

November 2015

PEFC Conformity Assessment

PEFC Norway



Client

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Document version	1
Date of document	November 9 th , 2015
Reference	PEFC.CA.Norway_RW



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Acronyms

CAR	Corrective Action Request
CB	Certifying Body
CoC	Chain of Custody
EA	European cooperation for Accreditation
EN	European Norm
FMSR	Forest Management Standard Setting Report
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IGD	Informative Guide / Guidance Document
MD	Mandatory Document
ENGO	Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
N.A.	Not applicable
NS/EN	European Norm accepted as Norwegian Standard
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PEFCC	PEFC Council
PEFCC TD	PEFC Council Technical Document
PEFC GD	Guidance Document of PEFC International
PEFC IGD	PEFC Informative Guide
PEFC N	Standard Document as part of the Norwegian PEFC Scheme
PEFC ST	Standard Document of PEFC International
PoE	Panel of Experts
Req.	Requirement
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SSRC	Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist



1. Introduction

With the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), national standards for Sustainable Forest Management are brought under the umbrella organisation PEFC by endorsing the national standard after a positive evaluation. Every five years, the endorsed national schemes need to be revised after which an independent consultant assesses whether the revised scheme is in conformity with the PEFC Council (PEFCC) requirements.

This report presents the results of the evaluation of the Norwegian PEFC Scheme against PEFCC requirements for forest certification schemes. The Norwegian PEFC Scheme was first endorsed by PEFCC in 2000. The third revision took place from April 2013 to January 2015. The application for PEFC re-endorsement was submitted in February 2015. PEFCC appointed Form international (Form) as the independent consultant to carry out the assessment. This assessment report will be the basis for PEFCC's decision, and provides a recommendation to the PEFC Board on the formal endorsement of the Norwegian PEFC Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

1.1. Form international

The assessment benefited from Form's specific experience and expertise in certification and SFM. Form has implemented many studies in which national or international certification standards were analysed versus another standard or scheme, for example for FSC and Keurhout. Moreover, Form has carried out conformity assessments for PEFC, such as the Certification Schemes of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia (Forest plantation), Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Canada.

The conformity assessment team consisted of Mr. Rutger de Wolf and Mr. Andries Polinder (Forestry Experts and Registered PEFC Assessors).

1.2. Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment is to assess the conformity of the Norwegian PEFC Scheme with the PEFC standards and system requirements as presented in PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.

1.3. Documents and resources used

Various documents and resources were used in this conformity assessment. The documents received from PEFC Norway are shown in table 1.1. Table 1.2 lists the documents used from PEFCC. Besides these documents, the website of PEFC Norway (www.pefcnorway.org) was consulted during the assessment.



Table 1.1 Documents used for the conformity assessment

#	Title	
1	PEFC N 01	Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry (amended 31.08.2015)
2	PEFC N 02	Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard (amended 31.08.2015)
3	PEFC N 03	Requirements for group certification (amended 31.08.2015)
4	PEFC N 04	Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies (amended 31.08.2015)
5	PEFC N 05	Glossary and Definitions (amended 31.08.2015)
6	PEFC N 06	Procedures for development and revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system
7	PEFC N 07	Instructions for notification of certification bodies (amended 31.08.2015)
8	Statutes of PEFC-Norway	
9	The forest management standard setting report (FMSR), including four annexes	
10	Other documentation and evidence of the standard setting process (records)	
11	PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist elaborated by PEFC Norway	
12	Norwegian Forestry Act (2005)	
13	Regulation concerning sustainable forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593)	
14	The Planning and Building Act (2005)	
15	Nature Diversity Act (2009)	
16	Outdoor Recreation Act	
17	Culture Heritage Act (1978)	
18	Wildlife Act (1981)	
19	The Cadastre Act (2005)	
20	Working Environment Act (2012)	
21	General Civil Penal Code (Act)	
22	Additional clarifications provided by PEFC Norway during the Assessment process	

Table 1.2 The PEFC Council Technical documents used.

#	PEFC Council document	Date
1	PEFC GD 1007:2012: Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision	16 November 2012
2	PEFCC TD Annex 1: Terms and Definitions	27 October 2006
3	PEFCC TD Annex 6: Certification and Accreditation Procedures	5 October 2007
4	PEFCC TD Annex 7: Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Schemes and their Revisions	5 October 2007
5	PEFC ST 1001:2010 Standard Setting – Requirements	26 November 2010
6	PEFC ST 1002:2010 Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements	26 November 2010
7	PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements	26 November 2010



#	PEFC Council document	Date
8	PEFC ST 2001:2008 v2 PEFC Logo usage rules - Requirements	26 November 2010
9	PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements	24 May 2013
10	PEFC ST 2003:2012 Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard	16 July 2012
11	PEFC GD 1004:2009 Administration of PEFC scheme	5 October 2009
12	PEFC GD 1005:2012 Issuance of PEFC Logo Use Licenses by the PEFC Council	27 November 2012
13	PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist	6 May 2014
14	PEFC IGD 1007-03:2012 The Assessment Report	16 November 2012
15	PEFC Secretariat's clarification concerning the content of the assessment report (clarification 30/10/12).	30 October 2012

1.4. Methodology adopted

The work consisted of a desk study in which an evaluation of the conformity was conducted. The assessment enabled the consultant to identify any missing information, similarities and differences between the Norwegian PEFC Scheme and the PEFC standards and system requirements. Next to a general analysis of the structure of the scheme, the assessment consisted of:

a. Assessment of the standard setting procedures

This aspect is evaluated on the basis of PEFC ST 1001:2010 Standard Setting - Requirements. The checklist (part I of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) has been used to assess the compliance of the Norwegian PEFC Scheme with the demands of PEFC concerning the standard setting procedures and the actual process. The criteria for the standard setting procedure have been assessed in two stages:

1. compliance of the scheme documented procedures ('Procedures')
2. compliance of the standard setting process itself ('Process')

The documented procedures are required to govern the standard setting process and as such shall be in place before the standard setting process starts (Standard Setting Procedures). To assess the process, the Forest Management Standard Setting Report (FMSR), additional evidential records and results of stakeholder consultations are used to evaluate compliance of the process.

The PEFC Council conducted an international public consultation, and a stakeholder survey was held by Form international through questionnaires that were sent out to members of the Working Committee and other stakeholders identified by PEFC Norway during the revision process.



- b. Assessment of the sustainable forest management standard**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management was assessed based on part III of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- c. Assessment of the group certification procedures**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with PEFC ST 1002:2010, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements was assessed based on part II of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- d. Assessment of the chain of custody standard**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with PEFC ST 2002:2010 – Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements was assessed based on part V of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- e. Assessment of the procedures for logo licensing**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with PEFC GD 1004:2009 Administration of PEFC scheme chapter 6 was assessed based on part VI of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- f. Assessment of the complaints and dispute resolution procedures**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with PEFC GD 1004:2009 Administration of PEFC scheme chapter 8 was assessed based on part VI of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- g. Assessment of the procedures for notification of certification bodies**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with PEFC GD 1004:2009 Administration of PEFC scheme chapter 5 was assessed based on part VI of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- h. Assessment of the certification and accreditation procedures**
The Norwegian PEFC Scheme compliance with Annex 6 to the PEFC Council Technical Document (Certification and accreditation procedures) and PEFC ST 2003:2012 was assessed based on part IV of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.
- i. Other aspects regarding functions and efficiency of the scheme**
The functions were evaluated on the basis of the description and analysis of these functions, as indicated in the information obtained and correspondence with PEFC Norway.

The report is written in line with the guidelines of the PEFC, PEFC GD 1007-03:2012 for the content of an assessment report, and the additional PEFC's clarification of 30 October 2012.



1.5. Assessment process

The assessment process consisted of the following steps:

1. Public consultation

The international public consultation was held from 4 March 2015 to 4 May 2015. Two comments were received, which were considered in the process and can be found in Annex 3.

The national stakeholder consultation was held from 12 June 2015 to 8 July 2015. Form sent out questionnaires to all stakeholders that were members of the Working Committee and additional stakeholders that were invited and/or participated in public consultation meetings during the revision process. In total 110 questionnaires were sent out, 10 responses were received.

2. Technical desk study

The technical desk study was carried out on the Norwegian PEFC Scheme documentation. It comprised of a review of the documentation and a verification of the standards and system requirements checklist. During the assessment additional information and translations were requested from PEFC Norway.

3. Elaboration of draft report

The draft report was sent to PEFC Norway and PEFC on 10 July 2015.

4. Elaboration of final draft report

Based on the responses and additional references and clarifications to the draft report, a final draft report was developed and sent to PEFC on September 15th, 2015.

5. Review of the final draft report

Members of PEFC's Panel of Experts contributed to the final report by providing Form with their feedback and comments.

6. Final analysis and reporting

The final report was elaborated taking into account the comments from Panel of Experts members and was sent to the PEFC on November 9th 2015.

1.6. Report structure

Chapter 2 gives an explicit statement in the form of a recommendation whether or not the Board of Directors of PEFC should re-endorse the Norwegian PEFC Scheme. In chapter 3, a summary of the findings is presented. Chapter 4 gives an overview of the key structures of the scheme, followed by the results of the assessment of the standard setting procedures and process in chapter 5. The assessment of the forest management standard and group certification procedures are presented in chapters 6 and 7. The Chain of Custody standard is quickly touched in Chapter 8. The assessment of the scheme administration (respectively logo usage licensing, complaints and dispute resolution and notification of



certification bodies) is presented in chapters 9, 10 and 11, followed by the assessment of certification and accreditation procedures in chapter 12. The standards and system requirements checklist is enclosed in Annex 1. Results of the stakeholder survey and international consultation are presented in respectively Annex 2 and Annex 3, and the Panel of Experts Comments is enclosed in Annex 4.



2. Recommendation

Based on the results of this conformity assessment, Form international recommends the PEFC Board of Directors **to re-endorse the Norwegian PEFC Scheme**, on the condition that the six (6) identified non-conformities in the Forest Management Standard shall be corrected within six (6) months after re-endorsement.

In relation to the standard-setting process, two (2) non-conformities are found. In the opinion of the assessor, the non-conformities found in the process did not undermine or damage the standard revision process.



3. Summary of the Findings

3.1. Overall

The Norwegian PEFC Scheme is in general quite complete and clear. There are however 6 non-conformities found in the Forest Management Standard and 2 in the revision process. They are all classified as minor. The majority of the non-conformities can be addressed by more precise and complete formulation in the scheme documentation or by providing new evidence.

3.2. Structure of the System

PEFC Norway was established on 21 June 1999, and since 24 May 2000 PEFC Norway has been endorsed by the PEFC Council to use the Living Forest standard for certification of sustainable forestry in Norway. In December 2011, PEFC Norway resolved to change the name of the Living Forest standard to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for sustainable forestry.

PEFC Norway has seven standard documents (General document, Forest Management Standard, Requirements for Group Certification, Requirements for CB's and Accreditation Bodies, Glossary and definitions, Revision procedures, and Instructions for Notification of CB's), one normative document (statutes of PEFC Norway), and accepts three PEFC International standards (PEFC ST 2001:2008 Logo usage rules, PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody for forest based products - requirements, and PEFC ST 2003:2012 Certification Body Requirements – Chain of Custody).

3.3. Standard Setting Procedures and Process

The standard setting is assessed in two stages: the compliance of the scheme documented procedures ('Procedures') and the compliance of the standard setting process itself ('Process').

The Standard Setting Procedures are regulated in PEFC N 06, which refers to PEFC ST 1001:2010 as being the minimum requirement. As a consequence the Norwegian PEFC Scheme Standard Setting Procedures conform with the International PEFC requirements. Nevertheless, the Norwegian PEFC Scheme elaborated a country specific standard, which was assessed during the current assessment. Due to the reference to the International Standard, no non-conformities are found.

The process is described in the Forest Management Standard Setting Report (FMSR), which is a quite complete, clearly structured and concise report on the revision process. The report does contain a few references to records and/or minutes that are attached to the document. Additional records and minutes were available upon request. In general, the process was conducted according to the



standard-setting procedures. There are however 2 non-conformities found (both are classified as minor):

- The Committee was too much dominated by forest owners and forest industry, whereas scientific organisations, social groups (including Sami representatives), labour unions and governmental organisations were not included or only participated as observer, without decision rights (req. 4.4.b). Although it is understood that it was the decision of the environmental NGO's not to participate in the Working Committee, the absence of these stakeholders and the previously mentioned stakeholder groups resulted in a Committee dominated by commercial actors;
- The time between the publication and application date (req. 6.3) could not be assessed as the application date is not yet established. This date will be the same as the re-endorsement date by PEFC Council.

In the opinion of the Assessor, the non-conformities found in the process do not undermine or damage the standard revision process. It would therefore not be adequate to redo the process based on the non-conformities found in the process.

3.4. Forest Management Standard

The Sustainable Forest Management requirements are stipulated in PEFC N 02. The standard is complementary to existing legislation. Consequently, several parts of the PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management standard are not covered by PEFC N 02, but are addressed in existing legislation. It is observed that the auditability of the standard is sometimes poor, as requirements are quite descriptive and cover multiple elements at once, making it a bit indistinct. In some cases the standard provides room for interpretation, or even makes assumptions. In total 6 non-conformities are found:

- It is not sufficiently ensured that monitoring and evaluation, including an assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations, will be part of forest management of group members of a group certificate (req. 5.1.2);
- No references were found ensuring that management plans or their equivalents are elaborated and periodically updated for plots smaller than 100 decares (req. 5.1.4);
- No reference was found ensuring publication of the summary of the forest management measures to be applied by independently certified forest managers with a FMU smaller than 1000 hectares (req. 5.1.6);
- No reference is found which sufficiently ensures periodical evaluation of the management of forest resources and that the results will be fed back into the planning process (req. 5.1.7);



- Two issues are found related to requirement 5.1.11:
 - The references insufficiently ensure that conversion of forests to other types of land use shall only entail a small proportion of forest type;
 - The provided references insufficiently ensure that the conversion makes a contribution to long-term conservation benefits;Therefore it is not ensured that forest conversion is only allowed if all requirements (a, b, c, and d) are met;
- No references were found ensuring that forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorized activities (req. 5.7.2).

3.5. Group Certification Procedures

The procedures on Group Certification are regulated in PEFC N 03, which is clearly structured, but relatively extensive, and in cases quite descriptive, which impedes the auditability of the standard. The group entities (in the Norwegian context called: group certificate holders) are required to be ISO 14001 certified. This is however not regulated in PEFC N 03, but concluded from PEFC N 01, chapter 11 (PEFC Norway's management system requirements). The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities are found.

3.6. Chain of Custody Standard

The Norwegian PEFC Scheme uses the PEFC ST 2002:2010 procedures. The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities were found.

3.7. Logo Usage Licensing

The procedures on PEFC Logo Usage Licensing are regulated in PEFC N 01 chapter 10, which further refers to the logo usage rules of PEFC ST 2001:2008 v2: PEFC Logo Usage Rules – Requirements as being the applicable rules with regards to the PEFC logo usage. The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities are found:

3.8. Complaints and Dispute Resolution Procedures

The procedures for dealing with complaints relating to the governance and administration of the PEFC scheme are regulated in PEFC N 01 chapter 13. The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities are found.

3.9. Notification of Certification Bodies Procedures

The procedures for the notification of certification bodies are regulated in PEFC N 07. The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities are found.



3.10. Certification and Accreditation Procedures

The requirements for accreditation and certification are regulated in PEFC N 04 and include references to ISO/IEC 17011:2004, other documents recognised by the EA and IAF, PEFC ST 2001:2008 PEFC Logo Usage Rules – Requirements and PEFC ST 2003:2012 Certification Bodies Requirements – Chain of Custody. The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities are found.



4. Structure of the System of the Applicant Scheme

4.1. Introduction to the Norwegian forest sector¹

Forests and other tree-covered areas account for around 14 million hectares, or 43 per cent of the land area of Norway. Of this, 8.6 million hectares are productive forest, and around 6 million hectares of the productive area is used for forestry. There has been a steady increase in annual growth over the last 70 - 80 years. In this period, it has increased from about 10 to about 25 million cubic meters per year. The difference between felling and growth has resulted in the standing growing stock increasing throughout the same period from about 300 to about 900 million cubic meters without bark. The increase in growth and standing volume is due to the introduction of plantation forestry, with systematic forest management and planting.

Of the total forest area in Norway, about 6% is protected within various conservation categories. Around 4% of the forest area is protected as national park or nature reserve, of which 2.8% of the productive forest is protected.

Most Norwegian forests are privately owned. Only 12% is owned by the state, county authorities and municipalities. Private forest is largely owned by individuals. For the majority of forest owners, the forest provides merely a contribution to the total household income. The total added value in forestry is nevertheless around NOK 5 billion per year. However, the added value in the processing segment is greater. The forestry industry's total added value stands at around NOK 20 billion. There are also significant ripple effects in other sectors. The forestry industry's added value has remained relatively stable for many years. The significance for the Norwegian economy has thus been reduced. The forestry industry now contributes around 1% to the country's GNP.

Practically all production forest in Norway is PEFC certified. The certified area is 9.1 million ha, more than the productive area, since properties with mountainous territory are included in the certified property. Almost all the certified area is done through group certification. There are 18 PEFC forest management certificates; of which 17 are group certificates.

4.2. Organisation PEFC Norway

The "Living Forest standard for sustainable Norwegian forestry" was developed by a working group involving representatives of forestry, the forestry industry, nature conservation organisations, outdoor recreation organisations, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Consumer Council of Norway. The process was supported by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture. On 27 March 1998, the parties agreed on the Living Forest standard for sustainable

¹ The information from this paragraph is mostly derived from PEFC N 01 - Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry.



forestry. PEFC Norway was established on 21 June 1999, and since 24 May 2000 PEFC Norway has been endorsed by the PEFC Council to use the Living Forest standard for certification of sustainable forestry in Norway. In December 2011, PEFC Norway resolved to change the name of the Living Forest standard to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for sustainable forestry.

PEFC Norway is organised as a registered organisation, with an annual general meeting and a Board. As the owner of the certification system, PEFC Norway is responsible for development and operation of the system.

4.3. The PEFC Norway Certification Scheme

PEFC Norway's certification system is based on a number of documents which define the requirements for forest and traceability certification. The document structure is shown in the picture below.

Standards for operators	Standards for certifying bodies	Scheme governance
<p>PEFC N 02 Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>PEFC N 03 Requirements for group certification</p> <p>PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody for forest based products – requirements</p> <p>PEFC ST 2001:2008 Logo usage rules</p>	<p>PEFC ST 2003:2012 Certification Body Requirements - Chain of Custody</p> <p>PEFC N 04 Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies</p> <p>PEFC N 07 Instructions for notification of certification bodies</p>	<p>Articles of Association for PEFC Norway</p> <p>PEFC N 06 Procedures for development and revision of Norwegian PEFC certification system</p> <p>PEFC N 01 Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry</p> <p>PEFC N 05 Glossary and definitions</p>



5. Standard Setting Procedures and Process

This chapter presents the non-conformities and observations found in the Standard Setting Procedures and Process. There are 2 non-conformities found, both related to the process and classified as minor. One of them can be addressed by providing future evidence. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Standard Setting Procedures and Process can be found in Annex 1 part I, which presents all the conformities, non-conformities and related references.

5.1. Analysis

The Standard Setting Procedures are regulated in PEFC N 06, where the introduction reads: “The PEFC Council defines in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements" requirements for establishment of written procedures for development and revision of the standards included in the Norwegian PEFC certification system. The procedures must, as a minimum, be compliant with the PEFC Council's requirements described in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements”.

As a consequence the Norwegian PEFC Scheme Standard Setting Procedures conform with the International PEFC requirements. Nevertheless, the Norwegian PEFC Scheme elaborated a country specific standard, which was assessed during the current assessment. Due to the reference to the International Standard, no non-conformities are found. However, in total five observation are made related to PEFC N 06:

- In the following cases the PEFC N 06 misses some elements compared to the PEFC ST 1001:2010. As the Norwegian PEFC Scheme refers to PEFC ST 1001:2010 as the minimum requirement, the below mentioned issues are covered and do not result in non-conformities. There is however a risk that in practice, these issues are overlooked if the PEFC N 06 is used as a reference for organizing the standard revision (it should however be noted that it went well during the current revision):
 - The procedures in PEFC N 06 do not specify that **the resolution and proposed changes** of comments and views submitted by any member of the working committee shall be recorded (req. 5.5.c);
 - The procedures in PEFC N 06 do not specify that **the start and the end** of public consultation shall be announced (req. 5.6.a);
 - The PEFC N 06 procedures do not specify that **the results** of the working committee’s discussion shall also be summarized (req. 5.6.f)
- Formally approved standards shall be published in a timely manner (req. 5.12). The PEFC N 06 uses here the wording ‘in plenty of time’, which is relatively vague. It should be noted that the wording ‘in a timely manner’ (used in the PEFC International procedures) needs further specification for the national (Norwegian) context, either in the procedures or during the process. In practice, during the current revision this was only five days;



- According to requirement 6.1, the standard shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The previous version of the forest management standard is dated October 2009, the standards were endorsed by PEFC Council in November 2010. The revision process started in time, compared to the endorsement date. The end of the revision process (February 2015) slightly exceeds the interval between the previous approval date and the current approval date. The interval between the endorsement dates cannot be assessed yet, although there is a possibility that this will not exceed a five-year period.

The Forest Management Standard Setting Report (FMSR) is a quite complete, clearly structured and concise report on the revision process. The report does contain a few references to records and/or minutes that are attached to the document. Additional records and minutes were available upon request.

In general, the process was conducted according to the standard-setting procedures. In order to lay the foundation of the revision process and clarify how the conditions in the Norwegian forests have developed compared with the standard, criteria and indicators in the PEFC Norway forest management standard, a research project was carried out. The standard setting process started in April 2013 (stakeholder mapping). In May 2013 stakeholders were invited to comment on the proposed process and submit nominees for the Working Committee, which was established in August 2013. The Working Committee consisted of 10 members and 2 observers. Between October 2013 and September 2014, the standards were revised. The public consultation was held from October to early December 2014, after which the 37 received comments were considered by the Working Committee. By the end of January 2015, the Working Committee reached consensus on the revised standards and submitted these to the Board of PEFC Norway for formal approval, which took place on 20 February 2015.

At the start of the revision process, the environmental NGO's jointly requested for specific changes in the PEFC Norway structure and changes in the forestry standard. The PEFC Norway Board responded that they could not meet such predefined requirements as this was precisely what was supposed to be negotiated within the Working Committee. The environmental NGO's were invited to a meeting to proactively seek their participation, but they did not meet this invitation and decided not to participate. As a consequence the Working Committee did not contain representatives of environmental NGO's.

5.1. Results: Non-Conformities

The standard setting process went relatively well, however, two non-conformities are found in the process. The first non-conformity relates to the balanced representation of the Working Committee. The Committee was too much dominated by forest owners and forest industry, whereas scientific organisations, social groups



(including Sami representatives), labour unions and governmental organisations were not included or only participated as observers, without decision rights. Although it is understood that the environmental NGO's could not be forced, together with the previous comments, this resulted in a Committee dominated by commercial actors. It should however be noted that the environmental NGO's did submit comments on the enquiry draft, which were considered by the Working Committee.

The second non-conformity relates to the time between the publication and application date, which shall not exceed one year. The publication date is February 25th 2015, the application date is not yet established as it will be the same as the re-endorsement date by PEFC Council. It could therefore not yet be assessed if this period will exceed one year.

In the opinion of the Assessor, the non-conformities found in the process do not undermine or damage the standard revision process. It would therefore not be adequate to redo the process based on the non-conformities found in the process.

The non-conformities are presented in the tables below.

Requirement	4.4 The working group/committee shall: b) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard where single concerned interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the process
Evidence	<p>Process; Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013</p> <p>“Case 23/13 Review of incoming nominations of representatives to the Working Committee and establishment of working committee</p> <p>The following organizations have nominated representatives to the Working Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy Equipment Contractors Association, MEF: Ivar K Hoff (Einar Østhassel as deputy) • The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards: Morten Dåsnes • Viken Skog; Ragna Karoline Aasen • Mjøsen Forestry Johannes Bergum • The Forestry Extension Institute (either as a participant in the working committee or as an observer) <p>Nominated representatives who are members of PEFC Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmill Industry Ass.: Knut FJULSRUD • Pulp and paper Industry Ass.: unnamed person • Labour Union: Rolf Jørn Karlsen • State-owned Land and Forest Company • Norskog, Norwegian Forestry Association • Norges Skogeierforbund, Norwegian Forest Owners Association



- Ass. for Women in Forestry

The following representatives from the government has been nominated to have an observer role in the revision process:

- Environment Agency: Kjersti Wannebo Nilsen
- Norwegian Agricultural Authority; unnamed person
- Forest Course (participant or observer)

Resolution:

PEFC Norway proposes initially the organizations that will be part of the working committee who will revise the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard and PEFC Norway forest certification system. The organizations are requested to confirm their earlier nomination or come with updated nomination of representatives.

The Board has decided the following organizations to participate in the working committee:

- Representative from Sawmill Industry Ass
- Representatives from the Pulp and paper industry
- Representatives from the Labour Union
- Representatives from The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards
- Representative from Heavy Equipment Contractors Association (MEF)
- Representative from Norskog
- Representative from State-owned Land and Forest Company
- Representatives from the Norges Skogeierforbund
- 2 representatives from Forest Owners coopertaive, appointed by the Norges Skogeierforbund

It also recommends that a representative from the Environment Agency and one representative from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority gets observer role in the revision process.

The Working Committee will consist of 10 representatives and 2 observers. The Council also opens the opportunity to expand the committee by up to 3 representatives, especially in the environmental and outdoor hand, if it receives signals about the possible participation of relevant organizations in these sectors

The secretariat will send information to the organizations that has been set to be represented in the Working Committee with the request to name their representatives in the committee within September 15th 2013.”

FMSR - 2. Established working committee

“Based on the nominations done by the invited stakeholders the Board of PEFC Norway in August 20th 2013 established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations:

- The Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions
- The Association of Intermunicipal Outdoor Recreation Boards
- Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors
- The Norwegian Forest Owners’ Federation



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The Norwegian Forestry Association (NORSKOG) □ The State-owned Land and Forest Company (Statskog SF) □ The Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association □ The Norwegian Sawmill Industries' Association <p>In addition representatives from the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Norwegian Agriculture Agency were appointed as observers in the working committee.</p> <p>(...)The participants represented the interests of forest owners, forest industries, trade unions, contractors and outdoor recreation organisations.</p> <p>Based on the nominations, the committee were composed in order to achieve the best possible balance in the committee.</p> <p>(...) Among the stakeholders identified, the ENGO's replied the invitation with specific requirements regarding the outcome of the revision of the forestry standard. PEFC Norway Board could not meet such predefined requirements as this was precisely what were supposed to be negotiated within the working group. PEFC invited the ENGO's to a meeting to proactively seek their participation, but the ENGO's did not meet this invitation."</p>
<p>Assessors' comments</p>	<p>The Working Committee consisted of 1 member of an employee organization, 1 member of a recreational NGO, 5 members of forest owners organizations, and 3 of forest industry / forestry operators. The 2 observers were government representatives. It is remarkable that the Environmental NGO's, scientific organizations (research and development) and organizations representing indigenous people (Sami People) are missing as well as the Association of Women in forestry and Labour Union, which were both listed as "nominated representatives who are members of PEFC Norway". Next, it is unclear why the governmental organizations participated as observers and were not included with decision rights. For decision making, 8 out of 10 members represented the forest owners / forest industry, which is relatively unbalanced, especially when considering the missing stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Several respondents to the stakeholder survey also stated that the Working Committee did not have a balanced representation of relevant stakeholders and most respondents explained that the Environmental NGO's and Recreation organizations should have been part of the Working Committee. Some of the respondents however also explained that it was the choice of these organizations to refuse participation.</p> <p>It should be noted that PEFC Norway has tried to get the Environmental NGO's and Recreation organization aboard the Working Committee and reserved three places for them in the Working Committee.</p>
<p>Result</p>	<p>Does not conform – minor</p>



Requirement	6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.
Evidence	<p>Process; PEFC N 01 – Foreword “Published: 25.02.2015, amended 31.08.2015 Transition date: one year from the official announcement of the PEFC re-endorsement decision”</p> <p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway “The (...) publication date is February 25th 2015, as this is the date when the standards were published on our website. (...) The plan is that the new standards shall take effect from the date they are re-approved, with exception of certain requirements and elements that require a transition period.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	Publication dates are found on the standard documents. Due to the proposed approach, no application date is established yet. Although the proposed approach will likely result in an application date that does not exceed a period of one year, this is not yet formalised and could therefore not yet be assessed.
Result	Does not conform - minor

5.2. Results: Selection of Conformities

In the tables below, a selection of conformities is presented that to the opinion of the assessment team are sensitive issues in the Norwegian context and/or illustrative examples of the Standard Setting Procedures and Process.

