

Sustainable Forest Management Technical Normative Document

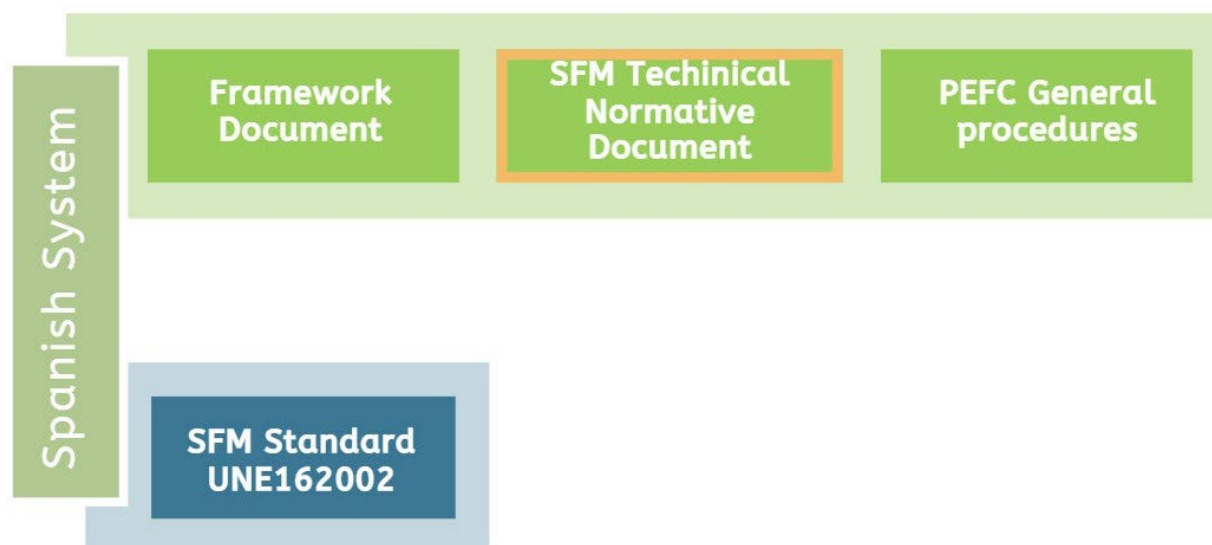


SPANISH FOREST CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

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Normative Appendices:

- 1. Applicable Spanish Legislation of Special Interest.**
- 2. Conversions.**
- 3. UNE Standard 162.002:2023; Sustainable Forest Management. Criteria and Indicators.**

Note: In this Spanish version of this document, the use of masculine plural nouns and adjectives is inclusive, referring to both genders, male and female. For example, "propietarios" is used to refer to both male and female property owners.

1 Introduction

As mentioned in the framework document of this Spanish Forest Certification System, this Normative Technical Document is applicable for the certification of Sustainable Forest Management in a complementary manner with the UNE Standards for Sustainable Forest Management.

The Spanish System applies to all Spanish forest certified under PEFC, registered in the Online Registration Platform for certified land and available for consultation on the web search engines of www.pefc.es

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, in addition to the terms and definitions contained in UNE Standards 162.001 and 162.002, the following apply:

2.1. Participant: a forest manager/owner covered by the group forest certificate, who is capable of implementing the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management standard on **certified land**.

Note: The term "ability to apply the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management standard" requires that the participant has a long-term legal right, a tenure right, or traditional or customary tenure rights to manage the forest land and would disqualify occasional contractors from joining the group forest management certification.

The forest manager/owner can join a forest certificate with one or more management plans. If a management plan integrates several forest management units, of one or several owners or forest managers, the owner or forest manager responsible for the application of the corresponding plan will be considered as a participant.

2.2. Forest auditor: a person qualified to conduct Sustainable Forest Management audits under the direction of a head forest auditor.

2.3. Head forest auditor: a person qualified to lead and conduct Sustainable Forest Management audits.

2.4. Audit: a systematic, independent, and documented process to obtain records, statements of fact, or other relevant information and objectively evaluate them to determine the degree of compliance with specified requirements.

2.5. Internal audit: a systematic, independent, and documented process to obtain records, statements of fact, or other relevant information and objectively evaluate them to determine the degree of compliance with specified requirements, with the certified entity responsible for conducting it (first-party audit).

2.6. Trees outside forest land (TOF): trees on lands that do not belong to the forest land category, i.e., on lands dedicated to agricultural cultivation, on urban lands, or on lands excluded by the autonomous community in its forest legislation.

2.7. Forest: land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use.

2.8. Naturally regenerating forest: forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration; it includes any of the following:

- a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated;
- b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity;
- c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration;
- d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species.

2.9. Planted forest: forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.

2.10. Primary forest: naturally regenerating forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

2.11. Forest certificate: a document confirming that the certified entity complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management standard and other applicable requirements of the Spanish forest certification system.

2.12. Forest conversion to agricultural use: change of forest to agricultural use whether human-induced or not.

Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion to agricultural use.

2.13. Forest conversion to other land use: direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non-agriculture uses.

2.14. Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO): the eight conventions (ILO 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138, and 182) identified by the ILO's Governing Body as "fundamental" in terms of principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor; the effective abolition of child labor; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

2.15. Forest degradation: structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:

- a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or
- b) primary forests into planted forests.

Note:

'Forest degradation' means: Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of conversion of				
1) Primary forests			2) Naturally regenerating forests	
into			into	
a) Planted forests	b) Plantation forests	c) Other wooded land	a) Plantation forests	b) Other wooded land

2.16. Regional guidelines: document or set of documents that include recommendations for compliance with the Sustainable Forest Management Standard and the applicable legislation in the region for which they have been drafted.

2.17. Document confirming participation in group forest certification: a document issued to a participant that refers to the group forest certificate and confirms that the participant is covered by the scope of the group forest certification.

Note: this document can be, for example, a sub-certificate or a confirmation of participation.

2.18. Non-forest ecosystem: lands that do not meet the definition of forest.

2.19. Certified Entity (Organisation): person or group of people with their own functions, responsibilities, authorities, and relationships to achieve their objectives.

Note 1: a certified entity previously applies for PEFC certification, is responsible for complying with PEFC Sustainable Forest Management requirements, and can be responsible for several forest management units, either at the group (regional, group) or individual scale.

Note 2: a manager or owner can also assume the role of a Certified Entity.

2.20. Certificate representative entity (Group Entity): a legal entity that represents the participants and the forest management units, with the overall responsibility of ensuring compliance with forest management on the certified and under the Sustainable Forest Management standard and other applicable requirements of the Spanish forest certification system. To this end, the certificate representative entity implements a management system.

