

CK SERVICES

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

FINAL REPORT, 6th January 2024

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1 Introduction

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

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

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

1.1 Assessment Scope

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

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

Table 1, System documentation, PEFC Czech Republic

Document title	Document name
ND CFCS 01 EN 2021	Development, review and revision of CFCS documentation
ND CFCS 02 EN 2022	PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic
ND CFCS 03 EN 2022	PEFC Czech Republic procedures for the investigation and resolution of complaints and appeals
ND CFCS 04 EN 2022	Issuance of PEFC trademarks usage licences
TD CFCS 1001 2023 EN	Czech Forest Certification System – Description and Context
TD CFCS 1002 2023 EN	Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements
TD CFCS 1003 2023 EN	Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
TD CFCS 1004 2023 EN	Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification

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

- Development_report_CFCS_2023_EN
- Annex_01_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021
- Annex_02_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021
- Annex_03_CFCS_Review_Press_Release_27.4.2021
- Annex_04_CFCS_Review_Forestry_magazin_Lesnicky_prace_05.2021
- Annex_05_CFCS_Review_Info_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2021
- Annex_06_CFCS_Review_www.svol.cz_Magazine_05.2021
- Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN
- Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN
- Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022

- Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022
- Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022
- Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022
- Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry magazin_Lesnicka prace_05.2022
- Annex_14_TC_Members_16.6.2022
- Annex_15_TC_1_Meeting_invitation_22.6.2022
- Annex_16_Minutes_TC_1_meeting_2022_06_22
- Annex_17_TC_2_Meeting_invitation_21.9.2022
- Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022
- Annex_19_PEFC_CR_Internal_Consultation_24.10.2022
- Annex_20_TC_Last_Consultation_15.12.2022
- Annex_21_TC_Consensus and Public Consultation_6.1.2023
- Annex_22_Public_Consultation_web_www.pefc.cz_09.1.2023
- Annex_23_Public_Consultation_Press_Release_9.1.2023
- Annex_24_Public_Consultation_email_stakeholders_9.1.2023
- Annex_25_Public_Consultation_Forestry magazin_Lesnicka prace_01.2023
- Annex_26_Public_Consultation_Silvarium_online Forestry magazin_01.2023
- Annex_27_Public_Consultation_www.ekolist.cz_01.2023
- Annex_28_Public_Consultation_www.enviweb.cz_01.2023
- Annex_29_TC_Result_of_Public_Consultation_31.3.2023
- Annex_30_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_approval_CFCS_16.5.2023
- Annex_31_PEFC_CR_Assembly_CFCS_approved_24.5.2025

The system documentation of PEFC Czech Republic was assessed against the PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards defined to be applicable for this assessment in PEFC International's *tender dossier*, which are listed in Table 2, PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards.

Table 2, PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards

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

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

1.2 Methodology

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

1.2.1 Assessment of the standard setting procedures and process

The assessment of the Czech Forest Certification System's standard setting procedures and of the standard review and revision process was carried out against PEFC ST 1001:2017. The system documentation assessed consisted of ND CFCS 01, *Development, review and revision of CFCS documentation*. Also considered were PEFC Czech Republic's development report and the provided reference documentation, as well as responses from the international stakeholder consultation and the stakeholder involvement survey.

Where documentation submitted by PEFC Czech Republic was provided in Czech language only, documents were machine translated on "Google Translate" and translations requested to be reviewed and corrected or confirmed by PEFC Czech Republic.

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

1.2.2 Assessment of the forest management standard

The assessment of the Czech Forest Certification System's forest management standard was carried out against PEFC ST 1003:2018. The system documentation assessed consisted primarily of TD CFCS 1003:2023, *Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*.

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

1.2.3 Assessment of the group certification model

The assessment of the Czech Forest Certification System's group certification model was carried out against PEFC ST 1002:2018. The system documentation assessed consisted of TD CFCS 1002:2023, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements*.

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

1.2.4 Assessment of the certification and accreditation procedures

The assessment of the Czech Forest Certification System's certification and accreditation procedures for forest management certification was carried out against Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document. The system documentation assessed consisted of TD CFCS 1004:2023, *Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification*.

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

The Czech Forest Certification System's certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification had not to be assessed in detail, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2003, *Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard* as part of its own technical documentation.

1.2.5 Assessment decisions

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

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

Where a benchmark requirement was deemed not to be applicable, the requirement was marked with “N/A” and a justification for the non-applicability was provided.

1.3 Assessment Process

1.3.1 Assessment schedule

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

Table 3, Assessment schedule

Assessment event	Date	By
Int. stakeholder consultation	4 th July – 31 st August 2023	PEFC International
Assessment start	25 th September 2023	CK Services
Stakeholder survey	2 nd – 9 th October 2023	CK Services
Draft assessment report	16 th October 2023	CK Services
Commenting period	16 th October – 6 th November 2023	PEFC Czech Republic
Final draft assessment report	16 th November 2023	CK Services
Internal Review	2 nd January 2024	PEFC International
Final report	6 th January 2024	CK Services

1.3.2 Assessment steps

The assessment consisted of the following steps:

a) Public consultation

An international public stakeholder consultation organized by PEFC International was held from 4th July until 31st August 2023. PEFC informed CK Services on 7th September 2023 that no comments had been received during this consultation (see Annex C).

A stakeholder involvement survey on national level was organized by CK Services. On 2nd October 2023 invitations to respond to an online questionnaire were sent to 40 stakeholders by email. The survey was accessible to stakeholders until 9th October 2023. Two stakeholders responded to the survey and their feedback was taken into account for the preparation of the draft and final draft reports (see Annex B).

b) Desk study and preparation of draft assessment report

The initial desk study took place during the period 25th September to 16th October 2023. It comprised an evaluation of the submitted system documentation against the relevant PEFC International Benchmark Standards covered by the scope of the assessment, as well as a consideration of PEFC Czech Republic's development report, the provided reference documentation, and the responses to international stakeholder consultation and stakeholder involvement survey.

On 16th October 2023 a draft report identifying 17 minor and no major nonconformities was sent to PEFC Czech Republic and PEFC International.

c) Commenting period

The commenting period during which PEFC Czech Republic could respond to the findings of the draft report was from 16th October up to and including 6th November 2023. PEFC Czech Republic provided CKS with comments and revised technical documentation on 8th November.

d) Preparation of final draft assessment report

Following the receipt of PEFC Czech Republic's comments and revised documentation, CKS prepared a final draft assessment report and submitted it to PEFC International for review on 16th November 2023.

e) PEFC International internal review

PEFC International reviewed the final draft of the assessment report and provided CKS with comments on 2nd January 2024. As these comments were exclusively of editorial nature, it was not deemed necessary to add a separate appendix to this report with detailed information on individual PEFC International comments and how they were addressed by CKS.

f) Preparation of the final assessment report.

CKS considered the comments received from PEFC International and prepared a final version of the assessment report. The final report was sent to PEFC International on 6th January 2024.

1.4 Assessment Personnel

The assessment was carried out by Mr. Christian Kämmer at CK Services. Contact person at PEFC International was Mr. Hubert Inhaizer. Contact person at PEFC Czech Republic was Mr. Stanislav Slanina.

2 Recommendation

The assessor recommends PEFC International to maintain the endorsement of the revised Czech Forest Certification System, on the condition that the two minor nonconformities identified in the forest management standard in relation to the use of pesticides are resolved within a period of six months as of endorsement renewal.

3 Summary of findings

3.1 Overall

The assessment of the revised Czech Forest Certification System against the PEFC International Benchmark Standards covered under the scope of this assessment by CK Services determined that the system meets PEFC International's requirements, except for two minor nonconformities identified in the SFM standard.

3.2 Structure of the System

The structure of PEFC Czech Republic and its system's organisation and technical documentation is defined in TD CFCS 1001, *Czech Forest Certification System – Description and Context*.

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

3.3 Standard Setting Procedures

The standard setting procedures of the revised Czech Forest Certification System are defined in ND CFCS 01, *Development, review and revision of CFCS documentation*. ND CFCS 01 was found to fully meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

3.4 Standard Setting Process

The standard setting process was well documented and found to fully meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

The standard revision process was characterized by a representation of all stakeholder categories defined by PEFC Czech Republic on the technical committee revising the forest management standard, a quick revision process with only two committee meetings to find consensus on an enquiry draft, and no feedback in both PEFC Czech Republic's members' consultation and public consultation on the enquiry draft.

3.5 Forest Management Standard

The forest management standard of the revised Czech Forest Certification System, TD CFCS 1003:2023, *Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management* is in conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, except for two minor nonconformities concerning the PEFC ST 1003 benchmarks 8.2.8 (WHO class 1A/B pesticide exemptions) and 8.2.9 (prohibition of chlorinated hydrocarbons/banned pesticides).

3.6 Group Certification Model

The requirements for group forest management certification of the revised Czech Forest Certification System are defined in TD CFCS 1004:2023, *Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification*. The assessment has determined this standard to fully meet PEFC International's benchmarks for the group certification model defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018.

3.7 Chain of Custody Standard and Trademark Use

The Czech Forest Certification System has adopted PEFC International's chain of custody standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020, and trademark rules, PEFC ST 2001:2020, as normative elements of its system documentation, namely as TD CFCS 2002:2020, *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements* and TD CFCS 2001:2020, *PEFC Trademarks Rules - Requirements*. The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements for chain of custody standards and PEFC trademark rules.

3.8 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

PEFC Czech Republic has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 as part of its system documentation, namely as TD CFCS 1006:2020, *Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC international chain of custody standard*. The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements on certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification.

The Czech Forest Certification System's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management are defined in TD CFCS 1004:2023, *Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification*. TD CFCS 1004 meets the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD.

3.9 Other Aspects

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

Feedback was received from two out of 40 stakeholders in the Czech Republic invited by CK Services to participate in a stakeholder involvement survey. The two responding stakeholders stated not to have been invited/aware of PEFC Czech Republic's invitation to nominate members to its technical committee and to comment in the public consultation on the draft revised standard. However, PEFC Czech Republic has submitted sufficient evidence in the form of copies of sent emails, demonstrating without doubt that both stakeholder organisations had in fact been contacted.

4 Structure of the System

The role of organisations involved as actors in the system, its basic elements, and the structure of its technical documentation are defined in TD CFCS 1001:2023, *Czech Forest Certification System – Description and Context*.

4.1 Organisational structure

The organisational structure of the CFCS is described in TD CFCS 1001, chapter 3 *Organisational arrangement of PEFC Czech Republic*. Table 4 provides an overview about entities and their functions within PEFC Czech Republic and the Czech Forest Certification System.

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

Body	Function	Reference document
PEFC Czech Republic Assembly	Consists of all PEFC Czech Republic members; is highest authority of PEFC Czech Republic.	TD CFCS 1001, 3
PEFC Czech Republic Council	Supreme managing body of PEFC Czech Republic; holds power to elect and withdraw Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the association; collective	TD CFCS 1001, 3

	body. Decision-making based on absolute majority of votes of all Council members.	
PEFC Czech Republic (Vice-) Chairman	Represents the interests of the association; is held accountable for the association state to the Council; seconded by vice-chairmen.	TD CFCS 1001, 3
National Secretary (secretariat)	Appointed by the PEFC Czech Republic Council; carries out activities of the secretariat according to the resolutions of PEFC Czech Republic members.	TD CFCS 1001, 3
Supervisor	Supervision of PEFC Czech Republic's bodies' activities, mainly financing; reports to PEFC Czech Republic Assembly.	TD CFCS 1001, 3
Arbitral Commission	Body of the association consisting of experts; decides on the interpretation of CFCS technical documents upon request of certification process participants.	TD CFCS 1001, 3
Working groups	Established by the Council for specific tasks such as amendment/revision of technical documents and criteria for forest management.	TD CFCS 1001, 3
Accreditation body	Authorised body that performs accreditation (CSN EN ISO/IEC 17000)	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1
Certification bodies	Independent third party assessing and certifying organisations against forest management or chain of custody standard or other documentation required within the system.	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1
Group forest certification	Certification of the group organisation under one group forest certificate.	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1
Group organisations (in forest management certification)	A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification.	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1
Group forest certificate:	A document confirming that the group organisation complies with the requirements of a sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system. Group entity is a holder of the group forest certificate.	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1
Group entity	A legal entity that represents the participants, with overall responsibility for ensuring the conformity of forest management in the certified area to the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system. For this purpose, the group entity is using a group management system	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1
Participant	A forest owner or manager covered by the group forest certificate, who has the ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard in a certified area.	TD CFCS 1001, 2.1

The role of entities in chain of custody certification is not further highlighted, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 and PEFC ST 2003:2020 as part of its own technical documentation, namely as TD CFCS 2002:2020 and TD CFCS 2003:2020.

4.2 Structure of technical documentation

The structure of the system's technical documentation is described in TD CFCS 1001, chapter 4 *Structure of CFCS documentation*. An overview of the system's technical documentation specified there is provided in Table 5.

Table 5, Overview of the system's technical documentation

Document title	Document name
CFCS technical documents	
TD CFCS 1001:2023	Czech Forest Certification System – Description and Context
TD CFCS 1002:2023	Group Forest Management Certification– Requirements
TD CFCS 1003:2023	Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management
TD CFCS 1004:2023	Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification
TD CFCS 2001:2020	PEFC Trademarks Rules - Requirements (translation of PEFC ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademarks Rules - Requirements)
TD CFCS 2002:2020	Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements (translation of PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements)
TD CFCS 2003:2020	Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Chain of Custody Certification (translation of PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Chain of Custody Standard)
Normative documents	
ND CFCS 01	Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation
ND CFCS 02	PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic
ND CFCS 03	PEFC Czech Republic procedures for the investigation and resolution of complaints and appeals
ND CFCS 04	Issuance of PEFC trademarks usage licences
ND CFCS 05	Training of participants in the certification process for the application of Czech forest certification system

In addition to the system's own technical documentation, further normative references are defined in TD CFCS 1001, chapter 5 *Normative references for the development of the Czech Forest Certification System*. This includes references to national legislation, PEFC International documentation, legislation relevant for meeting PEFC International benchmark requirements, international conventions ratified by the Czech Republic and other relevant international standards.

4.3 Major changes during the revision process

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

While the external structure of the system's technical documentation did not undergo any major changes either, the internal structure of the system's standards for forest management (TD CFCS 1003) and group forest management certification (TD CFCS 1002) as well as their content were revised

noticeably in order to address the fact that the latest corresponding PEFC International benchmark standards had adopted the International Standardization Organization's high level structure for quality management standards.

In addition, the requirements of TD CFCS 1002 and 1003 were revised and extended to close the gaps to the revised operational requirements of PEFC ST 1002 and 1003 identified in an analysis during the system review, and to harmonize the standards with the latest relevant national legislation.

4.4 Assessment result

PEFC International does not define specific requirements for the structure of a system against which an assessment could be carried out in detail. However, no aspects of the system's structure that would inhibit its functioning as a PEFC endorsed forest certification system were identified in the assessment.

5 Standard setting procedures

5.1 Analysis and conclusion

The standard setting/revision procedures for the forest management standard of the Czech Forest Certification System are defined in ND CFCS 01, *Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation*.

PEFC Czech Republic revised its standard setting procedures in early 2021 in order to align it with the requirements of the latest version of PEFC International's Benchmark Standard for standard setting, PEFC ST 1001:2017. ND CFCS 01 was approved by PEFC Czech Republic Assembly in May 2021. The subsequent revision of the forest management standard followed these revised procedures.

ND CFCS 01 was assessed by CK Services against PEFC ST 1001:2017. No nonconformities were identified.

5.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.2.1

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of would communication be best to reach them.</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation: ND CFCS 01, 6.1.2: "Stakeholder identification - Identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification, b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group, c) key stakeholders in each group, d) means of communication to reach stakeholders."
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.</p>

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.4.3

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 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. - NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.

Reference to system documentation: ND CFCS 01, 6.2.2: "In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Czech Republic shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.1.2) represented. PEFC Czech Republic 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. - NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, PEFC Czech Republic may consider alternative options."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.4.6

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 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 (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.

Reference to system documentation: ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.4.8

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 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.

Reference to system documentation: ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC Czech Republic shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.5.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 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, NOTE In a timely manner means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.

Reference to system documentation: ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "Public consultation - The secretariat shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft. The start and the end dates of the public consultation shall be announced on PEFC Czech Republic website and through suitable media. Public consultation shall be announced at the latest the day before the start of public consultation."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

6 Standard setting process

The standard revision process of the Czech Forest Certification System took place in the period March 2022 to June 2023 and aimed to meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017, *Standard Setting – Requirements*. During the revision process major changes were made to the system's standard revision procedures, forest management standard and group certification standard.

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

6.1 Revision process overview

An overview on the major steps in the revision of the Czech Forest Certification System's forest management standard is provided in Table 6.

Table 6, Major steps in the revision process

Date/period	Event
April 2021	Start and announcement of standard review Start of gap analysis
March 2022	Decision to conduct a revision based on review findings
April 2022	Identification and invitation of stakeholders to nominate representatives for the technical committee revising the forest management standard
June 2022	Establishment of a technical committee based on nominations received First committee meeting
September 2022	Second committee meeting Consensus on enquiry draft of forest management standard
November 2022	Internal PEFC Czech Republic member consultation on draft standard
January to March 2023	60 day public consultation on enquiry draft standard with no comments being submitted
May 2023	PEFC Czech Republic Assembly Postal Ballot Approval of revised forest management standard
June 2023	Publication of revised standard Application for assessment and endorsement to PEFC International

6.2 Documentation and evidence

PEFC Czech Republic provided well-structured and detailed information on the standard revision process in a development report. The development report was supported by evidence in the form of additional reference documents provided by PEFC Czech Republic, such as copies of emails, screenshots of websites and media articles, minutes and other documents, including stakeholder lists, contact details and a gap analysis.

6.3 Stakeholder involvement survey

Between 2nd and 9th October 2023 CK Services conducted a survey amongst 40 organisations which had been identified as stakeholders by PEFC Czech Republic. These stakeholders were contacted by email and asked to respond to a survey created by CK Services online on "surveymonkey.com".

The survey consisted out of nine questions regarding stakeholders' possibility to be participate in the standard revision process. Feedback was received from two stakeholders. Both stakeholders stated not to have been invited to nominate representatives to PEFC Czech Republic 's technical committee and not to have been aware of the public consultation on the enquiry draft of the revised standard.

However, PEFC Czech Republic had submitted copies of emails showing that both stakeholders had in fact been invited to nominate committee members and to comment on the draft standard (see Annex 12 and Annex 24 to the development report). The invitations by PEFC Czech Republic had been sent to the very same mail addresses to which CK Services had sent the invitation to the stakeholder survey.

CK Services contacted both stakeholders again providing them to with the opportunity to comment and to provide further information on why the invitations by PEFC Czech Republic might not have been received or noticed, but received no further response.

As PEFC Czech Republic had provided reliable evidence that both stakeholders had been invited to participate actively in the revision process, their claims to the contrary were not given much weight by CK Services in the assessment of the revision process.

Further details on the stakeholder involvement survey, including detailed questions, answers and comments, can be found in Annex B of this report.

6.4 Analysis and conclusion

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

The assessor has come to the conclusion that PEFC Czech Republic has been able to provide robust evidence that it has taken the steps required by PEFC ST 1001:2017 for engagement with stakeholders.

6.5 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 5.1.2

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.

Reference to process/evidence: PEFC Czech Republic statement: PEFC Czech Republic secretariat prepared the revised standard ND CFCS 01, which corresponded to the requirements of PEFC ST 1001. This normative document was approved by the PEFC Czech Republic assembly on 24 May 2021. Subsequently, we called several times for comments on the CFCS technical documents and the revision process (annex 03 and 10). Simultaneously with the start of the revision process, we presented the proposal of the revision process (annex 08), which was compiled on the basis of the valid ND CFCS 01, we again called for comments on the standards and the revision process (annexes 10) During the entire revision process, we did not receive any comments on the standards or the revision process and the normative document ND CFCS 01. Therefore, there was no reason to modify the normative document ND CFCS 01 which was approved by the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly by electronic/email vote on 24/05/2021.

Standard setting procedures available on
<https://www.pefc.cz/standardy-pefc-cr/>

Feedback point available on
<https://www.pefc.cz/prubezne-pripominkovani-dokumentu-cfcs/>

ND CFCS 01, page 2:

“Document name: Development, review and revision of CFCS documentation

Document title: ND CFCS 01

Approved by: PEFC Czech Republic Assembly Date: 25.5.2021

Issue date: 25.5.2021

Application date: 25.5.2021”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 5.2.1e

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 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: (...) (e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed

Reference to process/evidence: Development report CFCS_2023, table 3: “(...) - during the public and internal consultation, TC did not receive any comment or proposal for modification to the revised CFCS documentation - TC members were informed that there is no need to convene a TC meeting, which should deal with any comments/suggestions for amending the CFCS documentation - revised CFCS documentation was forwarded for approval to the PEFC Czech Republic Council and the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly in the same wording as it was submitted for public comments”

Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: “During the whole revision, the PEFC Czech Republic website had a form for sending comments, suggestions for editing and supplementing technical documents. A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision. The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints.”

The responses to the stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor does not contradict the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no comments had been received from stakeholders.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.2.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 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.

Reference to process/evidence: Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 4 “Identification of relevant stakeholders - Following the requirements of ND CFCS 01, Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:

- a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification
- b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group

- c) key stakeholders in each group
- d) means of communication to reach stakeholders

The categories of considered stakeholder groups and their key issues/interests are shown in table 3. (The category indigenous people doesn't exist in the Czech Republic)

Tab. 3 Categories of stakeholders and their key issues (...)"

Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.2.3

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

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

Reference to process/evidence: Key and disadvantaged stakeholders were identified in stakeholder mapping. See Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022_EN of Development Report CFCS_2023

Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022: "21.4.2022 - JOIN THE REVISION OF STANDARDS AND HELP IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF PEFC FOREST CERTIFICATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC (...) We are also accepting nominations for members of the technical committee at the above contacts until June 10, 2022, indicating their professional focus or subject of interest. The members of the technical commission for the review of CFCS documents will be selected by the Presidency/Assembly of the PEFC Czech Republic in such a way as to ensure equal representation and decision-making according to the categories of interest groups with regard to the subject of the document, while none of the categories of interest groups may prevail or be dominant in the process. The selected members of the technical committee will be notified by the PEFC Czech Republic secretariat in June 2022.