Requirement	4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.
Evidence	<p>Process; Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013 “Case 23/13 Review of incoming nominations of representatives to the Working Committee and establishment of working committee (...) The Board has decided the following organizations to participate in the working committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Sawmill Industry Ass • Representatives from the Pulp and paper industry • Representatives from the Labour Union • Representatives from The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards • Representative from Heavy Equipment Contractors Association (MEF) • Representative from Norskog • Representative from State-owned Land and Forest Company • Representatives from the Norges Skogeierforbund • 2 representatives from Forest Owners cooperative, appointed by the Norges Skogeierforbund <p>It also recommends that a representative from the Environment Agency and one representative from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority gets observer role in the revision process.</p>



	<p>The Working Committee will consist of 10 representatives and 2 observers. The Council also opens the opportunity to expand the committee by up to 3 representatives, especially in the environmental and outdoor hand, if it receives signals about the possible participation of relevant organizations in these sectors</p> <p>The secretariat will send information to the organizations that has been set to be represented in the Working Committee with the request to name their representatives in the committee within September 15th 2013.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	4.4 The working group/committee shall: a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders
Evidence	<p>Process; Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013</p> <p>“Participation in the revision process</p> <p>All organizations with interest linked to forest certification is by this given the opportunity to participate in the revision. This can be done by making comments / suggestions to the scope of the revision and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative (s) to the Working Committee.”</p>
Assessors' comments	The stakeholder identification lists includes materially and directly affected stakeholders (forest owners organizations, industry and trade, timber purchase / trade).
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.
Evidence	Attachment 1 of the FMSR
Assessors' comments	Attachment 1 of the FMSR presents the stakeholder mapping done by PEFC Norway in April 2013, listing approximately 80 relevant stakeholders, and per stakeholder the corresponding sector and suitable means of communication.
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders. The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.
Evidence	<p>FMSR – 1. Start of the revision</p> <p>“There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate.”</p> <p>FMSR - 2. Established working committee</p> <p>“Among the stakeholders identified, the ENGO’s replied the invitation with specific requirements regarding the outcome of the revision of the forestry standard. PEFC Norway Board could not meet such predefined</p>



	<p>requirements as this was precisely what were supposed to be negotiated within the working group. PEFC invited the ENGO's to a meeting to proactively seek their participation, but the ENGO's did not meet this invitation.”</p> <p>Letter of PEFC Norway in response to the Letter of ENGO's, d.d. 9 September 2013</p> <p>“We refer to your joint letter of June 25, which was in response to an invitation from PEFC Norway to attend the forthcoming revision process. You point out in your joint letter the importance of an inclusive and democratic process where three equal partners are sitting around the negotiating table in the working committee. This is a prerequisite for your participation and you are critical if this is the case when the PEFC Norway selects representatives and the working committee does not necessarily consist of three equal party groups. Moreover you require in advance for your participation that the Living Forest Council must be re-established as the owner of the certification standard. You will also have signals upfront that there is a change in attitude in order to change the forest standard in specific areas before you will consider participating in the revision process.</p> <p>PEFC Norway procedures implies that the working committee, as far as practicable, shall have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant sectors. PEFC Norway can however not force organizations / sectors to participate and a balanced representation therefore requires that organizations in relevant sectors actually wants to contribute to the revision process.</p> <p>PEFC Norway wants the broadest possible participation from relevant sectors and hope relevant organizations are willing to take responsibility for achieving this. PEFC Norway cannot give any promises in advance or anticipate key issues in the forestry standard since this is up to the working committee to draw up an agreed proposal for a new/revised standard. PEFC Norway cannot, of course, on behalf of the organizations participating in the committee make promises that they will fulfill requirements from specific organizations.</p> <p>PEFC Norway would like to have a dialogue with you and we are happy to take a meeting if you are interested in discussing the revision process and to discuss any participation from your organizations. Work Committee starts the revision work in early October and PEFC Norway can extend the working committee if it comes signals for participation from SABIMA, Naturvernforbundet, WWF-Norway or FRIFO.”</p> <p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“The ENGO's did not respond to this letter or to our invitation for meeting to discuss this.</p> <p>(...) All the ENGO's was invited to the public consultation. The information on PEFC Norway's website (Consultation - proposed revised Norwegian PEFC certification system) was sent to all stakeholders identified in the start of the revision process by letter.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform



Requirement	<p>5.4 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.</p>
Evidence	<p>Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013</p> <p>“Case 22/13: Evaluation and possible revision of the revision process on the basis of inputs and comments on the revision process (...) Resolution The suggestions that PEFC Norway has received will be forwarded to the working committee so they can take the academic input into account in the revision work. There are no comments requiring changes in the audit process.” (...) “Case 23/13 Review of incoming nominations of representatives to the Working Committee and establishment of working committee The following organizations have nominated representatives to the Working Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy Equipment Contractors Association, MEF: Ivar K Hoff (Einar Østhassel as deputy) • The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards: Morten Dåsnes • Viken Skog; Ragna Karoline Aasen • Mjøsen Forestry Johannes Bergum • The Forestry Extension Institute (either as a participant in the working committee or as an observer) <p>Nominated representatives who are members of PEFC Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmill Industry Ass.: Knut FJULSRUD • Pulp and paper Industry Ass.: unnamed person • Labour Union: Rolf Jørn Karlsen • State-owned Land and Forest Company • Norskog, Norwegian Forestry Association • Norges Skogeierforbund, Norwegian Forest Owners Association • Ass. for Women in Forestry <p>The following representatives from the government has been nominated to have an observer role in the revision process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency: Kjersti Wannebo Nilsen • Norwegian Agricultural Authority; unnamed person • Forest Course (participant or observer) <p>Resolution: PEFC Norway proposes initially the organizations that will be part of the working committee who will revise the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard and PEFC Norway forest certification system. The organizations are requested to confirm their earlier nomination or come with updated nomination of representatives. The Board has decided the following organizations to participate in the working committee:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Sawmill Industry Ass • Representatives from the Pulp and paper industry • Representatives from the Labour Union • Representatives from The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards • Representative from Heavy Equipment Contractors Association (MEF) • Representative from Norskog • Representative from State-owned Land and Forest Company • Representatives from the Norges Skogeierforbund • 2 representatives from Forest Owners cooperative, appointed by the Norges Skogeierforbund <p>It also recommends that a representative from the Environment Agency and one representative from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority gets observer role in the revision process.</p> <p>The Working Committee will consist of 10 representatives and 2 observers. The Council also opens the opportunity to expand the committee by up to 3 representatives, especially in the environmental and outdoor hand, if it receives signals about the possible participation of relevant organizations in these sectors</p> <p>The secretariat will send information to the organizations that has been set to be represented in the Working Committee with the request to name their representatives in the committee within September 15th 2013.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	<p>5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:</p> <p>e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner</p>
Evidence	<p>Announcement on the PEFC website</p> <p>“Compilation of responses to the consultation (...) Proposed revised certification system was sent out for public consultation October 3rd 2014, with a deadline to respond to the consultation on within December 3rd . PEFC Norway has received replies from the 37 organizations. (...) The Working Committee, which is responsible for the revision, has during two full-day meetings reviewed and discussed the consultation responses.</p> <p>The input is assessed on an overall balance between economic, social and environmental considerations, and together with the committee's earlier reviews. For the assessment the answers are collated and structured in relation to the individual parts of the standard. See link below for the compilation of the responses. As shown here, there is great tension between the input that has come. As a starting point, the Working Committee has put most emphasis on contributions that contain new elements that have not previously have been considered in the process. The result is the final standards which is available at the PEFC Norway homepage.</p> <p>A compilation of responses to the consultation is here.”</p> <p>Example of consideration of comments, included in the compilation</p>



	<p>of responses</p> <p>“Comment from Fylkesmannen on requirement 21 – Key Habitats (PEFC N 02):</p> <p>Forestry planning and MiS registration is an important point. The County Governor will emphasize the importance that there is revision of the MiS (environmental registrations – the basis for key habitats) where there is forestry plans with MiS-registrations of older date, and where quality is poor. The quality has evolved a lot since the first records were made. Likewise, there is an urgent need to implement forestry planning with MiS registration in those areas where this does not exist.</p> <p>These are matters that are important from both a environment and forestry point of view.</p> <p>County Governor will also emphasize the importance of establishing a greater clarity of status between MiS and Habitat types. As the situation is today it is experienced a large degree of uncertainty also in the public administration. Efforts must be made to harmonize these tasks better.</p> <p>Working Committee’s consideration</p> <p>It must be entered in the requirement a claim in connection with the revision/re-mapping of key-habitat areas with previous environmental registration records, relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements for the quality of the existing registrations will be assessed and form the basis whether the registered key habitats (environmental registrations) should be revised or whether the quality of the existing registrations is good enough so that there is no need for revision/new registration. - Requirements for openness/representation on the committee that is to assess the quality of the existing registrations. <p>The following where added to the requirement:</p> <p>Requirement 21 – Key habitats</p> <p>Section 6 under requirements:</p> <p>“In cases where it is documented that the quality of existing key habitats within an area is not satisfying, and a new mapping out or revision is determined, all certified forest owners are obliged to take part in the process.”</p> <p>And in Explanations, requirement 21 (page 28):</p> <p>“Revision of key habitats</p> <p>In case new mapping of habitats based on the MiS methodology and/or revision of key habitats within an area is required, documentation of its necessity must be available. The analysis documenting the need for revision must be based on the current instruction for registration, ranking and selection of habitats based on the MiS methodology and must include a geographically delimited area.””</p>
<p>Assessors’ comments</p>	<p>Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, confirmed that all comments received were considered in an objective manner.</p>
<p>Result</p>	<p>Does conform</p>



Requirement	5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.
Evidence	<p>FMSR – Attachment 4</p> <p>“Final protocol: Revision of PEFC Norway’s certification system Representatives (...) agreed January 27th 2015 in consensus on revised standards that constitutes PEFC Norway’s certification system for sustainable forestry. (...) The agreement includes the following revised standards; PEFC N 01, PWFC N 02, PWFC N 03, PEFC N 04, PEFC N 05, PEFC N 06 and PEFC N 07 (...). The Working Committee considers the revision process performed in accordance with the mandate by the signature of this document with appendices.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	The document includes the signatures of all ten Working Committee members.
Result	Does conform



6. Forest Management Standard

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the Sustainable Forest Management Standard. In total 6 non-conformities are found, which are all classified as minor. Corrective action requests are formulated for each of the non-conformities raised. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Sustainable Forest Management Standard can be found in Annex 1 part III, which presents all the conformities, non-conformities and related references.

6.1. Analysis

The Sustainable Forest Management requirements are stipulated in PEFC N 02. The standard is complementary to existing legislation, which is assumed to be known to both the certification body and the certificate holder. Consequently, several parts of the PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management standard are not covered by PEFC N 02, but are addressed in existing legislation. The standard is structured in 27 requirements, which are structured under 3 themes: (1) Manager responsibility and planning, (2) Felling and forestry operations, and (3) Special environmental values. The individual requirements start with a brief description of what it aims to achieve, followed by descriptions of specific requirements. These requirements are rather descriptive and focus on forest management practices, often specified for specific situations or areas.

Forest managers that are not participating in group certification, are required to be ISO 14001 certified. This requirement is not found in the Forest Management Standard (PEFC N 02), but concluded from PEFC N 01, chapter 11 (PEFC Norway's management system requirements): "PEFC Norway requires (...) forest properties which are directly certified to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001."

It is observed that the auditability of the standard is sometimes poor, as requirements are quite descriptive and cover multiple elements at once, making it a bit indistinct. In some cases the standard provides room for interpretation, or even makes assumptions, for example:

- "In forests dominated by spruce, selective felling must be used if economic and biological conditions so permit. However, forests dominated by spruce are normally rejuvenated by means of clear cutting and planting, as this will normally be the most economical solution resulting in the highest forest production." (requirement 10)
- "For tree species which rarely become so large, the diameter requirement can be reduced further." (requirement 12)

Next, the following clause is found, in which the wording "should preferably be" does not result in a requirement and is therefore not auditable:



- “Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out felling and forestry operations has sufficient expertise. The skills of their own employees and hired labour should preferably be on a par with relevant expertise targets for the field of work in question in the specialist and vocational training for the forestry profession. For practical tasks, courses at Aktivt Skogbruk or the equivalent will suffice.” (requirement 2)

It is furthermore observed that in PEFC N 01 and PEFC N 02 the word ‘rejuvenation’ is used, which strictly means ‘making young again’, whereas the term ‘regeneration’ is meant, which strictly means: creating a new generation. It is observed that in PEFC N 05 the term regeneration is used. It is assumed that this is a translation issue.

6.2. Results: Non-Conformities

In total 6 non-conformities are found in the Forest Management Standard, which are presented in the tables below.

Requirement	5.1.2 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 operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimise or avoid negative impacts.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - Ch 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard “9. The certificate holder shall prepare a plan with guidelines for the use of various forestry management measures to be applied. The guidelines shall be reviewed annually, based on an evaluation of experiences with guidelines, statistics from the measures implemented, the governments result-control of forestry measures, and the development in the forest based on results from the National Forest Inventory. The guidelines shall be publicly available.”</p> <p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway “All certificate holders shall have implemented ISO 14001 – Environmental management system (ref PEFC N 01, chapter 11). The scope of the certificate holders ISO 14001-certificate is that the ISO 14001 shall be used for monitoring and supervision of their PEFC Forest Management Certificate and their forest management operations. The ISO 14001 is used as system for planning, monitoring and evaluation of the forest management and the forest management operations within the certificate holders operations. This also implies that the certificate holders includes an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts related to forest management and operations, and that actions shall be taken for continuous improvement to minimise or</p>



	avoid negative impacts. This is specified in ISO 14001, chapter 4 – Environmental management system requirements.”
Assessors' comments	Additional references to both the “Regulations on Sustainable Forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593): § 4 - Environmental Documentation and environment registrations” and the “Regulations on grants for forestry planning with environmental inventories (FOR-2004-02-04-449)” were made. However, these regulations could not be verified since the content of the specific paragraphs of these regulations was not made available to the consultant. Although the ISO 14001 does ensure that monitoring and evaluation (including an assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts) is part of the management of individual companies and group certificate holders, this is insufficiently ensured for group certificate members, as they are not obliged to obtain an ISO 14001 certificate.
Result	Does not conform – minor
CAR	Provide evidence to show conformity or update the standard

Requirement	5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.
Evidence	PEFC N 01 – Ch. 20. Forestry plans “There is no public requirement in Norway to have a forestry plan. In the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2007-2015, property plots larger than 10 000 decares are required to have landscape plans, and properties larger than 100 decares have to have environmental plans prepared before trees there can be felled and the timber sold via certified timber buyers.” PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “Long-term strategic planning Forest owners with forest area larger than 10 hectares shall have a forest management plan or equivalent adapted to the size of the property and use of the forest area. This implies: • For continuous plots of more than 1,000 hectares of productive forest shall have landscape plan, which will be revised every 10 years • Smaller properties must have either: - A forest management plan with environmental registrations, cf. requirements of the regulations concerning government grants for forestry planning, which are continuously revised or revised every 15-20 years, or - An environmental plan, cf. requirement no. 21, which together with continuously updated data from different databases form the basis for long-term planning of the property. Requirement for revision of the environmental plan is set in requirement no. 21.”
Assessors' comments	No references were found ensuring that management plans or their equivalents are elaborated and periodically updated for plots smaller than 100 decares (10 hectares).
Result	Does not conform – minor
CAR	Provide evidence to show conformity or update the standard



Requirement	5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 15. Public access of information, paragraph Publication of information from certified forest owners</p> <p>“All information on environmental data in a forestry plan/landscape plan or environmental plan is environmental information. If the general public request environmental information, forest owners must provide such information from the forestry plan. If information is available from publicly accessible databases such as Kilden, forest owners may refer to these.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry, paragraph ‘More about landscape plan’</p> <p>“A summary or extract of the landscape plan shall be publicly available, and shall be made available upon request. Information of a confidential nature may be omitted, cf. Environmental Information Act.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - Ch 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“9. The certificate holder shall prepare a plan with guidelines for the use of various forestry management measures to be applied. The guidelines shall be reviewed annually, based on an evaluation of experiences with guidelines, statistics from the measures implemented, the governments result-control of forestry measures, and the development in the forest based on results from the National Forest Inventory. The guidelines shall be publicly available.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	Since independently certified forest managers with an FMU smaller than 1000 hectares are not obliged to develop a landscape plan (PEFC N 02 – Req. 3) and are not participating in group forest management, the provided references do not apply to them. No reference was found ensuring publication of the summary of the forest management measures to be applied by independently certified forest managers with an FMU smaller than 1000 hectares.
Result	Does not conform – minor
CAR	Provide evidence to show conformity or update the standard

Requirement	5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The following shall be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species. - Information on age and standing volume. - Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority



	<p>species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key habitats mapped on the property - Specification of maximum average annual cut, and its justification, the next 30 years. <p>Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimise or avoid negative impacts.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The National Forest Inventory registers Norway’s forest resources. The Forest Inventory provides good data on the Norwegian forests and their development on a national and regional level.</p> <p>In addition to registrations of forest management planning the state has now established several databases with mapped and updated information on the forest resources. In the database “Kilden” traditional data like site quality class, tree species, age, volume and key habitats are linked to different environmental databases containing redlisted species, important nature types, protected areas, cultural monuments etc. and to other relevant databases. “Kilden” ensures that the forest owner at all times can see and use updated data on the forest resources.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	No reference is found which sufficiently ensures periodical evaluation of the management of forest resources and that the results will be fed back into the planning process.
Result	Does not conform – minor
CAR	Provide evidence to show conformity or update the standard

Requirement	<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant 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 materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Preservation of the forest area</p> <p>“Forestry operations must not be carried out which impair the forest’s future production and opportunities for rejuvenation.</p> <p>(...) This standard does not preclude the legal reallocation of forest land for other purposes. Timber from felling in areas rezoned for development purposes or reallocated for a different purpose which requires the forest to be cut may be sold as certified provided that cutting is carried out in compliance with Norwegian law.”</p> <p>The Planning and Building Act (2005) Section 2. Purpose</p> <p>“Planning pursuant to the Act is intended to facilitate coordination of</p>



	<p>national, county and municipal activity and provide a basis for decisions concerning the use and protection of resources and concerning development and to safeguard aesthetic considerations. By means of planning (...) the Act shall promote a situation where the use of land (...) will be of greatest possible benefit to the individual and to society.”</p> <p>The Planning and Building Act (2005) Section 19-3. Organization of county planning work</p> <p>“The county shall cooperate continuously with the municipalities in the county, and with public bodies and private organizations and others that have a particular interest in county planning work.”</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 8 (knowledge base)</p> <p>“Official decisions that affect biological, geological and landscape diversity shall, as far as is reasonable, be based on scientific knowledge of the population status of species, the range and ecological status of habitat types, and the impacts of environmental pressures. The knowledge required shall be in reasonable proportion to the nature of the case and the risk of damage to biological, geological and landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 9 (precautionary principle)</p> <p>“When a decision is made in the absence of adequate information on the impacts it may have on the natural environment, the aim shall be to avoid possible significant damage to biological, geological or landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 54 (duty of notification of forestry projects)</p> <p>“A forestry project that affects areas of selected habitat types and that does not require a permit shall be notified to the municipal authorities before work on the project is begun. A reply shall have been received from the municipal authorities before the project is carried out. (...). If the municipal authorities find that the project may result in reduction of the range of the habitat type or deterioration of its ecological status, the authorities may refuse to permit the project or make further orders (...).”</p> <p>Culture Heritage Act (1978) § 1 Purpose of the Act</p> <p>“The purpose of this Act is to protect archeological and architectural monuments and sites, and cultural environments in all their variety and detail, both as part of our cultural heritage and identity and as an element in the overall environment and resource management.</p> <p>(...) The intention of this Act must also be taken into account in any decision taken pursuant to another Act that may affect the cultural heritage.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“Norway does not have primary forests. In practice, the whole forest area in Norway have been used. Forest that has developed many of the same characteristics as primary forests, has been granted special protection against logging and conversion to managed forest in key habitats (requirement 21) and in national parks and reserves according to the Nature Diversity Act.”</p>
Assessors' comments	<p>Two issues are found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The references insufficiently ensure that conversion of forests to



	<p>other types of land use shall only entail a small proportion of forest type;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provided references insufficiently ensure that the conversion makes a contribution to long-term conservation benefits. <p>Therefore it is not ensured that forest conversion is only allowed if all requirements (a, b, c, and d) are met.</p>
Result	Does not conform – minor
CAR	Provide evidence to show conformity or update the standard

Requirement	5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 21. Relationship between laws and certification requirements</p> <p>“The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on laws and regulations which regulate commercial activity in forests. Regulatory provisions take precedence over the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard where laws and regulations regulate commercial activity in forests.”</p> <p>General Civil Penal Code (Act) - §395 to 397</p> <p>“Section 395. Any person who unlawfully puts himself or another person in possession of real property, or who aids and abets thereto, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.</p> <p>Section 396. Any person who without being entitled to do so builds, digs, uses explosives, sows or plants on, builds a road or footpath across, or drives livestock onto land in another person’s possession, or who unlawfully makes other dispositions of real property in another person’s possession to the detriment of the lawful possessor or contrary to his prohibition, or who aids and abets thereto, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.</p> <p>If any boundary mark is obliterated by any such dispositions, imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months may be imposed.</p> <p>Section 397. Any person who exceeds his rights in relation to the corresponding rights of another person by exercising his rights to dispose of real property to a greater extent or in another manner than is lawful, or who aids and abets thereto, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	The references do address the punishment of unauthorized activities. However, they do not ensure that forest management shall provide for adequate protection measures .
Result	Does not conform – minor
CAR	Provide evidence to show conformity or update the standard



6.3. Results: Selection of Conformities

In the tables below, a selection of conformities is presented that to the opinion of the assessment team are sensitive issues in the Norwegian context and/or illustrative examples of the Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

Requirement	5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The following shall be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species. - Information on age and standing volume. - Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.). - Key habitats mapped on the property <p>(...) In addition, the following shall be available for the operational planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from public environment databases which pinpoint threatened species, nationally important nature types (A-value according to DN Handbook 13) and cultural monuments. • Information on well-known capercaillie leks (mating games) and nesting sites for owls and birds of prey. <p>The procedures for consultation of external sources for environmental information when planning felling, afforestation and tree species replacement and ground preparation are described in the relevant requirements.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The National Forest Inventory registers Norway’s forest resources. The Forest Inventory provides good data on the Norwegian forests and their development on a national and regional level.</p> <p>In addition to registrations of forest management planning the state has now established several databases with mapped and updated information on the forest resources. In the database “Kilden” traditional data like site quality class, tree species, age, volume and key habitats are linked to different environmental databases containing redlisted species, important nature types, protected areas, cultural monuments etc. and to other relevant databases. “Kilden” ensures that the forest owner at all times can see and use updated data on the forest resources.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	Although not required by PEFC N 02, it is assumed that forest companies do use the databases such as “Kilden” to provide the information required under PEFC N 02 requirement 3.
Result	Does conform



Requirement	5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long-term forest production - the risk of erosion and landslides - water resources” <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Preservation of the forest area</p> <p>“Forestry operations must not be carried out which impair the forest’s future production and opportunities for rejuvenation.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 26. Forests affected by fire</p> <p>“In the case of forest fires in older forests where more than 5 decares is affected by fire, 5 decares per property must be left untouched for 10 years. In the case of forest fires in older forests of an area of less than 5 decares, the entire area will be left untouched for 10 years.</p> <p>Allocated burnt forest area must be assessed over the course of the 10-year period for allocation in accordance with the standard Biologically important areas.</p> <p>In the case of forest fires covering more than 100 decares, allocation of areas must be assessed by forest biology experts and be based on academic considerations.”</p> <p>Regulation concerning sustainable forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593) Chapter 4. Measures against forest damage - § 9.Main principle</p> <p>“It is the forest owner’s responsibility that logging, terrain transport, treatment of logging debris, treatment of young stands and other measures are implemented in such a way that no special risk of damage caused by insects or other damage occurs.”</p> <p>Regulation concerning sustainable forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593) Chapter 4. Measures against forest damage - § 10.Monitoring of forest condition</p> <p>“The municipality should monitor the forest for the sake of risk of different forest damages. In connection with this, the Ministry may instruct the municipality to prepare overviews and reports on the forest’s health condition, and on the results of the measures implemented pursuant to this regulation.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The health of forests in Norway is monitored annually by a national</p>



	monitoring programme and at test sites in individual municipalities. Different types of environmental damage are also recorded in the inventory of forest resources in the National Forest Inventory.”
Assessors’ comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.2.5 Forest management practices shall make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees “The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded. (...) The rules on the use of seeds and saplings in the Regulation on forest seeds and forest saplings will be applied.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 10. Felling “Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that stability is maintained in affected and surrounding stands, the environment qualities of the area are preserved, landscape considerations are taken into account and conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Long-term timber production “When treating young forest, emphasis must be placed on utilising the opportunities offered by the land for quality production, creating robust stands and building up a forest which provides a foundation for variation in felling and rejuvenation methods.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species “The composition of tree species must be suited to the qualities of the growing site. Where climatic and soil-related conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a significant number of deciduous trees, with separate deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and individually, including old, large deciduous trees. Where conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a mixture of spruce and pine. Norwegian tree species which are rare in the area must be safeguarded and/or promoted during forestry operations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 20. Afforestation and tree species replacement “The design of the plant fields must be suited to the landscape. Emphasis must be placed on creating soft transitions between spruce forest and the surrounding areas. In the case of properties where there is a basis for a significant percentage of deciduous forest, it is necessary to ensure a minimum of 20% deciduous forest on the property.”</p>



Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.2.7 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. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees “The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Waste and contamination “Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that as little waste as possible is generated, and for ensuring that waste collected is disposed of properly and deposited correctly when requirements are defined for approved landfill. All types of waste from both manual and mechanical forestry operations must be removed once work has been completed. Hazardous waste such as oils, fluids, batteries, fuel containers and suchlike must be submitted to an approved landfill. Best available technology (BAT) must preferably be used when selecting equipment and machinery for implementation of forestry operations where relevant on the basis of the risk of contamination and other serious environmental problems. Forest machinery with larger quantities of oil under high pressure must have equipment which limits leaks to a minimum in the event of a problem. If oil leaks occur, they must be stopped immediately. Proper maintenance and cleaning must be carried out on all mechanical units. Larger leaks must be reported to the fire division commander in the municipality. Fuel must be secured to prevent accidents and be stored in approved, lockable tanks. Fuel can only be stored at a recommended minimum distance of 50 metres to the nearest drinking water location, unless specified otherwise.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 13. Off-road transport “In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage to the terrain which is unsightly, which impedes movement and which may cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis must be placed on avoiding leaving tracks which would lead to erosion out in the river/stream. Ruts which cause water runoff and erosion, damage caused by vehicles to paths and trails and other significant damage must be rectified as soon as the moisture conditions make this practicably possible once use of the route is discontinued.”</p>



	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 20. Afforestation and tree species replacement</p> <p>“Afforestation and tree species replacement must provide a basis for forestry which is profitable in the long term. The measures must not be implemented in areas with no existing or future profitable technical solutions. (...).</p> <p>The design of the plant fields must be suited to the landscape. Emphasis must be placed on creating soft transitions between spruce forest and the surrounding areas.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	<p>5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p>
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the forest owner's financial returns - long-term forest production - future cutting opportunities - the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon - biodiversity - outdoor recreation - cultural monuments - erosion and landslides - water resources” <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 5. Outdoor recreation</p> <p>“Forest owners must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoors areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes, and give permission for the same when this does not contravene important commercial or ecological considerations. This does not alter the rights pursuant to the Outdoor Recreation Act.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	(none)
Result	Does conform



Requirement	5.3.6 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 forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the forest owner’s financial returns - long-term forest production - future cutting opportunities” <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 18. Fertilisation and nutrient balance “Forestry must be carried out in a manner which allows the natural processes and long-term production capacity of the land to be maintained. Nutrient loss and nutrient leakage must be kept to a minimum.”</p>
Assessors’ comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...) biodiversity”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees “The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species “The composition of tree species must be suited to the qualities of the growing site. Where climatic and soil-related conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a significant number of deciduous trees, with separate deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and individually, including old, large deciduous trees. Where conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a mixture of spruce and pine. Norwegian tree species which are rare in the area must be safeguarded and/or promoted during forestry operations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 21. Key habitats “Key habitats must secure living environments for species deemed to be threatened and included in the Norwegian Red List.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Consideration for birds of prey and owls “This requirement must ensure that nesting sites for birds of prey and owls can be maintained over time and that the birds are not disturbed while they are nesting.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 23. Consideration for capercaillie leks “This requirement must ensure that capercaillie leks (mating sites) are</p>



	taken into consideration.”
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;</p> <p>and taking into account</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.</p>
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity <p>(...) For continuous plots of more than 10 000 decares of productive forest, a separate landscape plan must be compiled which shows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.). • Key habitats • The presence of endangered/threatened species • Important wildlife habitats • Threatened nature types and nationally important nature types (A-value according to DN Handbook 13)” <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 21. Key habitats</p> <p>“Key habitats must secure living environments for species deemed to be threatened and included in the Norwegian Red List.</p> <p>Key habitats must be mapped on properties of more than 100 decares of productive, commercially exploitable area.</p> <p>The Environment Registration in Forest (MiS) method must be used when mapping out habitats and selecting new key habitats.</p> <p>The key habitats must be left untouched or managed in a way which does not reduce, or which actually improves conditions for biodiversity. If key habitats are managed in any manner other than untouched, management measures must be prepared in consultation with a person with forest biology expertise and approved by the certificate holder.</p> <p>In the case of properties with less than 100 decares of productive, commercially exploitable area, (...) it is necessary to use a precautionary procedure in order to clarify whether there are any habitats pursuant to the MiS instruction. Mapped qualities must be taken into account, if necessary by refraining from felling or by showing the necessary consideration. The precautionary procedure must be approved by</p>



	<p>certified timber buyers.</p> <p>When planning felling, external sources of environmental information in the Artskart and Naturbase databases must be consulted. If the forestry operations could affect known occurrences of threatened species, threatened nature types or nationally important nature types (A areas) pursuant to DN Handbook 13, and the information on the species/habitats has not been assessed previously during selection of key habitats, a person with forest biology expertise must assess whether one or more key habitats should be established in the area. (...) New key habitats will be reported to the Kilden database.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“Felling opportunities must be utilised within the scope defined by considerations relating to (...), biodiversity, other environmental values (...). In areas defined as protection forest pursuant to the Forestry Act (...), the rules applicable to such forests must be adhered to. In mountain forests, emphasis must be placed on promoting and maintaining old growth characteristics. Therefore, when carrying out felling, selective felling forms (mountain forest felling) must be used as widely as possible in forests dominated by spruce, and small-scale clear cutting and smaller seed tree stands in forests dominated by pine.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 24. Water protection</p> <p>“This requirement must guarantee the water quality in lakes and waterways and create habitats for species which naturally live in or near to waterways.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 25. Wetlands and swamp forest</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that ecological functions to wetlands, wooded bog and swamp forest are maintained during forestry operations.”</p>
Assessors' comments	Requirement 24 and 25 (on water protection, wetlands and swamp forest) are further elaborated in detailed requirements, including bufferzones, to safeguard these sensitive forest areas.
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.4.3 Protected 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.
Evidence	<p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway during the extraordinary assessment:</p> <p>“Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on the laws and regulations governing commercial activity in the forest. Where laws and regulations governing business activity in the forests, the statutory provisions take precedence of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>Protected and endangered plants and animals are protected by Norwegian law and specifically through the Nature Diversity Act. Nature Diversity Act, Chapter III. Species Management, Section 15 (principle for species management): “Harvesting and other removal of animals that occur naturally in the wild shall be authorised by statute or a decision pursuant to statute. Unnecessary harm and suffering caused to</p>



	<p>animals occurring in the wild and their nests, lairs and burrows shall be avoided. Harvesting and other removal of plants and fungi occurring in the wild are permitted to the extent that they do not jeopardise the survival of the population concerned or are not limited by statute or by a decision pursuant to statute. The provisions of the first and second paragraphs do not preclude lawful access and passage, agricultural activities or other activities that take place in accordance with the duty of care laid down in section 6.”</p> <p>Protected and endangered plant and animal species are also protected through the PEFC Norway Forest management standard and especially through the interpretation which was adopted November 22th 2011. Section C in this clarification set requirements for consultation of environmental databases before logging.</p> <p>Norway has also ratified the Bern Convention (The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats), and there is an Norwegian Regulation for Convention of endangered species. This regulation was entered into force 21.12.2001. The regulation specifies which plant and animal species that are totally protected.</p> <p>See Norwegian Laws and Regulations(text in Norwegian): http://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2001-12-21-1525</p> <p>1. The purpose of protection is to protect certain species of endangered, vulnerable, demanding attention or rare vascular plants, cryptogams (mosses, lichens and fungi), algae and invertebrates from damage and destruction.</p> <p>2. Species and subspecies of vascular plants (including seeds), cryptogams (mosses, lichens and fungi), algae and invertebrates in accordance with the attached list are protected from direct damage and destruction, recovery and other forms of direct pursuit. (...)</p> <p>3. The administrative authority may grant exemptions from protection when the purpose of the protection it requires, as well as for scientific research and work, or measures of major importance for society, and in other special cases, when it is not contrary to the purpose of the protection.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.
Evidence	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 19. Use of foreign tree species “Norwegian tree varieties must be used for afforestation and rejuvenation after felling. Foreign tree species may be used if there are problems with establishing rejuvenation with satisfactory production. Foreign tree species can also be used to a lesser extent for production of special



	<p>qualities.</p> <p>Use of foreign tree species assumes that the measure has received prior approval pursuant to the regulation on the use of foreign tree species as specified in the Nature Diversity Act. The options for the use of foreign tree species are limited to the use of Sitka spruce, Lutz spruce and larch in coastal areas from Vest-Agder to Troms. Lodgepole pine, <i>Pinus contorta</i>, can also be used in upland areas (above 450 metres above sea level) in Nord-Gudbrandsdalen and in Østerdalen where it is extremely difficult to achieve pine rejuvenation on account of the fungus <i>Phacidium infestans</i> and elk browsing.</p> <p>The spread of foreign tree species must be kept under control by means of forest management.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement 5.6.11 Forestry work 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.

