unit was linked to the scale and intensity of operations, processes and products, interaction with local communities and other businesses e.g. reindeer herding (where applicable) as well as to the ratio of own administration and management of operations and training. For management units above 50 000 ha the risk is regarded as high due to the scale of the operations and for management units between 5 000 and 50 000 the risk is regarded as medium.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p>4.3.2 <i>Special requirements at group certification of forest owners</i></p> <p>4.3.2.6 <i>Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)														
k) governance and law enforcement.		<p><i>umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the forest management. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p><i>In the case of internal audits based on random sample, the following risk-based sampling categories apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participants with <math>\geq 50\,000</math> ha of productive forest land....</i></li> <li>• <i>Participants with <math>\geq 5000</math> ha, <math>&lt; 50\,000</math> ha of productive forest land....</i></li> <li>• <i>Among participants with <math>&lt; 5000</math> ha of productive forest land....</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The total sample shall at least include numbers according to Table 1 and Figure 1 below.</i></p> <p><b>Table 1. Functions for sample sizes</b></p> <table> <tr> <th>Interval</th> <th>Function (<i>n</i>)</th> </tr> <tr> <td><math>0 &lt; n \leq 100</math></td> <td><math>0,2 \times n</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td><math>100 &lt; n \leq 500</math></td> <td><math>16,25 + 0,0375 \times n</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td><math>500 &lt; n \leq 1000</math></td> <td><math>20 + 0,03 \times n</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td><math>1000 &lt; n \leq 5000</math></td> <td><math>37,5 + 0,0125 \times n</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td><math>5000 &lt; n \leq 10000</math></td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><math>10000 &lt; n</math></td> <td><math>\sqrt{n}</math></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Where <b>n</b> is the number of proofs of certification in the group.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p>	Interval	Function ( <i>n</i> )	$0 < n \leq 100$	$0,2 \times n$	$100 < n \leq 500$	$16,25 + 0,0375 \times n$	$500 < n \leq 1000$	$20 + 0,03 \times n$	$1000 < n \leq 5000$	$37,5 + 0,0125 \times n$	$5000 < n \leq 10000$	100	$10000 < n$	$\sqrt{n}$
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PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>4.5.1.11 ... When random sampling is used, the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sample shall be chosen randomly to ensure that the result is valid for the group.</li> <li>• At least 10% of the affiliated contractor companies in each affiliated category shall be subject to audit annually.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Risk-based sampling categories for forest owners were elaborated during the standard revision to account for the overarching most important risk factors. It was concluded that the size of the management unit. This is visible also in the requirement of the sampling between the categories of participants (based on the size of the ownership).</p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the design of the audit to be risk-based, with the indicators for the risk assessment being the scope and the complexity of the business, as well as results from previous audits. In addition, the size of the ownership is a sample category, with forest owners with bigger forests being audited more frequently.</p>
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 001:5, Appendix B. Terms and definitions: <i>Risk-based sampling categories: Risk-based sampling categories for forest owners were elaborated during the standard revision to account for the overarching most important risk factors. It was concluded that the size of the management unit was linked to the scale and intensity of operations, processes and products, interaction with local communities and other businesses e.g., reindeer herding (where applicable) as well as to the ratio of own administration and management of operations and training. For management units above 50 000 ha the risk is regarded as high due to the scale of the operations and for management units between 5 000 and 50 000 the risk is regarded as medium.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE identifies the size of the ownership to be a determining fact for risks, with smaller risks as management unit becomes smaller.
9.3.4 Distribution of the sample  The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.	Y	PEFC SWE (See 9.3.3.1) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires the design of the annual audit to be risk-based. Size of forest management unit is identified as a determinant on the risks, which is visible in how the sample size is calculated.
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	Y	PEFC SWE (See 9.3.3.1) <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires, “in case of random sample being applied”, the bigger forest owners are audited every year or at least once every 5 <sup>th</sup> year (depending on the size of the ownership). For the smaller forest owners (<5 000 ha, the absolute majority of the forest owners, PEFC SWE 004:5 requires at least 25% of the total sample to be randomly chosen. Hence, this is in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5 4.3.2 Special requirements at group certification of forest owners: <i>4.3.2.6 Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented by the umbrella organization. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the business. Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits shall be given special consideration.</i> 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors: ... <i>Routines for internal audit shall be elaborated and documented. The design shall be risk-based regarding the scope and complexity of the business.</i>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>Previous results and experiences from completed internal audits and evaluation of the annual self-assessment, shall be given special consideration.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
9.4 Management review		
9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.3.1.7.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations, Management review: ...<i>At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follow up of previous year's review.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</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 group management system;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations, Management review: <i>...At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Changes of significance for the business and associated management system</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</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;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the umbrella organization in accordance with 4.3.1.7.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. The management review shall review and approve the work of the</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>umbrella organization in accordance with 4.5.1.13. The management review shall be documented. <u>Note</u>: this should be 4.5.1.14 (typo in numbering).</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations, Management review: <i>The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's /organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the forest management and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome of internal and external audit as well as associated analysis</li> <li>• Outcome of monitoring.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements, except for the internal monitoring programme.</p>
<p>d) information on the group performance, including trends in:</p> <p>i. nonconformities and corrective actions;</p> <p>ii. monitoring and measurement results;</p> <p>iii. audit results;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the business and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up of previous year's review</li> <li>• Outcome of internal and external audit as well as associated analysis</li> <li>• Handling of nonconformities within the business</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
e) opportunities for continual improvement.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.2 Basic requirements for umbrella organization:</p> <p><i>4.2.1.6 Management system in accordance with Appendix 2, including necessary</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i> routines for handling and improvement of the group.</i></p> <p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations:</p> <p><i>The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the business and its management system. At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Corrective action for the business to be run in accordance with requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
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.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>The management review shall be implemented annually and aims at reviewing and securing the umbrella organization's/organization's work with auditing and continuously improve the business and its management system.</i></p> <p><i>At the management review, the following issues shall be covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Corrective action for the business to be run in accordance with requirements of the PEFC-standard.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>At the management review, the management shall ensure the continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the system. The management review shall be documented.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
<p>a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</p> <p>i. take action to control and correct it;</p> <p>ii. deal with the consequences;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and the causes of non-conformities and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis shall assess if the non-conformity can occur elsewhere and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><i>4.3.1.9 Issuing nonconformities to group-certified forest owners/wood procurement organizations which do not comply with the requirements of the forestry standard and inform and advise to correct the shortcomings (see Appendix 1).</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p><i>analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented.</i></p> <p><i>4.5.1.15 Issuing nonconformities to contractors that are not meeting the requirements of the contractor standard and inform and advise to correct the shortcomings (see Appendix 1).</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<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:</p> <p>i. reviewing the nonconformity;</p> <p>ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</p> <p>iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5 (See 10.1.1 a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002.2018 benchmarks..</p>
c) implement any action needed;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5 (See 10.1.1 a)</p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002.2018 benchmarks..</p>
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners:</p> <p><i>4.3.1.7 ... The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p>4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 ... The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.
e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5: 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>4.3.1.8 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness.</i> 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of contractors: <i>4.3.1.14 Annual review of the umbrella organization's management system with the management to ensure the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness.</i> <b>Conclusion: Conformity</b> <b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requires an annual management review to ensure "the system's continued suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness". This implies making changes to the management system if necessary.
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; b) the results of any corrective action.	Y	PEFC SWE 004:5, 4.3 Responsibility of umbrella at group certification of forest owners: <i>4.3.1.7 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome of internal and external audit and based on that, formulate necessary corrective action. Analysis and actions shall cover the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i> 4.5 Responsibilities of the umbrella organization at group-certification of