PEFC Czech Republic offers reimbursement of costs demonstrably related to the revision of standards, especially with participation in face-to-face meetings of the technical committee of PEFC Czech Republic (2-3 full-day meetings are expected in Kostelec nad Černými lesy). More detailed revision information is available on the website www.pefc.cz under the "Documents" tab."

Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN: "4 Identification of relevant stakeholders - Following the requirements of ND CFCS 01 Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:

- a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification
- b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group
- c) key stakeholders in each group
- d) means of communication to reach stakeholders (...)

5 Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee (...) Identification of main stakeholders and disadvantaged entities has to be carried out. Potentially disadvantaged entities which can participate in the revision of technical documents include notably non-profit forestry, environmental and educational organizations, minor forest owners and potentially other entities which are notified by PEFC regarding their disadvantaged status.

To prevent potential disadvantage of certain stakeholders, PEFC Czech Republic has to allocate sufficient financial resources from its budget and in the notification of the beginning of the revision state an offer to reimburse all demonstrable costs incurred in connection with the course of the revision, connected in particular with participation in the meetings of the Technical Committee (TC)."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.3.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1001, 6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.

NOTE 1 In a timely manner means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.

NOTE 2 Through suitable media means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.

Reference to process/evidence: Development Report CFCS_2023,
Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN
Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022
Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022
Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022
Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry magazin_Lesnicksa prace_05.2022

<https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/>

<https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/>

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

7 Forest Management Standard

7.1 Analysis and conclusion

The revised forest management requirements of the Czech Forest Certification System are mainly defined in TD CFCS 1003:2023, *Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*.

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

The revision of TD CFCS 1003 took place during 2022 focused mainly on aligning the standard with the new and revised requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018, which became PEFC International's Benchmark Standard for sustainable forest management in 2018. Additional aims in the revision were to address revised legislation and policies and to consider the latest findings in forestry related science and experiences gained through the implementation of the system.

The assessment found TD CFCS 1003:2023 to be in conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, except for two minor nonconformities concerning the PEFC ST 1003 benchmarks 8.2.8 (WHO class 1A/B pesticide exemptions) and 8.2.9 (prohibition of chlorinated hydrocarbons/banned pesticides).

7.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Nonconformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.2.8

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products – (...) Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, preparations prohibited by international conventions or included in category 1A and 1B, or other highly toxic pesticides according to the WHO evaluation, must not be used, except in situations where other suitable alternatives cannot be used. (...)”
Assessment decision: Minor nonconformity
Justification: The standard does not define the circumstances under which suitable alternatives to WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides “cannot be used” and WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides may be used instead. This does not meet the benchmark which requires that “any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.”

Nonconformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.2.9

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 8.2.9 The standard requires that pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. Note: “Pesticides banned by international agreements” are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products – (...) Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, preparations prohibited by international conventions or included in category 1A and 1B, or other highly toxic pesticides according to the WHO evaluation, must not be used, except in situations where other suitable alternatives cannot be used. (...)”
Assessment decision: Minor nonconformity
Justification: While the benchmark requires a general prohibition of banned pesticides and hydrocarbons etc., the standard allows for their use in not further defined situations “where other suitable alternatives cannot be used”.

7.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 4.1i)

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 4.1 General - The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall: (...) 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.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1001, 5.2.2: “Overview of the basic applicable legislation ensuring the international benchmark requirements of PEFC ST 1003 Requirements regarding the forest management planning processes: - Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on nature and landscape protection, as amended; - (...)”

TD CFCS 1003, Listed for each criterion of the TD CFCS 1003 standard: 10: "Criteria and indicators – regional level - 10.1 Regional criteria classification (...) The regional criteria are classified as follows: (...) (c) legislative basis: gives the present legislative regulation which addresses or concerns the given field specified by the criterion;"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 5.3

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, 6: "Leadership - 6.1 Commitment (...) Requirements: (...) 6.1.c Powers and responsibilities in the SFM process and the management of forestry activities to be determined in writing to designated persons."
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 6.2.6

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: "Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) - For natural forest areas (NFA), long term plans shall be elaborated – regional forest development plans (RFDP) that are basic documents for regional implementing of state forestry policy and general recommendation for elaborating forest management plans and forest management outlines and take into account the latest scientific knowledge. (...)"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 6.3.1.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the "legislation applicable to forest management" is defined by the VPA agreement.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: "Applicable Laws -Forest management must be in accordance with applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including methods of forest management, nature and environment protection, protected and endangered species, ownership, possession and use rights of the local population or other interest groups concerned, health, protection and safety at work, placing wood and wood products on the market, preventing corruption and paying fees and taxes. - The aim is to ensure compliance with the laws in forest management. - 6.3.1 The Participant has access to the applicable legal regulations relating to forest management. - 6.3.2 The Participant knows and complies with the applicable legal regulations regarding forest management and anti-corruption legislation. (...)"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 6.3.4.1

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.4: “Safe working conditions and occupational safety - In the course of managing in forests, principles of occupational health and safety shall be observed including inspection and removing defects in working procedures, machines and equipment. - Criterion objective: Reduction of number of accidents and occupational disease. - Legislative background: Government Regulation No. 201/2010 Coll., on the method of registering accidents, reporting and sending accident records, as amended; - Government Regulation No. 390/2021 Coll., on detailed conditions for provision of personal protective equipment, washing, cleaning and disinfecting agents; - Government Regulation No. 378/2001 Coll. stipulating detailed requirements for safe operation and use of machines, technical equipment, devices and tools, as amended; - Government Regulation No. 375/2017 Coll., on the appearance, location and execution of safety signs and markings and the introduction of signals; - Government Regulation No. 339/2017 Coll., on more detailed requirements for the way work is organized and work procedures when working in the forest and at workplaces of a similar nature; - Government Regulation No. 168/2002 Coll., on establishing the method of work organization and work procedures used by the employer when operating transport by means of transport, as amended; - Decree No. 180/2015 Coll., on prohibited works and workplaces, as amended; - Decree No. 432/2003 Coll., which establishes the conditions for classifying works into categories, etc., as amended; - Government Regulation No. 101/2005 Coll., on detailed requirements on the workplace and the working environment, as amended; - Act No. 251/2005 Coll., on work inspection, as amended; - Act No. 262/2006 Coll. Labour Code, as amended; - Act No. 309/2006 Coll., which regulates other requirements for safety and health protection at work, etc., as amended; - Government Regulation No. 361/2007 Coll., which establishes the conditions of health protection at work, as amended; - Decree No. 268/2009 Coll., on technical requirements on construction sites, as amended; - Act No. 373/2011 Coll., on specific health services, as amended; - Decree No. 79/2013 Coll., on occupational health services and certain types of assessment care, as amended”</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met through the provision of reference to applicable relevant legislation.</p>

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 6.3.4.3

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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. - 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>
<p>Reference to process/evidence: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.5: “Securing the rights of employees – Legislative background - Government Regulation. 567/2006 Coll., on the minimum wage, on the lowest levels of the guaranteed wage, on the definition of a difficult working environment and on the amount of the wage supplement for working in a difficult working environment, as amended”</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.</p>

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 6.3.4.4

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, 6.3.3: "The Participant supports gender equality and is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and protection from harassment in the workplace."
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.2

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: "Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process. Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and long-term perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity." Criterion No. 2.3: "Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses. - There must be no irreversible disruption of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land. - Making fires should be limited to reach owner's management goals by reason of forest protection."
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.3

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.1: "Sustainability of wood production and forest functions – (...) Climate-positive practices and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions during forestry activities are supported" TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.3.1: " Sample categories must be determined based on the results of the risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment must reflect the geographical scope of the standard. For risk assessment, a matrix can be used to determine the risk of a group organization according to selected indicators (Appendix 1). (...) Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) Indicator: (...) j) Climate change; Risk: low adaptation of forests

to changing climatic conditions; Low risk: Properties with a predominance of small-area clear-cut forest of age classes (undergrowth and partial management) or with a predominance of non clear-cut managed forest, above-standard proportion of improving and stabilizing species.; Medium risk: Forests with a predominance of clearcut management (especially pine and alluvial management), a standard share of improving and stabilizing species.; High Risk: Forests with a predominance of clearcut management. No adaptation measures are applied.”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.4b)

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion: (...) b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area;

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Within the region, the current area of forest land must be preserved, or its gradual increase by afforestation of non-forest lands on the basis of afforestation projects taking into account the production function as well as the provision of other ecosystem services. Responsibility for the protection and use of lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) must be clearly defined. (...) Indicators traced at regional level: 1.1.1a: Existence of legal and economic protection of land intended to fulfil the functions of forests (PUPFL) (yes/no). - 1.1.1b: Development of forest land area (ha). - 1.1.1c: Changes in area of forest land (ha, %). Indicators traced at owner level: 1.1.2a: Declaration or limitation for fulfilling the functions of a forest on lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) is based on decision of State Forest Administration (SFA) and does not reach more than 5% of forest type within the certified area of the forest owner. (...)”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.2.2

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans – (...) Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and long-term perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”

Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. Original native species and their local origin should be used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is preferred. Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used. In suitable conditions, the low and medium shape of the forest is used, among others.

Criterion objective: Species representation in forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation should respect territorial conditions and supports biodiversity.”

Criterion 4.3: “Leaving dead and dying trees in the forest - For the purposes of maintaining and reinforcing the organism population relating to ageing and dead wood, leave a proportion of trees of natural species according to particular conditions and situation in the stand to die and decompose with regard to forest visitor safety. (...)”

Criterion No. 2.5: “Improving the condition and stability of forest stands - Forest stands shall be regenerated using site-suitable species and nurtured in time and systematically in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the approved FMP by the SFA and in order to improve their condition, increase stability and enhance the fulfilment of forest functions. Subsequent nurture of the forest sites shall be conducted so that in the future the proportion of melioration and strengthening wood species (MSWS) does not drop.”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.2.6

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: Use of plant protection products - The forest protection methods used are based on the principles of integrated forest protection. Where possible, environmentally friendly mechanical, biotechnical or biological methods are preferred over chemical methods. (...)”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.5.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 5.1: “Management in forests with protective functions - Forestry planning and management in forests shall ensure preservation and increasing protective functions of forests for the benefit of society, primarily soil protection against erosion, flood prevention, protection of the quality and quantity of water resources, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other forest ecosystem services. These protective functions are mapped and registered. Appropriate management measures are used.”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.6.4

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 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.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.1 “Importance of forestry and its promotion - Forest-management planning respects various functions of forests and their importance for

human society. The importance of forests for the development of countryside, new possibilities of occupation and equal employment opportunities should be taken into consideration. Forest management practices should make the best use of the forest related experience and knowledge of local entities (such as forest owners, professional forest managers and local residents)."

Criterion No. 6.3: "Professional education of forestry employees and research work - Forest managers, business subjects, forest personnel and forest owners have information on principles of sustainable forest management, have appropriate education; relevant information shall be regularly updated."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018, 9.2.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1003, 9.2.1 Objectives

The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system a) conforms to:

- the organisation's requirements for its management system;
- the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard

Reference to system documentation: CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit - The aim is to check the reliability of information, compliance with laws and regulations, efficient and effective use of resources, achievement of operational goals and fulfillment of the requirements of the PEFC SFM standard by all forest operators in a defined forest area who have an influence on achieving compliance with the requirements. The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: a) corresponds with • the participant's requirements for the adopted management system • the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management;"

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

8 Group Certification Model

8.1 Analysis and conclusion

The requirements for group forest management certification of the revised Czech Forest Certification System are defined in TD CFCS 1004:2023, *Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification*.

TD CFCS 1004 underwent a major revision by PEFC Czech Republic to align it with the new and revised requirements for group certification in forest management of PEFC International defined in the PEFC International Benchmark Standard PEFC ST 1002:2018, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements* published in 2018.

The assessment of TD CFCS 1004 has found the standard to fully meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1002:2018.

8.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 4.3.3

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.3: "Requirements of SFM standard fulfilled on group level 4.3.3.1 The standard also includes requirements that require the establishment of

specific procedures to meet them. Due to the widespread nature of such procedures, it is not possible to provide for such procedures as a separate requirement. The standard therefore requires a representative to adjust the following processes in the form of a document binding for a whole group: - The group entity is obliged to specify the requirement for protection of water quality in forest stands and riparian stands - The group entity is obliged to specify the requirement to minimize damage to stands and soil during forestry activities 4.3.3.2 The entity is also entitled to adopt other binding procedures, especially in areas where there is a significantly different fulfilment of the requirement within the individual participants of the group. 4.3.3.3 The subject of the management system is for the participants in the certification part of the entity's documentation, which is publicly available."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: In addition to 4.3.3 of TD CFCS 1002, indicators for regional and for forest owner/manager level are defined separately for each "criterion" of TD CFCS 1003. The benchmark can be considered as met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 4.4.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.4.4: "The entity shall identify and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurement and performance indicators) needed to properly establish and implement the process of sustainable forest management and its improvement. The entity performs the internal monitoring and the internal audit program at regular intervals, at least once a year for all participants in the certification. (...)"

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 5.1.1d), g), h)

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 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: (...) 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) (...) g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants' commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard; - Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable. h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: "(...) e) 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 size. (...) h) To establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants' commitment to comply with the sustainable

forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard. - Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing local associations, 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. (...) i) To provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification (Annex 2)."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 5.2.3a), b)

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment a) to follow the rules of the management system; - b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.3: "The group participant is obligated: a) To follow the rules of the management system. (...) b) To implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related CFCS requirements in the managed forests."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 8.1.a)

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 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

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 8.1.1: "The group entity, in cooperation with the group participants, shall plan, implement and manage the processes required for: a) meeting the process requirements of the group management system and the SFM standard"

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.1.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 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;

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.1: "(...) The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of CFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured: [table with header rows on:] Subject of monitoring - Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses - Time

schedule of monitoring and measurement - Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results - Documented proof of results"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.2.1.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system: (...) b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.1.1: "The annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system: (...) b) Ensures the implementation of the SFM standard on the participant level"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.3.1.3

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.6: "9.3.6 Requirements for sampling of participants from pre-existing local associations 9.3.6.1 Determination of the sample size The sample size usually represents 10% of the number of participants in a local association, rounded up to the nearest whole number. 9.3.6.2 Selection of the participants Depending on the number of members of the local association, as appropriate, in accordance with 9.3.5."
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.3.2.3 a), b)

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 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;
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.2.3: "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of: a) results of a risk assessment of sample categories (9.3.4) - in the case of low risk: by a coefficient of 0.7 - in the case of high risk: by a coefficient of 1.2 (...) b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits - in the case of non-conformity at the group level (10.1.c): by a coefficient of 2"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.3.3.1

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 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:
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- a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);
- b) size of management units (different size classes);
- c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);
- d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;
- e) deforestation and forest conversion;
- f) rotation period(s);
- g) richness of biological diversity;
- h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;
- i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;
- j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;
- k) governance and law enforcement.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.3.1: "Sample categories must be determined based on the results of the risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment must reflect the geographical scope of the standard. For risk assessment, a matrix can be used to determine the risk of a group organization according to selected indicators (Appendix 1)."

TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) Indicator:

- a) Type of ownership (state, municipal, private)
- b) Size of management units (FMP/O
- c) Biogeography of the area (e.g. lowlands, highlands, mountain and foothills)
- d) Operations, processes and products of group participants
- e) The influence of the method of management on biodiversity
- f) Recreational and other socio-economic functions of forests
- g) Dependence and interaction with local communities
- h) Resources available for administration, operations, education and research
- i) Public administration and law enforcement"

PEFC Czech Republic statement on PEFC ST 1002 9.3.3.1e) and f): "Does not apply, allowed only with permission of state administration"

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.3.4

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.4 Distribution of the sample

The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.4: " Distribution of the sample to the categories 9.3.4.1 The sample must be divided into categories according to the results of the risk assessment (low, medium, high). When redistributing the sample into categories, the representation of participants according to the type of ownership, i.e. the risk assessment is carried out for three groups of participants according to the type of ownership (state, municipal and private). The ratio of participants in the selection will be adjusted in favor of the higher risk category/categories, taking into account the number of certification participants within the category."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018, 9.3.5.2

PEFC benchmark requirement: PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.
Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.5.2: "The following factors shall be taken into account when selecting other participants - fulfilment of conditions for a high level of risk for individual indicators - records of complaints and other relevant aspects of corrective and preventive action - results of internal audits, management reviews or previous certification audits - results of monitoring and measurements - significant variations in the size of area of participants - modifications since the last certification audit - geographical dispersion"
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

9 Chain of Custody Standard and Trademark Use

9.1 Analysis and conclusion

The Czech Forest Certification System has adopted PEFC International's chain of custody standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020, and trademark rules, PEFC ST 2001:2020, as normative elements of its system documentation, namely as TD CFCS 2002:2020, *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements* and TD CFCS 2001:2020, *PEFC Trademarks Rules - Requirements*. The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements for chain of custody standards and PEFC trademark rules.

10 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

10.1 Chain of custody certification

10.1.1 Analysis and conclusion

PEFC Czech Republic has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 as part of its system documentation, namely as TD CFCS 1006:2020, *Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC international chain of custody standard*.

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

10.2 Forest management certification

10.2.1 Analysis and conclusion

The Czech Forest Certification System's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management are defined in TD CFCS 1004:2023, *Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification*.

The assessment found TD CFCS 1004 to fully meet the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD.

10.2.2 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Conformity with Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document, 3.1

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement: Annex 6 PEFC TD, 3.1; 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?</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1001:2023, 11: “(...) Certification bodies are impartial and independent third parties that shall have appropriate technical competence in certification procedures, adequate know-how in forest management and forest products procurement and processing in general, respectively and shall have a good understanding of the certification criteria of national certification system.”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 7.2.1.6: “Competencies 7.2.1.6.1 The certification body shall ensure that auditors demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: - principles, requirements, criteria or indicators of the forest management standard; - knowledge of the socio-demographics and cultural issues in the group of application of the forest management standard; - audit principles, procedures and techniques: to enable the auditor to apply those appropriate to different audits and ensure that audits are conducted in a consistent and systematic manner. - organisation situations including organizational size, structure, functions and relationships, general business processes and related terminology and cultural and social customs such as knowledge of the client organisation working language: to enable the auditor to comprehend the organisation’s operational context. - legislation, regulations or other relevant requirements – enabling the auditor to operate in the right legal framework and to be aware of the legislative requirements applicable to the group which is the subject of the audit; TD CFCS 1004:2023 10 - the principles of forest management based on techniques involving inventories, forest cropping, planning, protection and the management of forest ecosystems – to enable the auditor to examine the forest management scheme and to decide whether it is being adequately applied; - natural environment science, environmental technology and the economic principles applicable to forest management – to give the auditor a grasp of the fundamental relations between human activities and sustainable forest management; - technical aspects of forestry operations associated with exploitations, technology and derived uses – to allow the auditor to grasp the activities of the region audited and their effects on the management itself and the territory.”</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.</p>

Conformity with Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document, 3.1

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement: Annex 6 PEFC TD, 3.1; 2. Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12: “(...) Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) or IAF’s Regional Accreditation Groups. The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, TD CFCS 1004:2023 and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed.</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 2: “Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA of IAF or IAF’s Regional Accreditation Groups with IAF MLA such as European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Pacific Accreditation</p>

Cooperation (PAC)). The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version and/or with reference to any future changes and amendments adopted by the PEFC Council and presented at the PEFC Council official website www.pefc.org. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, this document and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed."

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document, 6

PEFC benchmark requirement: Annex 6 PEFC TD, 6; 22. Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?

Reference to system documentation: TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12: "Accreditation and PEFC notification - Only those certificates of forest management and chain of custody are recognised by PEFC Czech Republic which are issued by accredited and PEFC notified certification bodies within the scope of accreditation of certification bodies (accredited certification). CFCS requirements for accreditation and PEFC notification of certification bodies are defined in the technical document TD CFCS 1004:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification and in TD CFCS 2003:2020 Requirements for certification bodies providing chain of custody certification. Rules for granting PEFC notification are defined in the normative document ND CFCS 02 PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic." TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 1 (normative): "PEFC notification of certification bodies (Requirements are additional to the accreditation of the certification body) The certification body operating the PEFC recognised forest management certification against the Czech Forest Certification System shall be notified by the PEFC national governing body in the Czech Republic. (...)" ND CFCS 02, PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The PEFC benchmark requirement is met.

11 Other Aspects

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

Annex A: PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist

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

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Standardising Body			
5.1.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
(a) its legal status and organisational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1),	Procedures	Yes	<p>PEFC Czech Republic Statute</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 5.1 “Responsibilities for standard setting and approval - 5.1.1 PEFC Czech Republic - PEFC Czech Republic is the standardizing body for the development, maintenance, review and revision of standards for the Czech Forest Certification System. Its legal status, decision making bodies and organisational structure shall be defined in the PEFC Czech Republic statute.</p> <p>5.1.2 PEFC Czech Republic Assembly - The PEFC Czech Republic (PEFC Czech Republic) Assembly is the body, which shall be responsible for the formal approval of the documents. The composition and decision making of the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly shall be defined in the PEFC Czech Republic statute. (...)”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 5.1.5: “Technical Committee – (...)Technical Committee is established on a temporary basis for the period of CFCS standard development or revision.”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: “Consensus building - The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: (...)”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 6.5.1, “6.5.1 Formal approval - When there is evidence of consensus among the Technical Committee the final draft shall be</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			submitted to the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly for the formal approval. The approval shall be governed by the PEFC Czech Republic statute. (...) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "Documented information - PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.1.5: "Technical Committee – (...) The Technical Committee shall 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. The Technical Committee shall include stakeholders (...)" ND CFCS 01, 6.2.2: "Establishment of Technical Committee – (...) The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee (...). In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Czech Republic shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.1.2) represented. PEFC Czech Republic 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." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6: "Standard setting process - The standard-setting process is organised in the stages to which the following responsibilities and versions of standards are associated (tab. 1).