Evidence **PEFC N 02 – Requirement 2. Workforce and safety**

“Forest owners who carry out felling or other forestry operations in their own forests must have the relevant knowledge on working techniques, safe use of equipment used and public provisions on protection of health, environment and safety.

Forest owner must ensure that forestry operations carried out to order are documented in accordance with public provisions on protection of health, the environment and safety and in compliance with concluded agreements and tariff provisions for Norwegian wages and working conditions. An agreement on forestry operations must normally be concluded in writing between the parties.

Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out felling and forestry operations has sufficient expertise. The skills of their own employees and hired labour should preferably be on a par with relevant expertise targets for the field of work in question in the specialist and vocational training for the forestry profession. For practical tasks, courses at Aktivt Skogbruk or the equivalent will suffice.”

Working Environment Act (2012) - Section 3-1. Requirements regarding systematic health, environment and safety work

“(1) In order to safeguard the employees' health, environment and safety, the employer shall ensure that systematic health, environment and safety work is performed at all levels of the undertaking. This shall be carried out in cooperation with the employees and their elected representatives.

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

- establish goals for health, environment and safety,
- have an overall view of the undertaking's organisation, including how responsibility, tasks and authority for work on health, environment and



	<p>safety is distributed,</p> <p>c) make a survey of hazards and problems and, on this basis, assess risk factors in the undertaking, prepare plans and implement measures in order to reduce the risks,</p> <p>d) during planning and implementation of changes in the undertaking, assess whether the working environment will be in compliance with the requirements of this Act, and implement the necessary measures,</p> <p>e) implement routines in order to detect, rectify and prevent contraventions of requirements laid down in or pursuant to this Act,</p> <p>f) ensure systematic prevention and follow-up of absence due to sickness,</p> <p>g) ensure continuous control of the working environment and the employees' health when necessitated by risk factors in the undertaking, cf. (c),</p> <p>h) conduct systematic supervision and review of the systematic work on health, environment and safety in order to ensure that it functions as intended.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform



7. Group Certification Procedures

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the Group Forest Management Certification Procedures. No non-conformities are found. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Group Forest Management Certification can be found in Annex 1 part II, which presents all the conformities and related references.

7.1. Analysis

The procedures for Group Certification are regulated in PEFC N 03. This standard is clearly structured, but relatively extensive, and in cases quite descriptive, which impedes the auditability of the standard. The group entities (in the Norwegian context called: group certificate holders) are required to be ISO 14001 certified. Although several references are found to ISO 14001 in PEFC N 03, the requirement to be ISO 14001 certified is not found in PEFC N 03, but concluded from PEFC N 01, chapter 11 (PEFC Norway's management system requirements): “PEFC Norway requires companies to be approved as group certificate holders (...) to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001.”

7.2. Results

The procedures for Group Certification comply with the PEFC requirements. No non-conformities are found. In the tables below, a selection of conformities is presented that to the opinion of the assessment team are sensitive issues in the Norwegian context and/or illustrative examples of the Group Certification Procedures.

Requirement	4.1.4 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard.
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 03 – 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“The group certificate holder must establish and maintain a documentation system which takes into account the following guidelines: 2. The group certificate holder must have an internal monitoring programme adapted to how all the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard together cover the requirements for sustainable forestry, and all participants shall be subject to this programme.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 – 7.3 Group certificate holder's internal monitoring programme</p> <p>“Group certificate holder shall implement an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, PEFC N 02. (...)”</p> <p>The purpose of the internal inspection system will be:</p>



	<p>1. To ensure that requirements and activities are implemented correctly</p> <p>2. To ensure that there is sufficient opportunity to prevent and detect errors</p> <p>3. To provide an adequate view of the situation</p> <p>4. To provide a foundation for improvements</p> <p>The primary task of the self-inspection is linked with target 1. The internal inspection could help to meet all the targets. The internal audit, for its part, will be able to help meet the last three targets, but it will be particularly important in accordance with target 4.</p> <p>(...) Self-inspection is the individual forest owner's, forest worker's or contractor's inspection of his own work.</p> <p>(...) Internal inspection in this context is the internal quality control carried out by the party responsible for the task in question.</p> <p>(...) Internal audits are completed by the certificate holder, but they must be carried out by people who have not been directly involved in the task being audited.</p> <p>The results of the internal audit must be included as a topic for the management's review.</p> <p>(,..) The internal audit requirement is specified in ISO 14001 Chapter 4.5.5.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	<p>4.2.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the function and responsibility of the group entity:</p> <p>a) To represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;</p>
Evidence	<p>PEFC N 03 – 4 Definitions</p> <p>“Group certificate holder: An organisation which organises and administers group certification of forest owners in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. The group certificate holder represents all members of the group in respect of the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC scheme.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 – 5.1 Formal requirements for group certificate holders</p> <p>“For an organisation/company to be able to be a group certificate holder, it must:</p> <p>4. Have an agreement with an accredited and notified certification body concerning certification and annual auditing.”</p>
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform



Requirement	4.2.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the function and responsibility of the group entity: e) To establish connections with all participants based on a 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 non-conformity with the sustainable forest management standard
Evidence	PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders “The group certificate holder is responsible for: 1. Concluding an agreement with the forest owner on forest certification via affiliation to the group certificate. The agreement is the forest owner's proof of affiliation to certification. Agreements can be concluded in connection with timber contracts or as an independent forest certification agreement.” PEFC N 03 – 5.3 Terms for agreement on participation in group certification “The agreement with each individual group member must be made in writing and the following sections must be included as terms: 2. The agreement must be signed by the forest owner or a representative with authorisation from the forest owner. 3. The agreement must describe the fact that the group member undertakes to operate in compliance with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management, the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the group certificate holder's other instructions for maintaining membership of the group. 4. The agreement must describe the rights of the group certificate holder to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to suspend or exclude members of the group in the event of serious non-conformances with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.”
Assessors' comments	(none)
Result	Does conform

Requirement	4.3.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the participants: c) 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;
Evidence	PEFC N 03 – 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification “Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to: 8. Cooperate and assist with the implementation of internal inspections,



	internal audits and external audits. This includes responding to all queries on relevant data/information from the certificate holder or certification body.”
Assessors’ comments	(none)
Result	Does conform



8. Chain of Custody Standard

According to PEFC N 01, chapter 9, the Norwegian PEFC Scheme uses the PEFC International procedures for Chain of Custody, as is explained in PEFC N 01, chapter 9: “The chain of custody certification within the framework of the Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry is carried out pursuant to the requirements in PEFC International’s standard: PEFC ST 2002:2013 – Chain of custody for forest based products – requirements.” The Norwegian PEFC Scheme does therefore comply with PEFC’s requirements, no further assessment was carried out.



9. Logo Usage Licensing

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the Logo Licensing Procedures. No non-conformities are found. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the PEFC Logo usage licensing can be found in Annex 1 part VI, which presents all conformities and related references.

9.1. Analysis

All matters relating to PEFC logo usage licensing in Norway are regulated in PEFC N 01 chapter 10, including the following annexes:

- The PEFC Logo License Contract;
- The confirmation for PEFC logo license;
- The application form for PEFC logo usage license;
- The application form for one-off use of the PEFC logo.

9.2. Results

PEFC N 01 chapter 10 refers to the logo usage rules of PEFC ST 2001:2008 v2: PEFC Logo Usage Rules – Requirements as being the applicable rules with regards to the PEFC logo usage. The procedures on logo usage licensing are clear, comprehensive and comply with the PEFC requirements. No non-conformities are found.



10. Complaints and Dispute Resolution Procedures

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the Complaints and Dispute Resolution Procedures. No non-conformities are found. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Complaints and Dispute Resolution Procedures can be found in Annex 1 part VI, which presents all the conformities and related references.

10.1. Analysis

The procedures for dealing with complaints relating to the governance and administration of the PEFC scheme are regulated in PEFC N 01 chapter 13, which first elaborates on disputes and appeals and finally concludes: “Complaints related to PEFC Norway’s management of the certification system shall be treated in a similar manner as in the treatment of disputes.”

10.2. Results

The procedures are clear, concise and comply with the PEFC requirements. No non-conformities are found.



11. Notification of Certification Bodies Procedures

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the Notification of Certification Procedures. No non-conformities are found. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the PEFC Notification of Certification Bodies can be found in Annex 1 part VI, which presents all conformities and related references.

11.1. Analysis

The procedures for the notification of certification bodies are regulated in PEFC N 07, are clear and concise, and include several annexes:

- The PEFC Notification Contract;
- The application form for PEFC notification;
- The PEFC Notification fees.

Certification bodies applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must at least have a valid accreditation issued by a national accreditation body which is a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation, (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Accreditation for forest certification must be issued pursuant to NS/EN ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and supplementary requirements defined by PEFC Norway in PEFC N 04. For chain of custody certification, accreditation must be issued pursuant to NS/EN ISO/IEC 17065.

Furthermore, certification bodies have to fulfill the requirements specified in Annex 6 – Certification and Accreditation Procedures and PEFC ST 2003:2012 – Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard.

11.2. Results

The procedures comply with the PEFC requirements, no non-conformities are found.



12. Certification and Accreditation Procedures

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the Certification and Accreditation Procedures. No non-conformities are found. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Certification and Accreditation Procedures can be found in Annex 1 part IV, which presents all the conformities and related references.

12.1. Analysis

The requirements for accreditation and certification are regulated in PEFC N 04. The requirements are normative for certification organisations which carry out certification of sustainable forest management on individual properties and/or via group certification.

The accreditation body must be a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation body must also have implemented procedures described in ISO/IEC 17011:2004 and other documents recognised by the EA and IAF. Norwegian Accreditation is the official accreditation body in Norway.

The following steering documents are included as references for requirements for certification organisations:

- Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry – PEFC N 01
- Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard – PEFC N 02
- PEFC Norway's requirements for group certification of sustainable forestry – PEFC N 03
- PEFC Norway's requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies – PEFC N 04
- PEFC Norway's instructions for PEFC notification of certification bodies – PEFC N 07
- Glossary and definitions – PEFC N 05
- PEFC Logo Usage Rules – requirements – PEFC ST 2001:2008
- NS/EN ISO/IEC 17021:2011: Compliance assessment – Requirements for bodies offering auditing and certification of management systems
- IAF MD 1:2007: IAF Mandatory Document for the Certification of Multiple Sites Based on Sampling
- IAF MD 2:2007: IAF Mandatory Document for the Transfer of Accredited Certification of Management Systems

According to PEFC N 04, chapter 1, “the international requirements laid down in the standard PEFC ST 2003:2012 Certification Bodies Requirements – Chain of Custody are applicable to PEFC traceability certification in Norway pursuant to PEFC's international requirements for traceability certification.”



Two comments are received during the international consultation, referring to the ISO 14001 certification requirements for forest managers. According to PEFC N 01, Chapter 11 (PEFC Norway's management system requirements), "PEFC Norway requires companies to be approved as group certificate holders and forest properties which are directly certified to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001." Next, PEFC N 04, Chapter 8.1 (References on the certificate) requires certification bodies to include on the certificate a reference to ISO 14001. According to the respondents, this would require that the Certification Bodies must be accredited to deliver ISO 14001 certification, and that this places an extra burden on both the applicants and the Certification Bodies.

The assessor agrees that this puts an extra burden on both the applicants and the certifying bodies, it is however not against the International PEFC requirements, as it is up to PEFC Norway, in intensive consultation with and participation of stakeholders, to define the national requirements for forest management certification.

12.2. Results

The certification and accreditation procedures are clear, comprehensive, and comply with the PEFC requirements. No non-conformities are found.



Annex 1 PEFC Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist

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Part I: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist for standard setting

1 Scope

Part I covers the requirements for standard setting defined in PEFC ST 1001:2010, Standard Setting – Requirements.

2 Checklist

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
Standardising Body			
4.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
a) its status and structure, including a body responsible for	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 - 1. Introduction “The PEFC Council defines in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements" requirements for establishment of written procedures for development and revision of the standards included in the

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<p>consensus building (see 4.4) and for formal adoption of the standard (see 5.11),</p>			<p>Norwegian PEFC certification system. The procedures must, as a minimum, be compliant with the PEFC Council's requirements described in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements".</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 4. Responsibility for development and revision</p> <p>“PEFC Norway is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Norwegian PEFC certification system. (...) The council must initiate the commencement of the revision process and must set up a temporary working committee in connection with the revision work.”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 5. Establishment of the working committee</p> <p>“The council must assemble the working committee on the basis of nominations from the invited stakeholders. (...) The committee's members make up the working committee. The committee's election of a leader will be approved formally by the Council of PEFC Norway. The role of the leader is to ensure control of the process and ensure compliance with the decision-making procedures for the working committee, as described in Chapter 6.”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 11. Implementation of revised standards/normative documents</p> <p>“When the working committee has completed its work, the committee must submit the agreed standards/normative documents to the Council of PEFC Norway for approval and subsequent processing in the PEFC system. The formally approved standards/normative documents must be published in an appropriate manner and made accessible to the general public.</p> <p>The Council of PEFC Norway must decide on an application date and date for the transition period for the revised standards/normative documents.”</p>
<p>b) the record-keeping procedures,</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 06 - 9. Documentation</p> <p>“To ensure that the process is transparent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A report must be compiled regularly which describes the revision process in order to document compliance with the procedures, <input type="checkbox"/> All finished drafts and the final documents approved by the Council of PEFC Norway, including the report describing the revision process, must be published on the PEFC Norway website in plenty of time. <input type="checkbox"/> All documents must be filed for five years and be supplied upon request”



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee</p> <p>“The working committee must, as far as possible, have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant sectors.”</p>
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>The PEFC N 06 does not contain one overview of the standard setting process, however, the wording does clearly indicate what has to be done when and which activities have to be done prior to certain other activities.</i></p>
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee</p> <p>“Consensus must be achieved on the content of the final drafts from the working committee before these can be approved by the Council of PEFC Norway. Consensus does not assume unanimity, but according to the PEFC Council's definition (section 3.1 in PEFC ST 1001:2010) of consensus there must be no persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, and in the process attempts must be made to take the views of all parties into account, as well as resolving any conflicting views.”</p>
f) revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 4. Responsibility for development and revision</p> <p>“The Norwegian PEFC system must be revised every five years as a minimum. The council must initiate the commencement of the revision process and must set up a temporary working committee in connection with the revision work.</p> <p>To ensure that there is enough time for the revision and the international approval process, the revision process for the five-yearly revision must commence at least two years before the end of the previous five-year period.</p> <p>Commencement of the development of new standards and/or revision of the certification system must be communicated to the general public in a suitable and appropriate manner (via a website, newsletter, etc.).”</p>
4.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 4. Responsibility for development and revision</p> <p>“Commencement of the development of new standards and/or revision of the certification system must be communicated to the general public in a suitable and appropriate manner (via a website, newsletter, etc.).”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 5. Establishment of the working committee</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<p>procedures publicly available and shall regularly review its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.</p>			<p>“The invitation must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> reference to the publicly accessible procedures for revision and development of the Norwegian PEFC certification system”
	Process	YES	<p>Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013</p> <p>“Case 22/13: Evaluation and possible revision of the revision process on the basis of inputs and comments on the revision process</p> <p>(...) Resolution</p> <p>The suggestions that PEFC Norway has received will be forwarded to the working committee so they can take the academic input into account in the revision work.</p> <p>There are no comments requiring changes in the audit process.”</p> <p><i>The standard setting procedures (previous version: PEFC N ST 1002:2013) could be found on the website (www.pefcnorve.org).</i></p>
<p>4.3 The standardising body shall keep records relating to the standard-setting process providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of this document and the standardising body’s own procedures. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 9. Documentation</p> <p>“To ensure that the process is transparent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A report must be compiled regularly which describes the revision process in order to document compliance with the procedures, <input type="checkbox"/> All finished drafts and the final documents approved by the Council of PEFC Norway, including the report describing the revision process, must be published on the PEFC Norway website in plenty of time. <input type="checkbox"/> All documents must be filed for five years and be supplied upon request”
	Process	YES	<p><i>Several records of meetings and decisions, as well as the FMSR were provided and draft versions of standards could be found on the website (www.pefcnorve.org).</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
interested parties upon request.			
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 4. Responsibility for development and revision</p> <p>“The council must initiate the commencement of the revision process and must set up a temporary working committee in connection with the revision work.”</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013</p> <p>“Case 23/13 Review of incoming nominations of representatives to the Working Committee and establishment of working committee</p> <p>(...) The Board has decided the following organizations to participate in the working committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Sawmill Industry Ass • Representatives from the Pulp and paper industry • Representatives from the Labour Union • Representatives from The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards • Representative from Heavy Equipment Contractors Association (MEF) • Representative from Norskog • Representative from State-owned Land and Forest Company • Representatives from the Norges Skogeierforbund • 2 representatives from Forest Owners cooperative, appointed by the Norges Skogeierforbund <p>It also recommends that a representative from the Environment Agency and one representative from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority gets observer role in the revision process.</p> <p>The Working Committee will consist of 10 representatives and 2 observers. The Council also opens the opportunity to expand the committee by up to 3 representatives, especially in the environmental and outdoor hand, if it receives signals about the possible participation of relevant organizations in these sectors</p> <p>The secretariat will send information to the organizations that has been set to be represented in the Working Committee with the request to name their representatives in the committee within September 15th</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			2013.”
4.4 The working group/committee shall:			
a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 - 5. Establishment of the working committee “All organisations with an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification are invited to take part in the development of standards and the five-yearly revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system. The parties are not required to be members of PEFC Norway.”
	Process	YES	Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013 “Participation in the revision process All organizations with interest linked to forest certification is by this given the opportunity to participate in the revision. This can be done by making comments / suggestions to the scope of the revision and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative (s) to the Working Committee.” <i>The stakeholder identification lists includes materially and directly affected stakeholders (forest owners organizations, industry and trade, timber purchase / trade).</i>
b) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard where single concerned interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 - 5. Establishment of the working committee “The interested parties must represent various interests for sustainable forestry and may, for example, include representatives of forest owners, the forestry industry, environmental organisations, outdoor recreation organisations, trade organisations, research, employee organisations, contractors, social organisations, the retail trade and other relevant organisations at national or regional level. The working committee must, as far as possible, have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant sectors.” PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “No one stakeholder can dominate the process, and no organisation can impose a veto.”
	Process	NO	Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
process, and			<p>“Case 23/13 Review of incoming nominations of representatives to the Working Committee and establishment of working committee</p> <p>The following organizations have nominated representatives to the Working Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy Equipment Contractors Association, MEF: Ivar K Hoff (Einar Østhassel as deputy) • The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards: Morten Dåsnes • Viken Skog; Ragna Karoline Aasen • Mjøsen Forestry Johannes Bergum • The Forestry Extension Institute (either as a participant in the working committee or as an observer) <p>Nominated representatives who are members of PEFC Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmill Industry Ass.: Knut FJULSRUD • Pulp and paper Industry Ass.: unnamed person • Labour Union: Rolf Jørn Karlsen • State-owned Land and Forest Company • Norskog, Norwegian Forestry Association • Norges Skogeierforbund, Norwegian Forest Owners Association • Ass. for Women in Forestry <p>The following representatives from the government has been nominated to have an observer role in the revision process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency: Kjersti Wannebo Nilsen • Norwegian Agricultural Authority; unnamed person • Forest Course (participant or observer) <p>Resolution:</p> <p>PEFC Norway proposes initially the organizations that will be part of the working committee who will revise the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard and PEFC Norway forest certification system. The organizations are requested to confirm their earlier nomination or come with updated nomination of representatives.</p> <p>The Board has decided the following organizations to participate in the working committee:</p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Sawmill Industry Ass • Representatives from the Pulp and paper industry • Representatives from the Labour Union • Representatives from The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards • Representative from Heavy Equipment Contractors Association (MEF) • Representative from Norskog • Representative from State-owned Land and Forest Company • Representatives from the Norges Skogeierforbund • 2 representatives from Forest Owners coopertative, appointed by the Norges Skogeierforbund <p>It also recommends that a representative from the Environment Agency and one representative from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority gets observer role in the revision process.</p> <p>The Working Committee will consist of 10 representatives and 2 observers. The Council also opens the opportunity to expand the committee by up to 3 representatives, especially in the environmental and outdoor hand, if it receives signals about the possible participation of relevant organizations in these sectors</p> <p>The secretariat will send information to the organizations that has been set to be represented in the Working Committee with the request to name their representatives in the committee within September 15th 2013.”</p> <p>FMSR - 2. Established working committee</p> <p>“Based on the nominations done by the invited stakeholders the Board of PEFC Norway in August 20th 2013 established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions <input type="checkbox"/> The Association of Intermunicipal Outdoor Recreation Boards <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Forest Owners’ Federation <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Forestry Association (NORSKOG)

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p> <input type="checkbox"/> The State-owned Land and Forest Company (Statskog SF) <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Sawmill Industries' Association </p> <p>In addition representatives from the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Norwegian Agriculture Agency were appointed as observers in the working committee.</p> <p>(...)The participants represented the interests of forest owners, forest industries, trade unions, contractors and outdoor recreation organisations.</p> <p>Based on the nominations, the committee were composed in order to achieve the best possible balance in the committee.</p> <p>(...) Among the stakeholders identified, the ENGO's replied the invitation with specific requirements regarding the outcome of the revision of the forestry standard. PEFC Norway Board could not meet such predefined requirements as this was precisely what were supposed to be negotiated within the working group. PEFC invited the ENGO's to a meeting to proactively seek their participation, but the ENGO's did not meet this invitation."</p> <p><i>The Working Committee consisted of 1 member of an employee organization, 1 member of a recreational NGO, 5 members of forest owners organizations, and 3 of forest industry / forestry operators. The 2 observers were government representatives. It is remarkable that the Environmental NGO's, scientific organizations (research and development) and organizations representing indigenous people (Sami People) are missing as well as the Association of Women in forestry and Labour Union, which were both listed as "nominated representatives who are members of PEFC Norway". Next, it is unclear why the governmental organizations participated as observers and were not included with decision rights. For decision making, 8 out of 10 members represented the forest owners / forest industry, which is relatively unbalanced, especially when considering the missing stakeholder groups.</i></p> <p><i>Several respondents to the stakeholder survey also stated that the Working Committee did not have a balanced representation of relevant stakeholders and most respondents explained that the Environmental NGO's and Recreation organizations should have be part of the Working Committee. Some of the respondents however also explained that it was the choice of these organizations to refuse participation.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that PEFC Norway has tried to get the Environmental NGO's and Recreation organization aboard the Working Committee and reserved three places for them in the Working Committee.</i></p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<p>c) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee</p> <p>“The working committee must include stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> with expertise relevant to the standard(s) to be developed or revised, <input type="checkbox"/> who will be directly affected by the standard, <input type="checkbox"/> who can influence the implementation of the standard <p>Stakeholders who will be directly affected by the changes to the standard being processed must make up a significant proportion of the committee's members.</p> <p>Specialises (researchers and other experts) may also be invited to take part in the work and contribute their knowledge to the working committee.”</p>
	Process	YES	<p>FMSR - 2. Established working committee</p> <p>“the Board of PEFC Norway (...) established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions <input type="checkbox"/> The Association of Intermunicipal Outdoor Recreation Boards <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Forestry Association (NORSKOG) <input type="checkbox"/> The State-owned Land and Forest Company (Statskog SF) <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association <input type="checkbox"/> The Norwegian Sawmill Industries' Association <p>In addition representatives from the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Norwegian Agriculture Agency were appointed as observers in the working committee.”</p>
4.5 The standardising body shall establish procedures for	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 10. Appeals mechanism</p> <p>“When standards are revised and developed under the Norwegian PEFC certification system, PEFC Norway must appoint a contact person for all enquiries relating to the standard development/revision. The contact person must be made readily accessible via the PEFC Norway website. Appeals relating to</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
dealing with any substantive and procedural complaints relating to the standardising activities which are accessible to stakeholders.			procedural or substantive matters in connection with development or revision must be submitted in writing to the contact person, who will pass on the appeal to the Council of PEFC Norway. The appeal must be justified.” PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The invitation must include: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to the publicly accessible procedures for revision and development of the Norwegian PEFC certification system” <i>This appeals mechanism paragraph is part of the standard setting procedures document, which according to clause 5 must be publicly accessible.</i>
	Process	YES	<i>The standard setting procedures, which includes the appeals mechanism paragraph, was found on the website of PEFC Norway.</i>
4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:			
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 - 10. Appeals mechanism “On receipt of the appeal, the Council of PEFC Norway must: <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge receipt of the appeal”
	Process	YES	Explanation provided by PEFC Norway: “There have been no complaints during the revision process.” <i>According to one of the respondents to the stakeholder survey, there were two complaints:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There were complaints to the actual process from the relevant environmental and outdoor organizations who believe that this work no longer has credibility since this group is not included” • “There were complaints (...) from forest actor SB Skog believes the audit work has been an all too closed process.” <i>Regarding the first issue: the communication between the NGO’s and PEFC Norway at the start of the revision is found. However, the letter of the environmental NGO’s is not read as a complaint, though as a request for adjustments in the standard and standard setting process.</i>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p><i>Regarding the second issue: PEFC Norway explained that they are not aware of such a complaint and likely this complaint was not submitted to PEFC Norway.</i></p> <p><i>During the stakeholder survey, one of the certification organizations submitted a complaint to PEFC Norway which was also forwarded to the Assessor. As this is still ongoing, the Assessor could not assess yet how PEFC Norway will respond to this complaint.</i></p>
<p>b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint, and</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 10. Appeals mechanism</p> <p>“On receipt of the appeal, the Council of PEFC Norway must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collect and verify the information in order to validate the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Appoint an appeals body with the necessary expertise in order to assess the appeal objectively and impartially: this body must submit a recommended solution to the Council within one month of being appointed. <input type="checkbox"/> Make a decision regarding the appeal on the basis of the recommendation of the appeals body”
	Process	YES	<p><i>See comment under 4.5.a.</i></p>
<p>c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 10. Appeals mechanism</p> <p>“On receipt of the appeal, the Council of PEFC Norway must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Formally report the results of the appeal and information on the appeals process to the appellant”
	Process	YES	<p><i>See comment under 4.5.a.</i></p>
<p>4.6 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries and complaints</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 -10. Appeals mechanism</p> <p>“When standards are revised and developed under the Norwegian PEFC certification system, PEFC Norway must appoint a contact person for all enquiries relating to the standard development/revision. The contact person must be made readily accessible via the PEFC Norway website. Appeals relating to procedural or substantive matters in connection with development or revision must be submitted in writing to the contact person, who will pass on the appeal to the Council of PEFC Norway.”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be made easily available.			<i>The contact person and details were included in the invitation to participate in the revision process and could be found on the PEFC Norway website (www.pefcnorge.org).</i>
Standard-setting process			
5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “Before sending out the invitation, the Council of PEFC Norway must chart relevant stakeholders. This charting operation must identify the sectors which are relevant, likely key issues in each sector and who the relevant are in each sector.”
	Process	YES	<i>Attachment 1 of the FMSR presents the stakeholder mapping done by PEFC Norway in April 2013, listing approximately 80 relevant stakeholders, and per stakeholder the corresponding sector and suitable means of communication.</i>
5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders. The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The interested parties must represent various interests for sustainable forestry and may, for example, include representatives of forest owners, the forestry industry, environmental organisations, outdoor recreation organisations, trade organisations, research, employee organisations, contractors, social organisations, the retail trade and other relevant organisations at national or regional level. (...) It is also necessary to assess what method of communication is best suited to sending the invitation to stakeholders. The charting must also reveal any disadvantaged stakeholders and, if any are identified, the Council of PEFC Norway must actively seek to eliminate obstacles to their participation in the process and proactively facilitate their participation in the revision/development process.”
	Process	YES	FMSR – 1. Start of the revision “There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate.”