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>contractors:</p> <p><i>4.5.1.13 The umbrella organization shall analyse the outcome from internal and external audit, and based on that, formulate necessary corrective actions. The analysis and actions shall include the entire group and be documented. The umbrella organization shall review the effectiveness of the actions.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 requirements.</p>
<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.</p>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 1. Nonconformities, corrective action, and termination regarding participants: <i>In the case of termination grounded on major nonconformity where evidence for corrected nonconformity cannot be demonstrated, a forest owner that has been terminated may not be affiliated to any umbrella organization for group-certification according to PEFC within 12 months from termination.</i></p> <p><i>The umbrella organization shall establish routines for nonconformities, terminations, and re-affiliations Routines for re-affiliation shall include measures to fulfil requirements 4.3.1.1–4.3.1.3.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE 004:5 requirements are in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p>
<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>	Y	<p>PEFC SWE 004:5, Appendix 2. Requirements on management systems of certified organizations: <i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Conclusion: Conformity</b></p> <p><b>Justification:</b> PEFC SWE requirements are in line with PEFC 1002:2018 benchmarks.</p>

## PEFC Checklist (5) – Forestry Contractor Standard (PEFC SWE 003:5)

### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for forest contractor certification as defined in c, *Forestry Contractor Standard*. The aim of this checklist is to make sure that the requirements of PEFC SWE 003:5 are in line or not in conflict with the international PEFC standards.