2.21. Geolocation: geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of forest and tree based products, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.

2.22. Forest manager/owner: natural or legal person, who individually or through shared or coordinated management, is responsible for the forest management operations of the resource.

2.23. Documented information: information that must be controlled and maintained by a **Certified Entity**, coming from any source and using any format and medium.

2.24. Forest land: any land on which tree, shrub, scrub, or herbaceous species grow, either spontaneously or resulting from seeding or planting, fulfilling or potentially fulfilling environmental, protective, productive, cultural, scenic, or recreational functions in accordance with the exceptions and casuistries established by current state and regional legislation.

Note: link between the different terms

Forest Land scope of SECF2025		
Forest	Other wooded land	Non forest ecosystem
Naturally regenerating forest <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 150px;">Primary forest</div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">Ecologically important non-forest areas</div>
Planted forest <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 150px;">Plantation forest</div>		

2.25. Standardization body: organization with recognized activities in standardization.

Note: in Spain, this organization is UNE, the Spanish Association for Standardization.

2.26. Other wooded land: land not classified as **forest** spanning more than 0,5 hectares, with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of 5% to 10%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, or with a combined cover of shrubs, bushes, and trees above 10%, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use.

2.27. Stakeholder: a person, group, community, or organization with an interest in Sustainable Forest Management.

2.28. Affected stakeholder: a **stakeholder** that could experience a direct change in their living and/or working conditions as a result of the implementation of the standard, or a **stakeholder** that could be a user of the standard and, therefore, be subject to its requirements.

Note 1: Affected stakeholders include neighboring communities, local population, workers, etc. However, having an interest in the content of the standard (for example, NGOs, the scientific community, or civil society) does not equate to being affected.

Note 2: A stakeholder who could be a user of the standard is likely to become a certified entity, for example, a forest manager in the case of the forest management standard, or a wood processing company in the case of the Chain of Custody standard.

2.29. Management plan: document or set of documents that individually or collectively establish the forest management of a management unit or group of management units, over which the manager/s have control.

2.30. Plantation forest: planted forest that is intensively managed and meets, at planting and stand maturity, all the following criteria: one or two species, even age class, and regular spacing. It includes short rotation plantations for wood, fibre and energy, and excludes forests planted for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests.

2.31. Agricultural plantations: tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems when crops are grown under tree cover. Includes all plantations of relevant commodities (as defined in Annex I of the EUDR) other than wood

Note: agricultural plantations are excluded from the definition of 'forest'

2.32. Policy: intentions and direction of an organization, formally expressed by its manager/owner or by the certificate representative entity.

2.33. Control procedure: document or set of documents established by the certified entity detailing in writing the methodology for maintaining certification and controlling its participants.

2.34. Management system: a set of interrelated elements that the certified entity must apply to achieve the objectives and implementation of the Spanish System.

2.35. Monitoring: systematic and continuous process of collecting, analyzing, and using information to monitor a system, process, or activity.

2.36. Certified area: forest included in a valid Sustainable Forest Management certificate, made up of the sum of the forest areas attached to said certificate.

2.37. Agricultural use: Use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas.

2.38. Ecologically important non-forest areas:

Non-forest areas

- a) Containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative non-forest ecosystems;
- b) Containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;
- c) Containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;
- d) Contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species

3 Sustainable Forest Management Planning

3.1. Forest Management Units (FMU) will be completely subscribed to the certification, except in those cases adequately justified (occupations, bodies of water, etc.) and must have a management plan.

3.2. Property rights, tree ownership, and land tenure agreements are clearly defined, documented, and established for the corresponding management unit. Likewise, legal, customary, and traditional rights related to forests shall be clarified, recognized, and respected.

3.3. The management plan must be approved, validated, or authorized by the competent forest administration or, when not required by autonomous legislation, endorsed by professional forest colleges. The management plan must be based on applicable autonomous, national, and international legislation, as well as existing land use plans or other official plans. Management plans will be developed and updated, with the validity of the Plan being marked by its corresponding legislation and, if not determined, generally considered 10 years for fast-growing species and 15 years for medium or slow- growing species.

3.4. The management plan must be commensurate with the size of the area and its use, covering the multifunctionality of the forest land and adequately covering all possible resources. As far as possible, they shall reflect advances and new knowledge contributed by the scientific community and make the most of traditional experience and knowledge. Furthermore, it shall include at least a description of the current state of the forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable timber yield, including its justification and, where appropriate, the annual allowable yield of non-timber forest products over which the forest manager has control, ensuring the optimal use of both wood and non-wood products harvested.

Note: Identification of the annual allowable yield of non-timber forest products is required when these products have a commercial yield at a level that could impact the long-term sustainability of these non-timber forest products.

3.5. The management plan, as defined by Standard UNE 162.002, is a document or set of documents that individually or collectively establish the forest management of a management unit or group of management units, over which the manager/s have control.

3.6. Standard 162.002 details the Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management, which will be complied with as appropriate, all being reflected in the management plan, thus ensuring the sustainable management of the management unit.

3.7. The balance and monitoring of the indicators' parameters should be considered in the review of the management plan. When unforeseen situations occur that drastically change the situation of the forest, an extraordinary modification or review of the management plan should be carried out in appropriate and duly justified timeframes.

3.8. Forest management should consider inventory programming, and planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation shall adequately consider social, environmental, and economic impacts. This will serve as the basis for a continuous improvement process to minimize or avoid negative impacts.

The management plans will specify measures to minimize the risk of damage to forest ecosystems. As far as possible, forest management shall promote traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems and shall contribute to research activities, whether its own or by third parties, as well as to the collection of data necessary for sustainable forest management.

3.9. A summary of the management plan shall be made available to the public, possibly excluding from it the confidential commercial and personal information, as well as any other information considered confidential under applicable law or for the purpose of protecting cultural places or sensitive features of natural resources.

3.10. Successive revisions of the management plans that affect PEFC certified surfaces must comply with the indicators of UNE 162.002 Standard that are in force at the time of processing the approval of the revision of the management plan. According to the principle of No Retroactivity, it will not be necessary to review the management plans based on the successive changes of UNE 162.002 Standard, unless expressly indicated, but in the successive revisions of the management plan, it must be adapted to the UNE Standard in force.

3.11. If the certificate representative entity decides to comply with the requirements of the Sustainable o standard at a higher level of the management unit, these requirements should be considered in a collective management plan and ensure that they cover all management units.

4 Certified Entity Modalities

Certified entities are those that obtain the Individual or Group (Regional or Group) forest certificate for Sustainable Forest Management, regarding the forest areas they have committed to in the process; said Certificate is issued by the certification entity after satisfactorily concluding the certification process.