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>FMSR - 2. Established working committee</p> <p>“Among the stakeholders identified, the ENGO’s replied the invitation with specific requirements regarding the outcome of the revision of the forestry standard. PEFC Norway Board could not meet such predefined requirements as this was precisely what were supposed to be negotiated within the working group. PEFC invited the ENGO’s to a meeting to proactively seek their participation, but the ENGO’s did not meet this invitation.”</p> <p>Letter of PEFC Norway in response to the Letter of ENGO’s, d.d. 9 September 2013</p> <p>“We refer to your joint letter of June 25, which was in response to an invitation from PEFC Norway to attend the forthcoming revision process.</p> <p>You point out in your joint letter the importance of an inclusive and democratic process where three equal partners are sitting around the negotiating table in the working committee. This is a prerequisite for your participation and you are critical if this is the case when the PEFC Norway selects representatives and the working committee does not necessarily consist of three equal party groups. Moreover you require in advance for your participation that the Living Forest Council must be re-established as the owner of the certification standard. You will also have signals upfront that there is a change in attitude in order to change the forest standard in specific areas before you will consider participating in the revision process.</p> <p>PEFC Norway procedures implies that the working committee, as far as practicable, shall have a balanced representation of stakeholders from the various relevant sectors. PEFC Norway can however not force organizations / sectors to participate and a balanced representation therefore requires that organizations in relevant sectors actually wants to contribute to the revision process.</p> <p>PEFC Norway wants the broadest possible participation from relevant sectors and hope relevant organizations are willing to take responsibility for achieving this. PEFC Norway cannot give any promises in advance or anticipate key issues in the forestry standard since this is up to the working committee to draw up an agreed proposal for a new/revised standard. PEFC Norway cannot, of course, on behalf of the organizations participating in the committee make promises that they will fulfill requirements from specific organizations.</p> <p>PEFC Norway would like to have a dialogue with you and we are happy to take a meeting if you are interested in discussing the revision process and to discuss any participation from your organizations. Work Committee starts the revision work in early October and PEFC Norway can extend the working committee if</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>it comes signals for participation from SABIMA, Naturvernforbundet, WWF-Norway or FRIFO.”</p> <p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“The ENGO’s did not respond to this letter or to our invitation for meeting to discuss this.</p> <p>(...) All the ENGO’s was invited to the public consultation. The information on PEFC Norway’s website (Consultation - proposed revised Norwegian PEFC certification system) was sent to all stakeholders identified in the start of the revision process by letter.”</p>
<p>5.3 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation for participation in a timely manner on its website and in suitable media as appropriate to afford stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 06 - 4. Responsibility for development and revision</p> <p>“Commencement of the development of new standards and/or revision of the certification system must be communicated to the general public in a suitable and appropriate manner (via a website, newsletter, etc).”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 5. Establishment of the working committee</p> <p>“All organisations with an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification are invited to take part in the development of standards and the five-yearly revision of the Norwegian PEFC certification system. (...) Stakeholders must be given at least one month to nominate people for the working committee.”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 7. Consultation</p> <p>“The start of the revision is announced on the PEFC Norway website. When the revision starts, an open invitation for participation in the process must be sent out along with an option to comment on the content and procedures for the revision/development of the standard.”</p>
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013</p> <p>“Participation in the revision of the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard</p> <p>PEFC Norway should revise its forest certification system and its forest standard, and invite everyone with an interest in forest certification to participate in the audit process. (...)</p> <p>Participation in the audit process</p> <p>All organizations with interest linked to forest certification is by this given the opportunity to participate in the revision. This can be done by making comments / suggestions to the scope of the revision and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative (s) to the Working Committee. Each organization must cover their costs in connection with participation in working committee. Input and nominations to the working committee must be sent to PEFC Norway within June 28th 2013.”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents																			
			<i>This invitation could also be found on the website (www.pefcnorge.org).</i>																			
5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:																						
a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee</p> <p>“The invitation must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the purpose, content and procedure for the revision/development of standards <input type="checkbox"/> a schedule for the process” 																			
	Process	YES	<p>Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013</p> <p>“Objectives, scope and steps in the revision process</p> <p>The aim of the revision is to make review and possible restructuring of PEFC Norway certification system so that the content, form and structure meets the requirements of the technical documents adopted by PEFC. The requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard will be reviewed and updated based on experience and new knowledge.</p> <p>Timetable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Process:</th> <th>Time/deadline:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Announcement and invitation to participate</td> <td>13.mai 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Input into the process and the nomination of representatives to the Working Committee</td> <td>12.mai - 28.juni 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working Committee established</td> <td>20.august 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working Committee prepares proposals for the revised standard</td> <td>20.aug 2013 - 31.mai 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposed revised standard out on public consultation</td> <td>15.juni - 31.august 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work Committee recommendation of final draft</td> <td>31.oktober 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council of PEFC Norway adopts revised standard and certification system</td> <td>30.november 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised standard / sertifiseringsssystem the assessment of 3rd party</td> <td>1.januar – 31.august 2015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final approval of the PEFC Council</td> <td>Frist 5.november 2015</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Process:	Time/deadline:	Announcement and invitation to participate	13.mai 2013	Input into the process and the nomination of representatives to the Working Committee	12.mai - 28.juni 2013	Working Committee established	20.august 2013	Working Committee prepares proposals for the revised standard	20.aug 2013 - 31.mai 2014	Proposed revised standard out on public consultation	15.juni - 31.august 2014	Work Committee recommendation of final draft	31.oktober 2014	Council of PEFC Norway adopts revised standard and certification system	30.november 2014	Revised standard / sertifiseringsssystem the assessment of 3rd party	1.januar – 31.august 2015	Final approval of the PEFC Council
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b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The invitation must include: <input type="checkbox"/> information on opportunities for taking part in the process”
	Process	YES	Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013 “Participation in the audit process All organizations with interest linked to forest certification is by this given the opportunity to participate in the revision. This can be done by making comments / suggestions to the scope of the revision and the revision process. The organizations are also invited to nominate representative (s) to the Working Committee. Each organization must cover their costs in connection with participation in working committee. Input and nominations to the working committee must be sent to PEFC Norway within June 28th 2013.”
(c) an invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) to the working group/committee. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is understandable,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The invitation must include: <input type="checkbox"/> a call for central stakeholders to nominate a representative for the working committee (...) It is also necessary to assess what method of communication is best suited to sending the invitation to stakeholders. The charting must also reveal any disadvantaged stakeholders and, if any are identified, the Council of PEFC Norway must actively seek to eliminate obstacles to their participation in the process and proactively facilitate their participation in the revision/development process.”
	Process	YES	Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013 “Participation in the audit process The organizations are also invited to nominate representative (s) to the Working Committee. Each organization must cover their costs in connection with participation in working committee. Input and nominations to the working committee must be sent to PEFC Norway within June 28th 2013.”
d) an invitation to comment on the	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The invitation must include:



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
scope and the standard-setting process, and			<input type="checkbox"/> a call to comment on the content and procedures for the revision/development of the standard”
	Process	YES	Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013 “Participation in the audit process All organizations with interest linked to forest certification is by this given the opportunity to participate in the revision. This can be done by making comments / suggestions to the scope of the revision and the revision process.”
e) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The invitation must include: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to the publicly accessible procedures for revision and development of the Norwegian PEFC certification system”
	Process	YES	Invitation letter to stakeholders, d.d. 13 May 2013 “Current standards can be found on www.pefcnorvege.org Reference to publicly available procedures for revision of the standard: PEFC standard PEFC ST 1001: 2010 - "Standard Setting - Requirements" (PEFC ST) sets requirements for revision process. This standard is based on ISO / IEC Guide 59. See standard of PEFC's website (http://www.pefc.org/standards/technical-documentation/pefc-international-standards-2010)”
5.4 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee “The Council of PEFC Norway must reassess the procedures submitted for revision on the basis of any input from stakeholders. The council must assemble the working committee on the basis of nominations from the invited stakeholders. Acceptance or rejection of nominations for the working committee must be justified on the basis of the requirement concerning balanced representation on the committee and on the basis of resources available for the work.”
	Process	YES	Minutes of the Board Meeting, d.d. 20 August 2013 “Case 22/13: Evaluation and possible revision of the revision process on the basis of inputs and comments on the revision process (...) Resolution



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<p>composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.</p>			<p>The suggestions that PEFC Norway has received will be forwarded to the working committee so they can take the academic input into account in the revision work.</p> <p>There are no comments requiring changes in the audit process.”</p> <p>(...) “Case 23/13 Review of incoming nominations of representatives to the Working Committee and establishment of working committee</p> <p>The following organizations have nominated representatives to the Working Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy Equipment Contractors Association, MEF: Ivar K Hoff (Einar Østhassel as deputy) • The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards: Morten Dåsnes • Viken Skog; Ragna Karoline Aasen • Mjøsen Forestry Johannes Bergum • The Forestry Extension Institute (either as a participant in the working committee or as an observer) <p>Nominated representatives who are members of PEFC Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmill Industry Ass.: Knut FJULSRUD • Pulp and paper Industry Ass.: unnamed person • Labour Union: Rolf Jørn Karlsen • State-owned Land and Forest Company • Norskog, Norwegian Forestry Association • Norges Skogeierforbund, Norwegian Forest Owners Association • Ass. for Women in Forestry <p>The following representatives from the government has been nominated to have an observer role in the revision process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency: Kjersti Wannebo Nilsen • Norwegian Agricultural Authority; unnamed person • Forest Course (participant or observer) <p>Resolution:</p> <p>PEFC Norway proposes initially the organizations that will be part of the working committee who will revise</p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>the Norwegian PEFC Forestry Standard and PEFC Norway forest certification system. The organizations are requested to confirm their earlier nomination or come with updated nomination of representatives.</p> <p>The Board has decided the following organizations to participate in the working committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Sawmill Industry Ass • Representatives from the Pulp and paper industry • Representatives from the Labour Union • Representatives from The Ass. of Municipal Outdoor Recreation Boards • Representative from Heavy Equipment Contractors Association (MEF) • Representative from Norskog • Representative from State-owned Land and Forest Company • Representatives from the Norges Skogeierforbund • 2 representatives from Forest Owners coopertaive, appointed by the Norges Skogeierforbund <p>It also recommends that a representative from the Environment Agency and one representative from the Norwegian Agricultural Authority gets observer role in the revision process.</p> <p>The Working Committee will consist of 10 representatives and 2 observers. The Council also opens the opportunity to expand the committee by up to 3 representatives, especially in the environmental and outdoor hand, if it receives signals about the possible participation of relevant organizations in these sectors</p> <p>The secretariat will send information to the organizations that has been set to be represented in the Working Committee with the request to name their representatives in the committee within September 15th 2013.”</p>
<p>5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:</p>			
<p>a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 06 - 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee</p> <p>“Work within the working committee must be based on open communication and understanding and be arranged so that:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All drafts and other papers relevant to the revision work are accessible to all members of the committee”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
group/committee,	Process	YES	<i>E-mails to Working Committee members were found, that included the working drafts. This was confirmed during the stakeholder survey by the Respondents who participated in the Working Committee.</i>
b) all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts, and	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 - 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “Work within the working committee must be based on open communication and understanding and be arranged so that: <input type="checkbox"/> All members of the committee must be given the opportunity to take part in the work of the committee and be able to submit input and comments on the drafts”
	Process	YES	<i>Working documents were found that included input from the Working Committee, sometimes including the name of the Working Committee member. Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, confirmed that they were provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision process.</i>
c) comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded.	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 - 1. Introduction “The procedures must, as a minimum, be compliant with the PEFC Council's requirements described in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements”. PEFC N 06 - 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “Work within the working committee must be based on open communication and understanding and be arranged so that: <input type="checkbox"/> All comments and input from the working committee's members must be recorded and assessed in an open, transparent manner.” <i>Observation: the procedures in PEFC N 06 do not specify that the resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded. However, this is covered by clause 1 of PEFC N 06 which refers to the PEFC ST 1001:2010 as being the minimum requirement.</i>
	Process	YES	<i>Working documents were found that included input from the Working Committee, sometimes including the name of the Working Committee member. Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, confirmed that views submitted by any member were considered in an open and</i>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<i>transparent way.</i>
5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
a) the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 1. Introduction</p> <p>“The procedures must, as a minimum, be compliant with the PEFC Council's requirements described in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements”.</p> <p>PEFC N 06 – 7. Consultation</p> <p>“Thorough drafts for new or revisions standards will be sent out for public consultation in an appropriate manner (via a website, new, etc.) at least 60 days in advance.”</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Announcement on the PEFC Norway website</p> <p>“Consultation - proposed revised Norwegian PEFC certification system 03.10.2014</p> <p>The standards included in the PEFC Norway certification system has in the period May 2013 - October 2015 been revised. PEFC Norway hereby send a draft of the new standards for out for public consultation. Deadline for answer: 3 of December 2014”</p>
b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 5. Establishment of the working committee</p> <p>“It is also necessary to assess what method of communication is best suited to sending the invitation to stakeholders. The charting must also reveal any disadvantaged stakeholders and, if any are identified, the Council of PEFC Norway must actively seek to eliminate obstacles to their participation in the process and proactively facilitate their participation in the revision/development process.”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 – 7. Consultation</p> <p>“Information on the consultation is sent directly to all stakeholders identified as relevant when the revision/development started. Attempts must be made to contact any disadvantaged stakeholders and identified central stakeholders in the manner defined by the Council of PEFC Norway as appropriate when charting stakeholders.”</p>
	Process	YES	FMSR – 1. Start of the revision

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			“There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate.”
c) the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 7. Consultation “Thorough drafts for new or revisions standards will be sent out for public consultation in an appropriate manner (via a website, new, etc.)”
	Process	YES	<i>Links to the enquiry drafts were placed in the invitation, and was found on the website (www.pefcnorway.org).</i>
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 7. Consultation “Thorough drafts for new or revisions standards will be sent out for public consultation in an appropriate manner (...) at least 60 days in advance.” <i>Observation: the wording ‘in advance’ is a bit confusing as it is not defined in advance of what it shall be. It is assumed that the closure of the public consultation round is meant, this is however not specified.</i>
	Process	YES	<i>The public consultation lasted from the 3rd of October 2015 to the 3rd of December 2015, which is more than 60 days.</i>
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 7. Consultation “All consultation responses must be presented to the working committee and discussed, and relevant comments must be incorporated.”
	Process	YES	Announcement on the PEFC website “Compilation of responses to the consultation (...) Proposed revised certification system was sent out for public consultation October 3 rd 2014, with a deadline to respond to the consultation on within December 3 rd . PEFC Norway has received replies from the 37 organizations. (...) The Working Committee, which is responsible for the revision, has during two full-day meetings reviewed and discussed the consultation responses. The input is assessed on an overall balance between economic, social and environmental considerations, and together with the committee's earlier reviews. For the assessment the answers are collated and



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>structured in relation to the individual parts of the standard. See link below for the compilation of the responses. As shown here, there is great tension between the input that has come. As a starting point, the Working Committee has put most emphasis on contributions that contain new elements that have not previously have been considered in the process. The result is the final standards which is available at the PEFC Norway homepage.</p> <p>A compilation of responses to the consultation is here.”</p> <p>Example of consideration of comments, included in the compilation of responses</p> <p>“Comment from Fylkesmannen on requirement 21 – Key Habitats (PEFC N 02):</p> <p>Forestry planning and MiS registration is an important point. The County Governor will emphasize the importance that there is revision of the MiS (environmental registrations – the basis for key habitats) where there is forestry plans with MiS-registrations of older date, and where quality is poor. The quality has evolved a lot since the first records were made. Likewise, there is an urgent need to implement forestry planning with MiS registration in those areas where this does not exist.</p> <p>These are matters that are important from both a environment and forestry point of view.</p> <p>County Governor will also emphasize the importance of establishing a greater clarity of status between MiS and Habitat types. As the situation is today it is experienced a large degree of uncertainty also in the public administration. Efforts must be made to harmonize these tasks better.</p> <p>Working Committee’s consideration</p> <p>It must be entered in the requirement a claim in connection with the revision/re-mapping of key-habitat areas with previous environmental registration records, relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements for the quality of the existing registrations will be assessed and form the basis whether the registered key habitats (environmental registrations) should be revised or whether the quality of the existing registrations is good enough so that there is no need for revision/new registration. - Requirements for openness/representation on the committee that is to assess the quality of the existing registrations. <p>The following where added to the requirement:</p> <p>Requirement 21 – Key habitats</p> <p>Section 6 under requirements:</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>“In cases where it is documented that the quality of existing key habitats within an area is not satisfying, and a new mapping out or revision is determined, all certified forest owners are obliged to take part in the process.”</p> <p>And in Explanations, requirement 21 (page 28):</p> <p>“Revision of key habitats</p> <p>In case new mapping of habitats based on the MiS methodology and/or revision of key habitats within an area is required, documentation of its necessity must be available. The analysis documenting the need for revision must be based on the current instruction for registration, ranking and selection of habitats based on the MiS methodology and must include a geographically delimited area.”</p> <p><i>Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, confirmed that all comments received were considered in an objective manner.</i></p>
<p>f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 06 – 7. Consultation</p> <p>“A summary of received comments and input, as well as the working committee's discussion of these, must be published on the PEFC Norway website. Information on this summary must be sent directly to the parties contributing consultation responses.”</p> <p><i>Observation: the PEFC N 06 procedures do not specify that the results of the working committee's discussion shall also be summarized. However, this is covered by clause 1 of PEFC N 06 which refers to the PEFC ST 1001:2010 as being the minimum requirement.</i></p>
<p>5.7 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of the new standards and the results of the pilot testing shall be</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 06 - 8. Pilot testing</p> <p>“When developing new standards, the standard must undergo testing via pilot trials before being sent to the PEFC Council for approval.</p> <p>When revising standards, essential new element must be tested in the field, provided that the working committee is of the opinion that earlier experiences from certification indicates that there is no need for further testing. Results from pilot trials and field trials must be published on the PEFC Norway website. Experiences from pilot trials and field trials must be incorporated into the final standards.”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
considered by the working group/committee.	Process	N.A.	<i>No pilot testing is required for revision of a standard, no new standards were developed.</i>
5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “Consensus must be achieved on the content of the final drafts from the working committee before these can be approved by the Council of PEFC Norway.”
	Process	YES	FMSR – Attachment 4 “ Final protocol: Revision of PEFC Norway’s certification system Representatives (...) agreed January 27 th 2015 in consensus on revised standards that constitutes PEFC Norway’s certification system for sustainable forestry. (...) The agreement includes the following revised standards; PEFC N 01, PWFC N 02, PWFC N 03, PEFC N 04, PEFC N 05, PEFC N 06 and PEFC N 07 (...). The Working Committee considers the revision process performed in accordance with the mandate by the signature of this document with appendices.” <i>The document includes the signatures of all ten Working Committee members.</i>
5.8 In order to reach a consensus the working group/committee can utilise the following alternative processes to establish whether there is opposition:			
a) a face-to face meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote, show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair where there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal balloting process,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “To reveal whether there is any persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, the working committee must use one or a combination of the following options: <input type="checkbox"/> a physical meeting of the working committee with verbal yes/no voting, a show of hands; a declaration of agreement from the leader in which no divergent views are reported (verbally or by means of a show of hands); a formal voting process, etc.”
	Process	YES	FMSR – Attachment 4 “ Final protocol: Revision of PEFC Norway’s certification system Representatives (...) agreed January 27 th 2015 in consensus on revised standards that constitutes PEFC Norway’s certification system for sustainable forestry. (...) The agreement includes the following revised



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
etc.,			standards; PEFC N 01, PWFC N 02, PWFC N 03, PEFC N 04, PEFC N 05, PEFC N 06 and PEFC N 07 (...). The Working Committee considers the revision process performed in accordance with the mandate by the signature of this document with appendices.” <i>Attachment 4 of the FMSR shows that consensus was reached and proven by signatures of all Working Committee members.</i>
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “To reveal whether there is any persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, the working committee must use one or a combination of the following options: <input type="checkbox"/> a teleconference with verbal yes/no voting”
	Process	N.A.	<i>No telephone conference was used to establish whether there was opposition.</i>
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members with the members providing a written response (a proxy for a vote), or	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “To reveal whether there is any persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, the working committee must use one or a combination of the following options: <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail correspondence within the working committee where a request is issued for approval of or objection to measures, members being asked to submit written responses.”
	Process	N.A.	<i>No E-mail meeting was used to establish whether there was opposition.</i>
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	YES	PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee “To reveal whether there is any persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, the working committee must use one or a combination of the following options:”
	Process	N.A.	<i>No combinations were used to establish whether there was opposition</i>
5.9 In the case of a negative vote which represents sustained opposition to any important part of the concerned interests surrounding a substantive issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following mechanism(s):			



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
a) discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group/committee in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee</p> <p>“In the event of persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, this resistance must be justified and attempts made to resolve the relevant conflict point(s) by means of: a) Discussion and negotiation within the working committee with a view to arriving at a compromise”</p>
	Process	N.A.	<p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition to any part of the draft.”</p> <p><i>Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, indicated that there were no negative votes.</i></p>
b) direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) submitting the objection and stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee</p> <p>“In the event of persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, this resistance must be justified and attempts made to resolve the relevant conflict point(s) by means of: b) Direct negotiation between stakeholders submitting the opposition and stakeholders with conflicting views, with a view to arriving at a compromise”</p>
	Process	N.A.	<p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition to any part of the draft.”</p> <p><i>Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, indicated that there were no negative votes.</i></p>
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 – 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee</p> <p>“In the event of persistent resistance from essential stakeholder parties to significant sections, this resistance must be justified and attempts made to resolve the relevant conflict point(s) by means of: c) The appeals mechanism described in section 10.”</p>
	Process	N.A.	<p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>“There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition to any part of the draft.”</p> <p><i>Members of the Working Committee that responded to the stakeholder survey, indicated that there were no negative votes.</i></p>
<p>5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 9. Documentation</p> <p>“To ensure that the process is transparent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A report must be compiled regularly which describes the revision process in order to document compliance with the procedures, <input type="checkbox"/> All (...) documents (...) including the report describing the revision process, must be published on the PEFC Norway website in plenty of time.”
	Process	YES	<p><i>The website of PEFC Norway (www.pefcnorge.org) contains at least the following documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Invitation to participate in the revision process, including references to relevant standard documentation;</i> • <i>Announcement of the public consultation on the enquiry draft, including references to standard documents;</i> • <i>A synopsis of the received comments during the public consultation, including the results of the committee’s consideration;</i> <p><i>The FMSR could not be found on the website, the PEFC Norway however explained that they “will provide it to any stakeholder if they ask for it”.</i></p>
<p>5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 6. Organisation of work and decision-making procedures within the working committee</p> <p>“Consensus must be achieved on the content of the final drafts from the working committee before these can be approved by the Council of PEFC Norway.”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 11. Implementation of revised standards/normative documents</p> <p>“When the working committee has completed its work, the committee must submit the agreed standards/normative documents to the Council of PEFC Norway for approval and subsequent processing in the PEFC system.”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
consensus reached by the working group/committee.	Process	YES	<p>Minutes of the Board’s Meeting, d.d. 20 February 2015</p> <p>“The result is the final standards that are attached and which the Working Committee by consensus has agreed upon. The revised certification system is from the working committee point of view ready to handover to the PEFC Council for international approval.</p> <p>Resolution:</p> <p>The Council of PEFC Norway is pleased with the work that has been done by of the working committee and gives the secretariat of PEFC Norway mandate to submit the revised certification system to PEFC Council for international approval.”</p>
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC N 06 - 9. Documentation</p> <p>“To ensure that the process is transparent:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All (...) documents approved by the Council of PEFC Norway (...) must be published on the PEFC Norway website in plenty of time.”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 11. Implementation of revised standards/normative documents</p> <p>“The formally approved standards/normative documents must be published in an appropriate manner and made accessible to the general public.”</p> <p><i>Observation: The wording ‘in plenty of time’ is relatively vague. It should be noted that the wording ‘in a timely manner’ (used in the PEFC International procedures) needs further specification for the national (Norwegian) context, either in the procedures or during the process.</i></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Announcement on the PEFC website, d.d. 25 February 2015 (translated with Google translate)</p> <p>“Revised PEFC standards 25/02/2015</p> <p>PEFC Norway certification system during the period October 2013 to January 2015 have been reviewed and revised. The revised standards are now submitted to the PEFC Council for international approval. Here are the Norwegian standards constituting Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry”</p> <p><i>The approved standards were published on the website five days after the formal approval.</i></p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
Revisions of standards/normative documents			
<p>6.1 The standards/normative documents shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Foreword “Revision of PEFC Norway's forest certification system The PEFC forest certification system must be revised every five years, and PEFC Norway commenced the revision process on 13 May 2013 with an open invitation for input for the process and participation in a working committee. The working committee has worked between October 2013 and January 2015 to revise the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and other standards included in the system. Approved by: PEFC Norway Date: 20.02.2015”</p> <p>PEFC N 06 - 4. Responsibility for development and revision “To ensure that there is enough time for the revision and the international approval process, the revision process for the five-yearly revision must commence at least two years before the end of the previous five-year period.” <i>Observation: The previous version of the forest management standard is dated October 2009, the standards were endorsed by PEFC Council in November 2010. The revision process started in time, compared to the endorsement date. The end of the revision process (February 2015) slightly exceeds the interval between the previous approval date and the current approval date. The interval between the endorsement dates cannot be assessed yet, although there is a possibility that this will not exceed a five-year period.</i></p>
<p>6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Foreword “Published: 25.02.2015, amended 31.08.2015 Transition date: one year from the official announcement of the PEFC re-endorsement decision”</p> <p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway “As of today the transition period is not yet formalized, and the date March 1st 2016 is set by the PEFC Norway Secretariat. The plan is that the new standards shall take effect from the date they are re-approved, with exception of certain requirements and elements that require a transition period.</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>Which requirements that need a transition period will be formally clarified in September, after we've had a calibration meeting with all the certified companies and their certification bodies (2-days meeting - August 26 to 27). There will be a need for transition period for requirements related to planning the operations of forestry on bare ground that shall be undertaken during the winter 2016 (on snow-covered ground)."</p> <p><i>Due to the proposed approach, the application and transition dates are not yet established. However, the description in the Foreword of the standard and the explanation of PEFC Norway sufficiently clarify how the application date and transition date will be defined.</i></p>
<p>6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Foreword “Published: 25.02.2015, amended 31.08.2015 Transition date: one year from the official announcement of the PEFC re-endorsement decision” Explanation provided by PEFC Norway “The (...) publication date is February 25th 2015, as this is the date when the standards where published on our website. (...) The plan is that the new standards shall take effect from the date they are re-approved, with exception of certain requirements and elements that require a transition period.” <i>Publication dates are found on the standard documents. Due to the proposed approach, no application date is established yet. Although the proposed approach will likely result in an application date that does not exceed a period of one year, this is not yet formalised and could therefore not yet be assessed.</i></p>
<p>6.4 The transition date shall not exceed a period of one year except in justified exceptional circumstances where the implementation of</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Foreword “Published: 25.02.2015, amended 31.08.2015 Transition date: one year from the official announcement of the PEFC re-endorsement decision” Explanation provided by PEFC Norway “As of today the transition period is not yet formalized (...). The plan is that the new standards shall take effect from the date they are re-approved, with exception of certain requirements and elements that require</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<p>the revised standards/normative documents requires a longer period.</p>			<p>a transition period.</p> <p>Which requirements that need a transition period will be formally clarified in September, after we've had a calibration meeting with all the certified companies and their certification bodies (2-days meeting - August 26 to 27). There will be a need for transition period for requirements related to planning the operations of forestry on bare ground that shall be undertaken during the winter 2016 (on snow-covered ground).”</p> <p><i>Due to the proposed approach, no application and transition dates are defined yet. However, as long as the transition date will be established as described in the Foreword of the standard, this will result in a transition period that does not exceed a period of one year.</i></p>



Part II: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist for Group Forest Management Certification

1 Scope

Part II covers requirements for group forest management certification as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2010, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements.

2 Checklist

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
General		
4.1 Does the forest certification scheme provide clear definitions for the following terms in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3 of PEFC ST 1002:2010:		
a) the group organisation,	YES	PEFC N 03 – 4. Definitions “Group organisation: A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification.”
b) the group entity,	YES	PEFC N 03 – 4. Definitions “Group certificate holder: An organisation which organises and administers group certification of forest owners in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. The group certificate holder represents all members of the group in respect of the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC scheme.”
c) the participant,	YES	PEFC N 03 – 4. Definitions “Group members: A forest owner/manager or other entity covered by the group forest certificate, who has the legal right to manage the forest in a clearly defined forest area, and the ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard in that area”
d) the certified area,	YES	PEFC N 03 – 4. Definitions “Certified area: The forest area covered by a group forest certificate representing the sum of forest areas of the participants.”