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Tab. 1 Stages, responsibilities and standards in the process of documentation development and revision (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "Consensus building - The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7: "Periodic review of standards - The standards shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. (...)"</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 8: "Revision of standards - 8.1 Normal revision - Procedures for revision of standards shall conform to those stated in section 6. (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard- setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.1.4: "PEFC Czech Republic Secretariat - The secretariat shall be responsible, inter alia, for the implementation of the document procedures and other rules relating to the standard development. (...) In particular, the secretariat shall be responsible for: (...) e) making standard setting procedures publicly available, (...) l) record keeping of documented information and information relating to the standard setting process, (...)"</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1 "Public announcement of the process - PEFC Czech Republic 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 and invitation shall include: (...) e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>standard-setting process (...) PEFC Czech Republic secretariat shall make the standard-setting procedures publicly available on PEFC Czech Republic webpage and review it based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 5.2 e: “Documented information - PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) e) feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed (...)”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 7: “Periodic review of standards - The standards 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.”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 7.1: “Feedback mechanism -PEFC Czech Republic shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the PEFC Czech Republic website with clear directions for providing feedback. NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc. All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded by the Secretariat and considered by the PEFC Czech Republic Council.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Czech Republic statement: PEFC Czech Republic secretariat prepared the revised standard ND CFCS 01, which corresponded to the requirements of PEFC ST 1001. This normative document was approved by the PEFC Czech Republic assembly on 24 May 2021. Subsequently, we called several times for comments on the CFCS technical documents and the revision process</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>(annex 03 and 10). Simultaneously with the start of the revision process, we presented the proposal of the revision process (annex 08), which was compiled on the basis of the valid ND CFCS 01, we again called for comments on the standards and the revision process (annexes 10)</p> <p>During the entire revision process, we did not receive any comments on the standards or the revision process and the normative document ND CFCS 01. Therefore, there was no reason to modify the normative document ND CFCS 01 which was approved by the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly by electronic/email vote on 24/05/2021.</p> <p>Standard setting procedures available on https://www.pefc.cz/standardy-pefc-cr/</p> <p>Feedback point available on https://www.pefc.cz/prubezne-pripominkovani-dokumentu-cfcs/</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, page 2: “Document name: Development, review and revision of CFCS documentation Document title: ND CFCS 01 Approved by: PEFC Czech Republic Assembly Date: 25.5.2021 Issue date: 25.5.2021 Application date: 25.5.2021”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2.1 The standardising body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:			
(a) Standard-setting procedures,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.2: “PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: a) standard-setting procedures”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annexes_1-31 ND CFCS 01, <i>Development, review and revision of CFCS documentation</i> Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: ...(b) stakeholder identification mapping" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: ...(c) contacted and/or invited stakeholders" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022, Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) d)

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,			<p>stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each Technical Committee meeting”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_14_TC_Members_16.6.2022</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.2: “PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) e) feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, table 3: “(...) - during the public and internal consultation, TC did not receive any comment or proposal for modification to the revised CFCS documentation - TC members were informed that there is no need to convene a TC meeting, which should deal with any comments/suggestions for amending the CFCS documentation - revised CFCS documentation was forwarded for approval to the PEFC Czech Republic Council and the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly in the same wording as it was submitted for public comments”</p> <p>Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: “During the whole revision, the PEFC Czech Republic website had a form for sending comments, suggestions for editing and supplementing technical documents. A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision. The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>The responses to the stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor does not contradict the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no comments had been received from stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) f) all drafts and final versions of the standard"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: "Information about the revision and other relevant documents were gradually made available on www.pefc.cz. The revision process was documented and records from the revision process were kept at the PEFC Czech Republic secretariat."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) g) outcomes from Technical Committee considerations"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_16_Minutes_TC_1_meeting_2022_06_22, Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022, Annex_20_TC_Last_Consultation_15.12.2022, Annex_21_TC_Consensus and Public Consultation_6.1.2023</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) h) evidence of consensus on the final version of the standards" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022, Annex_20_TC_Last_Consultation_15.12.2022, Annex_21_TC_Consensus and Public Consultation_6.1.2023 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: (...) i) evidence relating to the review process" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_01_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021 Annex_02_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021 Annex_03_CFCS_Review_Press_Release_27.4.2021 Annex_04_CFCS_Review_Forestry_magazin_Lesnickska_prace_05.2021 Annex_05_CFCS_Review_Info_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2021 Annex_06_CFCS_Review_www.svol.cz_Magazine_05.2021 Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: "PEFC Czech Republic shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including: j) final approval by the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly"

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, table 3: “- The revised CFCS documents were approved by the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly on 24 May 2023.” Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_30_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_approval_CFCS_16.5.2023 Annex_31_PEFC_CR_Assembly_CFCS_approved_24.5.2025 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: “(...) 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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Kept at the secretariat of PEFC Czech Republic: Annexes 01-31 to Development report CFCS_2023 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.2: “(...) Documented information shall be available to all stakeholders upon request.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC Czech Republic statement: “Annexes 01-31 to Development report CFCS_2023 are available upon request at the secretariat of PEFC Czech Republic.”

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
5.3.1 The standardising body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardising body shall:			
(a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.3: "Any substantive or process complaints or appeals relating to the standard-setting procedures shall be resolved using the PEFC Czech Republic complaints and appeals resolution procedures approved by the PEFC Czech Republic. The procedures are publicly available on PEFC Czech Republic website." ND CFCS 03, <i>PEFC Czech Republic procedures for the investigation and resolution of complaints and appeals</i> , 6.3: "The national secretary shall without delay: a) acknowledge to the complainant / appellant (in writing) the receipt and subject of the complaint / appeal or rejection of the complaint / appeal with justification if it is not in accordance with clause 4.1 and 4.2 (in case of the complaint) or 5.1 and 5.2 (in case of the appeal)." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: "The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints." The responses received in the stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor confirm the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no complaints had been received during the revision process. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 03, 7: "Complaint investigation and resolution process - 7.1 After receiving the complaint, the PEFC Czech Republic chairman shall assign the Arbitral Commission to investigate the complaint. The investigators shall have no vested, or conflict of, interest in the complaint.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>7.2 The Arbitral Commission shall undertake a thorough investigation and seek a resolution. The Arbitral Commission shall submit in a timely matter, a detailed written report, to the PEFC Czech Republic chairman and the national secretary shall present it to the PEFC Czech Republic Council. The report shall include a statement indicating whether, or not, the complaint has been substantiated, procedures for its resolution and decision on resolving the complaint.</p> <p>Note: it is expected that complaints not requiring an on-site investigation should normally be investigated within 1 month”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: “The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints.”</p> <p>The responses received in the stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor confirm the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no complaints had been received during the revision process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 03, 7.3 “The national secretary shall inform in writing the complainant and other interested parties about the outcomes of the complaint resolution process and, based on the character of the outcome, the secretary shall request the adoption of appropriate corrective and preventive measures”</p> <p>ND CFCS 03, 6.3: “The national secretary shall without delay: (...) b) provide the complainant / appellant with details of the PEFC Czech Republic complaints and appeals procedures.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: "The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints."</p> <p>The responses received in the stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor confirm the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no complaints had been received during the revision process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.3.2 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.3: "Any substantive or process complaints or appeals relating to the standard-setting procedures shall be resolved using the PEFC Czech Republic complaints and appeals resolution procedures approved by the PEFC Czech Republic. The procedures are publicly available on PEFC Czech Republic website.</p> <p>PEFC Czech Republic 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 available on PEFC Czech Republic website."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022: "(...) You can send remarks, comments, proposals for changes to technical and normative documents, the scope and revision process specified in the Content Plan to the contact point by June 10, 2022 electronically to emailinfo@pefc.cz or by mail to the address PEFC Czech Republic, Bělohorská 274/9, 169 00 Prague 6."</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/kontakt/</p> <p>Information available on</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/ Contact point for enquires https://www.pefc.cz/prubezne-pripominkovani-dokumentu-cfcs/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardising body shall develop a proposal including:			
(a) the scope of the standard	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.1: "Standard proposal - For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall develop a proposal including: a) the scope of the standard" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	In this system revision only already existing technical documents were updated/revised. No new standards were developed. Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.1: "Standard proposal - For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall develop a proposal including: (...) b) a justification of the need for the standard" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	In this system revision only already existing technical documents were updated/revised. No new standards were developed. Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.1: "Standard proposal - For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall develop a proposal including: (...) c) a clear description of the intended outcome" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	In this system revision only already existing technical documents were updated/revised. No new standards were developed. Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, • unintended consequences of implementation, • actions to address the identified risks, and (e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.1: "Standard proposal - For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall develop a proposal including: (...) d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as; - factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, - unintended consequences of implementation, - actions to address the identified risks, and 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)." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).	Process	Yes	In this system revision only already existing technical documents were updated/revised. No new standards were developed. Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.1: "Standard proposal (...) For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least: a) the scope of the standard, b) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 2: "Scope and clear identification of the issue - Tab. 1 Scope of revision of CFCS technical documentation (...) 3 Description of the development stages and expected timetable - Stages of development process and expected timetable is shown in tab. 2. (...) " Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of would communication be best to reach them.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.2: "Stakeholder identification - Identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of: a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification, b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group, c) key stakeholders in each group, d) means of communication to reach stakeholders."

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 4 “Identification of relevant stakeholders - Following the requirements of ND CFCS 01, <i>Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation</i> the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group c) key stakeholders in each group d) means of communication to reach stakeholders <p>The categories of considered stakeholder groups and their key issues/interests are show in table 3. (The category indigenous people doesn’t exist in the Czech Republic)</p> <p>Tab. 3 Categories of stakeholders and their key issues (...)”</p> <p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022</p> Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest owners, 	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.2: “Stakeholder identification (...) Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest owners,

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business and industry, • indigenous people, • non-government organisations, • scientific and technological community, • workers and trade unions. <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business and industry, • indigenous people, • non-government organisations, • scientific and technological community, • workers and trade unions. <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 4 “Identification of relevant stakeholders - Following the requirements of ND CFCS 01, <i>Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation</i> (...) Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21.</p> <p>The categories of considered stakeholder groups and their key issues/interests are shown in table 3. (The category indigenous people doesn't exist in the Czech Republic)</p> <p>Tab. 3 Categories of stakeholders and their key issues (...)”</p> <p>Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022 Annex_14_TC_Members_16.6.2022</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities. NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.1.2: "Stakeholder identification (...) PEFC Czech Republic shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities. NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	Key and disadvantaged stakeholders were identified in stakeholder mapping. See Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022_EN of Development Report CFCS_2023 Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022: "21.4.2022 - JOIN THE REVISION OF STANDARDS AND HELP IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF PEFC FOREST CERTIFICATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC (...) We are also accepting nominations for members of the technical committee at the above contacts until June 10, 2022, indicating their professional focus or subject of interest. The members of the technical commission for the review of CFCS documents will be selected by the Presidency/Assembly of the PEFC Czech Republic in such a way as to ensure equal representation and decision-making according to the categories of interest groups with regard to the subject of the document, while none of the categories of interest groups may prevail or be dominant in the process. The selected members of the technical committee will be notified by the PEFC Czech Republic secretariat in June 2022. PEFC Czech Republic offers reimbursement of costs demonstrably related to the revision of standards, especially with participation in face-to-face meetings of the technical committee of PEFC Czech Republic (2-3 full-day meetings are expected in Kostelec nad Černými lesy). More detailed revision

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>information is available on the website www.pefc.cz under the "Documents" tab."</p> <p>Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN: "4 Identification of relevant stakeholders - Following the requirements of ND CFCS 01 Procedures for creation, review and revision of CFCS documentation the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group c) key stakeholders in each group d) means of communication to reach stakeholders (...) <p>5 Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee (...) Identification of main stakeholders and disadvantaged entities has to be carried out. Potentially disadvantaged entities which can participate in the revision of technical documents include notably non-profit forestry, environmental and educational organizations, minor forest owners and potentially other entities which are notified by PEFC regarding their disadvantaged status. To prevent potential disadvantage of certain stakeholders, PEFC Czech Republic has to allocate sufficient financial resources from its budget and in the notification of the beginning of the revision state an offer to reimburse all demonstrable costs incurred in connection with the course of the revision, connected in particular with participation in the meetings of the Technical Committee (TC)."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 <i>Through suitable media</i> means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p>	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: "Public announcement of the process - PEFC Czech Republic 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 start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC Czech Republic website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. (...)</p> <p>NOTE 1 Through suitable media means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p> <p>The announcement shall be made in a timely manner, e.g. at the latest four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022 Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022 Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry_magazin_Lesnicka_prace_05.2022</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: “(...) The announcement and invitation shall include: a) overview of the standard-setting process” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: “(...) The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1.1)” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: “(...) The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process” Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022 Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022 Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry magazin_Lesnickska prace_05.2022</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: "(...) The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the Technical Committee (refer to 6.2.2). 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, e.g. electronic version by e-mail,"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022 Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022 Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry magazin_Lesnickska prace_05.2022</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/ https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: “(...) The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022 Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022 Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry magazin_Lesnicka prace_05.2022 https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/ https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: “(...) The announcement and invitation shall include: (...) f) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures available on PEFC Czech Republic website.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>Development Report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_10_Revision_CFCS_Press_Release_21.4.2022 Annex_11_Revision_CFCS_web_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2022 Annex_12_Revision_CFCS_email_stakeholders_21.4.2022 Annex_13_Revision_CFCS_Forestry magazin_Lesnickska prace_05.2022</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/zapojte-se-do-revize-standardu-a-pomozte-zlepsit-fungovani-pefc-certifikace-lesu-v-ceske-republice/</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/ https://www.pefc.cz/standardy-pefc-cr/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.2 The standardising body shall review the standard- setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.2.1: "(...) PEFC Czech Republic secretariat shall make the standard-setting procedures publicly available on PEFC Czech Republic webpage and review it based on feedback received in response to the public announcement."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: "The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints."</p> <p>The responses received in the stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor confirm the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no comments had been received during the revision process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.1.5: "Technical Committee - Technical Committee shall be established by the PEFC Czech Republic Council on the basis of nominations received.</p> <p>The Technical Committee shall 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.</p> <p>The Technical Committee shall include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those who are affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants."</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 6.2.2: "Establishment of Technical Committee - The invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee is done as part of the announcement. The nominations are collected by the secretariat. The PEFC Czech Republic Council shall be responsible for the acceptance or refusal of the nominations for establishing the Technical Committee or adjusting already existing Technical Committee based on the received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, 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. The secretariat shall inform the members of the Technical Committee of their acceptance."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, page 4: "Formation of the Technical Committee (TC) - The process of the revision of technical documents of CFCS was secured by the TC. Membership in the technical committee was open to

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>representatives of any stakeholder, organization or individual who expressed interest. The composition of the TC was based on an even representation of interests so that none of the interests in the process of creation and approval of documents could dominate and at the same time ensuring that entities who will be most affected by the new standards are sufficiently represented. The composition of the TC was approved on the Assembly of the PEFC Czech Republic on 16.6.2022. <u>Membership in the TC was not refused to anyone.</u></p> <p>During the revision, PEFC Czech Republic received no remarks or complaints regarding the composition of the TC, and it was not necessary to make any changes to the TC. Membership in the TC was voluntary. Individual meetings of the TC could include guests who could provide proposals, remarks and questions related to the discussion points of CFCS. Information about the meetings and discussed documents was published on the website www.pefc.cz under the tab "Creation of documents - current information".</p> <p>Table 2. Composition of the technical committee (TC) (...)”</p> <p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 5: “Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee - The PEFC Czech Republic Council will be responsible for the acceptance or refusal of the nominations for establishing the Technical Committee or adjusting already existing Technical Committee based on the received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, 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.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_14_TC_Members_16.6.2022 https://www.pefc.cz/aktualni-informace/ https://www.pefc.cz/technicka-komise-pefc-cr/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: PEFC Czech Republic has submitted sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6.4.2 The working group shall:			
(a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 5.1.5 “Technical Committee - Technical Committee shall be established by the PEFC Czech Republic Council on the basis of nominations received. The Technical Committee shall 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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, page 4: “Formation of the Technical Committee (TC) - The process of the revision of technical documents of CFCS was secured by the TC. Membership in the technical committee was open to representatives of any stakeholder, organization or individual who expressed interest. The composition of the TC was based on an even representation of interests so that none of the interests in the process of creation and approval of documents could dominate and at the same time ensuring that entities who will be most affected by the new standards are sufficiently represented. The composition of the TC was approved on the Assembly of the PEFC Czech Republic on 16.6.2022. Membership in the TC was not refused to anyone.</p> <p>During the revision, PEFC Czech Republic received no remarks or complaints regarding the composition of the TC, and it was not necessary to make any changes to the TC. Membership in the TC was voluntary. Individual meetings of the TC could include guests who could provide proposals, remarks and questions</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>related to the discussion points of CFCS. Information about the meetings and discussed documents was published on the website www.pefc.cz under the tab "Creation of documents - current information".</p> <p>Table 2. Composition of the technical committee (TC) (...)”</p> <p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 5: “Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee - The PEFC Czech Republic Council will be responsible for the acceptance or refusal of the nominations for establishing the Technical Committee or adjusting already existing Technical Committee based on the received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, 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. The Technical Committee shall 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. In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Czech Republic shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups represented. The aim is to ensure the participation of the identified main interest groups in the process, for which the available means of communication and opportunities will be used.”</p> <p>Annex_14_TC_Members_16.6.2022 Annex_16_Minutes_TC_1_meeting_2022_06_22 Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022 https://www.pefc.cz/technicka-komise-pefc-cr/</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: PEFC Czech Republic has submitted sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the benchmark is met.
(b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 5.1.5 “Technical Committee - The Technical Committee shall include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those who are affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, page 5: “Table 2. Composition of the technical committee (TC) (...)” Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_14_TC_Members_16.6.2022 https://www.pefc.cz/technicka-komise-pefc-cr/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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. NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.2.2: “In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Czech Republic shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.1.2) represented. PEFC Czech Republic 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. NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, PEFC Czech Republic may consider alternative options.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>17 Stakeholders were identified as being “key stakeholders” in stakeholder mapping. See Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022_EN</p> <p>15 of the identified key stakeholders became members of PEFC Czech Republic’s technical committee. See Development report, table 2 and Annex_14_TC_members</p> <p>All stakeholder groups identified in stakeholder mapping were represented on the technical committee, see Development report CFCS_2023, Table 2. Composition of the technical committee (TC)</p> <p>Annex_08_Proposal for revision, 5: “Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee (...) In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Czech Republic shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups represented. The aim is to ensure the participation of the identified main interest groups in the process, for which the available means of communication and opportunities will be used. Identification of main stakeholders and disadvantaged entities has to be carried out.”</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/technicka-komise-pefc-cr/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is sufficiently met.</p>
6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
(a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.2.3: “Elaboration of preparatory draft of documentation - Either the secretariat or the person authorised by the Council shall prepare a preparatory draft of the relevant document which shall be supplied to and serve as a working draft for the Technical Committee.”</p> <p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.1: “Providing and consideration of feedback - Activities of the Technical Committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the Technical Committee”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_15_TC_1_Meeting_invitation_22.6.2022_EN: “(...)As a basis for the first meeting, I am sending you the document TD CFCS 1003 Criteria and indicators of TUH in forests with marked changes by the expert guarantor of this document, Ing. Tomáš Dohnanský. In the attachment, you will find a translation of the PEFC international standard TUH, and for possible use I am also attaching a form for the required document modifications.”</p> <p>Annex_17_TC_2_Meeting_invitation_21.9.2022_EN: “(...) As the first basis for negotiations , I am sending you the TD CFCS 1003 technical document with the notes in the attachment with the changes from the last meeting and with the supplemented draft of the introductory requirements based on the international standard PEFC ST 1003:2018 (highlighted in yellow).”</p> Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
(b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.1: “Providing and consideration of feedback - Activities of the Technical Committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: (...) b) all members of the Technical Committee shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback to the working draft”</p> Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_16_Minutes_TC_1_meeting_2022_06_22_EN: “(...) 6. The members of the technical committee agreed that the document TD CFCS 1003:2023 with proposals for modification by Ing. Tomáš Dohnanský will be discussed in turn by individual criteria/ parts of the document. The aim of this gradual discussion of the mentioned document will be to discuss all parts of the text,</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>verify their relevance in the context of international requirements for sustainable management and national legislation, and overall improvement of the text formulation of the document. Therefore, there will be no individual requests for changes to the text TC chair Ing. Stanislav Slanina, PhD. submitted on the form, but the discussed changes will be recorded directly in the document under discussion. The document (TD_CFCS_1003_2023_poTK_22.6.2022) with incorporated changes from the first meeting of the TK is electronic. attached to this entry. All changes made in the document are the result of the consensus reached by the TK. There was no need to vote on any proposed amendments to the document.”</p> <p>Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022_EN: “(...) 3. TK discussed document TD CFCS 1003:2023 (TD_CFCS_1003_2023_poTK_22.6.2022) - All changes made to the document are the result of the TK consensus reached and are recorded in the document marked TD_CFCS_1003_2023_poTK_21.9.2022.”</p> <p>Annex_20_TC_Last_Consultation_15.12.2022_EN: “Dear colleagues, In the attachment, I am sending you the technical documents of the PEFC Czech Republic with incorporated modifications from the meeting of the technical committee (designation of the documents in the name _poTK). If you find any errors in the documents or if you have any comments regarding their wording, please write to me in response to this email no later than January 5 , 2023.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
(c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.1: “Providing and consideration of feedback - Activities of the Technical Committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: (...) c) feedback and views given by any member of the Technical Committee, together with the preliminary proposals for their resolutions, shall be considered in an open and transparent way. All outcomes of these considerations shall be recorded.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Feedback, views and proposals given by the Technical Committee members shall be submitted using the form in Annex 1.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_16_Minutes_TC_1_meeting_2022_06_22_EN: “(...) 6. The members of the technical committee agreed that the document TD CFCS 1003:2023 with proposals for modification by Ing. Tomáš Dohnanský will be discussed in turn by individual criteria/ parts of the document. The aim of this gradual discussion of the mentioned document will be to discuss all parts of the text, verify their relevance in the context of international requirements for sustainable management and national legislation, and overall improvement of the text formulation of the document. Therefore, there will be no individual requests for changes to the text TC chair Ing. Stanislav Slanina, PhD. submitted on the form, but the discussed changes will be recorded directly in the document under discussion. The document (TD_CFCS_1003_2023_poTK_22.6.2022) with incorporated changes from the first meeting of the TK is electronic. attached to this entry. All changes made in the document are the result of the consensus reached by the TK. There was no need to vote on any proposed amendments to the document.”</p> <p>Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022_EN: “(...) 3. TK discussed document TD CFCS 1003:2023 (TD_CFCS_1003_2023_poTK_22.6.2022) - All changes made to the document are the result of the TK consensus reached and are recorded in the document marked TD_CFCS_1003_2023_poTK_21.9.2022.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilise the following methods:			
(a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "Consensus building - The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: a) face-to face meetings 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.," Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	A combination of methods, namely agreement at second committee meeting combined with subsequent email communication, was used to establish consensus. See 6.4.5d. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: (...) b) telephone conference meetings where there is a verbal yes/no vote"
	Process	Yes	A combination of methods, namely agreement at second committee meeting combined with subsequent email communication, was used to establish consensus. See 6.4.5d. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: (...) c) e-mail request to the Technical Committee for agreement or objection where the members provide formal (written) response (vote)."