4.1. Individual Certified Entity

- 4.1.1. The individual certified entity will be formed by a natural or legal person who acts as the individual certificate representative entity, together with the forest areas it manages and which it voluntarily attaches to the certification process.
- 4.1.2. It is recommended that the individual certificate representative entity include in the certificate all the forest area it manages.

4.2. Group Certified Entity

It is the set of participants represented by the group certificate representative entity, for the purposes of the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management standard and its certification. A binding written agreement will be established between the participants and the group certificate representative entity. The term group certified entity can be regional or group.

4.2.1. Regional Certified Entity

- 4.2.1.1. Regional Forest Certification requires the existence of a legal entity that acts as the regional certificate representative entity for the corresponding autonomous community, and that directly or through its representatives, groups the owners or forest managers of the region interested in the certification process.
- 4.2.1.2. The Regional Certificate representative entity must accredit regional representation before the PEFC Spain Board of Directors, it being advisable that it represents more than 50% of the forest area of the region.
- 4.2.1.3. All those owners or forest managers located in the region, interested in the certification process, can subscribe to the regional certified entity, provided that the requirements established by the Spanish System are met.
- 4.2.1.4. The regional certificate representative entity will be the representative of the participants and responsible for the application and custody of the regional forest certificate.
- 4.2.1.5. The regional certified area will be formed by the sum of the forest areas subscribed to the certificate.

4.2.2. Regional Certified Entity

- 4.2.2.1. Group Forest Certification requires the grouping and organization of interested owners/managers through a legally constituted Associative Entity, which will be designated as the group certificate representative entity through an agreement, legally documented, in which it will be determined who will act as the representative entity of the group certificate.
- 4.2.2.2. This group certificate representative entity will be the representative of the subscribers to the Group and will be responsible for the application and custody of the group forest certificate.
- 4.2.2.3. The group certified area will be formed by the sum of the forest areas of the participants included in the group certificate.

5 Functions of the Certificate Representative Entity

The representative entity of the certificate must assume the following functions and responsibilities:

5.1 Lead and coordinate the forest certificate, attending to the following responsibilities

- 5.1.1. Determine and provide the necessary resources to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an effective management system.
- 5.1.2. Establish a written commitment to the continuous improvement of the forest management system and to compliance with the current UNE 162.002 for Sustainable Forest Management standard, keeping records that demonstrate compliance with it; as well as the applicable requirements of the PEFC Spanish forest certification system. It must be publicly available.
- 5.1.3. Establish a written commitment to the knowledge and monitoring of the Sustainable Forest Management Regional Guidelines in the case of having been agreed in the corresponding region and send it to the corresponding autonomous PEFC or forum that has approved these Guidelines.
- 5.1.4. Establish and maintain an inventory and a cartography of the forest resources and include the geolocation of the certified area in the PEFC Online Register Platform of certified area.
- 5.1.5. Establish the contractual relationship with the certification entity, maintaining communication with it. In addition, it will request the certification process and represent the certified entity in it. It will provide technical assistance to the certification entity during the audit process.
- 5.1.6. Custody and ensure the maintenance of the forest certificate, issued by the certification entity after satisfactorily concluding the certification process.
- 5.1.7. Request the official license to use the PEFC logo and brands from the PEFC - Spain (Governing Body of the PEFC Council), after obtaining the certificate.
- 5.1.8. Present full cooperation and assistance to effectively respond to all requests from certification entities, accreditation, PEFC International, or PEFC Spain or autonomous PEFC for data, documentation, or other relevant information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the certified entity and to other facilities, either in relation to formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.
- 5.1.9. Take responsibility for the correct use of the certificate and the license/sub-license to use the registered PEFC logo and brands.
- 5.1.10. Ensure that all activities related to certification are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Spanish Forest Certification System.
- 5.1.11. Timely inform the certification entity about these incorporations and exclusions through the PEFC Online Register Platform of certified area, waiting for the certification entity to validate them.

- 5.1.12. Request the user code and password, to access the PEFC Online Register Platform of certified area; in which to introduce all the data of the certificate representative entity, as well as the following data of all the forest management units subscribed that want to be certified: name and code of the FMU, name and code of the management plan, type of participant area, municipality, province and region.

In case of group certification, in addition:

- 5.1.13. Inform and advise participants and those interested, about forest certification and about their rights and obligations.
- 5.1.14. Establish a written procedure for the admission and exclusion of participants and/or the area under the group forestry certification, ensuring and maintaining the following documented information about the participants: participant's name, contact details, clear identification of their property, property size, and certified area. It must be verified that the new Forest Management Units (FMUs) are not enrolled in another PEFC Group Forest Management (GFM) certification, and if the participant was expelled from a GFM certification, address the non-conformities notified by the same.
- 5.1.15. Establish a written commitment to integrate the requirements of group certification into the group management system and to support the continuous improvement of Sustainable Forest Management by the participants.
- 5.1.16. Process for each participant, a copy of the regional or group forest certificate, including the annex listing the registered areas or equivalent certification related to their management units or an individual accreditation document of inclusion in said certification of the areas contributed to the certification process. This document will indicate the certificate code and its validity period along with information about the entity representing the certificate and the certification entity that issued the certificate, but it will not give the holder the right to use the PEFC logo, for which they must request a license for the use of the PEFC trademarks from PEFC Spain.
- 5.1.17. Address the non-conformities notified by the participants that were identified in another PEFC forestry certification, different from that of the particular group certification, and establish the appropriate training and follow-up of the implementation among the participants.
- 5.1.18. In addition to these functions, certified entities have the right to submit claims to the PEFC Spain Arbitration Commission regarding the certification process or the functioning of the system.

5.2 Require and facilitate legal compliance

- 5.2.1. Identify and access the legislation applicable to forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the certified entity.

- 5.2.2. Comply with local, national, and international legislation applicable to forest management, including but not limited to, forestry management practices; the protection of nature and the environment; protected and endangered species; property rights, tenure, and land use, inhabitants, rural areas, towns and communities, or other affected interest groups; health, work, and safety issues; the fight against corruption, trade, customs and the payment of applicable rights and taxes.
- 5.2.3. Take alternative anti-corruption measures suitable to the risk of corruption when cases are detected or when there is no anti-corruption legislation.
- 5.2.4. In the event of detecting unauthorized activities, such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally started fires and other illegal activities, take appropriate measures to protect the forest lands.