#### Reference Documents:

Document type	Document name
Normative documents	Forestry Contractor Standard (PEFC SWE 003:5), December 5, 2022, Revised in September 2023 Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018) Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

### 2 Checklist

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
4. Contractor is responsible for complying with Swedish legislation and the requirements of this standard.	Y	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018 (see benchmark 6.3.1 (Legal compliance) in SFM checklist).
4.1 Applicable requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, chapter 4		
PEFC-certified contractor shall, in addition to the requirements of this standard, comply with the following parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.4 Company responsibilities</li> <li>• 4.5 Employer responsibilities</li> <li>• 4.6 Insurances</li> <li>• 4.7 Work organization</li> <li>• 4.8 Work environment</li> </ul>	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018.  Note: All parts in PEFC SWE 002:5 chapter 4 are not in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018 (see benchmark 6.3.4.4 in SFM checklist).



PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.9 Equal rights and opportunities</li> <li>4.10 Competence in forestry</li> <li>4.11 Skills development</li> </ul>		
4.2 Family businesses		
4.2.1 Family businesses that have employees for which LAS (Employment Protection Act) is not applicable (family members) need not comply with 4.5.1-4.5.3, 4.7 and 4.9 of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard (besides legislative requirements).	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
4.3 PEFC-certification		
4.3.1 At work on forest land of certified forest owners, applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard shall be complied with.	Y	PEFC SWE 003:5 is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. Note: "Applicable parts of PEFC SWE 002" consist of chapter 4. All parts in PEFC SWE 002:5 chapter 4 are not in line with PEFC ST 1003:2018 (see benchmark 6.3.4.4 in SFM checklist).
4.3.2 At work for non-certified forest owners, applicable parts of PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard and PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard chapter 4 for the own company, shall be complied with.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. Applicable parts of PEFC SWE 003:5 are not defined in this context.
4.3.3 Group-certified contractors shall apply routines in accordance with instructions from the umbrella organization.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
4.3.4 Group-certified contractors shall by means of self-assessment report annually to the umbrella organization that applicable PEFC requirements are observed in the business in question.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018.

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
4.3.5 Group-certified contractors shall inform the umbrella organization about changes in the business that are of relevance for the certification.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
4.3.6 Accept that the umbrella organization and the certification body conduct controls of compliance with the requirements of the PEFC-standard. The umbrella organization, the certification body, and where applicable, the PEFC Sweden or PEFC International, shall be given access to relevant documentation and information, as well as access to relevant facilities (for example financial statement that is not public or verification on purchase of chemicals).	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018.
4.3.7 Group-certified contractors shall handle nonconformities and take corrective action in accordance with instructions from the umbrella organization (PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification, Appendix 1).	Y	<p>The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018.</p> <p>Note: All the related requirements in PEFC SWE 004:5 are not in line with PEFC ST 1002:2018 (see benchmarks 5.1.1 (f-g) and 10.1.1 (a-c) in group forest management checklist). See also the comment related to benchmark 5.1.2 below:</p> <p>"With regards to the forest contractors (them defined and "participants"); PEFC SWE 004:5 does require forest contractors to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity. However, PEFC SWE 004:5 clearly states that the "responsibility for meeting the requirements of the forestry standard falls upon the forest owner". Consequently, the responsibility to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions falls on the forest owner."</p>
4.4 Forest management planning		
4.4.1 A plan-producing company shall establish and document routines for the production of forest management plans which comply with the requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, Appendix 1. The documentation shall include field-work and quality assurance.	Y	<p>The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018.</p> <p>Note: PEFC SWE 002:5 Appendix 1 is generally in line/not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018 (see benchmarks 4.1 (d), 6.1.2, 6.2.1 (a-d), 6.2.2, 6.2.3, 6.2.5) in SFM checklist). However, there are nonconformities (see benchmark 6.2.4 in SFM checklist).</p>

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
4.4.2 Regarding forest management planners, the company shall document that the qualifications of planners meet the requirements of PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 7.2.1 in the SFM checklist.
4.5 Site-specific work instruction		
4.5.1 The client's site-specific work instruction (including map) concerning agreed operation shall be observed.  Unforeseen events of significance in connection with the operation shall be communicated to the client. If a need for significant adjustments arises in connection with the operation, these shall be agreed with the client.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018 or PEFC ST 1003:2018.
4.5.2 In the absence of, or in case of deficiencies in, the client's site-specific work instruction, a nonconformity report shall be made in accordance with the client's routines for nonconformities. What shall be included in a site-specific work instruction is described in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, Appendix 2.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018 or PEFC ST 1003:2018.
4.5.3 In the case of repeated nonconformities according to 4.5.2, or if no action is taken, the nonconformity shall be notified to the client's certification body or conveyed via the contractor's umbrella for group-certification.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018 or PEFC ST 1003:2018.
4.6 Sub-contractors		
4.6.1 Hired sub-contractors shall be PEFC-certified or affiliated to certified umbrella organization.  Main contractor is responsible for verifying that hired sub-contractor is PEFC-certified.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018 or PEFC ST 1003:2018.