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	A combination of methods, namely agreement at second committee meeting combined with subsequent email communication, was used to establish consensus. See 6.4.5d. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: “(...) In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: (...) d) combinations of these methods.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Table 3: “2nd meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) 21 September 2022 in Kostelec nad Černými lesy – (...) At the end of the meeting, the technical commission reached a consensus that the CFCS documents modified in the framework of the second TC meeting can be submitted for internal consultation to PEFC Czech Republic members - The Council of the PEFC Czech Republic noted at its meeting on 7 December 2022 that, as part of internal consultations, the PEFC Czech Republic Secretariat did not receive any comments or proposals for changes to the revised technical documents of the CFCS from the members of the PEFC Czech Republic - Due to the non-participation of several TC members at the 2nd meeting of the TC, the CEO requested confirmation of the consensus on the final wording of the revised documents by the TC members by email on 15 December 2022. TC consensus confirmed on 6 January 2023 (...) - TC members were informed that there is no need to convene a TC meeting, which should deal with any comments/suggestions for amending the CFCS documentation - revised CFCS documentation was forwarded for approval to the PEFC Czech Republic Council and the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly in the same wording as it was submitted for public comments”

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Page 8: “(...) A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision. The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints.”</p> <p>Annex_18_Minutes_TC_2_Meeting_21.9.2022_EN: “(...) Proposal for the date of the next TK meeting/submission of documents for internal and public consultation - The members of the TK agreed that the modified documents after the second meeting of the TK are ready for internal discussion among the members of the PEFC Czech Republic. In the event that the PEFC Czech Republic Secretariat receives any comments/comments or proposals to change the texts of the revised CFCS technical documents from the members of the PEFC Czech Republic, it will agree with the head of the TC on the next procedure and the possible convening of a face-to-face or online meeting of the technical commission. If the Secretariat does not receive any comments, comments or proposals to change the texts of the revised CFCS technical documents from the PEFC Czech Republic members, the PEFC Czech Republic Secretariat will invite TC members to confirm the final versions of the revised CFCS technical documents by email (due to the non-participation of some TC members at the 2nd TC meeting). After the approval of the revised standards (consensus confirmation) the PEFC Czech Republic will publish the revised CFCS documents on the PEFC Czech Republic website with the announcement of the launch of public consultations on the revised documents that will last at least 60 days (January to March). TK members will be informed about the start of public consultations by email. After the public consultations the chairman of the TK with the result of the public comments and will agree on the next course of action.”</p> <p>Annex_21_TC_Consensus and Public Consultation_6.1.2023_EN: “Dear colleagues, I greet you in the New Year and inform you that I have not received any additional comments on the sent CFCS technical documents (the version with incorporated changes from the meeting of the technical commission). In accordance with the content plan of the revision and the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>announced procedure , we are thus starting a 60- day public consultation that will last until March 12 2023”</p> <p>Annex_29_TC_Result_of_Public_Consultation_31.3.2023_EN: “Dear colleagues, I would like to inform you that we did not receive any comments on their wording as part of the public comments on the revised standards. From the point of view of the activity of the technical commission, no action is needed. In accordance with the revision schedule, the standards will be further forwarded for approval by the Board and the Assembly of the PEFC Czech Republic and subsequently sent to PEFC International for international assessment”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</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 (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: “(...) Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Table 3: “2nd meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) 21 September 2022 in Kostelec nad Černými lesy – (...) At the end of the meeting, the technical commission reached a consensus that the CFCS documents modified in the framework of the second TC meeting can be submitted for internal consultation to PEFC Czech Republic members - The Council of the PEFC Czech Republic noted at its meeting on 7 December 2022 that, as part of internal consultations, the PEFC Czech Republic Secretariat did not receive any comments or proposals for changes to the revised technical documents of the CFCS from the members of the PEFC Czech Republic - Due to the non-participation of several TC members at the 2nd meeting of the TC, the CEO requested confirmation of the consensus on the final wording of the revised</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>documents by the TC members by email on 15 December 2022. TC consensus confirmed on 6 January 2023 (...) - TC members were informed that there is no need to convene a TC meeting, which should deal with any comments/suggestions for amending the CFCS documentation - revised CFCS documentation was forwarded for approval to the PEFC Czech Republic Council and the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly in the same wording as it was submitted for public comments"</p> <p>Page 8: "(...) A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision. The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:			
(a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) 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 Technical Committee"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Czech Republic statement: "Did not apply"</p> <p>Development report CFCS_2023, p. 8: "(...) A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods: (...) b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue"</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC Czech Republic statement: "Did not apply" Development report CFCS_2023, p. 8: "(...) A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(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	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods: (...) c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC Czech Republic determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	PEFC Czech Republic statement: "Did not apply" Development report CFCS_2023, p. 8: "(...) A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.3.2: "(...) When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC Czech Republic shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>PEFC Czech Republic statement: "Did not apply"</p> <p>Development report CFCS_2023, p. 8: "(...) A consensus was reached for all decisions during the revision."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, NOTE <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "Public consultation - The secretariat shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft. The start and the end dates of the public consultation shall be announced on PEFC Czech Republic website and through suitable media. Public consultation shall be announced at the latest the day before the start of public consultation."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_22_Public_Consultation_web_www.pefc.cz_09.1.2023 Annex_23_Public_Consultation_Press_Release_9.1.2023 Annex_24_Public_Consultation_email_stakeholders_9.1.2023 Annex_25_Public_Consultation_Forestry_magazin_Lesnicka_prace_01.2023 Annex_26_Public_Consultation_Silvarium_online_Forestry_magazin_01.2023 Annex_27_Public_Consultation_www.ekolist.cz_01.2023 Annex_28_Public_Consultation_www.enviweb.cz_01.2023</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/verejne-konzultace-k-revidovanym-standardum/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "(...) A direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft shall be sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. 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,			mapping (refer to 6.1.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_24_Public_Consultation_email_stakeholders_9.1.2023 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: “(...)The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in understandable format and ensure that the information reaches its recipient, e.g. electronic version by email.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_24_Public_Consultation_email_stakeholders_9.1.2023 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: “(...) The public consultations shall be at least 60 days and the enquiry draft shall be made publicly available and accessible on the PEFC Czech Republic website and on request.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_22_Public_Consultation_web_www.pefc.cz_09.1.2023 Publicly available on https://www.pefc.cz/verejne-konzultace-k-revidovanym-standardum/

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "(...) The public consultations shall be at least 60 days and the enquiry draft shall be made publicly available and accessible on the PEFC Czech Republic website and on request." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_23_Public_Consultation_Press_Release_9.1.2023 Publicly available on https://www.pefc.cz/verejne-konzultace-k-revidovanym-standardum/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "(...)All feedback and views shall be submitted using the form in Annex 1. The received feedback and views together with the preliminary proposals for their resolutions shall be considered in an open and transparent way by the Technical Committee as set out in clause 6.3." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_29_TC_Result_of_Public_Consultation_31.3.2023_EN Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: " The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints." The stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor does not contradict the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no comments had been received from stakeholders.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(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. 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.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "(...) All proposed resolutions and changes to the enquiry draft shall be recorded. A synopsis of feedback shall be compiled for each single material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue and in the way that each stakeholder is able to identify its own feedback. The synopsis shall be made publicly available on PEFC Czech Republic website and sent to each stakeholder that gave feedback." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_29_TC_Result_of_Public_Consultation_31.3.2023_EN Development report CFCS_2023, page 8: "The revision was not subject to any comments, disputes or complaints." The stakeholder survey conducted by the assessor does not contradict the statement by PEFC Czech Republic that no comments had been received from stakeholders. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.5.2 For new standards the standardising body shall organise a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.2: "(...) For new standards PEFC Czech Republic shall organise a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	No new standard was developed in the revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex 01-31

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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. NOTE Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.4.3: "Pilot testing - The secretariat shall organise pilot testing of new standards to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The outcome of the pilot testing shall be considered by the Technical Committee. In case of revision of an existing standard, the experiences from its usage substitute for pilot testing." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	No new standard was developed in the revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex 01-31 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Approval and Publication			
7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.5.1: "Formal approval - When there is evidence of consensus among the Technical Committee the final draft shall be submitted to the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly for the formal approval. The approval shall be governed by the PEFC Czech Republic statute." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_30_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_approval_CFCS_16.5.2023_EN Annex_31_PEFC_CR_Assembly_CFCS_approved_24.5.2025_EN

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardising body.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.6.1: "Standard publication - The formally approved standards shall be published and made publicly available by the Secretariat on PEFC Czech Republic website at no cost within 14 days of approval. - Standards shall include: a) identification and contact information for the PEFC Czech Republic, b) 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. 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. - Secretariat shall make printed copies available upon request free of charge." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023 Publicly available on https://www.pefc.cz/standardy-pefc-cr/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:			
(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.6.1: "(...) Standards shall include: a) identification and contact information for the PEFC Czech Republic" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003:2023, cover page: “PEFC Czech Republic Bělohorská 274/9 169 00 Praha 6 Czech Republic E-mail: info@pefc.cz Web: www.pefc.cz”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.6.1: “(...) Standards shall include: (...) b) official language of the standard”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003:2023, p. 2: “(...) The official language of the document is Czech. In case of inconsistency between versions of the document, the English version approved by the PEFC Council is the reference document.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 6.6.1: “(...) Standards shall include: (...) 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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003:2023, p. 2: “(...) The official language of the document is Czech. In case of inconsistency between versions of the document, the English version approved by the PEFC Council is the reference document.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review NOTE The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.6.1: "(...) Standards shall include: (...) 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." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	TD CFCS 1003:2023, p.2: "(...) Issue date: 25. 5. 2023 - Application date: 24. 5. 2024 - Transition date: 24. 5. 2025 - Next periodic review date: 24. 5. 2028" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.6.1: "(...) Secretariat shall make printed copies available upon request free of charge." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	TD CFCS 1003:2023, p.2: "(...) This document is freely available from the PEFC Czech Republic website www.pefc.cz or upon request." Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 6.6.2: "(...) Secretariat shall make the development report publicly available on the PEFC Czech Republic website." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	The development report is publicly available on the PEFC Czech Republic website: https://www.pefc.cz/standardy-pefc-cr/ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Periodic review of standards			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.1 The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7: "Periodic review of standards - The standards 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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_01_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021_EN Annex_02_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021_EN Annex_03_CFCS_Review_Press_Release_27.4.2021_EN Annex_04_CFCS_Review_Forestry_magazin_Lesnickska_prace_05.2021 Annex_05_CFCS_Review_Info_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2021 Annex_06_CFCS_Review_www.svol.cz_Magazine_05.2021 Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7.1: "Feedback mechanism - PEFC Czech Republic shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the PEFC Czech Republic website with clear directions for providing feedback - NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>Feedback point available on:</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/prubezne-pripominkovani-dokumentu-cfcs/ https://www.pefc.cz/kontakt/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7.1: "(...) All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded by the Secretariat and considered by the PEFC Czech Republic Council."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN, 0: "Introduction (...) 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."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7.2: "Gap analysis - At the start of a review, PEFC Czech Republic shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.2: "Gap analysis (...) PEFC Czech Republic shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is 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	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.3: "Stakeholder consultation - Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC Czech Republic shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	A need to revise the standard was identified. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.3: “(...) At the start of a review, PEFC Czech Republic shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.1.2).” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.4.3 The standardising body shall organise:			
(a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.3: “(...) PEFC Czech Republic shall organise: - a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.4.2) and/or, (...)” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	A 30 day public consultation was not conducted as part of the review, as it was already clear at the beginning of the review, that a normal revision with a 60 day public consultation would take place after the review, due to the need to align the standard with the revised SFM benchmarks of PEFC International. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.3: “(...) PEFC Czech Republic shall organise: (...) b) stakeholder meetings.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Stakeholder meetings as referred to by the benchmark were not conducted as part of the review, as it was already clear at the beginning of the review,

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>that a normal revision process with comprehensive stakeholder engagement would take place after the review,, due to the need to align the standard with the revised SFM benchmarks of PEFC International.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7.3: “(...) PEFC Czech Republic shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.2.1).”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Annex_03_CFCS_Review_Press_Release_27.4.2021_EN Annex_04_CFCS_Review_Forestry_magazin_Lesnicka_prace_05.2021 Annex_05_CFCS_Review_Info_www.pefc.cz_21.4.2021 Annex_06_CFCS_Review_www.svol.cz_Magazine_05.2021</p> <p>https://www.pefc.cz/vas-nazor-nas-zajima/</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 7.4: “Decision-making - Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC Czech Republic Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision- making level of the standardising body	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.4: “Decision-making - Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard’s implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC Czech Republic Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_01_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021_EN Annex_02_PEFC_CR_Assembly_Postal_Balot_Review_CFCS_25.5.2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardising body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.4: “(...) Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall provide a justification for the decision and Secretariat shall make the justification publicly available.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	The decision was made to revise the standard. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardising body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 7.4: "(...) Where the decision is to revise the standard, PEFC Czech Republic shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision)." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	The decision was made to conduct a normal revision of the standard. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_07_Gap_Analysis_CFCS_2021_EN Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Revision of standards			
9.1 Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.1: "Normal revision - Procedures for revision of standards 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." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2 Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardising body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.2: "Editorial revision - Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. PEFC Czech Republic Assembly shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard." Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: "Time-critical revision - A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: "(...) A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations: (a) change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: "(...) A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations: (...) (b) instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:			
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: "(...) The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: a) PEFC Czech Republic shall draft the revised standard" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: “(...) The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: (...) b) PEFC Czech Republic may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: “(...) The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: (...) c) the revised standard shall be approved formally by the PEFC Czech Republic Assembly” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	Yes	The revision was carried out as normal revision. Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) The standardising body shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	Yes	ND CFCS 01, 8.3: “(...) The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: (...) d) PEFC Czech Republic shall explain the justification for the urgent changes and shall make the justification publicly available on PEFC Czech Republic website.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	Yes	<p>The revision was carried out as normal revision.</p> <p>Development report CFCS_2023, Annex_08_Proposal_for_Revision_REV_01_2022_EN</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 8.4: "Application and transition of revised standards - A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standards."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003, p.2: "(...) Issue date: 25. 5. 2023 - Application date: 24. 5. 2024 -Transition date: 24. 5. 2025"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 8.4: "(...) An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standards, introduction of changes, information dissemination and training"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003, p.2: "(...) Issue date: 25. 5. 2023 - Application date: 24. 5. 2024 -Transition date: 24. 5. 2025"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardising body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.	Procedures	Yes	<p>ND CFCS 01, 8.4: "(...) The transition period shall not exceed one year. PEFC Czech Republic may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances."</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES/NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	Yes	TD CFCS 1003, p.2: "(...) Issue date: 25. 5. 2023 - Application date: 24. 5. 2024 -Transition date: 24. 5. 2025" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

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

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard		
4.1 General		
The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall:		
<p>a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level;</p> <p>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.</p>	YES	<p>PEFC TD 1003, 10.1: “Regional criteria classification - Regional Criteria and Indicators form a basis for specification, unification and harmonization of an independent certification body’s actions in assessing the condition of forest management at the regional level, definition of the subject and scope of an audit and determination of the applicant’s degree of conformity with requirements of the regional certification.</p> <p>With respect to the diversity of forest management, this document determines neither a minimum level nor limits for assessing the conformity with SFM criteria. Assessing and defining the conformity of forest management condition with the system of forest management is the competence of a certification body.</p> <p>General criteria are classified according to Pan European criteria of sustainable forest management adopted under the Pan European Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki 1993, Lisbon 1998, Vienna 2004, Warsaw 2007, Oslo 2011 and Madrid 2015, Bratislava 2021).</p> <p>The regional criteria are classified as follows: (a) criterion: defines objectives, policy, requirements or processes on the basis of which applicant conformity is assessed; (b) criterion aim: specifies basic objective to be achieved by the criterion; (c) legislative basis: gives the present legislative regulation which addresses or concerns the given field specified by the criterion; (d) indicator: quantitative or qualitative parameter describing objectively and unambiguously the content of the criterion which can be evaluated in connection with the criterion. Indicators are defined: - 1. at regional level, - 2. at owner level; (e) information sources: institutions, programmes or projects whose information serves to satisfy indicators and to assess the conformity.”</p> <p>7.1: “Internal audit - The aim is to check the reliability of information, compliance with laws and regulations, efficient and effective use of resources, achievement of operational</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>goals and fulfillment of the requirements of the PEFC SFM standard by all forest operators in a defined forest area who have an influence on achieving compliance with the requirements. The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: a) corresponds with • the participant's requirements for the adopted management system • the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management b) is effectively implemented and maintained.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	YES	<p>PEFC TD 1003, 10.1: “Regional criteria classification - Regional Criteria and Indicators form a basis for specification, unification and harmonization of an independent certification body’s actions in assessing the condition of forest management at the regional level, definition of the subject and scope of an audit and determination of the applicant’s degree of conformity with requirements of the regional certification.</p> <p>With respect to the diversity of forest management, this document determines neither a minimum level nor limits for assessing the conformity with SFM criteria. Assessing and defining the conformity of forest management condition with the system of forest management is the competence of a certification body.</p> <p>General criteria are classified according to Pan European criteria of sustainable forest management adopted under the Pan European Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki 1993, Lisbon 1998, Vienna 2004, Warsaw 2007, Oslo 2011 and Madrid 2015, Bratislava 2021).</p> <p>The regional criteria are classified as follows: (a) criterion: defines objectives, policy, requirements or processes on the basis of which applicant conformity is assessed; (b) criterion aim: specifies basic objective to be achieved by the criterion; (c) legislative basis: gives the present legislative regulation which addresses or concerns the given field specified by the criterion; (d) indicator: quantitative or qualitative parameter describing objectively and unambiguously the content of the criterion which can be evaluated in connection with the criterion. Indicators are defined: - 1. at regional level, - 2. at owner level; (e) information sources: institutions, programmes or projects whose information serves to satisfy indicators and to assess the conformity.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit - The aim is to check the reliability of information, compliance with laws and regulations, efficient and effective use of resources, achievement of operational goals and fulfillment of the requirements of the PEFC SFM standard by all forest operators in a defined forest area who have an influence on achieving compliance with the requirements. The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: a) corresponds with • the participant's requirements for the adopted management system • the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management b) is effectively implemented and maintained."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit - The aim is to check the reliability of information, compliance with laws and regulations, efficient and effective use of resources, achievement of operational goals and fulfillment of the requirements of the PEFC SFM standard by all forest operators in a defined forest area who have an influence on achieving compliance with the requirements. The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: a) corresponds with • the participant's requirements for the adopted management system • the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management b) is effectively implemented and maintained. - A participant in the internal audit process must: 7.1.1 carry out continuous control of compliance with technological procedures and the quality of the work performed"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit (...) 7.1.5 retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and audit results"</p> <p>7.5: "Documented information - Management system of the organization must contain documented information required by the standard and determined by the organization to be necessary for the effectiveness of the SFM system in forests. - The aim is to develop, use and regularly update documentation and records related to the fulfillment of SFM criteria and indicators."</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
<p>e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;</p> <p>Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim “100% PEFC certified”, and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website www.pefc.org.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5: “Context between national standards and organizations that apply PEFC recognized standards - The aim is to provide reliable proof of the origin of forest products. (...) 5.1.1 The statement "100% PEFC certified" or other system-specified statement is used to communicate the origin of products to PEFC supply chain customers.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim “100% PEFC-certified” or a system specific claim;</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5: “Context between national standards and organizations that apply PEFC recognized standards (...) The aim is to provide reliable proof of the origin of forest products. (...) 5.1.2 Products, with the statement "100% PEFC certified" or with another statement specified by the system, are marketed by the participants of the certification only if they come from certified forests covered by a PEFC recognized certificate of SFM issued in accordance with the standard.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard;</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5: “Context between national standards and organizations that apply PEFC recognized standards (...) The aim is to provide reliable proof of the origin of forest products. (...) 5.1.2 Products, with the statement "100% PEFC certified" or with another statement specified by the system, are marketed by the participants of the certification only if they come from certified forests covered by a PEFC recognized certificate of SFM issued in accordance with the standard.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5: “Context between national standards and organizations that apply PEFC recognized standards (...) The aim is to provide reliable proof of the origin of forest products. (...) 5.1.3 Information provided to a PEFC-certified customer in the consumer chain must include: a) the name of the organization as a PEFC supplier; b) identification of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>the wood material; c) amount of wood material; d) date of delivery; e) the relevant PEFC statement separately for each type of wood material with the statement that appears on the documentation; f) PEFC certificate number from SFM supplier. - Verification method: certification participant documentation.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1001, 5.2.2: “Overview of the basic applicable legislation ensuring the international benchmark requirements of PEFC ST 1003 Requirements regarding the forest management planning processes: - Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on nature and landscape protection, as amended; - (...)”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1003, Listed for each criterion of the TD CFCS 1003 standard: 10: “Criteria and indicators – regional level - 10.1 Regional criteria classification (...)”</p> <p>The regional criteria are classified as follows: (...) (c) legislative basis: gives the present legislative regulation which addresses or concerns the given field specified by the criterion;”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interest groups concerned - 5.2.1 The certification participant must: a) determine the interest groups concerned that are territorially relevant for sustainable forest management”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of interest groups concerned - 5.2.1 The certification participant must: (...) b) find out the relevant needs and expectations of these interest groups"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the management system		
4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5.3: "Determining the scope of the management system - The management system refers to the management, administration and streamlining of the activities of the processes related to securing SFM in the forests managed by the certification participant.</p> <p>It must be understandable, measurable and feasible for everyone. Its scope is adapted to the legal form, organizational structure, size and volume of the participant's work. The key management activities of a forest enterprise are planning, organizing, operational management, and retrospective control."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3.2 The standard requires that forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5.3 Determining the scope of the management system (...) The goal is to ensure the effective functioning of the management system leading to the fulfillment of the functions expected by the public and the owner, including processes for its continuous improvement. - 5.3.1 The management system with a description of processes, competences, management tools and control mechanisms correspond to the legal form, size and volume of the participant's work. - 5.3.2 The subject of management of SFM processes consists of: -assessing the condition of the forest; -monitoring the quality of work; -assessment of the effects of economic activities carried out on TUH, including their social, environmental and economic impacts."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5. Leadership		