5.3 Establish communication channels

- 5.3.1. Determine the affected stakeholders relevant to Sustainable Forest Management, considering their needs and expectations.
- 5.3.2. Determine external and internal communications, specifying what to communicate, when, with whom, and how.
- 5.3.3. Foster effective communication and consultation with the local population and other stakeholders in relation to Sustainable Forest Management, through a website, phone number or email.
- 5.3.4. Ensure that the documented information relevant to the management system and compliance with Sustainable Forest Management requirements is:
 - i. Up to date,
 - ii. Available and suitable for use,
 - iii. Protected against loss of confidentiality or loss of integrity.
- 5.3.5. Provide the appropriate mechanisms to resolve complaints and conflicts related to forest management operations, land use rights, and working conditions and, if applicable, the group management system.
- 5.3.6. The entities responsible for the group certificate will establish communication processes to raise awareness among the participants about the group management policy, requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management standard, contribute to the effectiveness of the group management system and Sustainable Forest Management including the benefits of improving group performance, and the implications of not complying with the requirements of the management system of the entity responsible for the group certificate.

6 Management System

6.1. Responsibilities

The management system of the entity certified in Sustainable Forest Management:

- 6.1.1 Will have set the boundaries of operation and applicability to establish its scope.
- 6.1.2 Must define the competence (capabilities) necessary for the people carrying out work in the management system and will clearly assign the responsibilities of forest management considering the risks and opportunities related to the fulfillment of the requirements for Sustainable Forest Management. The size and scale of the activities of the certified entity must be considered.
- 6.1.3 Will include the documented information required by the Spanish System and determined by the certificate representative entity as necessary for the management system to be effective. This documented information must be kept up to date.
- 6.1.4 Will compile the set of documents formed, at least, by the control procedure and the management plans of the Forest Management Units (FMUs).

In the case of group certification, the management system, in addition:

- 6.1.5 Will determine the scope, defining who is its certificate representative entity of the group certificate, and who are the participants, indicating their certified area and the **documents that confirm participation** in the group forestry certification.
- 6.1.6 Must cover all the participants and will understand the administrative structure, planning of actions, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources, controls, and reviews to determine and carry out the policy defined by the certificate representative entity, in which they declare the intentions, general objectives, and principles of action, in relation to the forest management to be implemented in the forest areas attached.
- 6.1.7 Will determine the boundaries and applicability of the group management system, establishing the scope of application in a form available as documented information.
- 6.1.8 It shall ensure that the level of application of the indicators is in accordance with the provisions of the table of requirements in the Sustainable Forest Management Standard that can be met at the group level, and must therefore be considered in a group management plan.

Table: Requirements that can be met at the group level

Indicator	Name
	Criterion 1: Appropriate maintenance or enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the Global Carbon Cycle.
1.4	Carbon Sequestration
1.5	Forestry Legislation
1.6	Forestry Information
	Criterion 2: Maintenance or enhancement of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems.
2.4	Preventive and Remedial Measures for Forest Damages
2.5	Prevention and Defense Against Forest Fires
	Criterion 4: Appropriate maintenance, conservation, and enhancement of biodiversity in forest ecosystems.
4.5	Deadwood

6.1.9 Will identify the affected stakeholders who are relevant to the group's own management system and their most relevant expectations.

6.1.10 If the certificate representative entity markets forest products from management units not included in the group certificate, it must have a Chain of Custody certificate.

6.1.11 Will include in the group management plan any change made by the certificate representative entity to the group management system.

6.2. Control procedure

There will be a continuous internal control procedure that provides confidence regarding the coordination of the certified entity, and compliance with the Sustainable Forest Management standard.

6.2.1 In particular, it Will determine:

- i. What needs to be monitored and measured,
- ii. The methods of monitoring, measurement, analysis, and evaluation as appropriate, to ensure the validity of the results,
- iii. When the monitoring and measurement will take place,
- iv. When the results of the monitoring and measurement are analyzed and evaluated,
- v. Which documented information Will be available as evidence of the results.

6.2.2 The annual management review must include at least the state of compliance with the Sustainable Forest Management standard, which includes the review of the results of the internal control procedure, the internal audit and the evaluations and the certified entity's audit.

In the case of group certification:

- 6.2.3 The group **certificate representative entity** must assess the performance of the group's management and the effectiveness of the group **management system** in relation to the application of Sustainable Forest Management requirements.
- 6.2.4 Will apply an internal control program that provides for the evaluation of the **participants'** compliance with the certification requirements:
- 6.2.4.1. Covering both the **participants** and the **certificate representative entity** of the group certificate.
 - 6.2.4.2. Maintaining **documented information** on its application, its review, and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken.
 - 6.2.4.3. Carrying out a review of the group **forestry certification** and acting based on the results.
- 6.2.5 Will have a written agreement with all **participants** covering the fact that the **certificate representative entity** of the group certificate can demand any preventive or corrective measure and initiate the exclusion of any **participant** from the scope of certification in case of non-compliance with Sustainable Forest Management.
- 6.2.6 Will establish the procedure for suspension and exclusion of **participants** who do not correct non-conformities, not being able to accept the excluded **participants** in the 12 months following their exclusion.
- 6.2.7 Will establish a procedure that ensures that the resulting forest products from the yields come from the **certified areas**. In the transfer of certified raw materials from the **forest land** to the Chain of Custody, the measurement reflected in the harvesting documentation, cutting permit, or similar administrative act will be considered, unless the owner or awardee requests or must request a validation of the existing difference between the previously indicated measurement and the final measurement obtained in a demonstrable way from the corresponding **certificate representative entity** of the group certificate.

6.3. Evaluation and internal audit program

The **certificate representative entity** will establish an Evaluation and **internal audit** program with at least annual frequency; whose objective will be to provide information that ensures that the **management system** complies with its own requirements, and with the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management standard and the Spanish System and that said **internal audit** program is established, applied, and effectively maintained.

For this, the **certificate representative entity** must:

- 6.3.1 Define the scope, criteria and methods, responsibilities, planning, reporting and frequency of each **internal audit**, taking into account the importance of the processes in question and the results of previous **audits**.

- 6.3.2 Have a selection of internal audit managers to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the internal audit process; Likewise, the internal audit program must cover, at least, the competence of the internal auditor (forestry knowledge, knowledge of the UNE Standard for Sustainable Forest Management and the Spanish System).
- 6.3.3 Ensure that the audit results are communicated to the corresponding management team.
- 6.3.4 Keep documented information as evidence of the application of the audit program and its results.
- 6.3.5 Keep a record of the compliance of the attached areas with the compliance of the Spanish System and the Sustainable Forest Management Standard, of the reviews of the control procedure and of any preventive or corrective action taken.
- 6.3.6 Choose a representative sample, in accordance with what is established in the specific general procedure, of the area attached to the certificate that allows verifying the compliance with the application requirements of the Spanish System.