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
e) the group forest certificate, and	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 4. Definitions</p> <p>“Group forest certificate: A document confirming that the group organisation complies with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme.”</p>
f) the document confirming participation in group forest certification.	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“Forest owners certified via the group certificate must be affiliated to the group certificate holder via a written forest certification agreement. This agreement obliges the forest owners to manage the forest in accordance with the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. The agreement must be in compliance with the PEFC Norway requirements for terms between forest owners and group certificate holders, as described in Chapters 5.3 and 6. No new certification agreement can be concluded with a suspended forest owner, cf. Chapter 5.4.</p> <p>The group certificate holder is responsible for:</p> <p>1. Concluding an agreement with the forest owner on forest certification via affiliation to the group certificate. The agreement is the forest owner's proof of affiliation to certification. Agreements can be concluded in connection with timber contracts or as an independent forest certification agreement.”</p>
4.1.2 In cases where a forest certification scheme allows an individual forest owner to be covered by additional group or individual forest management certifications, the scheme shall ensure that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one forest management certification is addressed in any other forest management certification that covers the forest owner.	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification</p> <p>“All forest owners can be certified through group certification under a group certificate holder, provided that they meet the group certificate holder's requirements for participation in the group. (...)</p> <p>Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p> <p>5. Report non-conformances on the forest properties to other certificate holders if the forest owner is affiliated to more than one group certificate.”</p>
4.1.3 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for group forest certification which ensure that participants' conformity with the sustainable forest	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“The group certificate holder must establish and maintain a documentation system which takes into account the following guidelines:</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>management standard is centrally administered and is subject to central review and that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring programme.</p>		<p>1. The group certificate holder must have procedures for ensuring that the participants complies with requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. The participants conformity with the sustainable forest management shall be centrally administered by the group certificate holder and be subject to central review.</p> <p>2. The group certificate holder must have an internal monitoring programme adapted to how all the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard together cover the requirements for sustainable forestry, and all participants shall be subject to this programme. (...) For requirements linked with felling and forestry operations, the certificate holder may have procedures and a description of corrective forestry operations as part of the forest owner's obligations in the event of breach of contract.”</p>
<p>4.1.4 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 03 – 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“The group certificate holder must establish and maintain a documentation system which takes into account the following guidelines:</p> <p>2. The group certificate holder must have an internal monitoring programme adapted to how all the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard together cover the requirements for sustainable forestry, and all participants shall be subject to this programme.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 – 7.3 Group certificate holder's internal monitoring programme</p> <p>“Group certificate holder shall implement an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, PEFC N 02. (...)</p> <p>The purpose of the internal inspection system will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that requirements and activities are implemented correctly 2. To ensure that there is sufficient opportunity to prevent and detect errors 3. To provide an adequate view of the situation 4. To provide a foundation for improvements <p>The primary task of the self-inspection is linked with target 1. The internal inspection could help to meet all the targets. The internal audit, for its part, will be able to help meet the last three targets, but</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>it will be particularly important in accordance with target 4.</p> <p>(...) Self-inspection is the individual forest owner's, forest worker's or contractor's inspection of his own work.</p> <p>(...) Internal inspection in this context is the internal quality control carried out by the party responsible for the task in question.</p> <p>(...) Internal audits are completed by the certificate holder, but they must be carried out by people who have not been directly involved in the task being audited.</p> <p>The results of the internal audit must be included as a topic for the management's review.</p> <p>(,..) The internal audit requirement is specified in ISO 14001 Chapter 4.5.5.”</p>
Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
4.2.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the function and responsibility of the group entity:		
a) To represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 4 Definitions</p> <p>“Group certificate holder: An organisation which organises and administers group certification of forest owners in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. The group certificate holder represents all members of the group in respect of the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC scheme.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 – 5.1 Formal requirements for group certificate holders</p> <p>“For an organisation/company to be able to be a group certificate holder, it must:</p> <p>4. Have an agreement with an accredited and notified certification body concerning certification and annual auditing.”</p>
b) To provide a commitment on behalf of the whole group organisation to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.1 Formal requirements for group certificate holders</p> <p>“For an organisation/company to be able to be a group certificate holder, it must:</p> <p>7. On behalf of the certification group, commit to act in accordance with the requirements determined in the standards which the Norwegian PEFC certification system consist of.”</p>
c) To establish written procedures for the	YES	PEFC N 03 – 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
management of the group organisation;		<p>Forest Standard</p> <p>“The group certificate holder must establish and maintain a documentation system which takes into account the following guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The group certificate holder must have procedures for ensuring that the participants complies with requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. (...) 2. The group certificate holder must have an internal monitoring programme adapted to how all the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard together cover the requirements for sustainable forestry, and all participants shall be subject to this programme. (...)
<p>d) To keep records of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the group entity and participants’ conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme, 2) all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s), 3) the certified area, 4) the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken; 	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“The group certificate holder is responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Maintaining a list/register of certified forest properties with the following information on each member of the group: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The forest property’s land registration and property number. b. The name and address of the forest owner c. Certified forest area (productive forest area + unproductive forest area). This information can be taken from the forestry plan or the Gårdskart database. Se http://gardskart.skogoglandskap.no/ d. Forest owners who have non-conformances in the pipeline and which have to implement corrective or preventive measures imposed by the group certificate holder.” <p>PEFC N 03 – 7.3 Group certificate holder’s internal monitoring programme</p> <p>“Internal inspection and internal audits must always be documented. The self-inspection must also be documented so as to ensure that it is carried out properly.”</p>
e) To establish connections with all participants based on a written agreement which shall include the participants’ commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“The group certificate holder is responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concluding an agreement with the forest owner on forest certification via affiliation to the group certificate. The agreement is the forest owner’s proof of affiliation to certification. Agreements can be concluded in connection with timber contracts or as an independent forest certification agreement.”



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
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 non-conformity with the sustainable forest management standard		<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.3 Terms for agreement on participation in group certification</p> <p>“The agreement with each individual group member must be made in writing and the following sections must be included as terms:</p> <p>2. The agreement must be signed by the forest owner or a representative with authorisation from the forest owner.</p> <p>3. The agreement must describe the fact that the group member undertakes to operate in compliance with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management, the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and the group certificate holder's other instructions for maintaining membership of the group.</p> <p>4. The agreement must describe the rights of the group certificate holder to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to suspend or exclude members of the group in the event of serious non-conformances with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.”</p>
f) To provide participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“The group certificate holder is responsible for:</p> <p>1. Concluding an agreement with the forest owner on forest certification via affiliation to the group certificate. The agreement is the forest owner's proof of affiliation to certification.”</p>
g) To provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“4. Ensuring that group members receive the necessary information and instructions to meet the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>5. Regularly inform group members of amendments to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.”</p>
h) To operate an annual internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements, and;	YES	<p>PEFC N 03 – 7.3 Group certificate holder's internal monitoring programme</p> <p>“Group certificate holder shall implement an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, PEFC N 02. (...) Internal audits are completed by the certificate holder, but they must be carried out by people who have not been directly involved in the task being audited.</p> <p>The results of the internal audit must be included as a topic for the management's review.”</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>i) To operate a review of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 03 – 5.2 Responsibilities of group certificate holders</p> <p>“The group certificate holder is responsible for:</p> <p>6. Checking that the group's members meet the requirements in the certification system.</p> <p>7. Maintaining procedures for dealing with non-conformances and appeals.</p> <p>8. Implementing corrective and/or preventive measures in the event of non-conformances among certified forest owners or in the administrative procedures of the group certificate holder. The effect of measures implemented must be subsequently evaluated.</p> <p>9. Publishing the summary of the certification body's audit report prepared in connection with certification, follow-up audit and recertification.</p> <p>10. Operate a review and making a report on compliance of activities of the certification group, including results of internal monitoring, audits carried out by certification bodies and a report on the effect of preventive and/or corrective measures.”</p>
<p>Function and responsibilities of participants</p>		
<p>4.3.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the participants:</p>		
<p>a) To provide the group entity with a written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 03 – 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification</p> <p>“A written agreement on group certification must be concluded, either via an independent forest certification agreement or via a timber contract with a certification agreement. Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p> <p>1. Comply with Norwegian legislation relevant to forest management and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for all activity on the forest property.</p> <p>4. Comply with the certificate holder's requirements and procedures in connection with follow-up of the certification.”</p>
<p>b) To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 03 – 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification</p> <p>“A written agreement on group certification must be concluded, either via an independent forest certification agreement or via a timber contract with a certification agreement. Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		1. Comply with (...) Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for all activity on the forest property. 4. Comply with the certificate holder's requirements and procedures in connection with follow-up of the certification."
c) 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;	YES	PEFC N 03 – 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification "Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to: 8. Cooperate and assist with the implementation of internal inspections, internal audits and external audits. This includes responding to all queries on relevant data/information from the certificate holder or certification body."
d) To implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	PEFC N 03 – 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification "Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to: 9. Ensure that corrective and preventive measures imposed by the certificate holder are implemented."



Part III: PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Sustainable Forest Management

1 Scope

Part III covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2010, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.

2 Checklist

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
General requirements for SFM standards		
4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall		
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level.	YES	<i>The requirements of the standard are applicable at the forest management level, and where appropriate distinctions are made among various forest management levels and even landscape level.</i>
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	<p><i>The standard is clear and in many cases objective-based, having (very) specific requirements for specific operations. This gives the standard a strong focus on forest management practices. The standard is rather complementary to existing legislation.</i></p> <p><i>It is however observed that the audibility of the standard is sometimes poor, as requirements are quite descriptive and cover multiple elements at once, making it a bit indistinct. In some cases the standard provides room for interpretation, or even makes assumptions, for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“In forests dominated by spruce, selective felling must be used if economic and biological conditions so permit. However, forests dominated by spruce are normally rejuvenated by means of clear cutting and planting, as this will normally be the most economical solution resulting in the highest forest production.” (requirement 10)</i> • <i>“For tree species which rarely become so large, the diameter requirement can be reduced further.” (requirement 12)</i>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Introductory page</p> <p>“Each requirement has a brief description of what it aims to achieve. The requirements also have descriptions of specific requirements. The requirements describe what forest owners have to do in order to meet the targets for sustainable management. Requirements may involve specification of statutory obligations linked with management of the forest property in general. There may also be requirements for planning or documentation at property level and specific requirements which must be met when carrying out felling and other forestry operations. The requirements apply to the whole forest property for which the certification agreement has been concluded.”</p> <p><i>The standard further elaborates requirements for both forest owners and operators.</i></p>
<p>d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 - 11. PEFC Norway's management system requirements</p> <p>“PEFC Norway requires companies to be approved as group certificate holders and forest properties which are directly certified to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - 6 Requirements for group members included in group certification</p> <p>“Group members undertake through the agreement with the group certificate holder to:</p> <p>3. Ensure that all relevant information is passed on to consultants or contractors.</p> <p>10. Comply with PEFC Norway's guidelines for publication in accordance with PEFC N 01.</p> <p>11. Document felling and other measures in compliance with the certificate holder's requirements.”</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – 15. Public access of information</p> <p>“Pursuant to Requirement 9 Openness on environmental information, forest owners must provide environmental information to the general public in compliance with the Environmental Information Act.</p> <p>The provision of the Forestry Act concerning forest registration and forestry plans states that summaries of environmental values emerging through forestry planning must be accessible to</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		the public, and also refers to Environmental Information Act. In the regulation on sustainable forestry, this is also regulated via the provision on environmental documentation and environmental registrations in Section 4, which requires forest owners to explain the environmental considerations which form the basis for measures planned or executed in the forest.”
Specific requirements for SFM standards		
Criterion 1: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
5.1.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase forests and other wooded areas and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature conservation.	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5) the forest owner’s financial returns 6) long-term forest production 7) future cutting opportunities 8) the forest’s contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon 9) biodiversity 10) outdoor recreation 11) cultural monuments 12) the risk of erosion and landslides 13) water resources <p>(...) The following shall be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14) Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species. 15) Information on age and standing volume. 16) Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.). 17) Key habitats mapped on the property 18) Specification of maximum average annual cut, and its justification, the next 30 years.”
5.1.2 Forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation,	NO	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimise or avoid</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.</p>		<p>negative impacts.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - Ch 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“9. The certificate holder shall prepare a plan with guidelines for the use of various forestry management measures to be applied. The guidelines shall be reviewed annually, based on an evaluation of experiences with guidelines, statistics from the measures implemented, the governments result-control of forestry measures, and the development in the forest based on results from the National Forest Inventory. The guidelines shall be publicly available.”</p> <p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“All certificate holders shall have implemented ISO 14001 – Environmental management system (ref PEFC N 01, chapter 11). The scope of the certificate holders ISO 14001-certificate is that the ISO 14001 shall be used for monitoring and supervision of their PEFC Forest Management Certificate and their forest management operations.</p> <p>The ISO 14001 is used as system for planning, monitoring and evaluation of the forest management and the forest management operations within the certificate holders operations. This also implies that the certificate holders includes an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts related to forest management and operations, and that actions shall be taken for continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts. This is specified in ISO 14001, chapter 4 – Environmental management system requirements.”</p> <p><i>Additional references to both the “Regulations on Sustainable Forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593): § 4 - Environmental Documentation and environment registrations” and the “Regulations on grants for forestry planning with environmental inventories (FOR-2004-02-04-449)” were made. However, these regulations could not be verified since the content of the specific paragraphs of these regulations was not made available to the consultant.</i></p> <p><i>Although the ISO 14001 does ensure that monitoring and evaluation (including an assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts) is part of the management of individual companies and group certificate holders, this is insufficiently ensured for group certificate members, as they are not obliged to obtain an ISO 14001 certificate.</i></p>
<p>5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.</p>		<p>“The following shall be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species. - Information on age and standing volume. - Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.). - Key habitats mapped on the property <p>(...) In addition, the following shall be available for the operational planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from public environment databases which pinpoint threatened species, nationally important nature types (A-value according to DN Handbook 13) and cultural monuments. • Information on well-known capercaillie leks (mating games) and nesting sites for owls and birds of prey. <p>The procedures for consultation of external sources for environmental information when planning felling, afforestation and tree species replacement and ground preparation are described in the relevant requirements.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The National Forest Inventory registers Norway’s forest resources. The Forest Inventory provides good data on the Norwegian forests and their development on a national and regional level.</p> <p>In addition to registrations of forest management planning the state has now established several databases with mapped and updated information on the forest resources. In the database “Kilden” traditional data like site quality class, tree species, age, volume and key habitats are linked to different environmental databases containing redlisted species, important nature types, protected areas, cultural monuments etc. and to other relevant databases. “Kilden” ensures that the forest owner at all times can see and use updated data on the forest resources.”</p> <p><i>Although not required by PEFC N 02, it is assumed that forest companies do use the databases such as “Kilden” to provide the information required under PEFC N 02 requirement 3.</i></p>
<p>5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents,</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 20. Forestry plans</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.</p>		<p>“There is no public requirement in Norway to have a forestry plan. In the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2007-2015, property plots larger than 10 000 decares are required to have landscape plans, and properties larger than 100 decares have to have environmental plans prepared before trees there can be felled and the timber sold via certified timber buyers.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Long-term strategic planning</p> <p>Forest owners with forest area larger than 10 hectares shall have a forest management plan or equivalent adapted to the size of the property and use of the forest area. This implies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For continuous plots of more than 1,000 hectares of productive forest shall have landscape plan, which will be revised every 10 years • Smaller properties must have either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A forest management plan with environmental registrations, cf. requirements of the regulations concerning government grants for forestry planning, which are continuously revised or revised every 15-20 years, or - An environmental plan, cf. requirement no. 21, which together with continuously updated data from different databases form the basis for long-term planning of the property. Requirement for revision of the environmental plan is set in requirement no. 21.” <p><i>No references were found ensuring that management plans or their equivalents are elaborated and periodically updated for plots smaller than 100 decares (10 hectares).</i></p>
<p>5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...), long-term forest production.</p> <p>Through the planning the forest owner shall clarify whether there is specific long-term management objectives for the forest beyond this.</p> <p>The following shall be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <p>19) Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species.</p> <p>20) Information on age and standing volume.</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>21) Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.).</p> <p>22) Key habitats mapped on the property Specification of maximum average annual cut, and its justification, the next 30 years.”</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Act - § 5. (Public harvesting right)</p> <p>“The public can reap nuts to be eaten on the premises and pick and bring wild flowers, plants, berries and wild mushrooms, and roots of wild herbs, as it happens considerably and with due caution. For cloudberry in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark the first paragraph apply only if the owner has not expressly set a prohibition of picking. Regardless of such an express prohibition the public can always pick cloudberry eaten on the premises.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway with regard to the exploitation of non-timber forest products:</p> <p>“This is not relevant for Norwegian conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the government that determines the maximum extraction of economic interesting game species. • Forest owners do not have special rights/ownership to mushrooms and berries. Collecting mushrooms and berries is a right everyone has in Norway.”
<p>5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 15. Public access of information, paragraph Publication of information from certified forest owners</p> <p>“All information on environmental data in a forestry plan/landscape plan or environmental plan is environmental information. If the general public request environmental information, forest owners must provide such information from the forestry plan. If information is available from publicly accessible databases such as Kilden, forest owners may refer to these.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry, paragraph ‘More about landscape plan’</p> <p>“A summary or extract of the landscape plan shall be publicly available, and shall be made available upon request. Information of a confidential nature may be omitted, cf. Environmental Information Act.”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 - Ch 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“9. The certificate holder shall prepare a plan with guidelines for the use of various forestry management measures to be applied. The guidelines shall be reviewed annually, based on an evaluation of experiences with guidelines, statistics from the measures implemented, the governments result-control of forestry measures, and the development in the forest based on results from the National Forest Inventory. The guidelines shall be publicly available.”</p> <p><i>Since independently certified forest managers with an FMU smaller than 1000 hectares are not obliged to develop a landscape plan (PEFC N 02 – Req. 3) and are not participating in group forest management, the provided references do not apply to them. No reference was found ensuring publication of the summary of the forest management measures to be applied by independently certified forest managers with a FMU smaller than 1000 hectares.</i></p>
<p>5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The following shall be available for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <p>23) Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species.</p> <p>24) Information on age and standing volume.</p> <p>25) Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.).</p> <p>26) Key habitats mapped on the property</p> <p>27) Specification of maximum average annual cut, and its justification, the next 30 years.</p> <p>Planning shall ensure a cycle of continuous improvement in forestry to minimise or avoid negative impacts.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The National Forest Inventory registers Norway’s forest resources. The Forest Inventory provides good data on the Norwegian forests and their development on a national and regional level.</p> <p>In addition to registrations of forest management planning the state has now established several databases with mapped and updated information on the forest resources. In the database “Kilden” traditional data like site quality class, tree species, age, volume and key habitats are</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>linked to different environmental databases containing redlisted species, important nature types, protected areas, cultural monuments etc. and to other relevant databases. “Kilden” ensures that the forest owner at all times can see and use updated data on the forest resources.”</p> <p><i>No reference is found which sufficiently ensures periodical evaluation of the management of forest resources and that the results will be fed back into the planning process.</i></p>
<p>5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“Forest owners who own forests pursuant to the Act on property registration (the Cadastre Act) are responsible for ensuring that planning and implementation of forestry operations take place in compliance with laws and regulations which regulate forestry and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.”</p>
<p>5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <p>28) long-term forest production 29) the risk of erosion and landslides 30) water resources”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Preservation of the forest area</p> <p>“Forestry operations must not be carried out which impair the forest's future production and opportunities for rejuvenation.”</p>
<p>5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Preservation of the forest area</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that the property administration helps to keep forest space available for forest production, carbon sequestration, outdoor recreation, biological diversity and other environmental values.</p> <p>Forestry operations must not be carried out which impair the forest's future production and opportunities for rejuvenation.</p> <p>Forestry must take place so that space available for outdoor recreation is not reduced or considerably diminished in quality.”</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that the options offered by forest areas for production of timber, addition of value and storage of carbon are utilised satisfactorily.”</p>
<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant 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 materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and</p> <p>b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and</p> <p>c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p> <p>d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 7. Preservation of the forest area</p> <p>“Forestry operations must not be carried out which impair the forest's future production and opportunities for rejuvenation.</p> <p>(...) This standard does not preclude the legal reallocation of forest land for other purposes. Timber from felling in areas rezoned for development purposes or reallocated for a different purpose which requires the forest to be cut may be sold as certified provided that cutting is carried out in compliance with Norwegian law.”</p> <p>The Planning and Building Act (2005) Section 2. Purpose</p> <p>“Planning pursuant to the Act is intended to facilitate coordination of national, county and municipal activity and provide a basis for decisions concerning the use and protection of resources and concerning development and to safeguard aesthetic considerations. By means of planning (...) the Act shall promote a situation where the use of land (...) will be of greatest possible benefit to the individual and to society.”</p> <p>The Planning and Building Act (2005) Section 19-3. Organization of county planning work</p> <p>“The county shall cooperate continuously with the municipalities in the county, and with public bodies and private organizations and others that have a particular interest in county planning work.”</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 8 (knowledge base)</p> <p>“Official decisions that affect biological, geological and landscape diversity shall, as far as is reasonable, be based on scientific knowledge of the population status of species, the range and ecological status of habitat types, and the impacts of environmental pressures. The knowledge required shall be in reasonable proportion to the nature of the case and the risk of damage to biological, geological and landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 9 (precautionary principle)</p> <p>“When a decision is made in the absence of adequate information on the impacts it may have on</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>the natural environment, the aim shall be to avoid possible significant damage to biological, geological or landscape diversity.”</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 54 (duty of notification of forestry projects)</p> <p>“A forestry project that affects areas of selected habitat types and that does not require a permit shall be notified to the municipal authorities before work on the project is begun. A reply shall have been received from the municipal authorities before the project is carried out. (...). If the municipal authorities find that the project may result in reduction of the range of the habitat type or deterioration of its ecological status, the authorities may refuse to permit the project or make further orders (...).”</p> <p>Culture Heritage Act (1978) § 1 Purpose of the Act</p> <p>“The purpose of this Act is to protect archeological and architectural monuments and sites, and cultural environments in all their variety and detail, both as part of our cultural heritage and identity and as an element in the overall environment and resource management.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>The intention of this Act must also be taken into account in any decision taken pursuant to another Act that may affect the cultural heritage.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“Norway does not have primary forests. In practice, the whole forest area in Norway have been used. Forest that has developed many of the same characteristics as primary forests, has been granted special protection against logging and conversion to managed forest in key habitats (requirement 21) and in national parks and reserves according to the Nature Diversity Act.”</p> <p><i>Two issues are found:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The references insufficiently ensure that conversion of forests to other types of land use shall only entail a small proportion of forest type;</i> • <i>The provided references insufficiently ensure that the conversion makes a contribution to long-term conservation benefits;</i> <p><i>Therefore it is not ensured that forest conversion is only allowed if all requirements (a, b, c, and d) are met.</i></p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.1.12 Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 20. Afforestation and tree species replacement</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that afforestation and tree species replacement in afforestation areas take place in such a manner that the measures result in climate benefits and create a foundation for future addition of value, while also safeguarding other environmental values.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 27. Cultural monuments and cultural environments</p> <p>“New forest must not be established on cultural land of less than 5 decares in the forest landscape. Forest may be established in exceptional cases in which reallocation is approved by the municipality pursuant to § 9 of the Land Act, provided that this does not conflict with valuable cultural monuments or cultural environments.”</p>
<p>Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</p>		
<p>5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <p>31) long-term forest production 32) future cutting opportunities”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“In general, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems is not a theme of current interest or discussion in Norway. To the extent that forest ecosystems are degraded in Norway, it is due to the historic use of some forest areas in earlier days. The consideration for both the cultural landscape and the biological diversity has brought about the conception that it is important to maintain the present culture dependent state on these areas.”</p>
<p>5.2.2 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</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Regulations on Sustainable Forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593): Chapter 4 - Measures against injuries on forest</p> <p>“§ 10 - Monitoring of the health of forests: The municipality shall monitor the forest for the sake of danger for different forest injuries. In this context, the Ministry may instruct the municipality to prepare overviews and reports about the forest's health condition, and whether the results of the measures that are being implemented pursuant to these regulations. Ministry or authorized by</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
pollutants or by forest management operations.		<p>the Directorate may issue more closely rules for special assignments related to the monitoring of forests.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The health of forests in Norway is monitored annually by a national monitoring programme and at test sites in individual municipalities. Different types of environmental damage are also recorded in the inventory of forest resources in the National Forest Inventory.”</p>
5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 26. Forests affected by fire</p> <p>“In the case of forest fires in older forests where more than 5 decares is affected by fire, 5 decares per property must be left untouched for 10 years. In the case of forest fires in older forests of an area of less than 5 decares, the entire area will be left untouched for 10 years. Allocated burnt forest area must be assessed over the course of the 10-year period for allocation in accordance with the standard Biologically important areas.</p> <p>In the case of forest fires covering more than 100 decares, allocation of areas must be assessed by forest biology experts and be based on academic considerations.”</p> <p>Regulation concerning sustainable forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593) Chapter 4. Measures against forest damage - § 9.Main principle</p> <p>“It is the forest owner’s responsibility that logging, terrain transport, treatment of logging debris, treatment of young stands and other measures are implemented in such a way that no special risk of damage caused by insects or other damage occurs.”</p> <p>Regulation concerning sustainable forestry (FOR-2006-06-07-593) Chapter 4. Measures against forest damage - § 10.Monitoring of forest condition</p> <p>“The municipality should monitor the forest for the sake of risk of different forest damages. In connection with this, the Ministry may instruct the municipality to prepare overviews and reports on the forest’s health condition, and on the results of the measures implemented pursuant to this regulation.”</p> <p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“The health of forests in Norway is monitored annually by a national monitoring programme and at test sites in individual municipalities. Different types of environmental damage are also</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		recorded in the inventory of forest resources in the National Forest Inventory.”
<p>5.2.4 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “This requirement must ensure that the long-term as well as the operational planning in forestry observes the requirements specified for sustainable management of forest resources. (...) Targets for planning and requirements for data: Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: 33) long-term forest production”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 4. Forest roads “When planning and building forest roads, emphasis must be placed on (...) environmental values and the risk of flooding, the risk of erosion and landslide (...). The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is as little disturbance of the nature as possible.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 10. Felling “Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that stability is maintained in affected and surrounding stands, the environment qualities of the area are preserved, landscape considerations are taken into account and conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site. (...)To be able to use selective felling forms in forests dominated by spruce on solid ground, it is necessary to be able to achieve good stability among the remaining trees, and for the felling form to provide a basis for satisfactory rejuvenation with the conditions prevailing at the growing site.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. Off-road transport “In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage to the terrain which is unsightly, which impedes movement and which may cause water runoff and erosion.”</p> <p>Norwegian Forestry Act (LOV-2005-05-27-31), Chapter 3 - Protective Forest and areas with special environmental values “Section 12. Protective forest</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>The County Agricultural Committee may issue regulations that forest shall be protective forest when the forest serves as protection for other forest or provides protection against natural damage. The same shall apply to areas near mountains or ocean, where the forest is vulnerable and may be damaged by wrong forest management.</p> <p>The regulations shall establish the boundaries for protective forest and provide rules for management of the forest. Rules may also be provided concerning the obligation to notify.</p> <p>The municipality shall ensure that owners of protective forest are made familiar with the protective forest decision and the rules that are provided, and shall announce the decision in the newspapers the municipality otherwise uses for announcements.</p> <p>Section 13. Forest areas of particular environmental value</p> <p>The Ministry may in regulations impose more stringent restrictions on forest management in forest areas of particular environmental value associated with biodiversity, landscape, outdoor recreation or cultural heritage than are otherwise authorized by the Act when forest management may result in major damage to or adverse effects on these values.”</p>
<p>5.2.5 Forest management practices shall make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p> <p>“The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded. (...) The rules on the use of seeds and saplings in the Regulation on forest seeds and forest saplings will be applied.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that stability is maintained in affected and surrounding stands, the environment qualities of the area are preserved, landscape considerations are taken into account and conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“When treating young forest, emphasis must be placed on utilising the opportunities offered by the land for quality production, creating robust stands and building up a forest which provides a foundation for variation in felling and rejuvenation methods.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>“The composition of tree species must be suited to the qualities of the growing site. Where</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>climatic and soil-related conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a significant number of deciduous trees, with separate deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and individually, including old, large deciduous trees. Where conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a mixture of spruce and pine.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species which are rare in the area must be safeguarded and/or promoted during forestry operations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 20. Afforestation and tree species replacement</p> <p>“The design of the plant fields must be suited to the landscape. Emphasis must be placed on creating soft transitions between spruce forest and the surrounding areas. In the case of properties where there is a basis for a significant percentage of deciduous forest, it is necessary to ensure a minimum of 20% deciduous forest on the property.”</p>
<p>5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 26. Forests affected by fire</p> <p>“This requirement must secure living conditions for species which are more or less dependent on burnt forest for their habitat.”</p> <p>Regulations on fire prevention measures and supervision (FOR-2002-06-26-847), § 8-2; Use of fire outdoors:</p> <p>“It is forbidden to light fires or treating things that represent a fire hazard outdoors under such conditions or in such a way that it could cause a fire. Settled fire must not be left until it is completely extinguished.</p> <p>By surface burning or burning of logging residues in woodland and grass in or near forest land, there must be a responsible leader who shall prepare plans, and ensure that the burning is conducted in a proper manner. Well before burning is carried out the head of the fire department shall be notified.</p> <p>With the exception of burning as mentioned in the second paragraph of the period 15 April - 15 September forbidden to make fire in or near forest land without permission from the municipality. The Municipal Council can through local regulations waive this prohibition if local circumstances.”</p>
<p>5.2.7 Appropriate forest management practices</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>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. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.</p>		<p>“The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 11. Waste and contamination</p> <p>“Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that as little waste as possible is generated, and for ensuring that waste collected is disposed of properly and deposited correctly when requirements are defined for approved landfill.</p> <p>All types of waste from both manual and mechanical forestry operations must be removed once work has been completed.</p> <p>Hazardous waste such as oils, fluids, batteries, fuel containers and suchlike must be submitted to an approved landfill.</p> <p>Best available technology (BAT) must preferably be used when selecting equipment and machinery for implementation of forestry operations where relevant on the basis of the risk of contamination and other serious environmental problems.</p> <p>Forest machinery with larger quantities of oil under high pressure must have equipment which limits leaks to a minimum in the event of a problem.</p> <p>If oil leaks occur, they must be stopped immediately. Proper maintenance and cleaning must be carried out on all mechanical units. Larger leaks must be reported to the fire division commander in the municipality.</p> <p>Fuel must be secured to prevent accidents and be stored in approved, lockable tanks. Fuel can only be stored at a recommended minimum distance of 50 metres to the nearest drinking water location, unless specified otherwise.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 13. Off-road transport</p> <p>“In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage to the terrain which is unsightly, which impedes movement and which may cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis must be placed on avoiding leaving tracks which would lead to erosion out in the river/stream.</p> <p>Ruts which cause water runoff and erosion, damage caused by vehicles to paths and trails and other significant damage must be rectified as soon as the moisture conditions make this practicably possible once use of the route is discontinued.”</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 20. Afforestation and tree species replacement</p> <p>“Afforestation and tree species replacement must provide a basis for forestry which is profitable in the long term. The measures must not be implemented in areas with no existing or future profitable technical solutions. (...).</p> <p>The design of the plant fields must be suited to the landscape. Emphasis must be placed on creating soft transitions between spruce forest and the surrounding areas.”</p>
<p>5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 17. Use of pesticides</p> <p>“Based on a precautionary principle, spraying of forest as a silvicultural measure must be subject to strict regulation. The need for this must be reduced as far as possible by means of varied use of different felling forms and silvicultural methods. If this does not lead to the desired results, spraying may take place in case this would clearly be more effective than mechanical methods to prevent the spread of grass, herbs and foliage which would prevent the desired rejuvenation.”</p>
<p>5.2.9 The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 17. Use of pesticides</p> <p>“Pesticides used must be approved Norwegian Food Safety Authority (“Mattilsynet”) for the purpose in question. Use of highly toxic or harmful pesticides in forestry shall be avoided”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Explanations - Requirement 17. Use of pesticides</p> <p>“Normally the requirement that it shall not be used highly toxic or harmful pesticides is secured as long as one only uses pesticides approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for that specific purpose. Use of chlorinated hydrocarbons is anyway not allowed. The same applies for WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides, unless there is no other viable alternative available.”</p> <p><i>Norway has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</i></p>
<p>5.2.10 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 17. Use of pesticides</p> <p>“Pesticides used must be approved Norwegian Food Safety Authority (“Mattilsynet”) for the purpose in question. Use of highly toxic or harmful pesticides in forestry shall be avoided”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Explanations - Requirement 17. Use of pesticides</p> <p>“Normally the requirement that it shall not be used highly toxic or harmful pesticides is secured as long as one only uses pesticides approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for that</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		specific purpose. Use of chlorinated hydrocarbons is anyway not allowed.” <i>Norway has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</i>
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.	YES	PEFC N 02 – Requirement 17. Use of pesticides “Users of pesticides in forestry must hold spraying certificates (evidence of authorisation). When using pesticides, the correct equipment must be used and the instructions supplied by the manufacturers of the substances must be followed.”
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	YES	PEFC N 02 – Requirement 18. Fertilisation and nutrient balance “Forestry must be carried out in a manner which allows the natural processes and long-term production capacity of the land to be maintained. Nutrient loss and nutrient leakage must be kept to a minimum. Areas with special environmental assets must not be fertilised or affected by fertiliser or ash spreading. In the case of fertilisation in forests, it is necessary to maintain a fertiliser-free zone of 25 metres around lakes, rivers and streams (this is applicable to streams which are unlikely to run dry) in order to prevent runoff. Fertilisation must not take place until the snow has melted, and the time of fertilisation will otherwise be adapted to ensure that the risk of nutrient leakage is minimised.”
Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	YES	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the forest owner's financial returns <input type="checkbox"/> long-term forest production <input type="checkbox"/> future cutting opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon <input type="checkbox"/> biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor recreation <input type="checkbox"/> cultural monuments