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6: "Leadership - 6.1 Commitment (...) Requirements: 6.1.a Accept the commitment to fulfill the PEFC standard of sustainable forest management and other related applicable requirements of the CFCS certification system." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6: "Leadership - 6.1 Commitment (...) Requirements: (...) 6.1 b Constantly improve the own SFM system." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6: "Leadership - 6.1 Commitment (...) Requirements: (...) 6.1.d The commitment must be publicly accessible to the organization's employees, certification participants, suppliers, consumers and interest groups." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6: "Leadership - 6.1 Commitment (...) Requirements: (...) 6.1.c Powers and responsibilities in the SFM process and the management of forestry activities to be determined in writing to designated persons." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6.2: "Risks and opportunities management measures - The certification participant must consider the risks and opportunities related to compliance with sustainable management requirements. The size and scope of the organization's activities

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.		<p>must be taken into account. The goal is to take preventive measures to eliminate the causes of possible mistakes in SFM.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6: “Leadership (...) 6.2 Risks and opportunities management measures (...) 6.2.1 The assessment of risks and opportunities for the development of the state of forest resources refers to the minimum need for afforestation, the care of young forest stands, the need to nurture forest stands, the start and end of forest stands renewal, forest protection, the construction and condition of transport infrastructure, the impact of management on forests of special natural value and the quality of life of the local population and interest groups concerned. It is conducted annually.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2 Management plan		
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:		
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines (...) Forest management plans or their equivalents are prepared for forest owners and other authorized users and shall be periodically updated (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) - For natural forest areas (NFA), long term plans shall be elaborated – regional forest development plans (RFDP) that are basic documents for regional implementing of state forestry policy and general recommendation for elaborating forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>management plans and forest management outlines and take into account the latest scientific knowledge. RFDP provides information not only on wood- producing functions, but also on non-wood-producing functions of the forest within a given area. The knowledge of whole forest functions is a prerequisite for the gradual economic use of goods and services provided by forests on the market. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) - For natural forest areas (NFA), long term plans shall be elaborated – regional forest development plans (RFDP) that are basic documents for regional implementing of state forestry policy (...)”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines – (...) Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic functions of forests.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) adequately covering forest resources.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “(...) RFDP provides information not only on wood-producing functions, but also on non-wood-producing functions of the forest within a given area. The knowledge of whole forest functions is a prerequisite for the gradual economic use of goods and services provided by forests on the market. (...)”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines - Management in forests shall be based on typological mapping, forest resources inventory and forest planning, including ecologically important forest biotopes. Forest management plans or their equivalents are prepared for forest owners and other authorized users and shall be periodically updated including the results of the forest management evaluation for the previous period and market/non-market goods and ecosystem services through categorization of the forests and frameworks of FMP approved by state forest administration body. Property rights are protected by Constitutional order and other relevant laws and regulations of the Czech Republic. FMP, by its arrangements, minimizes depreciation and damage risk of forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>ecosystems, helps with forest resources quality increase and supports diversity of products and ecosystem services of forest. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) (...) RFDP provides information not only on wood- producing functions, but also on non-wood-producing functions of the forest within a given area. The knowledge of whole forest functions is a prerequisite for the gradual economic use of goods and services provided by forests on the market. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) - For natural forest areas (NFA), long term plans shall be elaborated (...). RFDP provides information not only on wood- producing functions, but also on non-wood-producing functions of the forest within a given area. The knowledge of whole forest functions is a prerequisite for the gradual economic use of goods and services provided by forests on the market. (...) ”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines - Management in forests shall be based on typological mapping, forest resources inventory and forest planning, including ecologically important forest biotopes. Forest management plans or their equivalents are prepared for forest owners and other authorized users and shall be periodically updated including (...) market/non-market goods and ecosystem services through categorization of the forests and frameworks of FMP approved by state forest administration body. (...) FMP, by its arrangements, minimizes depreciation and damage risk of forest ecosystems, helps with forest resources quality increase and supports diversity of products and ecosystem services of forest. Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic functions of forests. A summary of the FMP corresponding to the conditions of the region must be publicly available.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.
6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) (...) RFDP provides information not only on wood- producing functions, but also on non-wood-producing functions of the forest within a given area. The knowledge of whole forest functions is a prerequisite for the gradual economic use of goods and services provided by forests on the market.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines - Management in forests shall be based on typological mapping, forest resources inventory and forest planning, including ecologically important forest biotopes. Forest management plans or their equivalents are prepared for forest owners and other authorized users and shall be periodically updated including the results of the forest management evaluation for the previous period and market/non-market goods and ecosystem services through categorization of the forests and frameworks of FMP approved by state forest administration body. (...) FMP, by its arrangements, minimizes depreciation and damage risk of forest ecosystems, helps with forest resources quality increase and supports diversity of products and ecosystem services of forest. Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic functions of forests. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is sufficiently addressed.</p>
6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines (...) FMP, by its arrangements, minimizes depreciation and damage risk of forest ecosystems, helps with forest resources quality increase and supports diversity of products and ecosystem services of forest. Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic functions of forests.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) - For natural forest areas (NFA), long term plans shall be elaborated – regional forest development plans (RFDP) that are basic documents for regional

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		implementing of state forestry policy and general recommendation for elaborating forest management plans and forest management outlines and take into account the latest scientific knowledge. (...)” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) (...) RFDP summary for individual natural forest areas (NFA), incorporating information about recommended arrangements of forest management, which represents base for Forest Management Plan/Forest Management Outline (FMP/O) development, are publicly available.” Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines – (...) A summary of the FMP corresponding to the conditions of the region must be publicly available.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.4: “Framework planning – Regional Forest Development Plans (RFDP) (...) Summary forest management plans are publicly available without confidential business and personal information. (...)” Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines (...) A summary of the FMP corresponding to the conditions of the region must be publicly available.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.3 Compliance requirements		
6.3.1 Legal compliance		
6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: “Applicable Laws -Forest management must be in accordance with applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including methods of forest management, nature and environment protection, protected and endangered species, ownership, possession and use rights of the local population or other interest groups concerned,

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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>health, protection and safety at work, placing wood and wood products on the market, preventing corruption and paying fees and taxes. - The aim is to ensure compliance with the laws in forest management. - 6.3.1 The Participant has access to the applicable legal regulations relating to forest management. - 6.3.2 The Participant knows and complies with the applicable legal regulations regarding forest management and anti-corruption legislation. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: “Applicable Laws -Forest management must be in accordance with applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including methods of forest management, nature and environment protection, protected and endangered species, ownership, possession and use rights of the local population or other interest groups concerned, health, protection and safety at work, placing wood and wood products on the market, preventing corruption and paying fees and taxes. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: “Applicable Laws -Forest management must be in accordance with applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including methods of (...) preventing corruption (...) 6.3.2 The Participant knows and complies with the applicable legal regulations regarding forest management and anti-corruption legislation. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: “Applicable Laws (...) 6.3.3 Implement measures to ensure adequate protection of forests against unauthorized activities. - 6.3.4 Notify the relevant authorities of activities that are in conflict with the legislation in the field of forestry. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		
<p>6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.4: "Ownership and management of forest land - Property rights and rights related to the use of forests must be clearly defined, documented and generally respected in the given area. Forest management can only be performed by persons who can prove ownership, management or another legal document authorizing them to manage the forest. - The goal is to respect property rights and the rights and obligations related to the management and use of forest and other land. - Note: Lands with an ongoing ownership or management dispute cannot be included in the certification - Verification method: property documents, rental/hire contracts, field assignment"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.4: "Ownership and management of forest land - Property rights and rights related to the use of forests must be clearly defined, documented and generally respected in the given area. Forest management can only be performed by persons who can prove ownership, management or another legal document authorizing them to manage the forest. - The goal is to respect property rights and the rights and obligations related to the management and use of forest and other land. - Note: Lands with an ongoing ownership or management dispute cannot be included in the certification - Verification method: property documents, rental/hire contracts, field assignment"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: In the context of forest management in the Czech Republic the referenced wording of the standard can be considered sufficient to meet the benchmark.</p>
<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.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.5: "Securing the rights of employees - Forestry practices and activities respect human rights as defined by the General Declaration of Human Rights."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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>	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: “Applicable Laws - Forest management must be in accordance with applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including methods of forest management, nature and environment protection, protected and endangered species, ownership, possession and use rights of the local population or other interest groups concerned, health, protection and safety at work, placing wood and wood products on the market, preventing corruption, and paying fees and taxes and compliance with basic international labor conventions (ILO).”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions		
<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>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.4: “Safe working conditions and occupational safety - In the course of managing in forests, principles of occupational health and safety shall be observed including inspection and removing defects in working procedures, machines and equipment. - Criterion objective - Reduction of number of accidents and occupational disease.</p> <p>Legislative background: Government Regulation No. 201/2010 Coll., on the method of registering accidents, reporting and sending accident records, as amended; - Government Regulation No. 390/2021 Coll., on detailed conditions for provision of personal protective equipment, washing, cleaning and disinfecting agents; - Government Regulation No. 378/2001 Coll. stipulating detailed requirements for safe operation and use of machines, technical equipment, devices and tools, as amended; - Government Regulation No. 375/2017 Coll., on the appearance, location and execution of safety signs and markings and the introduction of signals; - Government Regulation No. 339/2017 Coll., on more detailed requirements for the way work is organized and work procedures when working in the forest and at workplaces of a similar nature; - Government Regulation No. 168/2002 Coll., on establishing the method of work organization and work procedures used by the employer when operating transport by means of transport, as amended; - Decree No. 180/2015 Coll., on prohibited works and workplaces, as amended; - Decree No. 432/2003 Coll., which establishes the conditions for classifying works into categories, etc., as amended; - Government Regulation No. 101/2005 Coll., on detailed requirements on the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>workplace and the working environment, as amended; - Act No.251/2005 Coll., on work inspection, as amended; - Act No.262/2006 Coll. Labour Code, as amended; - Act No. 309/2006 Coll., which regulates other requirements for safety and health protection at work, etc., as amended; - Government Regulation No. 361/2007 Coll., which establishes the conditions of health protection at work, as amended; - Decree No. 268/2009 Coll., on technical requirements on construction sites, as amended; - Act No. 373/2011 Coll., on specific health services, as amended; - Decree No. 79/2013 Coll., on occupational health services and certain types of assessment care, as amended"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met through the provision of reference to applicable relevant legislation.</p>
<p>6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and <u>guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations</u>. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.4: "Safe working conditions and occupational safety - In the course of managing in forests, principles of occupational health and safety shall be observed including inspection and removing defects in working procedures, machines and equipment. (...) Indicators traced at regional level: (...) 6.4.1c: Keeping records of occupational safety training (yes/no). (...) - Indicators traced at owner level – (...) 6.4.2b: Training of all employees according to the work performed, participation in training and training is considered part of the work performed."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1003, 6.3: "Applicable Laws -Forest management must be in accordance with applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including methods of forest management, nature and environment protection, protected and endangered species, ownership, possession and use rights of the local population or other interest groups concerned, health, protection and safety at work, placing wood and wood products on the market, preventing corruption and paying fees and taxes. (...)"</p> <p>Basic conventions of the ILO ratified by the Czech Republic: www.mpsv.vz/umluvy-mop</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.5: "Securing the rights of employees – Legislative background - Government Regulation. 567/2006 Coll., on the minimum wage, on the lowest levels of the guaranteed wage, on the definition of a difficult working environment</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements. 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.		and on the amount of the wage supplement for working in a difficult working environment, as amended” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is <u>committed</u> to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be <u>promoted</u> .	Yes	TD CFCS 1003, 6.3.3: “The Participant supports gender equality and is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and protection from harassment in the workplace.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7. Support		
7.1 Resources		
7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 6: “Leadership - 6.1 Commitment - A responsible approach to forest management is the duty of the manager towards the owner and society. Manifestation (expression) of responsibility are specific goals related to environmental responsibility, social justification and economic viability in forest management. - The aim is to define and document the commitment to implement and comply with the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management. - Requirements: 6.1.a Accept the commitment to fulfill the PEFC standard of sustainable forest management and other related applicable requirements of the CFCS certification system. - 6.1.b Constantly improve the own SFM system. - 6.1.c Powers and responsibilities in the SFM process and the management of forestry activities to be determined in writing to designated persons.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2 Competence		
7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, 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	Yes	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.3: “Professional education of forestry employees and research work - Forest managers, business subjects, forest personnel and forest owners have information on principles of sustainable forest management, have appropriate

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.		<p>education; relevant information shall be regularly updated. - Indicators traced at owner level: (...) 6.3.2b: The forest owner or contractors takes care of his/her employee's education. (...) 6.3.2d: The forest owner cooperates with contractors who provide expert work by qualified workforce"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</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.	Yes	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 5.2: "Understanding the needs and expectations of interest groups concerned – (...) 5.2.1 The certification participant must: a) determine the interest groups concerned that are territorially relevant for sustainable forest management; b) actively communicate with identified stakeholders and find out their relevant needs and expectations c) monitor and, if necessary, modify the requirements of the stakeholders concerned, which reflect their needs and expectations; d) keep a list of stakeholder groups concerned."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.4 Complaints		
7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.4: "Complaints - Appropriate procedures must be in place to resolve complaints and disputes regarding forest management, land use rights and working conditions. The aim is to meet legitimate demands in order to ensure compliance with SFM requirements in forests. Requirements - 7.4.1 Complaints submitted by the complainant in paper or electronic form are registered and investigated. 7.4.2 Eligible complaints and disputes regarding forest management, land use rights and working conditions are resolved, if possible, by mutual agreement with the complainant. 7.4.3 The result of the investigation and settlement of the complaint is recorded. Verification method: certification participant documentation."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.5 Documented Information		
7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.5: "Documented information - Management system of the organization must contain documented information required by the standard and determined by the organization to be necessary for the effectiveness of the SFM system in forests. - The aim is to develop, use and regularly update documentation and records related to the fulfillment of SFM criteria and indicators."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.5: "Documented information - Management system of the organization must contain documented information required by the standard and determined by the organization to be necessary for the effectiveness of the SFM system in forests. - The aim is to develop, use and regularly update documentation and records related to the fulfillment of SFM criteria and indicators."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as effectively met.</p>
8. Operation		
8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: "Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Within the region, the current area of forest land must be preserved, or its gradual increase by afforestation of non-forest lands on the basis of afforestation projects taking into account the production function as well as the provision of other ecosystem services. Responsibility for the protection and use of lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) must be clearly defined."</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.2: "Afforestation of non-forest lands - Conversion of adequate non-forest land to forests. About the conversion of unused agricultural and other lands to forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>lands should be considered whenever this can increase their economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process. Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and long-term perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process. Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and long-term perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.3: “Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses. - There must be no irreversible disruption</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land. - Making fires should be limited to reach owner's management goals by reason of forest protection."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.1: "Sustainability of wood production and forest functions – (...) Climate-positive practices and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions during forestry activities are supported"</p> <p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.3.1: " Sample categories must be determined based on the results of the risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment must reflect the geographical scope of the standard. For risk assessment, a matrix can be used to determine the risk of a group organization according to selected indicators (Appendix 1). (...) Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) Indicator: (...) j) Climate change; Risk: low adaptation of forests to changing climatic conditions; Low risk: Properties with a predominance of small-area clear-cut forest of age classes (undergrowth and partial management) or with a predominance of non clear-cut managed forest, above-standard proportion of improving and stabilizing species.; Medium risk: Forests with a predominance of clearcut management (especially pine and alluvial management), a standard share of improving and stabilizing species.; High Risk: Forests with a predominance of clearcut management. No adaptation measures are applied."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: "Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Within the region, the current area of forest land must be preserved, or its gradual increase by afforestation of non-forest lands on the basis of afforestation projects taking into account the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>production function as well as the provision of other ecosystem services. Responsibility for the protection and use of lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) must be clearly defined.</p> <p>Criterion objective: Maintaining or appropriate increasing of total area of forest lands. Legislative background: § 3, § 11 and § 13 to § 18 and § 37 of Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on forests, as amended.</p> <p>Indicators traced at regional level: 1.1.1a: Existence of legal and economic protection of land intended to fulfil the functions of forests (PUPFL) (yes/no). - 1.1.1b: Development of forest land area (ha). - 1.1.1c: Changes in area of forest land (ha, %).</p> <p>Indicators traced at owner level: 1.1.2a: Declaration or limitation for fulfilling the functions of a forest on lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) is based on decision of State Forest Administration (SFA).</p> <p>Note: Forest conversion to different types of land use is not allowed with the exception of substantiated cases and to the necessary extent documented by a decision of the state forest administration (SFA). Responsibility for sustainable forest management, protection and use of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) carries owner or other authorized entity which ensures it in cooperation with forest manager."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1003, 5.2: "Understanding the needs and expectations of interest groups concerned - 5.2.1 The certification participant must: a) determine the interest groups concerned that are territorially relevant for sustainable forest management; b) find out the relevant needs and expectations of these interest groups; c) monitor and, if necessary, modify the requirements of the interest groups concerned, which reflect their needs and expectations; d) keep a list of interest groups concerned. - Note: A useful, but not exhaustive, list of interest groups concerned and their expectations can be found in TD CFCS 1002:2023 chapter 4.2.1."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Within the region, the current area of forest land must be preserved, or its gradual increase by afforestation of non-forest lands on the basis of afforestation projects taking into account the production function as well as the provision of other ecosystem services. Responsibility for the protection and use of lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) must be clearly defined. (...) Indicators traced at regional level: 1.1.1a: Existence of legal and economic protection of land intended to fulfil the functions of forests (PUPFL) (yes/no). - 1.1.1b: Development of forest land area (ha). - 1.1.1c: Changes in area of forest land (ha, %).</p> <p>Indicators traced at owner level: 1.1.2a: Declaration or limitation for fulfilling the functions of a forest on lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) is based on decision of State Forest Administration (SFA) and does not reach more than 5% of forest type within the certified area of the forest owner. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Permitted conversions do not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas, do not destroy areas with significantly high carbon stock and contribute to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Permitted conversions do not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas, do not destroy areas with significantly high carbon stock and contribute to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Permitted conversions do not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas, do not destroy areas with significantly high carbon stock and contribute to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and	YES	<p>Criterion No. 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands - Support the conversion of unused agricultural land and other areas into forest land (...) Indicators traced at owner level: (...) 1.2.2b: Afforested non-forest lands are transformed to lands intended for forest functions (LIFF). - Note: By suitable non-forest lands for afforestation are meant agricultural and other lands that are not otherwise economically usable and afforestation is in accordance with the intentions of the state forests, nature protection, agricultural land protection and regional planning administration body”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. (...) Responsibility for the protection and use of lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) must be clearly defined. (...) Indicators traced at owner level: 1.1.2a: Declaration or limitation for fulfilling the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>functions of a forest on lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) is based on decision of State Forest Administration (SFA). (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	YES	<p>Criterion No. 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands - Support the conversion of unused agricultural land and other areas into forest land (...). As part of the decision about the conversion of the given land, affected stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes and express their views on the suitability of the given land for the intended purpose. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) nonforest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and	YES	<p>Criterion No. 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands - Support the conversion of unused agricultural land and other areas into forest land, if this conversion (...) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas (...).”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	YES	<p>Criterion No. 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands - Support the conversion of unused agricultural land and other areas into forest land (...) Indicators traced at owner level: –(...) 1.2.2b: Afforested non-forest lands are transformed to lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) - All forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) shall be preserved and sensibly utilized. Forest conversion to different land use is forbidden with the exception of substantiated cases (see note). Permitted conversions do not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas, do not destroy areas with</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>significantly high carbon stock and contribute to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. Within the region, the current area of forest land must be preserved, or its gradual increase by afforestation of non-forest lands (...) Responsibility for the protection and use of lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) must be clearly defined. (...) Indicators traced at owner level: 1.1.2a: Declaration or limitation for fulfilling the functions of a forest on lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) is based on decision of State Forest Administration (SFA) and does not reach more than 5% of forest type within the certified area of the forest owner.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	<p>Criterion No. 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands - Support the conversion of unused agricultural land and other areas into forest land, if this conversion (...) does not destroy areas with significantly high carbon stocks. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands – Support the conversion of unused agricultural land and other areas into forest land, if this conversion can add long-term ecological, economic, social or cultural value/benefits (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.</p>
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.</p>
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.</p>
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: "Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.</p>
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: "Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.</p>
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.1: "Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system does not define requirements specifically for the conversion of "severely degraded forests to forest plantations". The system's requirements on forest conversion apply to all forests and to all forest conversions. The benchmark can therefore be considered as met.</p>
8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.5: "Improving the condition and stability of forest stands - Forest stands shall be regenerated using site-suitable species and nurtured in time and systematically in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the approved FMP by the SFA and in order to improve their condition, increase stability and enhance the fulfilment</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.		<p>of forest functions. Subsequent nurture of the forest sites shall be conducted so that in the future the proportion of melioration and strengthening wood species (MSWS) does not drop.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. (...)”</p> <p>Criterion 4.3: “Leaving dead and dying trees in the forest - For the purposes of maintaining and reinforcing the organism population relating to ageing and dead wood, leave a proportion of trees of natural species according to particular conditions and situation in the stand to die and decompose with regard to forest visitor safety. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans – (...) Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and long-term perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. Original native species and their local origin should be used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>preferred. Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used. In suitable conditions, the low and medium shape of the forest is used, among others.</p> <p>Criterion objective: Species representation in forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation should respect territorial conditions and supports biodiversity.”</p> <p>Criterion 4.3: “Leaving dead and dying trees in the forest - For the purposes of maintaining and reinforcing the organism population relating to ageing and dead wood, leave a proportion of trees of natural species according to particular conditions and situation in the stand to die and decompose with regard to forest visitor safety. (...)”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.5: “Improving the condition and stability of forest stands - Forest stands shall be regenerated using site-suitable species and nurtured in time and systematically in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the approved FMP by the SFA and in order to improve their condition, increase stability and enhance the fulfilment of forest functions. Subsequent nurture of the forest sites shall be conducted so that in the future the proportion of melioration and strengthening wood species (MSWS) does not drop.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.3: “Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures – (...) Making fires should be limited to reach owner’s management goals by reason of forest protection.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.4: “Monitoring and prevention of the incidence of harmful factors - Health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be systematically monitored particularly with respect to crucial biotic and abiotic factors which could adversely affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests, diseases, game overpopulation, forest fires and damages caused by climatic factors, air pollution and logging operations in forests. Such measures shall be carried out to prevent the effects of harmful factors on the forest. Evaluation of occurrence of harmful factors on the forest for the past period in the updated FMP/O shall be carried out with the adoption of preventive silvicultural measures to improve condition of forest.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.2.4 The standard requires that appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.1: “(...) Original native species and their local origin should be used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is preferred. (...)”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.3: “Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses. - There must be no irreversible disruption of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.6: “General use of forests and their use for recreation – (...) Non-organic waste and garbage are dealt with in accordance with applicable legislation and in an environmentally responsible manner. (...)”</p> <p>Legislative background: - Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on forests, as amended; - Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on nature and landscape protection, as amended; - Act No. 222/1999 Coll., on providing of defense of the CR, as amended.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products (...) Indicators traced at owner level: (...) 2.1.2c: Proper management of packaging of plant protection products, product residues or spray solutions and of rinsing and flushing water.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.3: “Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures – (...) There must be no irreversible disruption of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: Use of plant protection products - The forest protection methods used are based on the principles of integrated forest protection. Where possible, environmentally friendly mechanical, biotechnical or biological methods are preferred over chemical methods. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products – (...) Permitted plant protection products may only be used in justified cases, according to the instructions (label) and in accordance with good practice. (...) Indicators traced at owner level: 2.1.2a: Records of use of allowed forest protection products (amount, type, treatment scope in relevant units of measurement, localization, dates, efficiency). (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.	NO	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products – (...) Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, preparations prohibited by international conventions or included in category 1A and 1B, or other highly toxic pesticides according to the WHO evaluation, must not be used, except in situations where other suitable alternatives cannot be used. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Minor nonconformity Justification: “”The standard does not define the circumstances under which suitable alternatives to WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides “cannot be used” and WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides may be used instead. This does not meet the benchmark which requires that “any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.”</p>
8.2.9 The standard requires that pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.	NO	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products – (...) Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, preparations prohibited by international conventions or included in category 1A and 1B, or other highly toxic pesticides according to the WHO evaluation, must not be used, except in situations where other suitable alternatives cannot be used. (...)”</p>