In the case of Group Certification, in addition:

- 6.3.7 The internal audit program must cover the group certificate's certificate holding entity and all its participants.
- 6.3.8 The group certificate representative entity will be audited annually and the participants can be selected by sampling. The requirements for their selection are included in the *General Procedure PG2*.

6.4. Review and improve the management system

- 6.4.1. The annual review of the management system will include at least:
 - a) The status of actions from the previous management reviews,
 - b) Changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system,
 - c) State of conformity with the SFM standard, according to the results of internal and external audits,
 - d) Information on the organization's results including their evolution:
 - i. Non-conformities and corrective actions,
 - ii. Monitoring and measurement results,
 - iii. Audit results.
 - e) Opportunities for continuous improvement.
- 6.4.2. The results of the management review will include decisions related to opportunities for continuous improvement and any need for changes in the management system. Documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews must be preserved.

6.4.3. When an observation or non-conformity occurs, the certificate representative entity must:

- a) React to the non-conformity and, if applicable:
 - i. Take measures to control and correct it,
 - ii. Deal with the consequences,
- b) Assess the need to act to eliminate the causes of non-conformity, in order that it does not repeat itself or occur elsewhere, through:
 - i. Review of the non-conformity,
 - ii. Determine the causes of non-conformity,
 - iii. Determine if similar non-compliances exist or can occur.
- c) Apply any necessary measures,
- d) Review the effectiveness of the corrective measures adopted,
- e) Make changes to the management system, if necessary.

6.4.4. The corrective actions must be appropriate to the effects of the non-conformities found. Documented information as evidence of:

- a) The nature of non-conformities and subsequent actions taken,
- b) The results of any corrective action.

6.4.5. It is required that the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system and the sustainable management of forest lands are continuously improved.

6.4.6. Entities certified in forest management, certified or in the certification process, must keep all observations, comments, or opinions they receive related to compliance with the Criteria and Indicators of the UNE 162.002 Standard for Sustainable Forest Management.

6.4.7. All comments, observations or opinions, which for their better interpretation must refer to specific criteria or indicators of the aforementioned UNE Standard, must be taken into account with the aim of improving management and will be made available to the external audit team for them to be valued and considered in the independent third-party certification process.

7 Participants of the group forestry certification (regional/groupo)

In the case of establishing a **Group Forestry Certification**:

7.1 Physical or legal persons, public or private, voluntarily interested in forestry certification of forest areas, which they manage sustainably, may join.

7.2 Those interested in joining must express, to the certificate representative entity of the group certificate, directly or through the entity representing them, their interest in participating in the process, and commit to comply with the requirements imposed by this Forest Certification System for the areas attached to the certification process. Only the areas attached to the certification can be considered as certified.

7.3 It is recommended that the managers participants to the **group forestry certification** include in the certificate all the forest area they manage in that region/zone.

7.4 Rights of the Participants s of the Group Forestry Certification

7.4.1 Receive information and advice from the certificate representative entity of the group certificate on the certification process.

7.4.2 Obtain a copy of the group forest certificate including the annex where the registered areas are related or equivalent certificate referred to their estates, or an individual accrediting document, from the group certificate representative entity the inclusion in said certificate of the areas contributed to the certification process.

7.4.3 Obtain an individual license for the use of the PEFC brands, after fulfilling all the requirements of the group forestry certification.

7.4.4 Raise before the Arbitration Commission of PEFC - Spain the claims related to the certification process or the operation of the system.

7.4.5 Obtain validation from the group certificate representative entity for the products resulting from the forestry yields coming from areas subject to certification.

7.5 Duties of the Participants of the Group Forestry Certification

7.5.1 Provide in writing, to the certificate representative entity, a commitment to adhere to the certificate of the areas it manages and wants to adhere and the compliance with the Sustainable Forest Management standard, the **management system** and other applicable requirements of the Spanish System. This commitment must be in general, for a minimum period equal to the duration of a complete certification cycle.

Note: The requirement of the "written agreement" and the "commitment" of the participants is also satisfied with the commitment and the written agreement of a pre-existing organization or group or with the participation of the participants, like a forest owners/managers association, an SFM program and submission to tax programming, when the organization can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and when its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.

- 7.5.2 Comply with the Sustainable Forest Management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system, as well as the requirements of the management system, subjecting itself to internal control and the internal audit program.
- 7.5.3 If applicable, provide to the certificate holding entity of the group certificate information about the previous attachment in a certified entity, as well as the identified non-conformities.
- 7.5.4 Document or in its case communicate to the certificate holding entity of the group certificate the substantial modifications made on the planned management plan, especially those related to the yields and treatments that are carried out or cease to be carried out, in the forest areas object of certification.
- 7.5.5 Provide full cooperation and assistance to effectively respond to all requests from the certificate holding entity of the group certificate, or from the certification body, for data, documentation or other relevant information; allow access to the forest and other facilities, either in relation to formal audits or reviews or related to implications for the management system.
- 7.5.6 Apply the relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the certificate holding entity of the group certificate.
- 7.5.7 When the forestry works on the areas object of certification are carried out by third parties, demand that they are executed in accordance with the requirements of the Spanish Forest Certification System.

7.6 Loss of Status as a Member of the Group Forestry Certification

- 7.6.1 Participants excluded from any group certificate due to non-conformities may not rejoin a certificate for 12 months following the exclusion.
- 7.6.2 A participant who has been excluded from a group certificate must be internally audited by the group certificate representative entity before being allowed to re-participate in the certification. The internal audit should not take place before the 12 months following the exclusion.

8 Forestry Works carried out in management units adhered to a Sustainable Forest Management certificate

8.1. All actions and forestry work carried out in certified FMUs must be in accordance with labor legislation, occupational risk prevention regulations, applicable collective agreements, which transpose the fundamental ILO conventions ratified by the Spanish Government, as well as human rights defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

8.2. Among the legal requirements included in the mentioned regulations, it is important to highlight the need to:

8.2.1. Plan, organize and carry out in such a way that health and accident risks can be identified, to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers must be informed of the risks involved in their work and of the preventive measures.

8.2.2. Have working conditions that are safe, periodically controlled, and adapted if necessary. In addition, guidance and training on safe working practices will be provided to all those who have been assigned a task in forestry works. Working hours and permits must comply with national legislation or applicable collective agreements.

8.2.3. Workers must be in conditions of equality of opportunities, non-discrimination, and absence of harassment in the workplace. Gender equality will be promoted. The wages of local and migrant forestry workers, as well as contractors and other operators working in PEFC certified areas, must comply with or exceed at least the legal minimum standards of the sector or, where applicable, collective agreements.