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<input type="checkbox"/> erosion and landslides <input type="checkbox"/> water resources”
<p>5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account any available market studies and possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the forest owner’s financial returns <input type="checkbox"/> long-term forest production <input type="checkbox"/> future cutting opportunities” <p>PEFC N 02 – Explanations - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“In the requirement it is assumed that the planning and implementation of forestry measures on the property shall be based on a goal of conducting a long-term and sustainable forestry that takes into account the forest owners economic returns.</p> <p>This presupposes that it is based on the market opportunities in the short and long term. Current market situation for various assortments and available market analyzes relating to demand for different assortments and new market opportunities shall be applied in the forestry planning. Planning must also take into account other economic activity that the forest owners have on the property, such as tourism etc.”</p>
<p>5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34) the forest owner's financial returns 35) long-term forest production 36) future cutting opportunities 37) the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon 38) biodiversity 39) outdoor recreation 40) cultural monuments 41) erosion and landslides



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		42) water resources” PEFC N 02 – Requirement 5. Outdoor recreation “Forest owners must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoors areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes, and give permission for the same when this does not contravene important commercial or ecological considerations. This does not alter the rights pursuant to the Outdoor Recreation Act.”
5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.	YES	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry “Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: 43) the forest owner's financial returns 44) long-term forest production 45) future cutting opportunities 46) the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon 47) biodiversity 48) outdoor recreation 49) cultural monuments 50) erosion and landslides 51) water resources” PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Long-term timber production “This requirement must ensure that the options offered by forest areas for production of timber, addition of value and storage of carbon are utilised satisfactorily.”
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate	YES	PEFC N 02 – Requirement 10. Felling “Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that stability is maintained in affected and surrounding stands, the environment qualities of the area are preserved, landscape considerations are taken into account and conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site.” PEFC N 02 – Requirement 13. Off-road transport



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
systems.		<p>“In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage to the terrain which is unsightly, which impedes movement and which may cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis must be placed on avoiding leaving tracks which would lead to erosion out in the river/stream.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 14. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that the options offered by forest areas for production of timber, addition of value and storage of carbon are utilised satisfactorily.</p> <p>In the case of areas where natural rejuvenation is planned after felling, it is necessary to carry out felling in a manner which will allow rejuvenation to be established as quickly as possible. If natural rejuvenation is not successful, silvicultural measures must be implemented.</p> <p>In areas in which planting or sowing is planned after felling, planting or sowing must be carried out as soon as is prudent and practicably possible, and within three years at the latest unless the authorities have granted an exemption.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 15. Ground preparation</p> <p>“Ground preparation must be carried out in such a way that the operation helps to ensure satisfactory rejuvenation after felling, while also taking into account biologically important areas (BIAs), paths, streams, the risk of erosion and cultural monuments.”</p>
5.3.6 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 forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <p>52) the forest owner's financial returns 53) long-term forest production 54) future cutting opportunities”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 18. Fertilisation and nutrient balance</p> <p>“Forestry must be carried out in a manner which allows the natural processes and long-term production capacity of the land to be maintained. Nutrient loss and nutrient leakage must be kept to a minimum.”</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
5.3.7 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	<p>Additional explanation by PEFC Norway:</p> <p>“Hunting and fishing are managed outside the forest management, and it is regulated, monitored and controlled by the national/regional authorities.”</p> <p><i>References were provided to the following laws: (1) The Wildlife Act (LOV-1981-05-29-38), (2) Act of anadromous salmonids (LOV-1992-05-15-47), and (3) Nature Diversity Act (LOV-2009-06-19-100). The content of these laws was not made available to the consultant, and could therefore not be assessed. No references in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard were found addressing the exploitation of non-timber forest products, but since it is not the responsibility of the forest owner/manager this was considered to be acceptable.</i></p>
5.3.8 Adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 4. Forest roads</p> <p>“When planning and building forest roads, emphasis must be placed on outdoor recreation, environmental values and the risk of flooding, erosion and landslide, in addition to the purely forestry-related use and other commercial use of the area. Roads must not be built in key habitats without clarifying in advance that this can be done, cf. the procedures for alteration of key habitats in requirement 21 "Key habitats".</p> <p>The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is as little disturbance of the nature as possible. The alignment must be adapted to the landscape as far as possible, and the road must be constructed lightly in the terrain.</p> <p>When planning new road systems, forest owners must document the fact that roadbuilding is avoided in areas with recorded special environmental values. Attempts must be made to avoid siting new road systems in larger, continuous forest areas of special value for environmental protection or outdoor recreation and with little scope of technical intervention.</p> <p>In marginal forest areas in which use of the land for purposes other than pure forestry is paramount, simple road solutions such as tractor routes and winter vehicle routes must be given priority.”</p>
Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.		<p>of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards: (...) biodiversity”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees</p> <p>“The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>“The composition of tree species must be suited to the qualities of the growing site. Where climatic and soil-related conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a significant number of deciduous trees, with separate deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and individually, including old, large deciduous trees. Where conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a mixture of spruce and pine.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species which are rare in the area must be safeguarded and/or promoted during forestry operations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 21. Key habitats</p> <p>“Key habitats must secure living environments for species deemed to be threatened and included in the Norwegian Red List.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 22. Consideration for birds of prey and owls</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that nesting sites for birds of prey and owls can be maintained over time and that the birds are not disturbed while they are nesting.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 23. Consideration for capercaillie leks</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that capercaillie leks (mating sites) are taken into consideration.”</p>
<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas</p>	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> biodiversity <p>(...) For continuous plots of more than 10 000 decares of productive forest, a separate landscape plan must be compiled which shows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.).



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;</p> <p>and taking into account</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Key habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The presence of endangered/threatened species</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Important wildlife habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Threatened nature types and nationally important nature types (A-value according to DN Handbook 13)”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 21. Key habitats</p> <p>“Key habitats must secure living environments for species deemed to be threatened and included in the Norwegian Red List.</p> <p>Key habitats must be mapped on properties of more than 100 decares of productive, commercially exploitable area.</p> <p>The Environment Registration in Forest (MiS) method must be used when mapping out habitats and selecting new key habitats.</p> <p>The key habitats must be left untouched or managed in a way which does not reduce, or which actually improves conditions for biodiversity. If key habitats are managed in any manner other than untouched, management measures must be prepared in consultation with a person with forest biology expertise and approved by the certificate holder.</p> <p>In the case of properties with less than 100 decares of productive, commercially exploitable area, (...) it is necessary to use a precautionary procedure in order to clarify whether there are any habitats pursuant to the MiS instruction. Mapped qualities must be taken into account, if necessary by refraining from felling or by showing the necessary consideration. The precautionary procedure must be approved by certified timber buyers.</p> <p>When planning felling, external sources of environmental information in the Artskart and Naturbase databases must be consulted. If the forestry operations could affect known occurrences of threatened species, threatened nature types or nationally important nature types (A areas) pursuant to DN Handbook 13, and the information on the species/habitats has not been assessed previously during selection of key habitats, a person with forest biology expertise must assess whether one or more key habitats should be established in the area. (...) New key habitats will be reported to the Kilden database.”</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“Felling opportunities must be utilised within the scope defined by considerations relating to (...), biodiversity, other environmental values (...). In areas defined as protection forest pursuant to the Forestry Act (...), the rules applicable to such forests must be adhered to.</p> <p>In mountain forests, emphasis must be placed on promoting and maintaining old growth characteristics. Therefore, when carrying out felling, selective felling forms (mountain forest felling) must be used as widely as possible in forests dominated by spruce, and small-scale clear cutting and smaller seed tree stands in forests dominated by pine.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 24. Water protection</p> <p>“This requirement must guarantee the water quality in lakes and waterways and create habitats for species which naturally live in or near to waterways.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 25. Wetlands and swamp forest</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that ecological functions to wetlands, wooded bog and swamp forest are maintained during forestry operations.”</p> <p><i>Requirement 24 and 25 (on water protection, wetlands and swamp forest) are further elaborated in detailed requirements, including bufferzones, to safeguard these sensitive forest areas.</i></p>
<p>5.4.3 Protected 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>YES</p>	<p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway during the extraordinary assessment:</p> <p>“Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on the laws and regulations governing commercial activity in the forest. Where laws and regulations governing business activity in the forests, the statutory provisions take precedence of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard.</p> <p>Protected and endangered plants and animals are protected by Norwegian law and specifically through the Nature Diversity Act.</p> <p>Nature Diversity Act, Chapter III. Species Management, Section 15 (principle for species management): “Harvesting and other removal of animals that occur naturally in the wild shall be authorised by statute or a decision pursuant to statute. Unnecessary harm and suffering caused to animals occurring in the wild and their nests, lairs and burrows shall be avoided. Harvesting and other removal of plants and fungi occurring in the wild are permitted to the extent that they do not jeopardise the survival of the population concerned or are not limited by statute or by a</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>decision pursuant to statute. The provisions of the first and second paragraphs do not preclude lawful access and passage, agricultural activities or other activities that take place in accordance with the duty of care laid down in section 6.”</p> <p>Protected and endangered plant and animal species are also protected through the PEFC Norway Forest management standard and especially through the interpretation which was adopted November 22th 2011. Section C in this clarification set requirements for consultation of environmental databases before logging.</p> <p>Norway has also ratified the Bern Convention (The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats), and there is an Norwegian Regulation for Convention of endangered species. This regulation was entered into force 21.12.2001. The regulation specifies which plant and animal species that are totally protected.</p> <p>See Norwegian Laws and Regulations(text in Norwegian): http://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2001-12-21-1525</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of protection is to protect certain species of endangered, vulnerable, demanding attention or rare vascular plants, cryptogams (mosses, lichens and fungi), algae and invertebrates from damage and destruction. 2. Species and subspecies of vascular plants (including seeds), cryptogams (mosses, lichens and fungi), algae and invertebrates in accordance with the attached list are protected from direct damage and destruction, recovery and other forms of direct pursuit. (...) 3. The administrative authority may grant exemptions from protection when the purpose of the protection it requires, as well as for scientific research and work, or measures of major importance for society, and in other special cases, when it is not contrary to the purpose of the protection.”
<p>5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that (...) conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site.”</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
quality of the forest resources.		<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 14. Long-term timber production</p> <p>“In the case of areas where natural rejuvenation is planned after felling, it is necessary to carry out felling in a manner which will allow rejuvenation to be established as quickly as possible. If natural rejuvenation is not successful, silvicultural measures must be implemented.</p> <p>In areas in which planting or sowing is planned after felling, planting or sowing must be carried out as soon as is prudent and practicably possible, and within three years at the latest unless the authorities have granted an exemption.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>“The composition of tree species must be suited to the qualities of the growing site. Where climatic and soil-related conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a significant number of deciduous trees, with separate deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and individually, including old, large deciduous trees. Where conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a mixture of spruce and pine.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species which are rare in the area must be safeguarded and/or promoted during forestry operations.”</p>
5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 19. Use of foreign tree species</p> <p>“Norwegian tree varieties must be used for afforestation and rejuvenation after felling. Foreign tree species may be used if there are problems with establishing rejuvenation with satisfactory production. Foreign tree species can also be used to a lesser extent for production of special qualities.</p> <p>Use of foreign tree species assumes that the measure has received prior approval pursuant to the regulation on the use of foreign tree species as specified in the Nature Diversity Act. The options for the use of foreign tree species are limited to the use of Sitka spruce, Lutz spruce and larch in coastal areas from Vest-Agder to Troms. Lodgepole pine, Pinus contorta, can also be used in upland areas (above 450 metres above sea level) in Nord-Gudbrandsdalen and in Østerdalen where it is extremely difficult to achieve pine rejuvenation on account of the fungus Phacidium infestans and elk browsing.</p> <p>The spread of foreign tree species must be kept under control by means of forest management.”</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that the composition of tree species takes into account both economic and environmental conditions.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 20. Afforestation and tree species replacement</p> <p>“The design of the plant fields must be suited to the landscape. Emphasis must be placed on creating soft transitions between spruce forest and the surrounding areas. (...)</p> <p>The Artskart and Naturbase databases must be consulted before afforestation or tree species replacement takes place. This measure cannot be implemented if the measure would damage the living environment of a threatened species or damage a threatened habitat or values in a registered habitat categorised as nationally important (A area) according to DN Handbook 13. Any afforestation or tree species replacement in the living environment of a threatened species or within a registered nationally important nature type (A area) assumes that a person with forest biology expertise has assessed the measure and found that it can be implemented without causing any significant damage to the environmental values.</p> <p>Afforestation or tree species replacement must not take place in selected habitats and ecological function areas for priority species, unless the authorities have agreed to this.”</p> <p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“The Norwegian Forest Management standard, PEFC N 02 requirements no. 16 and no. 20 describe ecological considerations and emphasis on establishing links between planted forests in those parts of Norway where this is relevant. This applies to the coast of Western Norway and Northern Norway where it is established new coniferous forest in areas dominated by deciduous forest.</p> <p>In the rest of the forest landscape in Norway it is considered that there is no need for measures to promote possible ecological improvements by setting corridors between forest areas using based on new afforestation. The reasons for this is the following:</p> <p>Forest in Norway is contiguous and not fragmented if disregarded in that it is forest on many islands in ocean and in freshwater. In Norway, 3% of the land area is farmland and this area lies as ecological "islands" in the forest landscape. This is in contrast to most other countries in</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Europe where forests exist as "islands" in an agricultural landscape." <i>Considering the Norwegian context, to the opinion of the Assessor the references do sufficiently cover the requirement.</i></p>
<p>5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 8. Genetic preservation – forest trees “The natural genetic variation among forest trees must be safeguarded. Genetically modified plant material must not be used.”</p>
<p>5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 10. Felling “Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that stability is maintained in affected and surrounding stands, the environment qualities of the area are preserved, landscape considerations are taken into account and conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site. In forests dominated by spruce, selective felling must be used if economic and biological conditions so permit. However, forests dominated by spruce are normally rejuvenated by means of clear cutting and planting, as this will normally be the most economical solution resulting in the highest forest production. To be able to use selective felling forms in forests dominated by spruce on solid ground, it is necessary to be able to achieve good stability among the remaining trees, and for the felling form to provide a basis for satisfactory rejuvenation with the conditions prevailing at the growing site. (...) Pine forest must normally be rejuvenated by means of seed tree stand felling or other felling forms which provide conditions for natural rejuvenation. Saplings may be planted or seed may be sown in the case of tree species replacement and if significant production gains can be made. In mountain forests, emphasis must be placed on promoting and maintaining old growth characteristics. Therefore, when carrying out felling, selective felling forms (mountain forest felling) must be used as widely as possible in forests dominated by spruce, and small-scale clear cutting and smaller seed tree stands in forests dominated by pine. In rich deciduous forests, selective felling forms must be used, except on the vegetation type bilberry-oak forest with low and medium site quality.</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>The size and adjustment of clear cutting and seed tree stand felling areas must be suited to the shapes and lines of the landscape. (...)</p> <p>In felling fields, there will often be smaller trees where felling would not be of financial interest. Emphasis must be placed on saving such trees.”</p> <p>Requirement 12. Retention trees and dead trees</p> <p>“Standing dead deciduous trees, large dead pine, natural high stumps of all tree species and fallen dead wood (low) more than five years old must generally be saved when felling. (...)</p> <p>When carrying out rejuvenation felling (clear cutting, seed tree stand felling and final felling of shelterwood), at least 10 storm-resilient trees must be left per hectare as retention trees, ideally in groups.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species</p> <p>“The composition of tree species must be suited to the qualities of the growing site. Where climatic and soil-related conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a significant number of deciduous trees, with separate deciduous tree stands, deciduous trees in groups and individually, including old, large deciduous trees. Where conditions so permit, attempts must be made to implement a mixture of spruce and pine.</p> <p>Norwegian tree species which are rare in the area must be safeguarded and/or promoted during forestry operations.”</p>
<p>5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“Several of the standards promote the use of close stand selection felling, i.e. harvesting methods so as to preserve particular cultivation values that were associated with the forests of 100-200 years ago in Norway. The requirement set out in the standard for Key habitats is also linked to those habitats that are subject to management. It should also be noted that the standard for Afforestation and Use of foreign tree species does not permit the planting of trees on open moorland with heather, which is a vegetation type on the west coast of Norway that is affected by cultivation.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“In forests dominated by spruce, selective felling must be used if economic and biological</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>conditions so permit. (...)</p> <p>To be able to use selective felling forms in forests dominated by spruce on solid ground, it is necessary to be able to achieve good stability among the remaining trees, and for the felling form to provide a basis for satisfactory rejuvenation with the conditions prevailing at the growing site. (...)</p> <p>In mountain forests, emphasis must be placed on promoting and maintaining old growth characteristics. Therefore, when carrying out felling, selective felling forms (mountain forest felling) must be used as widely as possible in forests dominated by spruce, and small-scale clear cutting and smaller seed tree stands in forests dominated by pine.</p> <p>In rich deciduous forests, selective felling forms must be used, except on the vegetation type bilberry-oak forest with low and medium site quality.</p> <p>The size and adjustment of clear cutting and seed tree stand felling areas must be suited to the shapes and lines of the landscape.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 19. Use of foreign tree species</p> <p>“Use of foreign tree species assumes that the measure has received prior approval pursuant to the regulation on the use of foreign tree species as specified in the Nature Diversity Act. The options for the use of foreign tree species are limited to the use of Sitka spruce, Lutz spruce and larch in coastal areas from Vest-Agder to Troms. Lodgepole pine, Pinus contorta, can also be used in upland areas (above 450 metres above sea level) in Nord-Gudbrandsdalen and in Østerdalen where it is extremely difficult to achieve pine rejuvenation on account of the fungus Phacidium infestans and elk browsing.”</p>
<p>5.4.10 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 improve or maintain biological diversity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 7. Preservation of the forest area</p> <p>“Forestry operations must not be carried out which impair the forest's future production and opportunities for rejuvenation.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“Felling opportunities must be utilised within the scope defined by considerations relating to (...), biodiversity, other environmental values and legislation. In areas defined as protection forest pursuant to the Forestry Act and in other areas in which felling is regulated with separate</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>regulations or provisions, the rules applicable to such forests must be adhered to.</p> <p>Selection of a felling form and implementation of felling must be adapted to local conditions so that stability is maintained in affected and surrounding stands, the environment qualities of the area are preserved, landscape considerations are taken into account and conditions are provided for satisfactory rejuvenation with species suited to the growing site.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. Off-road transport</p> <p>“Off-road transport must not take place in areas designated as key habitats if this would damage the biological values.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 21. Key habitats</p> <p>“The key habitats must be left untouched or managed in a way which does not reduce, or which actually improves conditions for biodiversity. If key habitats are managed in any manner other than untouched, management measures must be prepared in consultation with a person with forest biology expertise and approved by the certificate holder. Key habitats cannot be reallocated for other purposes unless a public decision is made which permits such reallocation.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 25. Wetlands and swamp forest</p> <p>“This requirement must ensure that ecological functions to wetlands, wooded bog and swamp forest are maintained during forestry operations.”</p>
<p>5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 4. Forest roads</p> <p>“When planning and building forest roads, emphasis must be placed on (...), environmental values (...). Roads must not be built in key habitats without clarifying in advance that this can be done, cf. the procedures for alteration of key habitats in requirement 21 "Key habitats".</p> <p>The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is as little disturbance of the nature as possible. The alignment must be adapted to the landscape as far as possible, (...).</p> <p>When planning new road systems, forest owners must document the fact that roadbuilding is avoided in areas with recorded special environmental values. Attempts must be made to avoid siting new road systems in larger, continuous forest areas of special value for environmental protection or outdoor recreation and with little scope of technical intervention.”</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> long-term forest production <input type="checkbox"/> future cutting opportunities” <p>Forestry Act (2005) Section 9. Preventive measures</p> <p>Where grazing by cervids results in substantial damage to forest undergoing regeneration or where such grazing is a substantial obstacle to compliance with the obligation to regenerate forest pursuant to section 6 of this Act, the municipality as the body responsible for game shall consider whether there is a need to regulate the stocks of cervids in order to reduce the pressure of grazing.</p> <p>Wildlife Act (1981) § 1. (Purpose of the Act)</p> <p>“Wildlife and their habitats shall be managed in accordance with Nature Diversity Act and so that the productivity and species diversity are maintained. Within this framework, wildlife may be harvested for the benefit of agriculture business and outdoor recreation.”</p>
<p>5.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 12. Retention trees and dead trees</p> <p>“Standing dead deciduous trees, large dead pine, natural high stumps of all tree species and fallen dead wood (low) more than five years old must generally be saved when felling.</p> <p>When carrying out rejuvenation felling (clear cutting, seed tree stand felling and final felling of shelterwood), at least 10 storm-resilient trees must be left per hectare as retention trees, ideally in groups. (...). The retention trees are primarily selected from the oldest trees in the operational area. Both dominant tree species and any rare/uncommon tree species must be represented among the retention trees. If there is a risk of storm felling, spruce and aspen retention trees may be cut to high stumps (trees cut above 3 metres). To find storm-resilient spruce trees which can act as retention trees, suppressed trees with a diameter of down to approximately 20 cm can also be used. Standing dead spruce can also be included, making up up to half of the number of retention trees.</p> <p>When there are trees of major visual value in the felling field, trees being used for nesting or with</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>holes for woodpeckers, old, large aspen trees, old pollards/deciduous trees harvested for foliage, rich deciduous trees and tree species which are unusual in the area, these must be given priority when selecting retention trees.</p> <p>(...) Retention trees which die must remain in the forest. This will only conflict in exceptional cases with the provisions on forest hygiene in the regulation on sustainable forestry. If the requirements of the standard are to be set aside, a written order must be issued by the forestry authorities indicating that such trees must be removed.”</p>
<p>Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)</p>		
<p>5.5.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - erosion and landslides - water resources” <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 4. Forest roads</p> <p>“When planning and building forest roads, emphasis must be placed on outdoor recreation, environmental values and the risk of flooding, erosion and landslide, (...).”</p>
<p>5.5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents shall take these areas into account.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“The availability of the following is assumed for the long-term, strategic planning in forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Map showing property boundaries, topography, roads in the forest, site quality and tree species. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on areas with special restrictions (protection forests, priority species, selected habitats, nature reserves, etc.).”
<p>5.5.3 Special care shall be given to silvicultural operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> erosion and landslides