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.		Assessment decision: Minor nonconformity Justification: ""While the benchmark requires a general prohibition of banned pesticides and hydrocarbons etc., the standard allows for their use in not further defined situations "where other suitable alternatives cannot be used".
8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: "Use of plant protection products – (...) The application of preparations can only be carried out by persons possessing at least the first degree of certification according to the Act on Plant Medicinal Care, instructed by a person with a higher degree of certification. (...)</p> <p>Indicators traced at owner level: (...) 2.1.2d: Application of plant protection products according to the instructions and in accordance with good practice (...)"</p> <p>Criterion No. 6.4: "Criterion name Safe working conditions and occupational safety - In the course of managing in forests, principles of occupational health and safety shall be observed including inspection and removing defects in working procedures, machines and equipment."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.2: "Forest fertilization and liming - Fertilisers should be used in moderation and only in cases with good reason, with regard to their impact on separate elements of the environment. It is recommended to use alternative methods of biological additional fertilizing."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is sufficiently addressed.</p>
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.1: "Sustainability of wood production and forest functions - Forestry planning and management shall guarantee sustainable yield of production to</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>ensure quality, preservation and improvement of forest resources and fulfilment of forest functions. (...) ”</p> <p>Criterion No. 3.2: “Economic production of raw timber - Forest management shall produce commercially exploitable forest material to an extent that does not exceed a sustainable level and worsen quality and state of forest resources and according to the owner's possibilities, it is optimally used.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 3.3: “Production of non-wood products and services - Forest management ensures production of non-wood products from the forest and provision of ecosystem services in such a way that it does not exceed the sustainable level and does not worsen the quality and state of forest resources.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 3.4: “Forest road network - Suitable infrastructure shall be planned such as roads, skidding trails and bridges, their construction and adequate maintenance (especially drainage facilities, cleaning ditches, etc.) shall be ensured so that effective transport of goods and provision of forest functions are supplied. - At the same time, attention shall be paid to decreasing their negative effects on the environment, particularly during the construction of the forest roads there must be no increased threat to the forest, especially by wind and water erosion. - Appropriate anti-erosion arrangements are to be constructed on the forest roads when necessary.”</p> <p>Criterion 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process. Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and longterm perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.2: "Economic production of raw timber - Forest management shall produce commercially exploitable forest material to an extent that does not exceed a sustainable level and worsen quality and state of forest resources and according to the owner's possibilities, it is optimally used."</p> <p>Criterion No. 3.3: "Production of non-wood products and services - Forest management ensures production of non-wood products from the forest and provision of ecosystem services in such a way that it does not exceed the sustainable level and does not worsen the quality and state of forest resources."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as sufficiently addressed.</p>
8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.3: "Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses. - There must be no irreversible disruption of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land. (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.1: "Sustainability of wood production and forest functions - Forestry planning and management shall guarantee sustainable yield of production to ensure quality, preservation and improvement of forest resources and fulfilment of forest functions. - As part of forestry planning and management, regular monitoring of forest resources and assessment of the level of forest management, including ecological, social and economic effects, is carried out, and the results are reflected back into the planning process."</p> <p>Criterion No. 3.2: "Economic production of raw timber - Forest management shall produce commercially exploitable forest material to an extent that does not exceed a sustainable</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>level and worsen quality and state of forest resources and according to the owner's possibilities, it is optimally used.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.3.5 The standard requires that adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.4: “Forest road network - Suitable infrastructure shall be planned such as roads, skidding trails and bridges, their construction and adequate maintenance (especially drainage facilities, cleaning ditches, etc.) shall be ensured so that effective transport of goods and provision of forest functions are supplied. - At the same time, attention shall be paid to decreasing their negative effects on the environment, particularly during the construction of the forest roads there must be no increased threat to the forest, especially by wind and water erosion. - Appropriate anti-erosion arrangements are to be constructed on the forest roads when necessary.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process. Management in forests shall guarantee the preservation of the amount, quality and diversity of species of forest resources and ability of forests to capture and store carbon both in short-term and long-term perspective in such a way that it shall maintain balance between forest stand felling volume and total mean increment, taking into account economic, ecological and social functions of the forest. - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines - Management in forests shall be based on typological mapping, forest resources inventory and forest planning, including ecologically important forest biotopes. Forest management plans or their equivalents are</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>prepared for forest owners and other authorized users and shall be periodically updated including the results of the forest management evaluation for the previous period and market/non-market goods and ecosystem services through categorization of the forests and frameworks of FMP approved by state forest administration body. Property rights are protected by Constitutional order and other relevant laws and regulations of the Czech Republic. FMP, by its arrangements, minimizes depreciation and damage risk of forest ecosystems, helps with forest resources quality increase and supports diversity of products and ecosystem services of forest. Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic functions of forests. A summary of the FMP corresponding to the conditions of the region must be publicly available."</p> <p>Criterion No. 4.1: "Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. Original native species and their local origin should be used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is preferred. Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used. In suitable conditions, the low and medium shape of the forest is used, among others."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas.</p> <p>Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.5: "Forest management plans and outlines - Management in forests shall be based on typological mapping, forest resources inventory and forest planning, including ecologically important forest biotopes. (...) FMP, by its arrangements, minimizes depreciation and damage risk of forest ecosystems, helps with forest resources quality increase and supports diversity of products and ecosystem services of forest. Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic functions of forests. A summary of the FMP corresponding to the conditions of the region must be publicly available."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p> <p>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.6: “Protected and endangered forest species - Number of existing protected and endangered forest species classified according to the applicable legislation and national endangered species “red lists” of endangered plant and animal species. Compliance with the protective conditions of protected and endangered species and not using them for commercial purposes. (...) Note This does not exclude trading according to CITES requirements.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<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.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. Original native species and their local origin should be used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is preferred. Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used. In suitable conditions, the low and medium shape of the forest is used, among others.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 3.1: “Sustainability of wood production and forest functions - Forestry planning and management shall guarantee sustainable yield of production to ensure quality, preservation and improvement of forest resources and fulfilment of forest functions. - As part of forestry planning and management, regular monitoring of forest resources and assessment of the level of forest management, including ecological, social and economic effects, is carried out, and the results are reflected back into the planning process.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. Original native species and their local origin should be</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>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>		<p>used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is preferred. Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used. In suitable conditions, the low and medium shape of the forest is used, among others.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 4.2: “Use of non-native (introduced) species of forest trees - Introduced species, provenances or varieties are used as a justifiable alternative to otherwise preferred native species based on local experience in growing them, after a thorough evaluation of their impact on ecosystem and genetic integrity of native species and local provenances including taking the necessary measures to minimize potential negative impacts on native species of trees. - Ban on the use of non-native species listed on the EU list of invasive species.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion 1.1: “Protection and utilization of forest land and other lands intended for forest functions (LIFF) – (...) Within the region, the current area of forest land must be preserved, or its gradual increase by afforestation of non-forest lands on the basis of afforestation projects taking into account the production function as well as the provision of other ecosystem services.”</p> <p>Criterion 1.2: “Afforestation of non-forest lands - Conversion of adequate non-forest land to forests. About the conversion of unused agricultural and other lands to forest lands should be considered whenever this can increase their economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.5: “Improving the condition and stability of forest stands - Forest stands shall be regenerated using site-suitable species and nurtured in time and systematically in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the approved FMP by the SFA and in order to improve their condition, increase stability and enhance the fulfilment of forest functions. Subsequent nurture of the forest sites shall be conducted so that in the future the proportion of melioration and strengthening wood species (MSWS) does not drop.</p> <p>Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.1 Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation – (...) Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Optimization of amount, quality and diversity of resources in forests tending to establishing and maintaining mixed stands, balanced age-class distribution or all-aged, richly structured forest stands facilitates maintenance or enhancement of carbon resource fixed in wood and forest land and restore landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.</p>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintain (possibly improve) their biodiversity, resistance to adverse influence and preserves stability of ambient ecosystems. Original native species and their local origin should be used for afforestation/reforestation and forest regeneration. Site-suitable natural regeneration is preferred. Genetically modified reproduction material must not be used. In suitable conditions, the low and medium shape of the forest is used, among others.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: In the context of a country such as the Czech Republic where forestry has been carried out very professionally and considering the latest scientific knowledge over several generations the benchmark can be considered as met.
8.4.10 The standard requires that tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or improve biological diversity.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.3: “Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses. - There must be no irreversible disruption of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 4.1: “Biodiversity conservation in forest regeneration and afforestation - Forest regeneration and reforestation/afforestation shall be carried out in such a way to achieve the condition of forest stands and forest environment that maintains (possibly improves) their biodiversity (...)”</p> <p>Criterion 4.3: “Leaving dead and dying trees in the forest - For the purposes of maintaining and reinforcing the organism population relating to ageing and dead wood, leave a proportion of trees of natural species according to particular conditions and situation in the stand to die and decompose with regard to forest visitor safety. Measures need to be applied with due regard for necessity for forest protection especially against species representing an impending mass outbreak. Removal of logging residues is to be limited to localities, where the site conditions allow it.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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 genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 3.4: “Forest road network - Suitable infrastructure shall be planned such as roads, skidding trails and bridges, their construction and adequate maintenance (especially drainage facilities, cleaning ditches, etc.) shall be ensured so that effective transport of goods and provision of forest functions are supplied. - At the same time, attention shall be paid to decreasing their negative effects on the environment, particularly during the construction of the forest roads there must be no increased threat</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		to the forest, especially by wind and water erosion. - Appropriate anti-erosion arrangements are to be constructed on the forest roads when necessary.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is sufficiently covered.
8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.4: “Monitoring and prevention of the incidence of harmful factors - Health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be systematically monitored particularly with respect to crucial biotic and abiotic factors which could adversely affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests, diseases, game overpopulation, forest fires and damages caused by climatic factors, air pollution and logging operations in forests. Such measures shall be carried out to prevent the effects of harmful factors on the forest. Evaluation of occurrence of harmful factors on the forest for the past period in the updated FMP/O shall be carried out with the adoption of preventive silvicultural measures to improve condition of forest.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 4.3: “Leaving dead and dying trees in the forest - For the purposes of maintaining and reinforcing the organism population relating to ageing and dead wood, leave a proportion of trees of natural species according to particular conditions and situation in the stand to die and decompose with regard to forest visitor safety. Measures need to be applied with due regard for necessity for forest protection especially against species representing an impending mass outbreak. Removal of logging residues is to be limited to localities, where the site conditions allow it.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 5.1: “Management in forests with protective functions - Forestry planning and management in forests shall ensure preservation and increasing protective functions of forests for the benefit of society, primarily soil protection against erosion, flood prevention, protection of the quality and quantity of water resources,

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.		climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other forest ecosystem services. These protective functions are mapped and registered. Appropriate management measures are used." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 5.1: Management in forests with protective functions - Forestry planning and management in forests shall ensure preservation and increasing protective functions of forests for the benefit of society, primarily soil protection against erosion, flood prevention, protection of the quality and quantity of water resources, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other forest ecosystem services. These protective functions are mapped and registered. Appropriate management measures are used." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 5.1: Management in forests with protective functions - Forestry planning and management in forests shall ensure preservation and increasing protective functions of forests for the benefit of society, primarily soil protection against erosion, flood prevention, protection of the quality and quantity of water resources, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other forest ecosystem services. These protective functions are mapped and registered. Appropriate management measures are used." Criterion 3.4: "Forest road network - Suitable infrastructure shall be planned such as roads, skidding trails and bridges, their construction and adequate maintenance (especially drainage facilities, cleaning ditches, etc.) shall be ensured so that effective transport of goods and provision of forest functions are supplied. At the same time, attention shall be paid to decreasing their negative effects on the environment, particularly during the construction of the forest roads there must be no increased threat to the forest, especially by wind and water erosion. Appropriate anti-erosion arrangements are to be constructed on the forest roads when necessary."

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Criterion No. 2.4: “Monitoring and prevention of the incidence of harmful factors - Health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be systematically monitored particularly with respect to crucial biotic and abiotic factors which could adversely affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests, diseases, game overpopulation (...) and logging operations in forests. Such measures shall be carried out to prevent the effects of harmful factors on the forest. Evaluation of occurrence of harmful factors on the forest for the past period in the updated FMP/O shall be carried out with the adoption of preventive silvicultural measures to improve condition of forest.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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>	<p>YES</p>	<p>TD CFCS 1003, TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 5.1: Management in forests with protective functions - Forestry planning and management in forests shall ensure preservation and increasing protective functions of forests for the benefit of society, primarily soil protection against erosion, flood prevention, protection of the quality and quantity of water resources, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other forest ecosystem services. These protective functions are mapped and registered. Appropriate management measures are used.”</p> <p>Criterion 3.4: “Forest road network - Suitable infrastructure shall be planned such as roads, skidding trails and bridges, their construction and adequate maintenance (especially drainage facilities, cleaning ditches, etc.) shall be ensured so that effective transport of goods and provision of forest functions are supplied. At the same time, attention shall be paid to decreasing their negative effects on the environment, particularly during the construction of the forest roads there must be no increased threat to the forest, especially by wind and water erosion. Appropriate anti-erosion arrangements are to be constructed on the forest roads when necessary.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.4: “Monitoring and prevention of the incidence of harmful factors - Health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be systematically monitored particularly with respect to crucial biotic and abiotic factors which could adversely affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests, diseases, game overpopulation (...) and logging operations in forests. Such measures shall be carried out to prevent the effects of harmful factors on the forest. Evaluation of occurrence of harmful factors on the forest for the past</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>period in the updated FMP/O shall be carried out with the adoption of preventive silvicultural measures to improve condition of forest.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.5.5 The standard requires that construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 5.1: Management in forests with protective functions - Forestry planning and management in forests shall ensure preservation and increasing protective functions of forests for the benefit of society, primarily soil protection against erosion, flood prevention, protection of the quality and quantity of water resources, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other forest ecosystem services. These protective functions are mapped and registered. Appropriate management measures are used.”</p> <p>Criterion 3.4: “Forest road network - Suitable infrastructure shall be planned such as roads, skidding trails and bridges, their construction and adequate maintenance (especially drainage facilities, cleaning ditches, etc.) shall be ensured so that effective transport of goods and provision of forest functions are supplied. At the same time, attention shall be paid to decreasing their negative effects on the environment, particularly during the construction of the forest roads there must be no increased threat to the forest, especially by wind and water erosion. Appropriate anti-erosion arrangements are to be constructed on the forest roads when necessary.”</p> <p>Criterion 2.3: “Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions		
8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.5: “Forest management plans and outlines - Forestry planning must be based on valid legal regulations while respecting the socio-economic</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>functions of forests. A summary of the FMP corresponding to the conditions of the region must be publicly available.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.6: “General use of forests and their use for recreation - Everybody has a right to come in the forest at their own risk and to gather forest fruits for personal use as well as dry brushwood from the ground and use them for its recreation to the extent established by law.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.7: “Places of a special cultural or spiritual importance - When managing the forest, respect places of special historical, cultural or spiritual significance.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.1 “Importance of forestry and its promotion - Forest-management planning respects various functions of forests and their importance for human society. The importance of forests for the development of countryside, new possibilities of occupation and equal employment opportunities should be taken into consideration. Forest management practices should make the best use of the forest related experience and knowledge of local entities (such as forest owners, professional forest managers and local residents).”</p> <p>Criterion No. 6.3: “Professional education of forestry employees and research work - Forest managers, business subjects, forest personnel and forest owners have information on principles of sustainable forest management, have appropriate education; relevant information shall be regularly updated.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.1 “Importance of forestry and its promotion - Forest-management planning respects various functions of forests and their importance for human society. The importance of forests for the development of countryside, new possibilities of occupation and equal employment opportunities should be taken into consideration. Forest management practices should make the best use of the forest related experience and knowledge of local entities (such as forest owners, professional forest managers and local residents).”</p> <p>Criterion No. 6.3: “Professional education of forestry employees and research work - Forest managers, business subjects, forest personnel and forest owners have information on principles of sustainable forest management, have appropriate education; relevant information shall be regularly updated.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.1 “Importance of forestry and its promotion - Forest-management planning respects various functions of forests and their importance for human society. The importance of forests for the development of countryside, new possibilities of occupation and equal employment opportunities should be taken into consideration. Forest management practices should make the best use of the forest related experience and knowledge of local entities (such as forest owners, professional forest managers and local residents).”</p> <p>Criterion No. 6.3: “Professional education of forestry employees and research work - Forest managers, business subjects, forest personnel and forest owners have information on principles of sustainable forest management, have appropriate education; relevant information shall be regularly updated.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.7 The standard requires that forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or	YES	TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.3: “Professional education of forestry employees and research work - Forest managers, business subjects, forest personnel and forest owners

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.		<p>have information on principles of sustainable forest management, have appropriate education; relevant information shall be regularly updated. (...) Indicators traced at owner level (...) 6.3.2c: The forest owner cooperates as much as he can with forestry education and research. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 1.3: “Regional forest development plans - Natural resources monitoring and evaluation of their use has to be done regularly and results have to be taken into consideration in forestry planning process.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.1.2 The standard requires that health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 2.1: “Use of plant protection products - The forest protection methods used are based on the principles of integrated forest protection. Where possible, environmentally friendly mechanical, biotechnical or biological methods are preferred over chemical methods. Permitted plant protection products may only be used in justified cases, according to the instructions (label) and in accordance with good practice. Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, preparations prohibited by international conventions or included in category 1A and 1B, or other highly toxic pesticides according to the WHO evaluation, may not be used, except in situations where other suitable alternatives cannot be used. The application of preparations can only be carried out by persons possessing at least the first degree of certification according to the Act on Plant Medicinal Care, instructed by a person with a higher degree of certification.”</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.2: “Forest fertilization and liming -Fertilisers should be used in moderation and only in cases with good reason, with regard to their impact on separate elements of the environment. It is recommended to use alternative methods of biological additional fertilizing.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>Criterion No. 2.3: "Environment-friendly nurture, logging and skidding procedures - When managing forests, based on terrain typification, appropriate nurturing, mining and transport technologies listed in the RFDP and in the FMP/O must be used, which do not disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, do not reduce the productive capacity of the site and minimize damage to LIFF and watercourses. - There must be no irreversible disruption of the soil surface and the creation of concentrated runoff, leakage of oils and operating fluids, and the leaving of waste on forest land."</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.4: "Monitoring and prevention of the incidence of harmful factors - Health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be systematically monitored particularly with respect to crucial biotic and abiotic factors which could adversely affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests, diseases, game overpopulation, forest fires and damages caused by climatic factors, air pollution and logging operations in forests. Such measures shall be carried out to prevent the effects of harmful factors on the forest. Evaluation of occurrence of harmful factors on the forest for the past period in the updated FMP/O shall be carried out with the adoption of preventive silvicultural measures to improve condition of forest."</p> <p>Criterion No. 2.5: "Improving the condition and stability of forest stands - Forest stands shall be regenerated using site-suitable species and nurtured in time and systematically in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the approved FMP by the SFA and in order to improve their condition, increase stability and enhance the fulfilment of forest functions. Subsequent nurture of the forest sites shall be conducted so that in the future the proportion of melioration and strengthening wood species (MSWS) does not drop."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	<p>TD CFCs 1003, Criterion No. 3.3: "Production of non-wood products and services - Forest management ensures production of non-wood products from the forest and provision of ecosystem services in such a way that it does not exceed the sustainable level and does not worsen the quality and state of forest resources."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, Criterion No. 6.4: "Safe working conditions and occupational safety - In the course of managing in forests, principles of occupational health and safety shall be observed including inspection and removing defects in working procedures, machines and equipment."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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		
<p>a) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the organisation's requirements for its management system; • the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard 	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit - The aim is to check the reliability of information, compliance with laws and regulations, efficient and effective use of resources, achievement of operational goals and fulfillment of the requirements of the PEFC SFM standard by all forest operators in a defined forest area who have an influence on achieving compliance with the requirements. The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: a) corresponds with • the participant's requirements for the adopted management system • the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management;"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit – (...) The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: (...) b) is effectively implemented and maintained."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.2.2 Organisation		