8.2.4. Working conditions must be periodically controlled and adapted if necessary.

8.3. Forest managers, contractors, employees, and forest owners will receive sufficient information and will be kept up to date through training related to Sustainable Forest Management, as a prerequisite for all planning and management practices described in this reference point. Special attention will be paid to new training and employment opportunities for the local population, duly taking into account the role of silviculture in local economies.

8.4. Certified entities or autonomous PEFCs, may enable a registry of forestry work companies to work in certified areas, which must commit in writing to be knowledgeable and comply with the applicable legal requirements, the criteria, and indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in the certified areas in which they operate and, if existing, the Regional Guidelines.

9 PEFC declaration in products from certified areas

- 9.1.** To communicate the origin of the products from a certified area to customers, one of the following declarations shall be used: "100% PEFC Origin", "100% PEFC Certified" allowing the abbreviation "100% PEFC".
- 9.2.** Declarations on the origin of products from a certified area will be made only by owners/managers attached to a PEFC forest certificate; This declaration can only be used in relation to the products from a certified area.
- 9.3.** Being registered in a registry of forestry work companies does not authorize to make PEFC declarations that a certain product comes from a certified area. This PEFC declaration can only be made by the owners or managers participants of the certificate in relation to the certified area.
- 9.4.** When the customer of the owner/forest manager is a company certified in PEFC Chain of Custody, to guarantee the traceability that the products come from a certified area, it is necessary to document the following information:
- a) Identification of the PEFC client,
 - b) Name of the owner/manager attached to the forest certification as the supplier of the material and name or code of the certified management unit from which the certified material comes,
 - c) The identification of the product coming from that management unit (material, species)
 - d) quantity of product(s) and if applicable, authorization of the yield by the competent administration and validation of quantities by the corresponding PEFC certificate representative entity,
Note: The authorization refers to the administrative procedure that leads to being able to take advantage of a forest resource.
 - e) Delivery date / delivery period / accounting period,
 - f) "100% PEFC Origin", "100% PEFC Certified" declaration allowing the abbreviation "100% PEFC",
 - g) The number of the forest management certificate in which the certified area from which the product comes is attached.

10 Sustainable Forest Management certification entities

10.1 Forest management certification requires that certification entities, the certification process, and their accreditation comply with all provisions indicated in the PEFC system's normative documentation. The documents cited below as current or those that are promulgated, developed, or replaced in the future must be strictly observed.

10.2 Certification entities must be impartial, independent third parties, separate from both forest management and the certified entity, and they must not be decision-making bodies in the development of standards.

10.3 The certification entity must have technical competence in forest management, its social, economic, and environmental impacts, and a thorough understanding of the Spanish forest certification system and the requirements for its certification.

10.4 The certification entity and the documented procedure for carrying out Sustainable Forest Management certification must meet the requirements defined in the ISO/IEC 17021-1 standard.

10.5 Certification entities operating in Spain must be specifically accredited for forest management certification by the national accreditation entity (ENAC) or an equivalent entity.

10.6 Accreditation entities must be a member of IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and implement the procedures described in the ISO/IEC 17011 standard and other relevant documents recognized by the organization.

10.7 Certification entities are responsible for controlling the compliance of the certified entity with the requirements linked to the use of the Spanish Forest Certification System and the PEFC brand usage license.

10.8 Accredited certification entities must be authorized by PEFC Spain to operate in Spain and must inform PEFC Spain about the granting of forest management certificates, and all changes relating to their validity and scope, as well as making publicly accessible information about granted, suspended or withdrawn certificates.

10.9 The complete cycle or period of validity of the Sustainable Forest Management certification in Spain is 5 years.

10.10 The certificate must include at least the following information: name of the certified entity, scope, start date, issue and expiration of the certificate, the certification entity that issues it, number, symbol and name of the accreditation entity, the corresponding PEFC logo of the certification entity and the web page where to consult the list of current forests corresponding to said certificate (<https://www.pefc.es/buscadores>) and all the information required in the ISO/IEC 17021 standard. The scope of the certificate should reflect the reference regulations, Spanish System and UNE 162.002 Standard, the certification modality, Regional, Group or Individual, and the certified area on the date of issue of the certificate.

10.11 The certificate must be sent to the **certified entity** using the means agreed with the client and a copy of the current certificate must be included in the PEFC Certified Surface Registration Platform.

10.12 **Auditors** and the forest management **audit** process must comply with the guidelines of the ISO 17021:2011 standard "Conformity Assessment. Requirements for bodies providing **audit** and certification of **management systems**" which encompasses the criteria of ISO 19011.

10.13 Certification entities have the responsibility to employ competent **forest auditors** who have adequate knowledge about the certification processes and all aspects related to forest management certification.

10.14 Certification entities will carry out **audits** with an audit team, formed by one or more auditors, designating one of them as the **head forest auditor**, as long as he/she is qualified as such.

10.15 The **forest auditor** must have professional experience in the forestry sector of at least two years in any or all the following subjects:

- a) Sustainable Forest Management systems and standards, in relation to which **audits** can be conducted,
- b) **Audit** procedures, processes, and techniques,
- c) Relevant legal and regulatory environmental forestry requirements and other documents related to forest management,
- d) Forest management and techniques.

10.16 Candidates for **forest auditor** must have passed a theoretical training recognized by PEFC Spain and have participated in Sustainable Forest Management **audit** tasks for a minimum of 10 days in the last 2 years.

10.17 The **forest auditor** must be competent in the following areas:

- a) **Audit** procedures, methodologies, and techniques - ability to apply them to the **audit** process is required to ensure that such **audits** are carried out in a consistent and systematic manner,
- b) Management systems and reference documents - to allow the **auditor** to understand the scope of the audit and apply the criteria of the same,
- c) Organizational situations - to allow the auditor to understand the operating environment of the entity, for example, the size, structure, and functions of the organization, business processes and related terminology,
- d) Laws, regulations, or other relevant requirements - to allow the auditor to work in the appropriate legal framework, and be aware of the legal requirements applicable to the entity being audited,
- e) Principles of forest management based on inventory techniques, silviculture, management, protection, and management of Natural Systems – to allow the auditor to examine the forest **management system** and determine that it is being properly applied,

- f) Natural Environment sciences, Environmental technology, and economic principles applicable to forest management - to allow the auditor to understand the fundamental relationships between human activities and Sustainable Forest Management,
- g) Technical aspects of forestry operations related to yields, technology, and derivative uses - to allow the auditor to understand the activities carried out by the audited entity and their consequences on management and the territory.

