

Report on the process of resolution of nonconformities identified in the conformity assessment report of SFCS revision

On June 8, 2022 PEFC Slovakia received the final assessment report of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS) revision (amended version of June 28, 2022) and the decision on the maintenance of the endorsement of SFCS under the condition that PEFC Slovakia will address the five minor non-conformities identified in the Sustainable Forest Management standard and implement corrective actions to reach compliance and submit the updated editions of the standard to PEFC International latest by 8th December 2022.

In accordance with the provisions of the normative document ND SFCS 002 *Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation* of 15.5.2019 the final assessment report together with the PEFC SK secretariat proposals for solving nonconformities were sent to the members of the Technical Committee for consideration and discussion on July 22, 2022¹. The changes proposed to the wording of the SFM standard (TD SFCS 1003:2021) were as follows:

Nonconformity	Original wording	Revised wording
<p>No. 1 TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.1</p> <p>Includes the phrase “or another system specific claim” which is not relevant to the PEFC SK standard.</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2121, 4.1.1</p> <p>The claim "100% PEFC certified" or another system specific claim shall be used to communicate the origin of products to customers with a PEFC chain of custody</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2121, 4.1.1</p> <p>The claim "100% PEFC certified" shall be used to communicate the origin of products to customers with a PEFC chain of custody</p>
<p>No. 2 TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3</p> <p>Refers only to “exclusion of forest land.” The PEFC Benchmark Requirement specifically states “forest conversion.”</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.4</p> <p>Replacement of the original stand by a plantation is prohibited.</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.4</p> <p>Converting forest to a forest plantation is prohibited</p>
<p>No. 3 TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3</p> <p>Defines small area as “no greater than 5% of the managed area.” In some instances, managed area may far exceed certified area as called for in the PEFC requirement.</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3</p> <p>shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type of the managed area</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3</p> <p>shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type within the certified area</p>
<p>No. 4 TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.9</p> <p>Does not prohibit the disposal of waste but</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.10</p> <p>Measures to prevent or limit the creation of illegal landfills shall be implemented. The resulting landfills shall be addressed immediately.</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.10</p> <p>Measures to prohibit disposal of waste or limit the creation of illegal landfills shall be implemented. The resulting</p>

"limit[s] the generation of waste."		landfills shall be addressed immediately.
No. 5 TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.1 Does not completely prohibit the use of GMOs in the forest, but as written only prohibits the use of GMOs in reforestation	TD SFCS 1003:2021, TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.1 Genetically modified trees shall not be used in forest regeneration	TD SFCS 1003:2021, TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.1 Genetically modified trees shall not be used

By July 29, 2022 there were no comments received. Consequently, on August 2, 2022 a postal ballot (TC Postal Ballot 1/2022) on the approval of the proposed changes was sent out. Voting results ^{2 3} FOR - 19, AGAINST - 0, ABSTAINED - 0. There was no sustained opposition to any issue.

All approved changes were implemented into the SFM standards and based on the results of the Technical Committee voting, on August 22, 2022 PEFC SK secretariat organised a PEFC SK GA postal (Postal Ballot 5/2022) on the approval of the technical document TD SFCS 1003:2021 Issue 1 *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*⁴. Voting results ^{5 6 7} FOR - 18, AGAINST - 0, ABSTAINED - 0.

The final approved technical document TD SFCS 1003:2021 Issue 1 *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*⁸ (TD SFCS 1003:2021 Vydanie 1 *Trvalo udržateľné obhospodarovanie lesov - požiadavky*⁹ was issued on September 1, 2022 and is available on <https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty>. The application date of the revised document is November 1, 2022. The transition period for the introducing, information dissemination and training about the changes resulting from the periodic revision of SFCS documentation is November 1, 2023. Date of next periodic review is November 11, 2026. On the application date the revised technical document shall replace the currently valid SFCS document TD SFCS 1003:2014 *Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*.

In Zvolen, September 5, 2022

Elaborated by:



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National Secretary

Annexes:

- ¹ E-mail correspondence – sending of the assessment report for consideration (22.7.2022)
- ² Results of TC online voting on proposed changes - overview (2.-15.8.2022)
- ³ Results of TC online voting on proposed changes – individual votes (2.-15.8.2022)
- ⁴ TD SFCS 1003:2021 Issue 1 – tracked changes (EN)
- ⁵ Results of GA online voting on proposed changes - overview (22.-31.8.2022)
- ⁶ Results of GA online voting on proposed changes – individual votes (22.-31.8.2022)
- ⁷ Results of GA email voting on proposed changes – individual votes (22.-31.8.2022)
- ⁸ TD SFCS 1003:2021 Issue 1 (EN)
- ⁹ TD SFCS 1003:2021 Vydanie 1 (SK)