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>deep soil tillage and use of unsuitable machinery shall be avoided in such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations.</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> water resources”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. Off-road transport</p> <p>“In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage to the terrain which is unsightly, which impedes movement and which may cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis must be placed on avoiding leaving tracks which would lead to erosion out in the river/stream.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 15. Ground preparation</p> <p>“Ground preparation must be carried out (...), while also taking into (...), paths, streams, the risk of erosion (...).”</p> <p>Forestry Act (2005) Section 9. Preventive measures</p> <p>Where grazing by cervids results in substantial damage to forest undergoing regeneration or where such grazing is a substantial obstacle to compliance with the obligation to regenerate forest pursuant to section 6 of this Act, the municipality as the body responsible for game shall consider whether there is a need to regulate the stocks of cervids in order to reduce the pressure of grazing.</p> <p>Wildlife Act (1981) § 1. (Purpose of the Act)</p> <p>“Wildlife and their habitats shall be managed in accordance with Nature Diversity Act and so that the productivity and species diversity are maintained. Within this framework, wildlife may be harvested for the benefit of agriculture business and outdoor recreation.”</p>
<p>5.5.4 Special care shall be given to forest management practices 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.</p>	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 11. Waste and contamination</p> <p>“Hazardous waste such as oils, fluids, batteries, fuel containers and suchlike must be submitted to an approved landfill.</p> <p>Best available technology (BAT) must preferably be used when selecting equipment and machinery for implementation of forestry operations where relevant on the basis of the risk of contamination and other serious environmental problems.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 24. Water protection</p> <p>“This requirement must guarantee the water quality in lakes and waterways and create habitats</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>for species which naturally live in or near to waterways.</p> <p>Felling and maintenance in the buffer zone must take place with a view to creating a robust, expansive and multi-layered belt of vegetation along lakes and waterways. Deciduous trees must be given priority in the buffer zone.</p> <p>Emphasis must be placed on avoiding contamination of lakes and waterways, cf. requirement 11 "Waste and contamination". Fuel, for example, must not be stored less than 50 metres away from a water source.</p> <p>The following requirements must safeguard water resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> When carrying out fertilisation in forests, emphasis must be placed on avoiding runoff to waterways, e.g. by establishing a 25-metre fertiliser-free zone around lakes, rivers and streams, cf. requirement 18 "Fertilisation and nutrient balance". <input type="checkbox"/> Ground preparation must take place carefully and no less than 5 metres away from streams which are unlikely to run dry, cf. requirement 15 "Ground preparation". <input type="checkbox"/> When cleaning trenches and carrying out supplementary trenching, the water must not be discharged directly into streams, rivers and lakes, cf. requirement 25 "Wetlands and swamp forest " <input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis must be placed on avoiding and, where necessary, rectifying any wheel tracks causing water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis must be placed on avoiding leaving tracks which would lead to erosion out in the river/stream, cf. requirement 13 "Off-road transport". <input type="checkbox"/> Felling waste must be removed from streams, rivers and lakes, cf. requirement 10 "Felling".
<p>5.5.5 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 4. Forest roads</p> <p>“When planning and building forest roads, emphasis must be placed on (...) the risk of flooding, erosion and landslide (...).</p> <p>The choice of route and road standard must be planned so that there is as little disturbance of the nature as possible. The alignment must be adapted to the landscape as far as possible, and the road must be constructed lightly in the terrain.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 13. Off-road transport</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“In the case of off-road transport, it is necessary to place emphasis on avoiding damage to the terrain which is unsightly, which impedes movement and which may cause water runoff and erosion. When crossing rivers and streams with forest machinery, emphasis must be placed on avoiding leaving tracks which would lead to erosion out in the river/stream.</p> <p>Ruts which cause water runoff and erosion, damage caused by vehicles to paths and trails and other significant damage must be rectified as soon as the moisture conditions make this practicably possible once use of the route is discontinued.”</p>
Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions		
<p>5.6.1 Forest management planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions of forests to society, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development, and especially consider new opportunities for employment in connection with the socio-economic functions of forests.</p>	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“The forest must be managed sustainably so that it gives financial returns to the forest owner, adds value at a local and a national level and makes a positive climate contribution, while also safeguarding outdoor recreation and environmental values.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 3. Planning in forestry</p> <p>“Planning and implementation of forestry activities on the property must be based on the target of running long-term, sustainable forestry which safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> (...)the forest's contribution to the absorption and storage of carbon <input type="checkbox"/> biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> outdoor recreation <input type="checkbox"/> cultural monuments <input type="checkbox"/> erosion and landslides <input type="checkbox"/> water resources”
<p>5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.</p>	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Outdoor recreation</p> <p>“When carrying out forestry operations, emphasis must be placed on safeguarding the quality of the experience, particularly along paths and ski trails. (...) Particular emphasis must be placed on outdoor interests in forest areas close to towns and densely populated areas by selecting – among other things – the felling form and area size, and by avoiding damaging paths by driving over them.</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>(...) The public have the general right to cross outlying fields and the right to pick berries and mushrooms within the scope defined by the Outdoor Recreation Act and other legislation.</p> <p>Commercial activity in forest areas must take place in a way that the actual content of the general right to free movement is maintained.</p> <p>Forest owners must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoors areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes, and give permission for the same when this does not contravene important commercial or ecological considerations. (...)</p> <p>The requirement "Water protection" does not preclude the establishment of fishing locations, picnic areas and viewing areas unless this contravenes important commercial or ecological considerations."</p>
<p>5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>"Forest owners who own forests pursuant to the Act on property registration (the Cadastre Act) are responsible for ensuring that planning and implementation of forestry operations take place in compliance with laws and regulations which regulate forestry and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. (...)"</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 6. Sami rights</p> <p>"Forest owners must respect and take into account Sami rights, cf. the provisions of the Reindeer husbandry Act. If Sami rights exist on the property, these must be safeguarded."</p> <p>The Cadastre Act (LOV 2005-06-17-101) Section 1. The purpose of the Act</p> <p>"This Act shall ensure access to important land information by means of a uniform and reliable register (the cadastre) that will be kept of all real estate in the country, and by a clarification of boundaries and property-related matters."</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Act - § 1. (Purpose of the Act)</p> <p>"The purpose of this Act is to protect the natural basis for outdoor recreation and to safeguard the public right of access to and passage through the countryside and the right to spend time there, etc, so that opportunities for outdoor recreation as a leisure activity that is healthy, environmentally sound and gives a sense of well-being are maintained and promoted."</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“On the Internet anyone can find the property number (Cadastre No.) on all properties, using a map solution on Kilden or Gardskart. (http://gardskart.skogoglandskap.no/ / http://kilden.skogoglandskap.no). Having the property number you can contact the employees of county el municipality for the concrete information about the name of the owner of the property and the detailed property arrangements.”</p>
<p>5.6.4 Forest management activities 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>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 6. Sami rights</p> <p>“Forest owners must respect and take into account Sami rights, cf. the provisions of the Reindeer husbandry Act. If Sami rights exist on the property, these must be safeguarded.”</p> <p>Additional explanation provided by PEFC Norway</p> <p>“Forestry Act and the Reindeer Husbandry Act are coordinated to protect Sami rights linked to the ILO Convention 169.”</p> <p><i>Norway ratified the ILO Convention 169.</i></p>
<p>5.6.5 Adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided taking into account respect for ownership rights and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Outdoor recreation</p> <p>“When carrying out forestry operations, emphasis must be placed on safeguarding the quality of the experience, particularly along paths and ski trails. "Paths and ski trails" refers to all paths and ski trails which are marked, which are indicated in the N50 map series or which have corresponding use or are clearly evident in the terrain.</p> <p>Particular emphasis must be placed on outdoor interests in forest areas close to towns and</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>densely populated areas by selecting – among other things – the felling form and area size, and by avoiding damaging paths by driving over them.</p> <p>(...) The public have the general right to cross outlying fields and the right to pick berries and mushrooms within the scope defined by the Outdoor Recreation Act and other legislation.</p> <p>Commercial activity in forest areas must take place in a way that the actual content of the general right to free movement is maintained.</p> <p>Forest owners must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoors areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes, and give permission for the same when this does not contravene important commercial or ecological considerations. This does not alter the rights pursuant to the Outdoor Recreation Act.</p> <p>The requirement "Water protection" does not preclude the establishment of fishing locations, picnic areas and viewing areas unless this contravenes important commercial or ecological considerations.”</p>
<p>5.6.6 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 27. Cultural monuments and cultural environments</p> <p>“All cultural monuments predating 1537 and all Sami cultural monuments more than 100 years old are automatically protected, cf. the Cultural Heritage Act. Other known and valuable cultural monuments must also be taken into account.</p> <p>Forest owners are responsible for familiarising themselves with what cultural monuments are recorded in the forest, cf. the Askeladden or Kulturminnesøk databases, and to take these into account during felling and forest management. The regional cultural heritage authority must be consulted if felling or other forestry operations may conflict with protected cultural monuments.</p> <p>Trees can normally be felled at or next to cultural monuments. The greatest risk of destroying cultural monuments occurs when driving into terrain with forwarders/large forest tractors. Such vehicles should not be driven within 5 metres of known cultural artefacts.</p> <p>Ground must not be prepared less than 5 m away from the outer edge of the cultural monument and within registered cultural environments, cf. the requirement relating to cultural monuments and cultural environments.</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>(...) New forest must not be established on cultural land of less than 5 decares in the forest landscape. Forest may be established in exceptional cases in which reallocation is approved by the municipality pursuant to § 9 of the Land Act, provided that this does not conflict with valuable cultural monuments or cultural environments.”</p>
<p>5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. This shall be done, however, in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 5. Outdoor recreation</p> <p>“When carrying out forestry operations, emphasis must be placed on safeguarding the quality of the experience, particularly along paths and ski trails. (...) Particular emphasis must be placed on outdoor interests in forest areas close to towns and densely populated areas by selecting – among other things – the felling form and area size, and by avoiding damaging paths by driving over them.</p> <p>(...)Forest owners must assist, within the scope of reasonable commercial exploitation and privacy, with appropriate solutions for the construction of paths, ski trails, picnic areas, etc. and for outdoors areas for nurseries, schools and school activity schemes, and give permission for the same when this does not contravene important commercial or ecological considerations.”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 10. Felling</p> <p>“In frequently used outdoor areas, particular emphasis must be placed on exploiting opportunities for use of selective felling, ideally combined with small-scale clear cutting.</p> <p>(...)The size and adjustment of clear cutting and seed tree stand felling areas must be suited to the shapes and lines of the landscape. In frequently used outdoor recreation areas, emphasis must be placed on limiting and varying the size of the rejuvenation areas.</p> <p>In felling fields, there will often be smaller trees where felling would not be of financial interest. Emphasis must be placed on saving such trees.”</p>
<p>5.6.8 Forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to keep up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p> <p>“Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out felling and forestry operations has sufficient expertise. The skills of their own employees and hired labour should preferably be on a par with relevant expertise targets for the field of work in question in the specialist and vocational training for the forestry profession. For practical tasks, courses at Aktivt Skogbruk or the equivalent will suffice.”</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
practices described in this standard.		<i>Observation: the wording “should preferably be” does not result in a requirement and is therefore not auditable.</i>
5.6.9 Forest management practices shall make the best use of local forest-related experience and knowledge, such as those of local communities, forest owners, NGOs and local people.	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements</p> <p>“The forest owners shall manage the forest on the basis of relevant scientific research results and where appropriate use of local forest-related experience and knowledge of forestry.</p> <p>Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest owners are also obliged to contribute to the financing of common measures for the development of knowledge in the forestry, cf. the current fee for Research and Development.”</p>
5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 7 – paragraph Certificate holders - Individual certification</p> <p>“In addition the following specified in PEFC N 03 apply:</p> <p>55) Routines and documentation for compliance with Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, chapter 7.2”</p> <p>PEFC N 03 – Requirements for group certification - 7.2 Procedures and documentation for compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard</p> <p>“8. The certificate holder shall ensure that information about the practice of Norwegian PEFC forest standards are made available to the public and relevant interest groups, and to create conditions so that affected organizations should be able to be heard if they have input or comments relating to the certified business. All inquiries or complaints relating to the certified operations must be documented and answered in accordance with ISO 14001 and PEFC N 02 - requirement 9 Openness on environmental information”</p> <p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 9. Openness on environmental information</p> <p>“Requirements on environmental information pursuant to the Environmental Information Act on data from environmental records or other types of environmental information linked with administration of forest resources at the property must be provided when so requested. Information must be given as soon as possible and at the latest within a month after the reception of the requirement, cf. the Environmental Information Act § 18.”</p>
5.6.11 Forestry work shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health	YES	<p>PEFC N 02 – Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>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>“Forest owners who carry out felling or other forestry operations in their own forests must have the relevant knowledge on working techniques, safe use of equipment used and public provisions on protection of health, environment and safety.</p> <p>Forest owner must ensure that forestry operations carried out to order are documented in accordance with public provisions on protection of health, the environment and safety and in compliance with concluded agreements and tariff provisions for Norwegian wages and working conditions. An agreement on forestry operations must normally be concluded in writing between the parties.</p> <p>Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out felling and forestry operations has sufficient expertise. The skills of their own employees and hired labour should preferably be on a par with relevant expertise targets for the field of work in question in the specialist and vocational training for the forestry profession. For practical tasks, courses at Aktivt Skogbruk or the equivalent will suffice.”</p> <p>Working Environment Act (2012) - Section 3-1. Requirements regarding systematic health, environment and safety work</p> <p>“(1) In order to safeguard the employees’ health, environment and safety, the employer shall ensure that systematic health, environment and safety work is performed at all levels of the undertaking. This shall be carried out in cooperation with the employees and their elected representatives.</p> <p>(2) Systematic health, environment and safety work entails that the employer shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish goals for health, environment and safety, b) have an overall view of the undertaking’s organisation, including how responsibility, tasks and authority for work on health, environment and safety is distributed, c) make a survey of hazards and problems and, on this basis, assess risk factors in the undertaking, prepare plans and implement measures in order to reduce the risks, d) during planning and implementation of changes in the undertaking, assess whether the working environment will be in compliance with the requirements of this Act, and implement the necessary measures, e) implement routines in order to detect, rectify and prevent contraventions of requirements laid



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>down in or pursuant to this Act,</p> <p>f) ensure systematic prevention and follow-up of absence due to sickness,</p> <p>g) ensure continuous control of the working environment and the employees' health when necessitated by risk factors in the undertaking, cf. (c),</p> <p>h) conduct systematic supervision and review of the systematic work on health, environment and safety in order to ensure that it functions as intended.”</p>
<p>5.6.12 Working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 02 - Requirement 2. Workforce and safety</p> <p>“Forest owners who carry out felling or other forestry operations in their own forests must have the relevant knowledge on working techniques, safe use of equipment used and public provisions on protection of health, environment and safety.</p> <p>Forest owner must ensure that forestry operations carried out to order are documented in accordance with public provisions on protection of health, the environment and safety and in compliance with concluded agreements (...) for Norwegian (...) working conditions.</p> <p>Forest owners are responsible for ensuring that anyone carrying out felling and forestry operations has sufficient expertise.”</p> <p>Working Environment Act (2012) - Section 1-1. The purpose of the Act</p> <p>“The purpose of the Act is:</p> <p>a) to secure a working environment that provides a basis for a healthy and meaningful working situation, that affords full safety from harmful physical and mental influences and that has a standard of welfare at all times consistent with the level of technological and social development of society,</p> <p>b) to ensure sound conditions of employment and equality of treatment at work,</p> <p>c) to facilitate adaptations of the individual employee’s working situation in relation to his or her capabilities and circumstances of life,</p> <p>d) to provide a basis whereby the employer and the employees of undertakings may themselves safeguard and develop their working environment in cooperation with the employers’ and employees’ organisations and with the requisite guidance and supervision of the public</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>authorities, e) to foster inclusive working conditions.” Working Environment Act (2012) - Section 3-1. Requirements regarding systematic health, environment and safety work “(1) In order to safeguard the employees’ health, environment and safety, the employer shall ensure that systematic health, environment and safety work is performed at all levels of the undertaking. This shall be carried out in cooperation with the employees and their elected representatives. (2) Systematic health, environment and safety work entails that the employer shall: a) establish goals for health, environment and safety, b) have an overall view of the undertaking’s organisation, including how responsibility, tasks and authority for work on health, environment and safety is distributed, c) make a survey of hazards and problems and, on this basis, assess risk factors in the undertaking, prepare plans and implement measures in order to reduce the risks, d) during planning and implementation of changes in the undertaking, assess whether the working environment will be in compliance with the requirements of this Act, and implement the necessary measures, e) implement routines in order to detect, rectify and prevent contraventions of requirements laid down in or pursuant to this Act, f) ensure systematic prevention and follow-up of absence due to sickness, g) ensure continuous control of the working environment and the employees’ health when necessitated by risk factors in the undertaking, cf. (c), h) conduct systematic supervision and review of the systematic work on health, environment and safety in order to ensure that it functions as intended.”</p>
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	<i>Norway has ratified all the fundamental ILO conventions.</i>
5.6.14 Forest management shall be based inter-	YES	PEFC N 02 - Requirement 1. Manager responsibility and forest certification agreements

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.</p>		<p>“Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest owners are also obliged to contribute to the financing of common measures for the development of knowledge in the forestry, cf. the current fee for Research and Development.”</p>
<p>Criterion 7: Compliance with legal requirements</p>		
<p>5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 21. Relationship between laws and certification requirements</p> <p>“Regulatory provisions take precedence over the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard where laws and regulations regulate commercial activity in forests. Laws and regulations are binding for all who have their work in forestry.”</p> <p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 22. Summary of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry</p> <p>“Below is a list of the relevant laws and regulations of significance to sustainable forestry. The laws are sorted into:</p> <p>a) Laws and regulations which are relevant in respect of forestry and with regard to safeguarding environmental considerations.</p> <p>b) Laws and regulations which are relevant for other conditions linked with the practice of forestry, for all parties or for individual parties with special needs.</p> <p>All laws and regulations can be accessed at Lovdata (www.lovdato.no) and can be downloaded or printed from there.”</p>
<p>5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 21. Relationship between laws and certification requirements</p> <p>“The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on laws and regulations which regulate commercial activity in forests. Regulatory provisions take precedence over the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard where laws and regulations regulate commercial activity in forests.”</p> <p>General Civil Penal Code (Act) - §395 to 397</p> <p>“Section 395. Any person who unlawfully puts himself or another person in possession of real property, or who aids and abets thereto, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>exceeding three months.</p> <p>Section 396. Any person who without being entitled to do so builds, digs, uses explosives, sows or plants on, builds a road or footpath across, or drives livestock onto land in another person's possession, or who unlawfully makes other dispositions of real property in another person's possession to the detriment of the lawful possessor or contrary to his prohibition, or who aids and abets thereto, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months. If any boundary mark is obliterated by any such dispositions, imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months may be imposed.</p> <p>Section 397. Any person who exceeds his rights in relation to the corresponding rights of another person by exercising his rights to dispose of real property to a greater extent or in another manner than is lawful, or who aids and abets thereto, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.”</p> <p><i>The references do address the punishment of unauthorized activities. However, they do not ensure that forest management shall provide for adequate protection measures.</i></p>



Part IV: PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Certification And Accreditation Procedures

1 Scope

This document covers requirements for certification and accreditation procedures given in Annex 6 to the PEFC Council Technical Document (Certification and accreditation procedures).

2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC PROCEDURES	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
Certification Bodies				
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PEFC N 04 –1. Introduction “PEFC certification and auditing must be carried out by an objective and independent third party. Certification organisations cannot be responsible for standard definition processes or for decisions linked with these processes.”
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PEFC N 04 – 5.3 Certification of sustainable forestry, including group certification “The certification body must: a. Meet the general criteria for certification bodies as defined in NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021, plus supplementary requirements defined in this standard.”
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic,	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PEFC N 04 – 5.3 Certification of sustainable forestry, including group certification “The certification body must: b. Have a good knowledge and understanding of PEFC Norway's certification system for sustainable forestry.



No.	Question	Reference to PEFCC PROCEDURES	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
	social and environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?			c. Have the relevant expertise concerning forest management which includes economic, social and environmental aspects and the effects of forestry.”
4.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PEFC N 04 – 5.3 Certification of sustainable forestry, including group certification “The certification body must: b. Have a good knowledge and understanding of PEFC Norway’s certification system for sustainable forestry.”
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	PEFC N 04 – 6 Requirements for auditors “The certification organisation is responsible for ensuring that competent auditors are used who have relevant knowledge of the certification process and conditions linked with forest certification. Auditors must: b. Be fully conversant with the contents of the PEFC Norway certification system for sustainable forestry. c. Have the relevant expertise concerning forest management which includes economic, social and environmental aspects and the effects linked with active forestry. It is also considered important for this expertise to include knowledge of geographical variation.”
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	PEFC N 04 – 6 Requirements for auditors “Auditors must: a. Meet the requirements specified within the scope of accredited certification of management systems under ISO/IEC 17021 and the requirements for auditing of management systems specified in the standard NS-EN ISO 19011.”
7.	Does the scheme documentation	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	PEFC N 04 – 6 Requirements for auditors



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC PROCEDURES	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
	include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [*1]			“Qualified forestry expertise involves, as a minimum, a bachelor’s degree in forestry and four years of relevant practical experience of forestry or environmental administration linked with forestry. Qualified environmental expertise involves, as a minimum, a bachelor’s degree in forest ecology/forest biology and four years of relevant practical experience of forestry or environmental administration linked with forestry.”
Certification procedures				
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7 Certification and audit procedures “Certification organisations must establish internal procedures for the implementation of certification and auditing of sustainable forestry, including group certification of sustainable forestry.”
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 or ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7 Certification and audit procedures “The procedures must meet the requirements of NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and the requirements for auditing of management systems as specified in the standard NS-EN ISO 19011.”
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7 Certification and audit procedures “The procedures must meet the requirements of NS-EN ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and the requirements for auditing of management systems as specified in the standard NS-EN ISO 19011.”
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 07 – Ch. 5 The certification body's obligations “PEFC notified certification bodies must: c. Submit information to PEFC Norway without delay concerning all issued certificates in Norway and amendments to these. The scope of the information to



No.	Question	Reference to PEFCC PROCEDURES	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
	forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?			be reported is established by PEFC Norway.”
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 07 – Ch. 5 The certification body's obligations “PEFC notified certification bodies must: e. Verify that certificate holders's use of the PEFC logo is in line with the rules for use of the logo, cf. PEFC N 01 Chapter 10. Logo usage rules are given in PEFC ST 2001: 2008 v2 - PEFC Logo Usage Rules.”
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7.2 Frequency and scope of the certification body's follow-up “The certification body shall annually, and with maximum 12-month intervals, conduct follow-up audits.”
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7.2 Frequency and scope of the certification body's follow-up “The maximum period for recertification audits is five years.”
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7.3 Public certification report “A summary of the certification body's audit report must be prepared and published after each certification, recertification and follow-up audit.”
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC N 04 – 7 Certification and audit procedures “The certification bodies shall include relevant information from external parties (eg government agencies, organizations, etc.) as part of the audit evidence to determine the conformity with the Norwegian PEFC Forestry.”
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for	Annex 6, 4	NO	<i>No references are found including additional requirements. This is not an obligatory requirement.</i>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC PROCEDURES	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
	certification procedures? [*1]			
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	PEFC N 04 – 5.1 Accreditation “Certification bodies which carry out forest certification must be accredited for this. Accreditation is issued by Norwegian Accreditation or corresponding accreditation bodies included in the agreement of the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and/or EA (European cooperation for Accreditation) concerning mutual recognition.”
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC N 04 – 8.1 References on the certificate “The following references must be used on the certificate: The certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body.”
20.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF’s special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC N 04 – 10 Requirements for accreditation bodies “The accreditation body must be a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation body must also have implemented procedures described in ISO/IEC 17011:2004 and other documents recognised by the EA and IAF.”
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as “accredited	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC N 07 – Ch. 3. Conditions for notification “The certification body applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must: c. (...) Accreditation for forest certification must be issued pursuant to NS/EN



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC PROCEDURES	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
	certification” based on ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?			ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and supplementary requirements defined by PEFC Norway in PEFC N 04 – Requirements for certification bodies and accreditation bodies.”
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p>PEFC N 04 – 5.2 PEFC Notification</p> <p>“Certification bodies which carry out forest certification in Norway pursuant to PEFC Norway’s forest certification must be notified by PEFC Norway in accordance with PEFC N 07 – Instructions for notification of certification bodies.”</p>
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p>PEFC N 04 – 5.1 Accreditation</p> <p>PEFC N 07 – Ch. 3. Conditions for notification</p> <p><i>No references were found containing discriminatory measures.</i></p>



Part V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for System Specific Chain of Custody Standards

1 Scope

Part V is used for the assessment of scheme specific chain of custody standards against PEFC ST 2002:2010 (Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements).

2 Checklist

Not applicable. According to PEFC N 01, chapter 9, the Norwegian PEFC Scheme uses the PEFC International procedures for Chain of Custody, as is explained in PEFC N 01, chapter 9: “The chain of custody certification within the framework of the Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry is carried out pursuant to the requirements in PEFC International’s standard: PEFC ST 2002:2013 – Chain of custody for forest based products – requirements.” The Norwegian PEFC Scheme does therefore comply with PEFC’s requirements, no further assessment was carried out.



Part VI: PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Scheme Administration Requirements

1 Scope

Part VI is used for the assessment of requirements for the administration of PEFC schemes outlined in PEFC GD 1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme.

2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
PEFC Notification of certification bodies				
1.	The notifying body shall have written procedures for the PEFC notification which ensure that:			
1a.	the PEFC notified certification body is meeting the PEFC Council's and PEFC endorsed scheme's requirements for certification bodies,	Section 5.1a	YES	<p>PEFC N 07 – 3 Conditions for notification</p> <p>“The certification body applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must:</p> <p>d. Fulfill the requirements specified in Annex 6 – Certification and Accreditation Procedures and PEFC ST 2003:2012 – Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard.”</p> <p>PEFC N 07 – 5 The certification body's obligations</p> <p>“PEFC notified certification bodies must:</p> <p>a. Carry out certification of sustainable forestry and/or certification of group certificate holders and/or certification of traceability in Norway pursuant to PEFC Norway's certification system and within the application specified in the accreditation.”</p>
1b.	the scope of the PEFC notification, i.e. type of certification (forest management or chain of custody certification), certification standards and the country covered by the	Section 5.1b	YES	<p>PEFC N 07 – 3 Conditions for notification</p> <p>“The certification body applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must:</p>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
	notification, is clearly defined,			e. Accreditation must include the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard – PEFC N 02 and/or PEFC N 03 Requirements for group certification and/or traceability certification, PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements.”
1c.	the PEFC notification may be terminated by the notifying body in the case of the certification body’s non adherence to the conditions of the PEFC notification or in the case of the cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and the authorised body,	Section 5.1c	YES	<p>PEFC N 07 – 6 Validity of notification</p> <p>“PEFC notifications are valid in accordance with the validity period for accreditation. PEFC notification may be terminated or suspended by PEFC Norway if the contract is breached or if the terms for accreditation are no longer valid or in the case of cancellation of the contract between PEFC Council and PEFC Norway”</p>
1d.	the PEFC notification is based on a written contract between the notifying body and the PEFC notified certification body,	Section 5.1d	YES	<p>PEFC N 07 - 3 Conditions for notification</p> <p>“The certification body applying for PEFC notification from PEFC Norway must:</p> <p>f. Sign a PEFC notification contract with PEFC Norway (Annex 1)”</p> <p><i>The contents of such a notification contract was found in Annex 1.</i></p>
1e.	the PEFC notified certification body provides the notifying body with information on certified entities as required by the PEFC Registration System,	Section 5.1e	YES	<p>PEFC N 07 – 5 The certification body’s obligations</p> <p>“PEFC notified certification bodies must:</p> <p>c. Submit information to PEFC Norway without delay concerning all issued certificates in Norway and amendments to these. The scope of the information to be reported is established by PEFC Norway.”</p> <p>PEFC N 07 - Annex 1- Notification contract</p> <p>“Article 2: Responsibilities of the PEFC Notified Certification Body</p> <p>3. Provide the PEFC Norway immediately and truthfully with information on every forest management and / or chain of custody certificate issued to an organisation in the country covered by the PEFC notification and /or inform of any changes to already issued certificates within the range of data as</p>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
				specified by PEFC Norway. This includes information necessary to calculate the notification fees.”
1f.	the PEFC notification does not include any discriminatory measures, such as the certification body’s country of origin, affiliation to an association, etc.	Section 5.1f	YES	<i>No discriminatory measures are found in PEFC N 07.</i>
2.	The notifying body may charge a fee for the PEFC notification. The authorised body shall inform the PEFC Council about the level of its PEFC notification fees, when requested.	Section 5.2	YES	<p>PEFC N 07 – 5 The certification body’s obligations</p> <p>“PEFC notified certification bodies must:</p> <p>d. Pay PEFC Norway the annual PEFC notification fee. See Appendix 3 for PEFC notification charge tariffs. The tariffs are set and can be changed by the Council for PEFC Norway.”</p> <p><i>Although no specific reference was found about the obligation of PEFC Norway to inform the PEFC Council about the notification fees, when requested, these notification fees are made publicly available and are therefore accessible for PEFC Council.</i></p>
PEFC Logo usage licensing				
3.	Coverage of the PEFC Logo usage licence			
3a.	The PEFC Logo usage licence shall be issued to an individual legal entity based on the requirements of PEFC ST 2001:2008. Note: Where the PEFC certification covers several legal entities, for example where group and regional forest certification covers a number of forest owners / managers (independent legal entities) or where multi-site certification covers several	Section 6.1.1	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 –10 PEFC Logo usage</p> <p>“Application, registration and issuing of licenses</p> <p>PEFC Norway shall verify the fulfilment of the requirements and verify that the certified units are a legal entity and properly registered. (...) The PEFC Logo usage license shall be issued to an individual legal entity based on the requirements of PEFC ST 2001:2008.”</p>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
	sites which are legally independent entities, each legal entity shall apply for its own PEFC Logo usage licence.			
3b.	<p>The PEFC Council and authorised bodies may issue a PEFC Logo usage multi-licence to a holder of a multi-site chain of custody certificate, which covers the whole or a part of the multisite organisation provided that:</p> <p>a) the central office and the sites are a part of a single legal entity or</p> <p>b) the central office and the sites are a part of a single company with a single management and organisational structure.</p> <p>Note: The multi-licence cannot be issued to a multi-site chain of custody certificate holder where the sites are independent legal entities without a single management and organisational structure and where the multi-site organisation has only been created for the purpose of the PEFC certification.</p>	Section 6.1.2	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 –10 PEFC Logo usage</p> <p>“PEFC Norway may issue a PEFC Logo usage multi-license to a holder of a multi-site chain of custody certificate, which covers the whole part or a part of the multisite organisation provided that the central office and the sites are a part of a single legal entity or the central office and the sites are a part of a single company with a single management and organisational structure.”</p>
4.	The licensing body shall have written procedures for the PEFC Logo licensing which ensure that:			
4a.	the PEFC Logo usage licence is based on a written contract between the licensing body and the PEFC Logo user,	Section 6.2.1a	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 – 10 PEFC Logo Usage</p> <p>“Application, registration and issuing of licenses</p> <p>(...) The accepted applicants shall sign a logo license contract with PEFC Norway, and PEFC Norway will then issue the logo license confirmation</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
				document.”
4b.	the PEFC logo user complies with the PEFC Logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008),	Section 6.2.1b	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 - Appendix 1 Logo License Contract</p> <p>“Article 1: Definitions:</p> <p>1. The PEFC Logo Use Rules</p> <p>This is set of requirements for the use of the PEFC Logo defined in PEFC ST 2001:2008, which forms part of the contractual documentation</p> <p>Article 3: Responsibilities of the Logo User</p> <p>1. The logo user is obliged to use the PEFC logo in accordance with the PEFC Logo Use Rules and together with a registration number issued by the PEFC Norway so as to ensure that the logo user is identifiable on its basis.”</p>
4c.	the scope of the PEFC Logo usage (logo usage groups) is clearly defined,	Section 6.2.1c	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 – Ch. 10. PEFC Logo usage</p> <p>“PEFC Norway issue logo licenses to three groups of users:</p> <p>Group B: Forest owners and managers</p> <p>Forest owners and managers with PEFC Norway recognised forest management certificates and eligible entities participating in group certification</p> <p>Group C: Forest related industries</p> <p>Forest related industries, traders and sites with PEFC Norway recognised chain of custody certificates.</p> <p>Group D: Other users</p> <p>Organisations and other entities other than forest owners and managers and forest related industries and traders which are using the PEFC logo off product for promotional, educational or communication purposes.</p> <p>The logo usage group is clearly defined in the logo license contract.”</p>
4d.	the PEFC Logo usage licence can be	Section 6.2.1d	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 - Appendix 1 Logo License Contract</p>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
	<p>terminated by the licensing body in the case of the PEFC Logo user's non adherence to the conditions of the PEFC logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008) or in the case of cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and the authorised body,</p>			<p>“Article 6: Contract Termination 3. PEFC Norway may terminate the contract with immediate effect if there are reasons to believe that any of the terms of the contract or the PEFC Logo Use Rules are not being adhered to or in the case of cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and PEFC Norway.”</p>
4e.	<p>where unauthorised use has taken place, the PEFC Logo usage licence provides for contractual penalty of one fifth of the market value of the products to which the unauthorised logo use relates, unless the PEFC Logo user proves that such unauthorised use was unintentional. In the latter case, the penalty will be limited to 15,000 CHF.</p>	Section 6.2.1e	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 - Appendix 1 Logo License Contract “Article 5: Penalty 1. PEFC Norway may impose, in case of user group B and C, a contractual penalty of a CHF amount being one-fifth the market value of the products to which unauthorised on- or off-product logo use relates, unless the logo user proves that such unauthorised use was unintentional. In the latter case the penalty will be limited to 15,000 CHF.” PEFC N 01 –10 PEFC Logo usage “PEFC Norway issue logo licenses to three groups of users: Group B: Forest owners and managers (...) Group C: Forest related industries (...) Group D: Other users (...)”</p>
5.	<p>The licensing body shall have a mechanism for the investigation and enforcement of the compliance with PEFC Logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008) and shall take actions, including legal if necessary, to protect the PEFC Logo trademark.</p>	Section 6.2.2	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 – 10 PEFC Logo usage “PEFC Norway shall monitor the usage of PEFC logos and claims.” PEFC N 01 - Appendix 1 Logo License Contract “Article 2: Copyrights to the PEFC logo 1. (...) Unauthorised use of this copyright material is prohibited and may lead to legal action. (...). Article 5: Penalty</p>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
				<p>1. PEFC Norway may impose, in case of user group B and C, a contractual penalty of a CHF amount being one-fifth the market value of the products to which unauthorised on- or off-product logo use relates, (...).</p> <p>Article 7: Reporting and Presentation</p> <p>2. PEFC Norway has the right to request information about and access to all materials where the logo user has used the PEFC logo.</p> <p>Article 9: Other terms of the contract</p> <p>1. PEFC Norway reserves the right to carry out (by itself or to commission a third party to act on its behalf) an on-site inspection of the logo user's operations if it has received a complaint by third party or if PEFC Norway has reasons to believe that the contract is being contravened. The logo user shall bear responsibility for the costs of said inspection and any other detrimental effects."</p>
Requirements for administration of PEFC Scheme – Complaints and dispute procedures				
6.	<p>Complaints and dispute procedures</p> <p>The PEFC Council and the authorised bodies shall have written procedures for dealing with complaints relating to the governance and administration of the PEFC scheme.</p>	Section 8.1	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 –13 Disputes</p> <p>"Complaints related to PEFC Norway's management of the certification system shall be treated in a similar manner as in the treatment of disputes (checkpoints a-d)."</p>
7.	Upon receipt of the complaint, the procedures shall provide for:			
7a.	acknowledgement of the complaint to the complainant,	Section 8.2a	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 –13 Disputes</p> <p>"PEFC Norway must deal with disputes as follows:</p> <p>a. Acknowledge receipt of the appeal."</p>
7b.	gathering and verification of all necessary information, validation and impartial	Section 8.2b	YES	<p>PEFC N 01 –13 Disputes</p>



No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO	Reference to application documents
	evaluation of the complaint, and decision making on the complaint,			“PEFC Norway must deal with disputes as follows: b. Collect and check the necessary information, validate information and undertake an impartial assessment before making a decision in the form of a ruling.”
7c.	formal communication of the decision on the complaint and the complaint handling process to the complainant and concerned parties,	Section 8.2c	YES	PEFC N 01 –13 Disputes “PEFC Norway must deal with disputes as follows: d. Formally report the results of the appeal and the appeals process to the appellant.”
7d.	appropriate corrective and preventive actions.	Section 8.2d	YES	PEFC N 01 –13 Disputes “PEFC Norway must deal with disputes as follows: e. Based on the results, take appropriate corrective and preventive actions.”