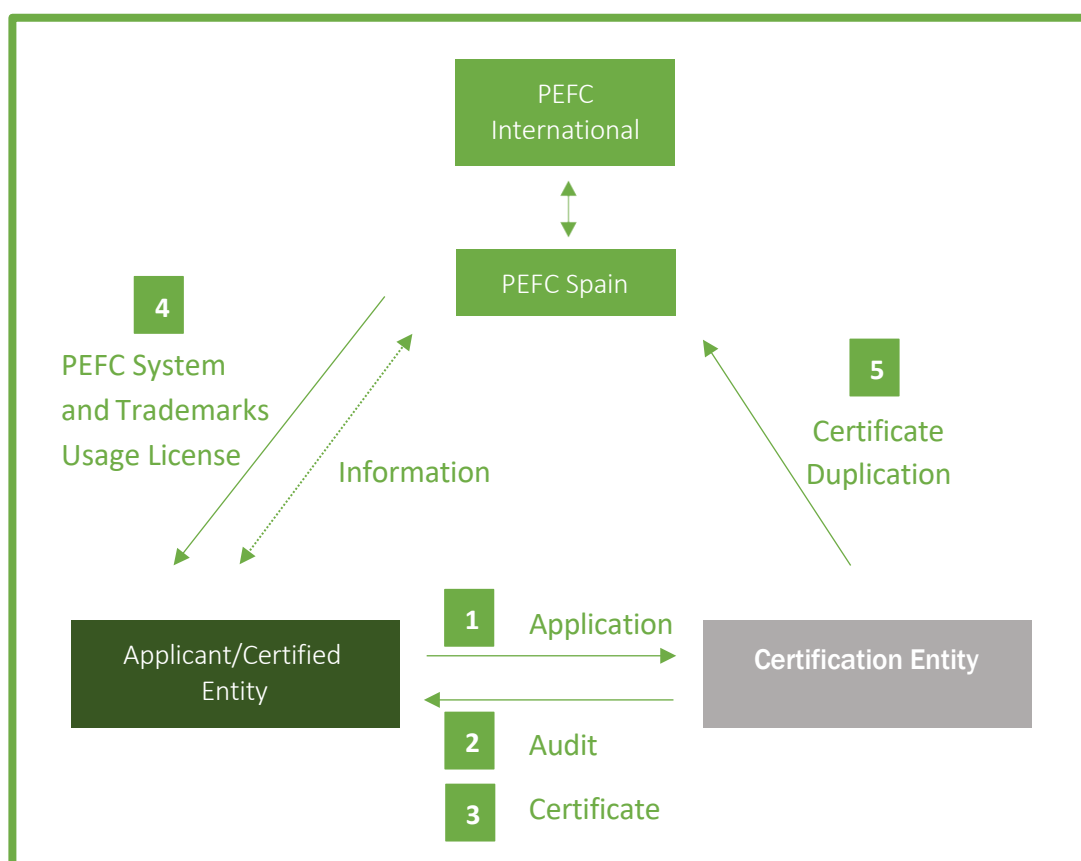
10.18 The head forestry auditor must hold the title of Technical Forestry Engineer or Forestry Engineer or the university degrees that enable the practice of these regulated professions and be attached to the corresponding Professional College.

10.19 The head forestry auditor must have carried out at least 2 complete audits as a forest auditor and 1 audit as a head forestry auditor, under the supervision and guidance of a qualified head forestry auditor.

10.20 To maintain the qualification of forest auditor and head forestry auditor it is necessary to have in force the theoretical training recognized by PEFC Spain, have carried out a minimum of 10 days of forest management audits in the last 2 years and, at least once during a complete certification cycle, the updating of their general and specific competences, the nature of the audit, the standards, and legal requirements.

11 Procedure for obtaining the Sustainable Forest Management Certificate

- 11.1.** The procedure for obtaining forest management certification is established in this chapter and is detailed through the corresponding procedures developed and approved by PEFC Spain.
- 11.2.** For the obtaining of the certificate, an audit will be carried out at the beginning of the process in which the certification entity will audit the compliance of all sections of application of the reference normative documents, Framework Document and Technical Normative Document of the SFM of the Spanish System and UNE 160.002 for Sustainable Forest Management, Criteria, and Indicators.
- 11.3.** With annual periodicity, follow-up audits will be carried out and after the end of the validity period, a renewal audit will be carried out. Likewise, the certification entity may carry out extraordinary audits when it deems appropriate due to evidence that motivates it.
- 11.4.** The certification process will be developed according to the phases listed below:



- 11.5.** The certificate representative entity will submit the **request** for forest certification to the chosen certification entity, which is among those accredited and authorized to do so, establishing a contractual relationship between both parties.

- 11.6.** The certification entity must possess the necessary information and documentation to initiate the certification process and will inform the certificate representative entity about the stages of the audit and certification process.
- 11.7.** The certificate representative entity will request from PEFC Spain access to the PEFC Certified Surface Registry and a License for the use of the PEFC System and Trademarks.
- 11.8.** PEFC Spain will provide the certificate representative entity with access to the surface registry prior to the audit.
- 11.9.** The certification entity is responsible for issuing the Sustainable Forest Management certificate and for providing timely and proper information to the certified entity and PEFC Spain.
- 11.10.** The certified entity must pay the fee for the use of the PEFC System and Trademarks and sign the PEFC Trademarks License contract.
- Note:** The rules for the use of PEFC trademarks are specified in PEFC ST 2001 Standard.
- 11.11.** PEFC Spain or the autonomous PEFCs will process the aforementioned PEFC trademarks license when the certification entity has granted the certificate, and the certified entity has signed the contract and paid the fee.
- 11.12.** After passing the audit process, the certification entity will provide a public audit report to the certified entity and PEFC Spain, which includes the most significant data of the process, as well as a list of individuals or legal entities that have submitted comments. The certified entity must make this report publicly available.
- 11.13.** Updated information on the certificate can be consulted with the corresponding certification entity or in the public search engines on the website. The search engines will generally provide the following information:
- a) Certificate code and PEFC trademark license number, name of the certified entity and name of the certifying entity, certification modality, initial date and expiration of the certificate, and certificate status,
 - b) Certified entity: contact person, email, postal address, telephone, and web,
 - c) FMU: name and code of the FMU, name of the management plan, , registration date, cadastral reference, type of ownership, municipality, and province.
- 11.14.** The representative entity of the certificate will propose to the certification entity, through the PEFC Certified Surface Registry Platform, any modification that affects the Certified Entity and the attached surface.
- 11.15.** The certification entity will evaluate the proposed modifications of the surface attached to the certificate, including the attachment of new surface in the period between audits, and if appropriate, will validate them through the Certified Surface Registry Platform.