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
4.6.2 Contractor may only have sub-contractor in one step, unless a written agreement is made with the client.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1002:2018 or PEFC ST 1003:2018.
<b>4.7 Preventive environmental requirements</b>		
Environmental awareness shall permeate the whole business. At the procurement of equipment and supplies, environmentally labelled products shall be chosen when this is practically and economically feasible.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. PEFC ST 1003:2018 does not place requirements related to the subject.
4.7.1 For two-stroke engines, alkylate gasoline which at least meet the requirements of the Swedish standard SS 155461:2017 shall be used.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. PEFC ST 1003:2018 does not place requirements related to the subject.
4.7.2 All machinery performing work on forest land shall use hydraulic fluids which at least meet the requirements for environmentally approved hydraulic fluids according to Swedish standard SS 155434:2020. The fluids are reviewed according to the standard by RISE and listed on the so called "SP-list" which can be accessed via their website <a href="https://www.ri.se/sv">https://www.ri.se/sv</a> . If the product to be used is not listed there, the contractor shall be able to show, based on information in the safety data sheet, that the hydraulic fluid meets environmental properties according to SS 155434:2020.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. PEFC ST 1003:2018 does not place requirements related to the subject.
4.7.3 For lubrication of saw chains, vegetable saw chain oil, other environmentally approved saw chain oil, or other grease for lubrication of saw chains according to SS 155470:2020, environmental class B at the lowest, shall be used. The lubricating greases are reviewed according to the standard by RISE and listed on the so called "SP-list" which can be accessed via their website <a href="https://www.ri.se/sv">https://www.ri.se/sv</a> . If the lubricating grease to be used is not listed there, the contractor shall be able to show,	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. PEFC ST 1003:2018 does not place requirements related to the subject.

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
based on information in the safety data sheet, that it meets environmental properties according to SS 155470:2020.		
4.7.4 Ethylene glycol may not be used in machine cooling systems in machinery performing work on forest land.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. PEFC ST 1003:2018 does not place requirements related to the subject.
4.7.5 The equipment and methodology that is needed in order to prevent soil damages at logging shall be used. Operations shall be planned and executed in accordance with applicable requirements in PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard, paragraph 3.10.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmarks 8.2.4, 8.3.3 and 8.5.3 in the SFM checklist.
4.7.6 Harvesters and skidders with >100 hours of annual driving time shall have engines that meet at least stage 1 according to EU-directive 97/68/EC and EU-regulation (EU) 2016/1628.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. PEFC ST 1003:2018 does not place requirements related to the subject.
4.8 Dangerous goods		
4.8.1 Any person carrying dangerous goods, and who is not covered by requirements concerning driver training according to ADR-S chapter 8.2, shall have training in accordance with chapter 1.3 in ADR-S. Any person carrying fuels for vehicles or equipment equivalent to 60 litres per transport unit at the most, shall have adequate competence for the handling, e.g., in the form of an adapted ADR-S 1.3 training course.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.8.2 Dangerous goods may only be carried in type approved packaging.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.8.3 The dangerous goods shall be carried in a ventilated space.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
4.8.4 Tanks and IBC-containers shall be inspected and this shall be clear from labelling on the tank/IBC-container and from inspection protocol.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.9 Hazardous waste		
Hazardous waste is also dangerous goods. See therefore also 4.8.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.9.1 Any person who has a business in which hazardous waste arises shall, for every sort of waste, keep notes on quantity of waste and where the waste is transported, and where applicable, register this with responsible authority. The notes shall be kept.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.9.2 When hazardous waste is returned to service provider, recycling plant, or other receiver licensed for handling of hazardous waste, control of license (or notification) shall be performed. This is not necessary if the receiver is the municipality, or the person engaged by the municipality.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.9.3 Any person who carries hazardous waste by his-/herself shall notify this and, where applicable, obtain permission from responsible authority.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.9.4 Any person who hands over hazardous waste for carriage or other handling to somebody else (e.g., service provider) shall make sure that this person has the necessary permissions for the handling. This control is not necessary if the receiver is the municipality, or the person engaged by the municipality.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.9.5 Any person who hands over hazardous waste for carriage shall, together with the transporter (the receiver), make sure that a transport document is established which includes information on sort of waste, quantity of waste, and who leaves and receives	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.