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
The standard requires that the organisation shall:		
a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit - The aim is to check the reliability of information, compliance with laws and regulations, efficient and effective use of resources, achievement of operational goals and fulfillment of the requirements of the PEFC SFM standard by all forest operators in a defined forest area who have an influence on achieving compliance with the requirements. The internal audit program at scheduled intervals must provide information on whether the management system: a) corresponds with • the participant's requirements for the adopted management system • the requirements of the national standard of sustainable forest management; b) is effectively implemented and maintained.</p> <p>A <u>participant</u> in the internal audit process must:</p> <p>7.1.1 carry out continuous control of compliance with technological procedures and the quality of the work performed</p> <p>7.1.2 conduct an internal audit of compliance with the sustainable forest management standard at least once a year to the extent determined by the certificate holder (selfassessment - questionnaire)</p> <p>7.1.3 select auditors and conduct audits in order to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process</p> <p>7.1.4 submit the results of audits and self-assessment to the management of the organization (certificate holders)</p> <p>7.1.5 retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and audit results</p> <p>Verification method: certification participant documentation."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially covered.</p>
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit – (...) A participant in the internal audit process must:

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>7.1.1 carry out continuous control of compliance with technological procedures and the quality of the work performed</p> <p>7.1.2 conduct an internal audit of compliance with the sustainable forest management standard at least once a year to the extent determined by the certificate holder (self-assessment - questionnaire)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit – (...) A participant in the internal audit process must: (...) 7.1.3 select auditors and conduct audits in order to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit – (...) A participant in the internal audit process must: (...) 7.1.4 submit the results of audits and self-assessment to the management of the organization (certificate holders)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.1: "Internal audit – (...) A participant in the internal audit process must: (...) 7.1.5 retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and audit results"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3 Management review		
9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include		

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.2: "Management review - 7.2.1 The annual management review includes at least: a) Status of measures from previous management reviews"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.2: "Management review - 7.2.1 The annual management review includes at least: (...) b) Changes in external and internal conditions that are relevant to the management system"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results; 	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.2: "Management review - 7.2.1 The annual management review includes at least: (...) c) Information on SFM processes and results, including trends in the following areas: - nonconformities and corrective measures; - monitoring and measurement results; - audit results; - corrective measures taken by the certificate holder for the group"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) opportunities for continual improvement	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.2: "Management review - 7.2.1 The annual management review includes at least: (...) d) Possibilities for continuous improvement"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.2: "Management review (...) 7.2.2 Management review outputs must include decisions related to continuous improvement opportunities and any need to change the management system."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	YES	TD CFCS 1003, 7.2: "Management review (...) 7.2.3 Management review outputs are documented and retained as evidence of management review results." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;		TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: "Nonconformities and corrective measures -7.3.1 In the case of a nonconformity, the participant must a) respond to nonconformity as necessary: -i. take immediate measures to correct and control it - ii. deal with the consequences" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;		TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: "Nonconformities and corrective measures -7.3.1 In the case of a nonconformity, the participant must (...) b) assess the need to implement measures to eliminate the nonconformity so that it does not occur repeatedly or occurs elsewhere, through: i. nonconformity review - ii. by determining the causes of the nonconformity - iii. by determining whether similar nonconformities exist or are likely to occur" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) implement any action needed;		TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: "Nonconformities and corrective measures -7.3.1 In the case of a nonconformity, the participant must (...) c) take all necessary measures" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: “Nonconformities and corrective measures -7.3.1 In the case of a nonconformity, the participant must (...) d) review the effectiveness of all corrective measures taken”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: “Nonconformities and corrective measures -7.3.1 In the case of a nonconformity, the participant must (...) e) if necessary, make changes in the management system”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: “Nonconformities and corrective measures (...) 7.3.2 Corrective measures must be proportionate to the effects of identified nonconformities.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: “Nonconformities and corrective measures (...) 7.3.3 Document and maintain documented written information about all contexts and actions that led to the occurrence of the illegal act as evidence of: a) the nature of the non-conformity and any subsequently implemented corrective measures”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the results of any corrective action.		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.3: “Nonconformities and corrective measures (...) 7.3.3 Document and maintain documented written information about all contexts and actions that led to the occurrence of the illegal act as evidence of: (...) b) the results of any corrective measures”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Yes/No	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
<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>		<p>TD CFCS 1003, 7.2 Management review - At least once a year, the highest authority of the participant conducts a review of compliance with the standard of sustainable forest management with the aim of ensuring the permanent suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of forest management. The goal is to respond in a timely and appropriate manner to changes in external and internal SFM conditions. 7.2.1 The annual management review includes at least: (...) d) possibilities for continuous improvement"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

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

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4. Context of the group organisation		
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context		
The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:		
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.1.4: "Forms and limiting factors for creating a group organization: - regional group: a group of forest owners and managers, including local associations regardless of the type of ownership, located (clearly deployed) within clearly defined boundaries of the region with at least 50% of the forest area of Czech Republic - Note: Due to the fact that an appropriate regional structure of owners has not been created at higher territorial administrative units as units of territorial self-government of the Czech Republic, for the purposes of regional certification of forest management according to the Czech system of forest certification, it is possible to consider the territory of the entire Czech Republic as a region."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) other groups and/or	YES	<p>Groups other than regional groups are not specified in TD CFCS 1002:2023.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.	YES	<p>No other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system are specified in TD CFCS 1002:2023</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.2.1: “The entity shall identify representatives of the affected stakeholders in the certified area to whom implementation of the standard may cause a direct change in living or working conditions or stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard. The following, but not exhaustive, list of stakeholders concerned, and their expectations may be relevant to the group management system.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.2.1: “(...) The following, but not exhaustive, list of stakeholders concerned, and their expectations may be relevant to the group management system. (...)”</p> <p>4.2.2 “The entity shall monitor and review the requirements reflecting the needs and expectations of the concerned stakeholders.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: On the level of the group organisation it should be considered a reasonable approach to determine stakeholders’ expectations by stakeholder groups rather than individuals, at least initially, given the nationwide coverage of the group organisation in the Czech Republic. The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system		
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:		
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant),	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.1.1: “The organization, activity and management of the group shall be performed by a legal entity - a group representative - a certificate holder. It can be one of the participants in the group or another legal entity. The representative shall provide the necessary structural, material and personnel conditions to meet the needs of this document. It shall be generally responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of forests in the certified area according to the sustainable forest management standard or</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>other applicable requirements of the certification system. It shall use a group management system for this purpose.”</p> <p>4.3.1.2 “The participants in the group are forest managers registered in the register of forest lands at the relevant office of the forestry state administration, who have the ownership or use right to manage forests.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the certified area, (The forest area covered by a sustainable forest management system according to the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standard (PEFC ST 1003). In the group certification context the certified area is the sum of forest areas of the participants and covered by a group forest certificate.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.1.3: “The certified area is the sum of the forest areas of the participants in the certification covered by the common certificate.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark <u>IS</u> met.</p>
c) the group certificate and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.1.4: “A group certificate is a document issued by a certification body on the basis of an audit confirming the compliance of the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard or other applicable requirements of the certification system with reality. The group entity is the group certificate holder.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.1.5: “The document confirming participation in the group forest certification is a confirmation on participation in the group certification issued by the group entity to the group participants.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.2: "Establishment, boundaries and applicability of the management system</p> <p>4.3.2.1 The group management system shall refer to the immediate processes related to forest certification, which are in accordance with the following articles of this document.</p> <p>4.3.2.2 The management system shall be comprehensible, measurable and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		feasible for all participants. 4.3.2.3 It shall apply to all participants in a particular group organization.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.3.3: “Requirements of SFM standard fulfilled on group level 4.3.3.1 The standard also includes requirements that require the establishment of specific procedures to meet them. Due to the widespread nature of such procedures, it is not possible to provide for such procedures as a separate requirement. The standard therefore requires a representative to adjust the following processes in the form of a document binding for a whole group: - The group entity is obliged to specify the requirement for protection of water quality in forest stands and riparian stands - The group entity is obliged to specify the requirement to minimize damage to stands and soil during forestry activities 4.3.3.2 The entity is also entitled to adopt other binding procedures, especially in areas where there is a significantly different fulfilment of the requirement within the individual participants of the group. 4.3.3.3 The subject of the management system is for the participants in the certification part of the entity's documentation, which is publicly available.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: In addition to 4.3.3 of TD CFCS 1002, indicators for regional and for forest owner/manager level are defined separately for each “criterion” of TD CFCS 1003. The benchmark can be considered as met.
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “Responsibilities and authorities of the group entity (...) g) To keep documented information of: i. the group entity and participants’ conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its size iii. the certified area” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially met.

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.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.4.4: “The entity shall identify and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurement and performance indicators) needed to properly establish and implement the process of sustainable forest management and its improvement. The entity performs the internal monitoring and the internal audit program at regular intervals, at least once a year for all participants in the certification. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 4.4.5: “PEFC certified 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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5. Leadership		
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities		
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:		
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “a) To implement and maintain group management system for all participants of the group”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) to represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) b) To represent the group organisation in the certification process, including communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) d) To establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant’s information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) e) 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 size.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) f) To establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities from the scope of group certification. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
f) to keep documented information of: i. the group entity and participants’ conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system, ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) g) To keep documented information of: i. the group entity and participants’ conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its size iii. the certified area

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
iii. the certified area, iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;		iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants’ commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard; Note: The requirements for “participant’ commitment” and “written contract or other written agreement with all participants” may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) h) To establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants’ commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard. - Note: The requirements for “participant’ commitment” and “written contract or other written agreement with all participants” may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing local associations, 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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) i) To provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification (Annex 2). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) j) 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.” Assessment decision: Conformity

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) k) 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.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants’ conformity with the certification requirements;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) l) To operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants’ conformity with the certification requirements.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) m) To operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) n) To operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1: “(...) r) To provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the NGB 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>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:		
a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion. Note: The requirement for “written agreement” and participants’ “commitment” is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.2: “a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system. Group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion. Note: The requirements for "written contract" and "participant's commitment" are also fulfilled through an affidavit, which can be part of the application for participation in regional forest certification. “ Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.2: “(...) b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.2: “(...) 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, including contractors carrying out forestry operations in the forests on the basis of a contract with the owner or manager. This means that the manager shall be directly responsible for ensuring that the contracted service is performed in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.”

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the group entity, or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.2: “(...) 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.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.2: “(...) f) To inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.2: “(...) g) To implement relevant corrective and preventive actions following from the certification body audits, internal audits and established by the group entity for all group participants.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2 Commitment and policy		
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.1: “The group entity is obligated: a) To comply with the SFM standard and other applicable requirements of the Czech Forest Certification System.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.1: "The group entity is obligated: (...) b) To integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.1: "The group entity is obligated: (...) c) To continuously improve the group management system." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.1: "The group entity is obligated: (...) d) To continuously support the improvement of the SFM of the forests by the participants." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 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." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.3: "The group participant is obligated: a) To follow the rules of the management system." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.2.3: "The group participant is obligated: (...) b) To implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related CFCS requirements in the managed forests."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6. Planning		
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 6.2: "In the case, that the group organization plans any changes to the processes and procedures of the group management system and SFM responsibilities, these changes shall be included in the group management plan."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 6.3: "The requirements of the SFM standard met at the group level (chapter 4) must be included in the group management plan."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7. Support		
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.1: "The group entity shall create the conditions and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system. These resources shall include: - human resources (employees) - infrastructure (office spaces, hardware, software) - means of transport - information and communication technologies - financial resources"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.2: "The persons responsible for organizing and carrying out the work of the group management system shall have the necessary competences, knowledge and experience: - university forestry education of the second degree - the competence of a professional forest manager, forest management plan elaboration or professional competence for the state administration in forestry, respectively - five years' experience in forestry activities - completion of an educational program for the application of the Czech Forest Certification System - knowledge of the context of the organization and the management system of the group organization"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning:		
a) the group management policy;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.3: "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of: a) the group management policy"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.3: "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of: (...) b) the requirements of the SFM standard"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.3: "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of: (...) c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.3: “The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of: (...) d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:		
a) on what to communicate;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.4: “The group entity within the group management system shall define the range of external and internal entities with which he keeps communication to ensure the functioning of the group organization and support the fulfilment of SFM standard. The list of entities is described in chapter 4.2.1.”</p> <p>7.4.1: “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve: (...) b) On what to communicate - the subject of communication (processes, procedures and responsibilities) resulting from the group management system”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) when to communicate;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.4.1: “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve: (...) d) When to communicate - date of communication”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) with whom to communicate;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.4.1: “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve: a) With whom to communicate - affected stakeholders as appropriate to the subject of communication (who are affected by communication or are able to react to it)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) how to communicate.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.4.1: “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve: (...) c) How to communicate - determining the way of communication (communication channels)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.5: “The entity shall have in place documented process place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations, where: - a complaint is a form of disagreement by a group participant with the actions and procedures of a group entity - a dispute is a form of disagreement by a group participant with the assessment of compliance with the activities related to the management of the group and SFM standard by the group representative”</p> <p>7.5.1: “The entity shall have in place documented process place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations. Upon receipt of a complaint the entity shall: a) formally acknowledge the complaint to the complainant within ten workdays TD CFCS 1002:2023 25 b) gather and verify all necessary information to evaluate and validate the complaint and make a decision on the complaint c) ensure that appropriate corrective and preventive actions are taken, if necessary”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:		
a) up to date;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.6: “Group management system documentation: 7.6.1 Documented information is the required information to be managed, maintained and kept by the organisation, including the medium on which it is contained. (...) 7.6.3 Documentation shall be kept up to date”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.6.3: "Documentation shall be kept up to date, easily identifiable, readable, and adequately protected against the loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity. 7.6.4 Depending on the character the documented information may be: a) document - contains the procedure, rules or process taking place in the organization, within a defined period of validity of the document. It is reviewable – is maintained. b) record - describes the achieved results or serves as evidence of performed activities, events. It is not reviewable - is stored."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 7.6.3: "Documentation shall be (...) adequately protected against the loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8. Operation		
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:		
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 8.1.1: "The group entity, in cooperation with the group participants, shall plan, implement and manage the processes required for: a) meeting the process requirements of the group management system and the SFM standard"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 8.1.1 The group entity, in cooperation with the group participants, shall plan, implement and manage the processes required for: (...) b) the implementation of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>changes in the processes and procedures of the group management system and SFM responsibilities (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 8.1.2: "The planning, implementation and controlling shall be based on the assessment of risks and opportunities arising from the structure of group participants, the results of monitoring and internal audit of the entity or the certification body audit. These shall be in integrated and implemented into the management system. Such knowledge shall be the basis for: a) The selection of procedures for assessing the level of compliance of the group certification standard and the SFM standard with the determined evaluation criteria (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 8.1.2: "The planning, implementation and controlling shall be based on the assessment of risks and opportunities arising from the structure of group participants, the results of monitoring and internal audit of the entity or the certification body audit. These shall be in integrated and implemented into the management system. Such knowledge shall be the basis for: (...) b) Carrying out inspections of procedures using an evaluation questionnaire (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 8.1.2: "The planning, implementation and controlling shall be based on the assessment of risks and opportunities arising from the structure of group participants, the results of monitoring and internal audit of the entity or the certification body audit. These shall be in integrated and implemented into the management system. Such</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>knowledge shall be the basis for: (...) c) Records keeping ensuring compliance of the processes within the scope of the evaluation questionnaires.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:		
a) what shall be monitored and measured;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.1: "(...) The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of CFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured: <i>[table with header rows on:]</i> Subject of monitoring - Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses - Time schedule of monitoring and measurement - Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results - Documented proof of results"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.1: "(...) at least the following shall be monitored and measured: <i>[table with header rows on:]</i> (...) Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses "</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met
c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.1: "(...) at least the following shall be monitored and measured: [table with header rows on:] (...) Time schedule of monitoring and measurement"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.1: "(...) at least the following shall be monitored and measured: [table with header rows on:] (...) Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results - Documented proof of results"</p> <p>Assessment decision: onformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is</p>
e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.1: "(...) at least the following shall be monitored and measured: [table with header rows on:] (...) Documented proof of results"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.1.2: "(...) At least annually, the entity shall at regular intervals evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the group management system regarding the implementation of the SFM requirements. The subject of the evaluation is the analysis of compliance and applicability of the group management system documentation."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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:		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
a) conforms to i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.1.1: "The 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" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.1.1: "The annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system: (...) b) Ensures the implementation of the SFM standard on the participant level" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.1.1: "The annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system: (...) c) Is effective, implemented and maintained" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.1.2: "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." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.2.1: "The internal audit programme shall cover at least: a) Planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.2.1: "The internal audit programme shall cover at least: (...) b) Definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.2.1: "The internal audit programme shall cover at least: (...) c) Competences of internal auditors according to the requirements in 7.2."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.2.1: "The internal audit programme shall cover at least: (...) d) Selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.2.1: "The internal audit programme shall cover at least: (...) e) Ensuring that the results of the on-site inspection shall be communicated to the certification participant before the end of the verification, so that the participant can comment on the findings, or to eliminate the identified nonconformities without delay."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.2.2.1: "The internal audit programme shall cover at least: (...) f) The results and process of the verification shall be recorded in the on-site verification report. The report shall include: i) identification of the inspected site (owner/manager) ii) date of the inspection iii) names of the persons who carried out the verification iv) names of the other persons involved v) results of the verification vi) comments on identified nonconformities in management vii) measures taken to eliminate nonconformities"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme		
9.3.1 General		
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme. These requirements shall include the following procedures for:	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.1.1: "The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for: (...) "</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.1.1: "The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for: a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2) "</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) determination of sample categories (9.3.3);	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.1.1: "The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for: (...) b) determination of sample categories (9.3.3) "</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.1.1: "The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for: (...) c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4)" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.1.1: "The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for: (...) d) selection of the participants (9.3.5)" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.1.2: "The entity may define additional requirements for the group." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.6: "9.3.6 Requirements for sampling of participants from pre-existing local associations 9.3.6.1 Determination of the sample size The sample size usually represents 10% of the number of participants in a local association, rounded up to the nearest whole number. 9.3.6.2 Selection of the participants Depending on the number of members of the local association, as appropriate, in accordance with 9.3.5." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size		
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.2.1: "The entity shall determine the sample size from the number of participants of the group organisation."

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 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." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.2.3: "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of: a) results of a risk assessment of sample categories (9.3.4) - in the case of low risk: by a coefficient of 0.7 - in the case of high risk: by a coefficient of 1.2" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.2.3: "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of: (...) b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits - in the case of non-conformity at the group level (10.1.c): by a coefficient of 2" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.2.3: "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of: (...) c) quality/level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme - in the case of reliably identified favourable results of the internal monitoring program (9.1.1): by a coefficient of 0.7" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements;</p> <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>	YES	<p>This option is not used.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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>	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.2.3: "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of: (...) d) survey with participants in the certification process: - in the case of substantiated concerns by the stakeholders concerned and citizens: by a coefficient of 1.2 - in the case of provision of reliable information (self-assessment) by participants confirmed by the state authorities: by a coefficient of 0.7"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</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:		
a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.3.1: "Sample categories must be determined based on the results of the risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment must reflect the geographical scope of the standard. For risk assessment, a matrix can be used to determine the risk of a group organization according to selected indicators (Appendix 1)."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) Indicator: a) Type of ownership (state, municipal, private)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
b) size of management units (different size classes);	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) b) Size of management units (FMP/O)"</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) c) Biogeography of the area (e.g. lowlands, highlands, mountain and foothills)" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) d) Operations, processes and products of group participants" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
e) deforestation and forest conversion;	YES	PEFC Czech Republic statement: "Does not apply, allowed only with permission of state administration" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
f) rotation period(s);	YES	PEFC Czech Republic statement: "Does not apply, allowed only with permission of state administration" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
g) richness of biological diversity;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) e) The influence of the method of management on biodiversity" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) f) Recreational and other socio-economic functions of forests" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) g) Dependence and interaction with local communities" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) h) Resources available for administration, operations, education and research" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
k) governance and law enforcement.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, Annex 1: "Matrix for determining the risk of a group organization according to indicators (...) i) Public administration and law enforcement" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.3.1, Annex 1 defines low, medium and high risk conditions for all indicators used. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.4 Distribution of the sample	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.4: " Distribution of the sample to the categories 9.3.4.1 The sample must be divided into categories according to the results of the risk assessment (low, medium, high). When redistributing the sample into categories, the representation of

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.		<p>participants according to the type of ownership, i.e. the risk assessment is carried out for three groups of participants according to the type of ownership (state, municipal and private). The ratio of participants in the selection will be adjusted in favor of the higher risk category/categories, taking into account the number of certification participants within the category."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Met the benchmark is.</p>
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.5.1: "At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.3.5.2: "The following factors shall be taken into account when selecting other participants - fulfilment of conditions for a high level of risk for individual indicators - records of complaints and other relevant aspects of corrective and preventive action - results of internal audits, management reviews or previous certification audits - results of monitoring and measurements - significant variations in the size of area of participants - modifications since the last certification audit - geographical dispersion"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.1: "The group entity is obliged to review the group management system at the planned annual intervals to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and efficiency and compliance with the needs of SFM. The annual management review shall include at least: a) The status of actions from previous management reviews. b) changes in</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system (number of participants, legislative changes). c) The status of conformity with the SFM standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance. d) Information on the group performance, including trends in: i) nonconformities and corrective actions ii) monitoring and measurement results iii) audit results e) Opportunities for continual improvement." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.1: "(...) The annual management review shall include at least: (...) b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system (number of participants, legislative changes)." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.1: "(...) The annual management review shall include at least: (...) c) The status of conformity with the SFM standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.1: "(...) The annual management review shall include at least: (...) d) Information on the group performance, including trends in: i) nonconformities and corrective actions ii) monitoring and measurement results iii) audit results" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) opportunities for continual improvement.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.1: "(...) The annual management review shall include at least: (...) e) Opportunities for continual improvement."