- 11.16.** It is not authorized for the same surface to be simultaneously attached to several Sustainable Forest Management certificates.
- 11.17.** Complaints and appeals related to decisions or activities of the certified entity, the accredited certification entity, or the Accreditation Entity, must be resolved through the complaint and appeal management procedure of the corresponding entity.
- 11.18.** For the performance of audits for forest management certification, the management units will be selected by sampling (PG2 General Procedure for Sustainable Forest Management Audit). The surface chosen in the sampling must be representative of the total surface that opts for certification, based on criteria of land uses, station quality, plant species, type of mass, forest activities or works that are being carried out, etc. To increase the efficiency of the certification process, in the case of a high number of management plans to be audited, the audit team will concentrate the audits by areas, regions, or provinces.

Normative Appendix 1

Especially relevant applicable legislation, including any subsequent modifications:

1. Some of the requirements of Sustainable Forest Management certification are not cited beforehand because they are already reflected in Spanish legislation.

The following tables list the legislative references as a reminder of the national framework:

1.1. On the use of pesticides:

Legislative reference	Content
Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of June 20, 2019, on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Text relevant for the EEA). Article 3	Prohibition of the manufacture, marketing, and use of persistent organic pollutants.
Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. Annex II, Section 3.6.3	Conditional approval of substances with carcinogenic risk

1.2. On the commercial exploitation of protected plant and animal species:

Legislative reference	Content
Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. Article 8.1:	Prohibition of commercial trade and profit-making use of protected species.

1.3. On the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity:

The first axis of the Spanish Forest Strategy 2050 focuses on the conservation and improvement of natural heritage, biodiversity, and ecological connectivity. In this context, the Spanish Sustainable Forest Management System requires that afforestation and reforestation prioritize the use of native species.

Legislative reference	Content
Law 42/2007 of 13 December on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. Article 20(g):	Natural Resource Management Plans shall include the identification of measures aimed at ensuring ecological connectivity within the territorial planning area
Spanish Forest Strategy 2050. OR.I.1.02.	Promote sustainable forest management oriented toward close-to-nature silviculture as a tool for improving the conservation status of forest habitats.

1.4. On the use of genetically modified trees:

The Spanish Sustainable Forest Management System expressly prohibits the use of genetically modified trees. In Spain, legislation requires express authorization for the use of GMOs and their official registration. Currently, there are no genetically modified trees authorized or registered in the "National Catalogue of Basic Material for the Production of Controlled Reproductive Forest Material."

Legislative reference	Content
Law 9/2003 of 25 April, which establishes the legal framework for the contained use, voluntary release, and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms. Articles 1 and 10	Use, release, and marketing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) under the precautionary principle.
Royal Decree 289/2003 of 7 March on the marketing of forest reproductive material. Article 4	Environmental risk assessment and authorization of materials containing genetically modified organisms in forest reproductive material.

1.5. On the waste management:

Legislative reference	Content
Law 7/2022 on Waste and Contaminated Soils for a Circular Economy. Article 108	Prohibition of the abandonment, dumping, or uncontrolled disposal of waste throughout the national territory.

2. Additionally, the following list of Spanish legislation is provided as a complement to the Technical Normative Document on Sustainable Forest Management:

Royal Decree 289/2003, of 7 March, on Trading of Forest Reproduction Materials.

Royal Decree 1220/2011, of 5 September, which modifies Royal Decree 289/2003, of 7 March, on the Trading of Forest Reproduction Materials.

Law 31/1995, of 8 November, on Occupational Health & Safety.

The Law 35/2014, of 26 December, which modifies the consolidated text of the General Law of Social Security regarding the legal framework of the Mutual Insurance Companies for Work Accidents and Occupational Diseases of the Social Security

Law 54/2003, of 12 December, on reform of the legal framework governing occupational health and safety.

Royal Decree 899/2015, of 9 October, which amends Royal Decree 39/1997, of 17 January, which approves the Regulations for Prevention Services.

Law 43/2003, of 21 November, on Forestlands, modified under Law 21/2015, of 21 October.

Law 43/2002, of 20 November, on vegetable health.

Royal Decree 1628/2011, of 2 August, which regulates the Spanish list and catalogue of invasive exotic species.

Royal Decree 986/2021, of 16 November, on application measures of the Convention on international Commerce of Endangered Species of Wildlife and Wild Flora (CITES), underwritten in Washington on 3 March 1973 and Regulation (EC) 338/91 of the Council of Europe, dated 9 December 1996, regarding the protection of species of wild animal and wild flora by controlling trading of them.

Regulation (EU) 2021/2280 of the Commission of December 16, 2021, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora through the control of their trade and Regulation (EC) nº 865/2006, which lays down provisions for applying Regulation (EC) nº 338/97 of the Council of Europe

Convention on Biological Diversity ratified by Spain on December 21, 1993. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.4). Sixth National Report.

European Landscape Convention (year 2000). Ratified in Spain on November 26, 2007, and in force since March 1, 2008.

Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the placing on the Union market and export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010.

Normative Appendix 2

Conversion

1. The Spanish Forest Certification System requires that forest conversion to agricultural use shall not occur.
2. This Spanish Forest Certification System, with respect to the forest conversion to other land use, stipulates that such a transition shall not transpire except in justified circumstances wherein the conversion:
 - a. aligns with national and regional policies and relevant legislation for land use and forest management and is the result of national or regional land-use planning overseen by the competent administration or another authority that includes consultation with affected stakeholder groups; and
 - b. involves a minor proportion of the forest type (not exceeding 5%) within the certified area; and
 - c. does not exert negative impacts on endangered forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species, or other protected areas (ecologically significant forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas); and
 - d. does not obliterate areas of significantly high carbon stocks; and
 - e. makes a contribution to long-term conservation, the economy, and social benefits.
3. The Spanish Forest Certification System requires that no human-induced forest degradation occurs. Areas affected by forest degradation shall be considered ineligible for certification if such degradation has taken place after 31 December 2010.
4. On the other hand, afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems should not be undertaken, unless it is justified circumstances wherein the conversion:
 - a. complies with the applicable national and regional policy and legislation on land use and forest management and is the result of a national or regional land use planning governed by a governmental authority or another official authority; and
 - b. is established on the basis of decision-making in which affected stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and
 - c. does not have negative impacts on threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species, or other protected areas;
 - d. involves a minor proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organization; and
 - e. does not obliterate areas with a significantly high carbon reserve; and
 - f. contributes to long-term conservation and economic and social benefits.



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