PEFC Sweden's requirements on contractors	YES / NO	Conclusion of the conformity of the contractor standard
the waste respectively. The transport document shall be signed by the supplier (the contractor).		
9.6 Other residual products shall be brought out of the forest and be handled in an appropriate way.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.10 Emergency preparedness and preventive measures		
4.10.1 The emergency preparedness shall be documented, available, and reviewed annually, in a way ensuring that all persons concerned understands it. It shall include necessary first aid equipment and preparedness for personal injury.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.10.2 Clearing equipment, specifically developed for the purpose, shall always be carried and used when needed. The clearing equipment shall include digging spade, absorbent, drop cloths, and a collection vessel that is adequate for the purpose.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.10.3 At service and maintenance work, equipment for collection of spillage shall be used.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018. See benchmark 8.2.5 in the SFM checklist.
4.10.4 The insurance company's requirements on fire preparedness shall be complied with.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018.
4.10.5 Preventive measures against forest fire shall be taken when fire risk is at hand, in accordance with documented routines and specified responsibilities that have been established together with the client.	Y	The requirement is not in conflict with PEFC ST 1003:2018.

## Annex 2

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### **Stakeholder Questionnaire Form**



Helsinki, July 3, 2023

## Stakeholder Questionnaire on the Revision of the Swedish Forest Certification Scheme



**Swedish PEFC completed the revision of its standards in 2022 and has sent the Swedish proposal to PEFC International for review and approval.**

Indufor is hired by PEFC International as an independent third-party consultant to collect stakeholders' views on the development of **the revised scheme of PEFC Sweden**

The questionnaire focuses on stakeholder engagement in the forest management standard (PEFC SWE 002) revision and the information sharing and decision-making processes. Your view is important because:

*PEFC requires, among others, that standard development shall be transparent and open to all interested stakeholders; different views shall be discussed and documented and decisions on certification criteria shall be made in consensus.*

The questionnaire will be sent to all invited and participating parties having an interest in forest certification standard revision, and potentially to other key interest groups. All answers will be treated as strictly confidential. The identity of the replier will not be disclosed in any instance.

We hope you can share your views on the standard revision process and thus improve the quality and value of impartial scheme assessment under the PEFC framework.

We highly appreciate your contribution and thank you in advance for your effort!

*Preliminary Question*

**Please indicate the stakeholder category that best describes you and/or your organisation:**

<b>I represent:</b>	<b>Stakeholder categories</b>
	Administration
	Authority
	Forest and timber industry
	Industry association/lobby organisation
	Forest owner/manager
	Research institute
	Environmental NGO
	Social NGO
	Trade Union
	Retailer
	Media
	Consumer organisation
	Financial sector
	Member Organisation
	Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):

## Questionnaire on the Revision of the Swedish Forest Certification Scheme

### 1. Did you participate in the standard revision?

Standard	Yes	No	Comments (If no – why not?)
PEFC Sweden revised scheme (2021–2022)			
Would you have been interested to participate?			

### 2. By whom and when were you invited to participate in the standard revision?

By whom:	Comments
When:	Comments

### 3. What was your main interest to consider participation in standard revision?

Comments

### 4. In your view, have all interested parties relevant to standard development been proactively identified and invited and given the possibility to participate and contribute to the process? <sup>1)</sup>

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments

<sup>1)</sup> Including also disadvantaged interest groups

### 5. Did the organiser provide you with adequate material before the process?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments

6. Did the stakeholders in the standard-setting working group represent the different interests in a balanced way?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

7. Did the revision process follow the procedures that were communicated with participants in advance?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

8. Were you aware of any substantive or procedural complaints by any stakeholder on standard revision?

Yes	No	Comments

9. Are you aware of any dispute settlement procedures in case of conflicting views in standard revision?

Yes	No	Comments

10. Do you believe any aspects of the standard or its revision process deserve further consideration?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments

**If you participated in standard development, please continue to questions 11 to 15.**

11. Have you been given a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the standard formulation and to submit comments for further consideration?

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

12. **Were the views and comments submitted by any participant in the Standard Setting Working Group considered in an open and transparent way?**

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

13. **Have all comments received in public consultations been discussed and addressed in an objective and transparent way?**

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

14. **Were the criteria (requirements) in the standard agreed on in consensus?**

Yes	No	I don't know	Comments (If no – why not?)

15. **Other comments and/or remarks:**

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Thank you for your time and contribution!

Please send your replies preferably by **August 11, 2023**, to [thomas.selanniemi@induforgroup.com](mailto:thomas.selanniemi@induforgroup.com) or [indufor@induforgroup.com](mailto:indufor@induforgroup.com).

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