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.2: "The outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 9.4.3: "The entity shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.1: "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall: a) React to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i) take action to control and correct it ii) deal with the consequences" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.1: "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall: (...) b) Evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i) reviewing the nonconformity ii) determining the

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;		causes of the nonconformity iii) determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) implement any action needed;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.1: "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall: (...) c) Implement any action needed. When nonconformities are found at any individual participant of group certification, either through the entity's internal auditing or from auditing by the certification body, the group entity shall review the nonconformities to determine whether they indicate an overall forest management deficiency applicable to all participants in group certification or not (group nonconformity). If they are found to do so, corrective action shall be performed both at the group entity and at the individual forest owners/managers. If they are found not to do so, the group entity shall be able to demonstrate to the certification body the justification for limiting its corrective actions to certain forest owners/managers." Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.1: "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall: (...) d) Review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken e) Make changes to the group management system, if necessary" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.	YES	TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.1: "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall: (...) e) Make changes to the group management system, if necessary" Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.2: “The entity shall retain documented information as evidence of: a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.2: “The entity shall retain documented information as evidence of: (...) b) the results of any corrective action”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.1.3: “Exclusion or suspension of participation in certification: a) In the case of a serious noncompliance with the standard of sustainable forest management, the entity shall initiate the exclusion of any participant from the certification process or the suspension of participation in the certification until the correction is carried out. b) The entity shall have an advisory body in place to decide on the suspension or exclusion of the owner/manager from participation in forest certification. c) In the case of non-inclusion, suspension or exclusion of the owner/manager from participation in forest certification, the representative shall justify this decision in writing. d) The owner/manager may appeal to the CFCS national governing body against the entity's decision not to include, suspend or exclude the owner/manager from certification. e) The 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> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
10.2 Continual improvement	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 10.2: “Continual improvement - 10.2.1 The suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the SFM shall be continuously improved.”</p>

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

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

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Certification Bodies			
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 11: "(...) Certification bodies are impartial and independent third parties that shall have appropriate technical competence in certification procedures, adequate know-how in forest management and forest products procurement and processing in general, respectively and shall have a good understanding of the certification criteria of national certification system."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 4.2: "Impartiality - All the requirements given in clause 4.2 of ISO/IEC 17021-1 apply."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered essentially addressed.</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	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12: "(...) Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) or IAF's Regional Accreditation Groups. The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, TD CFCS 1004:2023 and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed.</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 2: "Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA of IAF or IAF's Regional Accreditation Groups with IAF MLA such as European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), Interamerican</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)). The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version and/or with reference to any future changes and amendments adopted by the PEFC Council and presented at the PEFC Council official website www.pefc.org. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, this document and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
3.	<p>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?</p>	Annex 6, 3.1	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 11: "(...) Certification bodies are impartial and independent third parties that shall have appropriate technical competence in certification procedures, adequate know-how in forest management and forest products procurement and processing in general, respectively and shall have a good understanding of the certification criteria of national certification system."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 7.2.1.6: "Competencies 7.2.1.6.1 The certification body shall ensure that auditors demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: - principles, requirements, criteria or indicators of the forest management standard; - knowledge of the socio-demographics and cultural issues in the group of application of the forest management standard; - audit principles, procedures and techniques: to enable the auditor to apply those appropriate to different audits and ensure that audits are conducted in a consistent and systematic manner. - organisation situations including organizational size, structure, functions and relationships, general business processes and related terminology and cultural and social customs such as knowledge of the client organisation working language: to enable the auditor to comprehend the organisation's operational context. - legislation, regulations or other relevant requirements – enabling the auditor to operate in the right legal framework and to be aware of the legislative requirements applicable to the group which is the subject of the audit; TD CFCS 1004:2023 10 - the principles of forest management based on techniques involving inventories, forest cropping, planning, protection and the management of forest ecosystems – to enable the</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>auditor to examine the forest management scheme and to decide whether it is being adequately applied; - natural environment science, environmental technology and the economic principles applicable to forest management – to give the auditor a grasp of the fundamental relations between human activities and sustainable forest management; - technical aspects of forestry operations associated with exploitations, technology and derived uses – to allow the auditor to grasp the activities of the region audited and their effects on the management itself and the territory.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 11: “(...) Certification bodies are impartial and independent third parties that shall have appropriate technical competence in certification procedures, adequate know-how in forest management and forest products procurement and processing in general, respectively and shall have a good understanding of the certification criteria of national certification system.”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 7.2.1: “(...)7.2.1.2 Forest management training The certification body shall ensure that auditors, in the last two years, have participated in an education programme in forest management that is recognised by the PEFC Council or the PEFC national governing body responsible for the Czech Forest Certification System. (...)7.2.1.6 Competencies 7.2.1.6.1 The certification body shall ensure that auditors demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: - principles, requirements, criteria or indicators of the forest management standard (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 7.2.1.6: “Competencies 7.2.1.6.1 The certification body shall ensure that auditors demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: - principles, requirements, criteria or indicators of the forest management standard; - knowledge of the socio-demographics and cultural issues in the group of application of the forest management standard; - audit principles, procedures and techniques: to enable the auditor to apply those appropriate to different audits and ensure that audits are conducted</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>in a consistent and systematic manner. - organisation situations including organizational size, structure, functions and relationships, general business processes and related terminology and cultural and social customs such as knowledge of the client organisation working language: to enable the auditor to comprehend the organisation's operational context. - legislation, regulations or other relevant requirements – enabling the auditor to operate in the right legal framework and to be aware of the legislative requirements applicable to the group which is the subject of the audit; the principles of forest management based on techniques involving inventories, forest cropping, planning, protection and the management of forest ecosystems – to enable the auditor to examine the forest management scheme and to decide whether it is being adequately applied; - natural environment science, environmental technology and the economic principles applicable to forest management – to give the auditor a grasp of the fundamental relations between human activities and sustainable forest management; - technical aspects of forestry operations associated with exploitations, technology and derived uses – to allow the auditor to grasp the activities of the region audited and their effects on the management itself and the territory. 7.2.1.6.2 The certification body shall provide evidence of annual monitoring of forest management auditors applying methods such as audit witnessing, reviewing audit reports or client organisations' feedback, etc. based on the frequency of their usage and the level of risk linked to their activities. In particular, the certification body shall review the competence of its personnel in the light of their performance in order to identify training needs."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?	Annex 6, 3.2	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 7.2.1.3: "Audit training The certification body shall ensure that auditors have successfully completed training in audit techniques based on ISO 19011."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</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? [*1]	Annex 6, 3.2	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 7.2.1: “Auditors 7.2.1.1 Education The certification body shall ensure that the auditors have knowledge equivalent to at least a university bachelor's degree. 7.2.1.2 Forest management training The certification body shall ensure that auditors, in the last two years, have participated in an education programme in forest management that is recognised by the PEFC Council or the PEFC national governing body responsible for the Czech Forest Certification System. 7.2.1.3 Audit training The certification body shall ensure that auditors have successfully completed training in audit techniques based on ISO 19011. 7.2.1.4 Working experience 7.2.1.4.1 The certification body shall ensure that auditors have at least 6 years full time experience in forestry and hold a licence of professional forest manager or a licence for elaboration of forest management plans (licences valid for the territory of the Czech Republic). 7.2.1.4.2 Professional competencies can be ensured by involving a technical expert who meets the defined requirements into the team of auditors. 7.2.1.5 Audit experience 7.2.1.5.1 For a first qualification of an auditor, the certification body shall ensure that the auditor within the last three years has performed at least four forest management audits under the leadership of a qualified auditor. 7.2.1.5.2 The number of audits in training can be reduced by two audits for auditors that are qualified for ISO 9001 or 14001 auditing in forestry sector. 7.2.1.5.3 For maintaining the qualification of the auditor, the certification body shall ensure that the auditor has performed a minimum of five external audits per year including at least two forest management audits where the sum of these audits should cover at least seven man-day of audit work. 7.2.1.6 Competencies 7.2.1.6.1 The certification body shall ensure that auditors demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
Certification procedures			
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023 9.1.3: “Audit programme 9.1.3.1 All the requirements given in clause 9.1.3 of ISO/IEC 17021-1 apply. 9.1.3.2 The audit programme shall include a two-stage initial audit, surveillance audits in the first to the fourth year, and a recertification audit in the fifth year prior to expiration of certification. The five-year certification cycle begins with the certification or recertification decision. 9.1.3.3 The certification body shall have</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>documented procedures for a risk assessment of the group organisation. The risk assessment (....)”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.3: “Initial certification 9.3.1 Initial certification audit 9.3.1.1 General All the requirements given in clause 9.3.1.1 of ISO/IEC 17021-1 apply. 9.3.1.2 Stage 1 (...)”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 3: “Group forest management certification 1 Introduction 1.1 This annex is for the audit and certification of forest management in the group to ensure that the audit provides adequate confidence in the conformity of the forest management in the group with the forest management standard across all participants in group certification and that the audit is both practical and feasible in both economic and operative terms. (...)”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
9.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12: “(...) Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) or IAF’s Regional Accreditation Groups. The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, TD CFCS 1004:2023 and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed.</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 2: “Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA of IAF or IAF’s Regional Accreditation Groups with IAF MLA such as European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)). The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version and/or with reference to any future changes and</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>amendments adopted by the PEFC Council and presented at the PEFC Council official website www.pefc.org. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, this document and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>TD 1004:2023, Annex 3, 1.1: "This annex is for the audit and certification of forest management in the group to ensure that the audit provides adequate confidence in the conformity of the forest management in the group with the forest management standard across all participants in group certification and that the audit is both practical and feasible in both economic and operative terms. Audit procedures must meet the requirements of ISO 19011"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 1: "(...) The certification body shall provide the PEFC national governing body with information on granted certifications as specified by the CFCS requirements."</p> <p>ND CFCS 02, 6: "Obligations of the PEFC notified certification body The PEFC notified certification body shall: (...)3. Provide the PEFC National Governing Body immediately and truthfully with a completed reporting form for each PEFC forest management and/or chain of custody certificate and every member/site covered by a group or multisite certificate, issued within the scope of PEFC National Governing Body notification and on changes concerning reported certificates."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.3.1.2.2: "The stage 1 audit has the function of a "readiness review". The scope of this audit shall comprise (...) e) to determine the conformity of the client organisation with the PEFC trademarks usage rules and its effective implementation"</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.6.2.3: "The certification body shall conduct periodical surveillance to verify whether forest management system of the respective group complies with the CFCS requirements. (...) Surveillance covers a review of progress of planned activities and the control of PEFC trademarks usage."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.1.3.2: "The audit programme shall include a two-stage initial audit, surveillance audits in the first to the fourth year, and a recertification audit in the fifth year prior to expiration of certification. The five-year certification cycle begins with the certification or recertification decision."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.6.2.4: "Surveillance audits shall be conducted during the certificate validity, though the period between surveillance audits shall not exceed 12 months. The date of the first surveillance audit following initial certification shall not be more than 12 months from the last day of the stage 2 audit."</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.1.3.2: "The audit programme shall include a two-stage initial audit, surveillance audits in the first to the fourth year, and a recertification audit in the fifth year prior to expiration of certification. The five-year certification cycle begins with the certification or recertification decision."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.6.3.2: "The certification body shall conduct recertification audit no later than 5 years from the initial certification. Recertification audit can be conducted in a reduced extend compared to the initial certification audit and it shall be mainly aimed at weaker areas of the system identified during certification and surveillance audits. The</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<p>range of recertification audit shall comply minimally with the requirements for surveillance defined in chapter 9.6.2 of this document.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 8.1.3: “The certification body shall make a summary of the audit report which shall be made publicly available by the certificate holder. Confidential data can be excluded. The summary shall include at least the following: a) information about the certificate holder b) audit scope, objectives and process c) audit plan (dates, locations, audit team) d) audit results (main findings, corrective action)”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1002:2023, 5.1.1 “Responsibilities and authorities of the group entity: (...) t) Make publicly available a summary of the audit report elaborated by the certification body, including a summary of the findings on compliance with forest management standards.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.3.1.3.2: “The stage 2 audit shall take place at the site of the applicant and selected forest owners/managers and consist of the following phases: (...) c) analysis of all information and evidence of the stage 1 and 2 audit, including appropriate consultations with stakeholders”</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9.4.10.5: “The audit evidence to determine the conformity with the forest management standard shall include relevant information from stakeholders (e.g. government agencies, community groups, conservations organizations, etc.) as appropriate.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [*1]	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, 9: "Process requirements (...)"</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The system's accreditation and certification requirements do include requirements that go beyond the minimum required by Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document. None of these additional requirements appear to be discriminatory or otherwise in conflict with PEFC International's benchmarks and requirements. Certification.</p>
Accreditation procedures				
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	YES	<p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12: "Accreditation and PEFC notification Only those certificates of forest management and chain of custody are recognised by PEFC Czech Republic which are issued by accredited and PEFC notified certification bodies within the scope of accreditation of certification bodies (accredited certification). CFCS requirements for accreditation and PEFC notification of certification bodies are defined in the technical document TD CFCS 1004:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification and in TD CFCS 2003:2020 Requirements for certification bodies providing chain of custody certification. Rules for granting PEFC notification are defined in the normative document ND CFCS 02 PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic. Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) or IAF's Regional Accreditation Groups. The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, TD CFCS 1004:2023 and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 2 (normative): "Accreditations accepted by the PEFC Council Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA of IAF or IAF's Regional Accreditation Groups with IAF MLA such as</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)). The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	TD CFCS 1004:2023, 8.2.2: “Certification bodies shall add to the certificate an accreditation mark as prescribed by the accreditation body (including accreditation number where applicable) (...)” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
20.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF’s special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?	Annex 6, 5	YES	TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 2 (normative): “Accreditations accepted by the PEFC Council Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA of IAF or IAF’s Regional Accreditation Groups with IAF MLA such as European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)). The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1.” Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as “accredited certification” based on ISO 17021 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	YES	TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 2 (normative): “Accreditations accepted by the PEFC Council Forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by accreditation bodies that are signatories of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA of IAF or IAF’s Regional Accreditation Groups with IAF MLA such as European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)). The accreditation body shall be signatories to the IAF MLA with a main scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1. The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover technical document TD CFCS 1003:2023 Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and TD CFCS 1002:2023 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements, based on PEFC ST 1003 and PEFC ST 1002 in its valid version and/or with

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>reference to any future changes and amendments adopted by the PEFC Council and presented at the PEFC Council official website www.pefc.org. The scope of accreditation shall also explicitly state ISO/IEC 17021-1, this document and other requirements against which the certification body has been assessed."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	<p>YES</p> <p>TD CFCS 1001:2023, 12: "Accreditation and PEFC notification - Only those certificates of forest management and chain of custody are recognised by PEFC Czech Republic which are issued by accredited and PEFC notified certification bodies within the scope of accreditation of certification bodies (accredited certification). CFCS requirements for accreditation and PEFC notification of certification bodies are defined in the technical document TD CFCS 1004:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Providing Forest Management Certification and in TD CFCS 2003:2020 Requirements for certification bodies providing chain of custody certification. Rules for granting PEFC notification are defined in the normative document ND CFCS 02 PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic."</p> <p>TD CFCS 1004:2023, Annex 1 (normative): "PEFC notification of certification bodies (Requirements are additional to the accreditation of the certification body) The certification body operating the PEFC recognised forest management certification against the Czech Forest Certification System shall be notified by the PEFC national governing body in the Czech Republic. (...)"</p> <p>ND CFCS 02, <i>PEFC notification of certification bodies operating forest management and chain of custody certification in the Czech Republic</i></p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Annex B: Results of stakeholder involvement survey

On 2nd October 2023 CK Services sent an email to 40 organisations in the Czech Republic, inviting them to participate in a stakeholder survey consisting out of eight questions regarding stakeholders' involvement in the standard setting process. These 40 organisations had been identified by PEFC Czech Republic as stakeholders during a stakeholder mapping exercise carried out at the beginning of the revision process and were from all stakeholder categories for which seats were available on the revision working group.

Contacted stakeholders were invited by CK Services to respond to the survey via "[Surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)", an online survey tool, by 9th October 2023. Stakeholders were invited to contact CK Services if more time was need to respond to the survey.

Two survey responses were received, with one stakeholder being identified by PEFC Czech Republic's stakeholder map (Annex_09_Stakeholder_Mapping_31.3.2022_EN) as being in the stakeholder category "Non Governmental Organizations" and the other one being in the stakeholder category "State administration and local governments". Both respondents provided their contact details so that CKS could follow up with them.

Questions and detailed responses as well as comments submitted are shown in the table below. In summary, both stakeholders claimed, not to have been invited to participate in PEFC Czech Republic's technical committee conducting the revision work and not to have been informed about/aware of PEFC Czech Republic's 60 day public consultation on the enquiry draft of the revised forest management standard.

Part of the system documentation submitted for assessment by PEFC Czech Republic is evidence related to the revision process (Development Report Annexes 1-31), supporting PEFC Czech Republic's "development report" which summarizes the revision process. This includes copies of the emails sent out by PEFC Czech Republic to stakeholders, inviting them to nominate representatives to PEFC Czech Republic's technical committee (Annex 12 Revision CFCS email stakeholders 21.4.2022) and to submit comments in the public consultation on the enquiry draft (Annex 24 Public Consultation email stakeholders 9.1.2023).

In both copies of these emails the email addresses of the two respondents to the survey were listed, suggesting that PEFC Czech Republic had in fact invited them to submit nominations for its technical committee and to comment on the enquiry draft of the revised forest management standard.

On 9th October 2023 CK Services contacted both stakeholders by email again, informing them about their email addresses (through which they also had received the invitation with the link to respond to the stakeholder survey) being listed in both emails and providing them with copies of these emails. Both stakeholders were invited to comment¹ and to provide further detail on why they might not have received the emails. Neither of the two stakeholders responded to CK Services.

Considering the above, CK Services has come to the conclusion that the evidence on the revision process submitted by PEFC Czech Republic suggests that the responses submitted by the two stakeholders are not reliable evidence

¹ "Dear Mr. [], Thank you very much for responding to the stakeholder survey and for providing your contact details. - In the survey you stated that you/your organisation was neither invited to nominate a representative for membership in PEFC Czech Republic's technical committee in 2022, nor informed about the public consultation on the draft revised forest management standard in early 2023. - Attached to this email you find two documents, which are copies of emails from PEFC Czech Republic, one inviting stakeholders to submit nominations for its technical committee and another one inviting stakeholders to submit comments in a public consultation on the its draft revised forest management standard. - From these two documents it appears, that these invitations by email have in fact been sent to your organisation. - Looking at the dates these emails were sent, would you be able to check, whether you or one of your colleagues actually have received these emails or not, or whether they just might have been overlooked, for example? Is there anything else you would like to comment with regard to this? - Again, please be assured that you will remain anonymous in the assessment report and that neither the information that you have already provided nor the information that you may provide additionally will be linked to your person or your organisation in the assessment report, unless you expressly wish to be named. Thank you again for your responses"

from which it could be determined that PEFC Czech Republic did not engage with stakeholders as required by PEFC International's benchmark for standard setting and revision. As neither of the two stakeholders was considered to be a "key stakeholder" by PEFC Czech Republic, additional outreach to these two stakeholders was not required by PEFC International's or PEFC Czech Republic's standard setting requirements.

Detailed Questions of CK Services' stakeholder survey and answers and comments received from respondents:

<p>"Question" 1: Before you answer the survey, you are kindly asked to provide your name and email address in the field below so that you can be contacted by CK Services in case of questions. Your name and contact details will not be made publicly available or forwarded to third parties. You can choose not to provide your contact details, but it would be very helpful if you did.</p>	
<p>Question 2: Are you aware of a public announcement by PEFC Czech Republic at the start of the revision of the Czech Forest Certification System, inviting stakeholders to participate in the revision process? If your answer is "yes", how/where was the announcement made?</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, on the website of PEFC Czech Republic or another website 2. Yes, by press release 3. Yes, in a public magazine or through other media 4. Yes, by direct mailing 5. No <p>Comments: None</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1x 2. 0x 3. 0x 4. 0x 5. 1x
<p>Question 3: Did you have access to the standard setting procedures/ rules for the development of the Czech PEFC forest management standard?)</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know <p>Comments: None</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 0x 2. 2x 3. 0x
<p>Question 4: Have you been invited to nominate a representative to PEFC Czech Republic's working group for the revision of the Czech Forest Certification System? If your answer is "yes", how/where was the invitation made?</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, by general invitation on PEFC Czech Republic's website or in other media 2. Yes, directly by mailing or other communication 3. No <p>Comments: None</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 0x 2. 0x 3. 2x
<p>Question 5: Did you submit a nomination to PEFC Czech Republic, and if you did, has it been accepted or rejected?</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, we/I did not submit a nomination 2. Yes, we/I submitted a nomination, and it was accepted 3. Yes, we/I submitted a nomination, and it was not accepted <p>Comment: "We promote FSC standardization for Czech forests, we have no have interest to cooperate on PEFC standards." - Respondent from one stakeholder in PEFC Czech Republic's stakeholder group "Non Governmental Organizations"</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2x 2. 0x 3. 0x
<p>Question 6: Did you notice the public consultation on a draft revised forest management standard of the Czech Forest Certification System? If yes, where/how?</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, on PEFC Czech Republic's or other website 2. Yes, through a press release 3. Yes, in a public magazine or other media 4. Yes, directly by mailing or other communication 5. No <p>Comments: None</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 0x 2. 0x 3. 0x 4. 0x 5. 2x
<p>Question 7: Have you made comments during the public consultation and if you did, have they been considered?</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p>	<p>Answered:</p>

<p>1. No, we/I did not submit comments</p> <p>2. Yes, we/I submitted comments and they were considered</p> <p>3. Yes, we/I submitted comments and they were not considered</p> <p>4. Yes, we/I submitted comments and we/I do not know if they were considered or not</p> <p>Comment: "Nobody informed us, so we could not make comments." Respondent from one stakeholder in PEFC Czech Republic's stakeholder group "State administration and local governments"</p>	<p>1. 2x</p> <p>2. 0x</p> <p>3. 0x</p> <p>4. 0x</p>
<p>Question 8: Have you submitted any complaint relating to the standard setting/revision process? If you did submit a complaint, please provide more information in the comment field.</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <p>1. No</p> <p>2. Yes</p> <p>Comments:...</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <p>1. 2x</p> <p>2. 0x</p>
<p>Question 9: If you have been a member or observer of the technical committee revising PEFC Czech Republic's forest management standard, did you have access to all draft standards and the possibility to contribute and comment on them and have your comments been taken into account?</p>	
<p>Possible answers:</p> <p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No (Please specify in comment field below)</p> <p>3. I have not been a member or observer of the technical committee.</p> <p>Comments: None</p>	<p>Answered:</p> <p>1. 0x</p> <p>2. 1x</p> <p>3. 1x</p>

Annex C: Results of international consultation

No comments were received by PEFC International in the international public consultation on the revised Czech Forest Certification System.