Annex 2 Results of Stakeholder Survey

The paragraphs below present the summarized results of the stakeholder survey conducted by the Assessor.

General

In total 10 stakeholders responded to the request to fill-out the questionnaire:

- 1 state forest owner
- 3 private forest owner (including cooperatives)
- 2 forest / timber related business / industry
- 1 environmental NGO
- 1 contractor
- 1 organization for outdoor recreation
- 1 certification body

Participation in the process

In total 7 respondents also participated in the Working Committee. All respondents received information on the standard setting process by personal letter or E-mail, and they were all of the opinion that PEFC Norway provided them with relevant information to participate in the standard setting process.

Stakeholder identification and balanced representation

According to 8 respondents, all stakeholders that are relevant to the revision process have been proactively identified and invited. One respondent didn't know and one respondents disagreed: "individuals that had several complaints on the standard, or certified companies have not been invited. E.g Tor Erik Jelstad, Per Wegge. The individuals are probably not invited since there are no central register of complainants in PEFC- Norway, or PEFC- Norway has not collect data from their members in respect to complainants".

In total 6 respondents were of the opinion that the stakeholder representatives in the Working Committee represented the range of interest in forest management in Norway, 4 respondents disagreed. However, 8 respondents (including most respondents that were of the opinion that the Working Committee represented the range of interest) commented that the Environmental NGO's and Outdoor Organizations (although invited) should have participated in the Working Committee, and several respondents regretted that these stakeholders refused to participate.

Complaints

According to one respondent there were two complaints related to the revision process:

- "There were complaints to the actual process from the relevant environmental and outdoor organizations who believe that this work no longer has credibility since this group is not included"



- “There were complaints (...) from forest actor SB Skog believes the audit work has been an all too closed process.”

The Assessor is aware of the first issue and saw the communication between the NGO's and PEFC Norway at the start of the revision. However, the letter of the environmental NGO's is not read as a complaint, though as a request for adjustments in the standard and standard setting process.

Regarding the second issues, PEFC Norway explained that they are not aware of such a complaint and likely this complaint was not submitted to PEFC Norway.

During the stakeholder survey, one of the certification organizations submitted a complaint to both PEFC Norway which was also forwarded to the Assessor. The main topics from this complaint were (translated with Google Translate):

- “We believe there is an imbalance in the composition of PEFC Council while PEFC Council has not been found to be able to take the most important of our suggestions for improvement / systematics of intelligence. (...) While we do not doubt that some within the forestry industry itself can safeguard such biodiversity, we believe the credibility of the system of the present composition is not increased. [Complainant] believes the current composition of the PEFC Council could be improved to meet the above words the principles of PEFC and Agenda 21. We consider it necessary to more representatives beyond pure business interests to ensure the credibility of the standard (eg. The preservation organization, FRIFO mf).”

(Assessor's note: It is assumed that the word “PEFC Council” should be read as “Working Committee”).

- “We see a need for improvement of the standard itself and the way it is handled in relation to the points we knocked into the hearing. While we understand that the standard design is a democratic process, we see that several points that we consider essential are not included in the new edition of the standard. In winter chose one of our customers to change the certification body outside normal certification cycle, which for us further clarifies the need for change in the standard / handling of the standard in relation to our input, we believe change is based on the management of the standard.”

Working Committee

All respondents that were member of the Working Committee positively answered to the questions whether:

- All stakeholders in the Working Committee have expertise relevant to the subject matter;
- Records (or minutes) have been kept from meetings of the Working Committee;
- They received invitations for meetings and documents in a timely manner;



- All working draft documents have been available to all members of the Working Committee;
- They have been provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts;
- Comments and views submitted by any member of the Working Committee have been considered in an open and transparent way;
- The public consultation of the scheme documentation lasted for at least 60 days;
- All comments received during the public consultation have been considered in an objective manner by the Working Committee;
- The decision of the Working Committee to recommend the final draft for formal approval was taken on the basis of consensus.

Aspects for further consideration

Only one respondent brought up several aspects for further consideration, namely the complaints mentioned above.

Consequences to the overall assessment decision

All the above findings are further taken into account in the assessment of the respective topics / requirements. The main concern resulting from the stakeholder survey is the absence of the environmental NGO's and outdoor recreation organizations in the Working Committee (it should however be noted that the Association of Intermunicipal Outdoor Recreation Boards participated in the Working Committee). Most respondents however explained that these organization were invited and chose by themselves not to participate.

Stakeholders that were invited for the survey

Stakeholder	Sector
Det Norske Veritas	Certification Bodies/ Accreditation Bodies
Intertek Semco	Certification Bodies/ Accreditation Bodies
NEMKO	Certification Bodies/ Accreditation Bodies
Norsk Akkreditering	Certification Bodies/ Accreditation Bodies
Swedac	Certification Bodies/ Accreditation Bodies
SKANSKA	Construction Client
Statsbygg	Construction Client
FLT	Employee organization
LO/Fellesforbundet	Employee organization
Naturviterne	Employee organization
The Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions	Employee organization



Stakeholder	Sector
(Arvid Eikeland)	
YS	Employee organization
Bellona	ENGO's
Biofokus	ENGO's
Framtiden i våre hender	ENGO's
Natur og Ungdom	ENGO's
Naturvernforbundet	ENGO's
Nordisk kulturlandskapsforbund	ENGO's
Norges sopp- og nyttevekstforbund	ENGO's
Norsk Biologiforening	ENGO's
Norsk Botanisk forening	ENGO's
Norsk entomologisk forening	ENGO's
Norsk Limnologisk forening	ENGO's
Norsk Ornitologisk forening	ENGO's
Norsk Zoologisk forening	ENGO's
SABIMA	ENGO's
WWF Norge	ENGO's
ZERO	ENGO's
Maskinentreprenørenes forbund	Entrepreneur organization
Norwegian Ass. of Heavy Equipment Contractors (Ivar K Hoff)	Entrepreneur organization
Allskog SA	Forest Owner Org.
AT Skog SA	Forest Owner Org.
Bondelaget	Forest Owner Org.
Glommen Skog SA	Forest Owner Org.
Havass Skog SA	Forest Owner Org.
Mjøsen Skog SA	Forest Owner Org.
Norges Bonde- og småbrukarlag	Forest Owner Org.
Norges Skogeierforbund	Forest Owner Org.
NORSKOG	Forest Owner Org.
Oslo kommune	Forest Owner Org.
Sogn og Fjordane Skogeigarlag SA	Forest Owner Org.
Statskog	Forest Owner Org.
The Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation (Johannes Bergum)	Forest Owner Org.
The Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation (Nils Bøhn)	Forest Owner Org.
The Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation (Simon Thorsdal)	Forest Owner Org.
The Norwegian Forestry Association (Erling Bergsaker)	Forest Owner Org.
Vestskog SA	Forest Owner Org.
Viken Skog SA	Forest Owner Org.
Fylkesmannen i Aust-Agder	Government
Fylkesmannen i Buskerud	Government
Fylkesmannen i Finnmark	Government
Fylkesmannen i Hedmark	Government



Stakeholder	Sector
Fylkesmannen i Hordaland	Government
Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal	Government
Fylkesmannen i Nordland	Government
Fylkesmannen i Nord-Trøndelag	Government
Fylkesmannen i Oppland	Government
Fylkesmannen i Oslo og Akershus	Government
Fylkesmannen i Østfold	Government
Fylkesmannen i Rogaland	Government
Fylkesmannen i Sogn og Fjordane	Government
Fylkesmannen i Sør-Trøndelag	Government
Fylkesmannen i Telemark	Government
Fylkesmannen i Troms	Government
Fylkesmannen i Vest-Agder	Government
Fylkesmannen i Vest-Agder	Government
Fylkesmannen i Vestfold	Government
Fylkesmennene (18 stk)	Government
Kommunal- og regionaldepartementet	Government
Landbruks- og Matdepartementet	Government
Landbruksdirektoratet (Norwegian Agriculture Agency) (Hans Asbjørn Sørlie)	Government
Miljødirektoratet (Norwegian Environment Agency) (Kjersti Wannebo Nilsen)	Government
Miljøverndepartementet	Government
Miljøverndirektoratet	Government
Nærings- og handelsdepartementet	Government
Statens landbruksforvaltning	Government
The Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association (Even Gullin)	Industry
The Norwegian Sawmill Industries' Association (Heidi Kielland)	Industry
Grønn byggallianse	Industry and trade
Hovedorganisasjonen Virke (byggevarerhandelen)	Industry and trade
Norsk bygdesagforening	Industry and trade
Norsk lauvtreprodusenters forening	Industry and trade
Norsk Trevare	Industry and trade
Treforedlingsindustrien landsforbund	Industry and trade
Treindustrien	Industry and trade
Kvinner i Skogbruket	Other
Miljømerking	Other
Norges Bygdeungdomslag	Other
Sametinget	Other
Skiforeningen	Other
Skogbrukets Landsforening	Other
Skogselskapet	Other
Syklistenes landsforbund	Other
Norsk institutt for naturforskning	R&D and Education
Norsk institutt for Skog og Landskap	R&D and Education



Stakeholder	Sector
Norsk Treteknisk institutt	R&D and Education
Skogkurs	R&D and Education
Universitet for miljø- og biovitenskap	R&D and Education
The Ass. of Intermunicipal Outdoor Recreation Boards (Morten Dåsnes)	Recreation
Den norske turistforening	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Frilutsrådenes landsforbund	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Norges Cykleforbund	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Norges Jeger og Fiskerforbund	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Norges Orienteringsforbund	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Norges Skiforbund	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Norges Speiderforbund	Recreation and hunting/fishing
Norsk Friluftsliv	Recreation and hunting/fishing
The State-owned Land and Forest Company (Jostein Saus)	State Forest Owner
NEG Skog AS	Timber purchase/trade
Nortømmer	Timber purchase/trade
SB Skog	Timber purchase/trade

The questionnaire

Questionnaire for the revision process of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Certification System for Sustainable Forestry

Indicate your answer by putting an **X** on the dotted line. Please explain your answers as much as possible by giving comments or remarks, **either in English or Norwegian**.

1. What stakeholder category do you represent?	<p>... Forest owner / manager (state)</p> <p>... Forest owner / manager (private)</p> <p>... Forest / wood related industry / business</p> <p>... Non-governmental organisation (forest / ecology)</p> <p>... Authorities (public administration or local government)</p> <p>... Forest science (university or research centre)</p> <p>... Trade union</p> <p>... Contractor (for forest operations)</p>
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	<p>... Organization for outdoor recreation</p> <p>... Other:</p>
<p>2. Did you actively participate in the revision process ?</p> <p>If no, why not?</p>	<p>... Yes, as a member of the Working Committee, responsible for the revision work</p> <p>... Yes, by providing comments during the Public Consultation on the draft revised scheme</p> <p>... Other: ...</p> <p>... No participation, because:</p>
<p>3. a) <u>How</u> did you find out about the revision process?</p> <p>b) <u>When</u> were you invited to participate on the revision of the Norwegian PEFC Scheme?</p>	<p>... Newspaper or magazine</p> <p>... Website of</p> <p>... Personal letter or email</p> <p>... Other: ...</p> <p>Please indicate day, month and year: / /</p>
<p>4. What was your main concern and your interest to participate in the revision process?</p>	<p>Concern:</p> <p>Interest:</p>
<p>5. Did the organizers provide you with relevant material to participate in the scheme revision?</p>	<p>... Yes, because</p> <p>... No, because</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>6. In your opinion, have all stakeholders that are relevant to the revision process been proactively identified and invited, including disadvantaged stakeholders?</p>	<p>... Yes</p> <p>... No, other stakeholders that should have been identified and invited:</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>Comments or remarks:</p>
<p>7. a) Did the stakeholder representatives in Working Committee represent the range of interest in forest management in your country?</p>	<p>... Yes</p> <p>... No, other interest groups that should have</p>



<p>If not, which other interest groups should have been involved?</p> <p>b) Did the Working Committee, to your opinion, have a balanced representation of various stakeholder categories?</p>	<p>been involved:</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>... Yes</p> <p>... No, underrepresented stakeholder categories:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>... I don't know</p>
<p>8. a) Are you aware of any substantive or procedural complaints related to the revision process, brought forward by you or any other stakeholder?</p> <p>b) In case of any complaints, have these been validated and objectively evaluated?</p>	<p>... Yes, there was a complaint about</p> <p>... No</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>... Yes</p> <p>... No</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>

Questions 9 – 16 are for Working Committee members only.

If you did participate in the Working Committee, please continue with question 9.

If you did NOT participate in the Working Committee, please continue with question 17.

<p>9. Did all stakeholders in the Working Committee have expertise relevant to the subject matter?</p>	<p>... Yes</p> <p>... No</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>10. a) Have records (or minutes) been kept from meeting of the Working Committee?</p> <p>b) How did you receive invitations for Working Committee meetings and documents?</p>	<p>... Yes</p> <p>... No</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>... By mail</p> <p>... By E-mail</p> <p>... By other means: ...</p>



<p>c) Did you receive invitations for meetings and documents <i>in a timely manner</i>?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>11. Have all <i>working draft documents</i> been available to all members of the Working Committee?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>12. Have you been provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>13. Have comments and views submitted by any member of your Working Committee been considered in an open and transparent way?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>14. Has the public consultation of the scheme documentation lasted for at least 60 days?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>15. Have all comments received during the <i>public consultation</i> been considered in an objective manner by the Working Committee?</p>	<p>... Yes. Please explain:</p> <p>... No. Please explain:</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<p>16. a) Was the decision of the Working Committee to recommend the final draft for formal approval taken on the basis of <i>consensus</i>?</p> <p>b) In case no consensus was reached on certain issues, how was the issue</p>	<p>... Yes, the issue was resolved in the following way:</p> <p>... No, the issue was resolved in the following way:</p> <p>... I don't know</p>



resolved?	Remarks:
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To be answered by all stakeholders:

17. Do you believe any aspects of the Norwegian PEFC scheme deserve further consideration in this assessment?	<p>... Yes. Please specify: ...</p> <p>... No</p> <p>... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
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Please return the answers latest by 8th of July 2015.

You can direct your response by e-mail to:

a.polinder@forminternational.nl

Thank you for your time and cooperation



Annex 3 Results of International Consultation

The International Consultation has resulted in two responses, with a similar comment:

Comment	Assessor's response
<p>There are numerous references to ISO 14001 throughout the Scheme documentation. This restricts the number and type of Certification Bodies who may carry out PEFC Forest Management Certification in Norway in a discriminatory manner. My understanding of the requirements is that Certification Bodies must be accredited to deliver ISO 14001 certification, since all PEFC FM Certificate Holders must be certified to ISO 14001, and the Certification Body is obliged to include a reference to ISO 14001 on any certificate issued. This also places an additional burden on applicants, who also need to comply with ISO 14001 requirements, although this is not stated in the PEFC Forest Management Standard. In theory, they could meet the PEFC requirements and fail on the ISO 14001 requirements, and hence not be entitled to receive a PEFC Certificate. Soil Association Certification Ltd is accredited in the UK for PEFC FM and worldwide for PEFC COC. We also are accredited by Accreditation Services International for FSC FM and COC worldwide, and have 6 FSC FM Groups certified in Norway. We would like to be able to deliver PEFC FM in Norway also but do not hold ISO 14001 accreditation, and believe that this should not be a necessary requirement for PEFC FM in Norway, as it places an additional accreditation burden on us; and favours the larger multi-national CBs with multiple accreditations. We believe Norway is unique in the world in demanding this extra requirement, and believe it should be removed.</p> <p>References in PEFC FM scheme documentation for Norway: Appendix 1, Annex 4 (paras 7.1, 7.2, 8.1); Annex 3, 7.1; Appendix 3, Part 3 Checklist 4.1a) and d).</p>	<p>The Norwegian PEFC Scheme indeed requests from all FM Certificate Holders (either individual or group FM) to be ISO 14001 certified: PEFC N 01 - 11. PEFC Norway's management system requirements "PEFC Norway requires companies to be approved as group certificate holders and forest properties which are directly certified to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001."</p> <p>The assessor agrees that this puts an extra burden on both the applicants and the certifying bodies, it is however not against the International PEFC requirements, as it is up to PEFC Norway, in intensive consultation with and participation of stakeholders, to define the national requirements for forest management certification.</p> <p>To the opinion of the Assessor it could not be considered discriminatory as all CB's are free to apply for ISO accreditation.</p>
<p>For the Norwegian PEFC scheme, there are numerous references to ISO 14001 throughout the Scheme documentation. This seriously restricts the possibilities for Certification Bodies to achieve accreditation for PEFC Forest Management Certification in Norway in a discriminatory manner.</p> <p>As it is written now in the scheme documentation, it is</p>	<p>This issue is the same as the previous comment. See the Assessor's response above.</p>



our understanding of the requirements that Certification Bodies must be accredited to deliver ISO 14001 certification, since all PEFC FM Certificate Holders must be certified to ISO 14001, and the Certification Body is obliged to include a reference to ISO 14001 on any certificate issued. This places a burden on Certification Bodies, which do not hold multiple ISO accreditation.

This also places an additional burden on applicants, who need to comply with ISO 14001 requirements, although this is not stated in the PEFC Forest Management Standard. In theory, they could meet the PEFC requirements and fail on the ISO 14001 requirements, and hence not be entitled to receive a PEFC Certificate, which seems restrictive for especially smaller group schemes or single-site forest managements.

Orbicon A/S works in association with Soil Association Certification Ltd providing PEFC COC certification and FSC FM and COC certification in Scandinavia. Soil Association Certification Ltd is accredited in the UK for PEFC FM and worldwide for PEFC COC and by Accreditation Services International for FSC FM and COC worldwide. Currently, we have six FSC FM Groups certified in Norway. We would like to be able to deliver PEFC FM in Norway, but under Soil Association, we do not hold accreditation to issue ISO 14001 certificates even though we meet all other requirements for Certification Bodies.

If the ISO 14001 remains a requirement under the Norwegian PEFC scheme in order to deliver PEFC FM certification, it is a restriction for both certification bodies and for forest managements and group schemes.

We believe that this should not be a necessary requirement for PEFC FM in Norway, as it places an additional accreditation burden on us as CB; and favours the larger multi-national CBs with multiple accreditations. We believe Norway is unique in the world in demanding this extra requirement, and believe it should be removed.

References to ISO 14001 in PEFC FM scheme documentation for Norway: Appendix 1, Annex 4 (paras 7.1, 7.2, 8.1); Annex 3, 7.1; Appendix 3, Part 3 Checklist 4.1a) and d).



Annex 4 Panel of Experts' Comments

Three panel of experts members have commented on this assessment. Their comments are presented in the table below, including the responses from the consultant. Minor adaptations have been made to the text of the report as indicated in the consultant's responses.

Report chapter / Page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member comment	Consultant's response
General Statement on Report Quality			
General		This is a clear and well-structured assessment report. In the beginning of the report I found too much descriptive text explaining the content and structure of the report as well as of the assessment work as such. The report itself is already self-explanatory as to the content and structure. Fewer words are always better solution!	The Assessor strives to keep the report as short as possible. However, the structure of the report, including the introductory parts, are obligatory as they are to be in accordance with PEFC GD 1007-03:2012 and the PEFC Secretariat's clarification concerning the content of the assessment report (clarification 30/10/12).
General		A well-presented report of a scheme that is not very straightforward because it often makes reference to legal requirements, to the national inventory system in Norway and sometimes to obligations through ISO 14001.	Comment is clear.
General		1.) The assessment is a comprehensive and robust desk study based on the relevant documents and communication between the assessor and PEFC Norway as well as on questionnaires to stakeholders with a low return rate (as usual). It is well structured and	Several responses to specific issues: 1) "Assessor ought to point out existing weaknesses and the need for improvement of the original text": The first focus of the assessment work is to assess whether the Applicant's Scheme is

		<p>may even serve as an example for other assessments of national systems. It is easy to read and there are only a few mistakes / typing errors to be corrected, many more unfortunately in quotations of the Norwegian Standards. I am fully aware that the assessment cannot change / improve / correct quotations, but the assessor ought to point out existing weaknesses and the need for improvement of the original text (i.e. PEFC Norway). A revision process is a unique, if not the only possibility to not only alter / improve contents but also to improve formal weaknesses.</p> <p>In total it shows the experience of Form International having dealt with almost 20 other PEFC systems in Europe and abroad. It also reflects the strength of a well established systems and their revision of the national standard, particularly against other systems which may even be called rather unsatisfactory. I do not only share the assessment’s positive recommendation to the Board of the PEFC for re-endorsement, which is a conditional one (time limit of 6 months), but also the conclusions, recommendations (CAR) and observations as well as the selection of examples supporting his view (f.e. the Working Committee with members and observers, its</p>	<p>in conformity with PEFC’s requirement. Whenever the Assessor finds other weaknesses, these are included as observation. No recommendations are made for further improvement, as the current report should solely assess the conformity of the Scheme without any proposals or advices for improvement. Where appropriate, the Assessor has updated the observations based on the Panel of Experts’ comments.</p> <p>2) “International legislation (Conventions) should normally all be mentioned in 1 chapter / at 1 place” As the assessments focuses on the specific PEFC requirements, references to conventions / legislation are only made if applicable for the specific requirement.</p> <p>3) “Instead of elk browsing (elk = wapiti!) most likely reindeer or moose?” The Assessor assumes that PEFC Norway uses the Eurasian name for moose, which is elk.</p> <p>4) “The final report should clarify whether there are 2 or only 1 union” The Working Committee finally contained a representative of the Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions, which according to PEFC Norway is an employee</p>
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		<p>unbalanced structure, the ENGO issue etc. several vague phrases "should preferably be" or "in plenty time" etc.). My feeling is, that several vague expressions are due to insufficient translations from the Norwegian original into the English language (which the assessment underlines).</p> <p>2.) International legislation (Conventions) should normally all be mentioned in 1 chapter / at 1 place (f.e. p.141 or p. 147) in order to see whether they are ratified or not (and implemented): ILO, CBD, WA, Bern, Stockholm et.al.)</p> <p>Instead of elk browsing (elk = wapiti!) most likely reindeer or moose? In doubtful cases the scientific name may helps (p. 48, 129, 5.4.5, 133, 19). This distinguish for Norway is important because of the responsibility (moose = game = public / municipality and reindeer = private herd animals). The final report should clarify whether there are 2 or only 1 union (trade and labour /employees) (see p. 69 and 78).</p>	<p>organization. The proposed representative of the Labour Union finally did not participate in the Working Committee. This is further explained under requirement 4.4 b.</p>
Specific Findings			
p.6	Content of the list of acronyms	If PEFC GD and PEFC ST have been listed here, why PEFC TD and PEFC IGD have been left out?	Updated in the report.
1. p.7	The Norwegian PEFC Scheme was first endorsed by PEFC in 2000. The	The Norwegian scheme has been re-endorsed already twice and the present is the fourth	The current endorsement is indeed the fourth endorsement, which means that the current



	second revision took place from April 2013 to January 2015.	endorsement, if I am right (?)	revision is the third. This is updated in the report.
1. p.7	Form has carried out conformity assessments for PEFC, such as the standards of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, etc...	All PEFC conformity assessments have been made by analysing the total SCHEMES, not only standards	Updated in the report.
3.3 p. 15	<p>There are however 2 non-conformities found (both are classified as minor):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Assessor, the Committee was too much dominated by forest owners and forest industry, whereas scientific organisations, social groups (including Sami representatives), labour unions and governmental organisations were not included or only participated as observer, without decision rights (req. 4.4.b). Although it is understood that it was the decision of the environmental NGO's not to participate in the Working Committee, the absence of these stakeholders and the previously mentioned stakeholder groups resulted in a Committee dominated by commercial actors; • The time between the publication and application date (req. 6.3) could not be assessed as the application date is not yet established. 	<p>Non-conformity cannot be described as “According to the Assessor the committee was...”</p> <p>Non-conformance exist, if the process does not fulfil requirements; after finding the non-conformance the assessor can decide if the non-conformance is major or minor. These two minor NCs should be presented by analysing the process against requirements like on pages 22-25.</p> <p>Some more explanations could be worthwhile from PEFC Norway in order to understand the structure of the committee!!!! - It is difficult to understand that national PEFC organisations so easily give ENGOs good grounds for criticism against PEFC!</p> <p>for req. 6.3. see below</p>	<p>The formulation of such non-conformities is adjusted.</p> <p>It shall be noted that chapter 3 is a summary of the findings and does therefore provide a summary of the findings, in contrast to the full descriptions such as provided on pages 22-25.</p>



	This date will be the same as the re-endorsement date by PEFC Council.		
3.3 p.15 and 5.1 p.25	6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.	The more I read the req. 6.3. the more confused I am. The existence of the period is argued to have reasonable time for endorsements, information dissemination and training. However, the time is limited to one year. And often this time gap is more than one year, which give good opportunities for training etc.! In the Norwegian case this non-conformance is very very minor. I cannot see much content or substance in req. 6.3!	The Assessor concluded that if the requirement could not be assessed, whereas it is applicable, it automatically results in a non-conformity.
3.4 p.15 and p. 34	“No references were found ensuring that management plans or their equivalent are elaborated and periodically updated for plots smaller than 100 decares i.e. 10 hectares (req. 5.1.4);”	An interesting question is: what does “Management plan or its equivalent” mean for a forest farm which size is less than 10 hectares! For sure it is not economical to have a forest management plan for only couple of hectares of forest land, but what precisely could mean “its equivalent” – and how this equivalent can be periodically updated – This non-conformity is very very minor!	The PEFC requirement does not make an exception for small forest areas, but provides space for the type of forest management plan in the wording “equivalent”. Even a small forest areas needs a certain planning, which is covered by this requirement.
3.4 p.15 and p. 35	No reference was found ensuring publication of the summary of the forest management measures to be applied by independently certified forest managers with a FMU smaller than 1000 hectares (req. 5.1.6);	the requirement says: “A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management...” not summaries of forest management measures. The evidence on p. 35 does not refer to FMUs smaller than 1000 hectares – it is unclear where the consultant’s comment is based on.	The requirement does contain several sub requirements of what shall be contained in the summary: “contains information about the forest management measures to be applied”. The references sufficiently provide evidence for certificate holders (PEFC N 03 – Ch. 7.2, par. 9) and for independently certified forest managers that have to develop a landscape



			<p>plan (PEFC N 02 – Req. 3), as the landscape plan does contain information on planned forest management measures. However, only those forest managers that have forest areas exceeding 1000 hectares are obliged to develop a landscape plan.</p> <p>No other reference could be found obliging forest owners with an FMU smaller than 1000 hectares to make their planned forest management measures publicly available. Further explanation is provided in the report.</p>
<p>P 15 3.4 & p 106 5.1.4 Also p 15 & p 06 5.1.4</p>	<p>“No references were found ensuring that management plans or their equivalents are elaborated and periodically updated for plots smaller than 100 decares”</p> <p>“no reference is found which sufficiently ensures periodical evaluation of the management of the forest resources and that the results will be fed back into the planning processes.”</p>	<p>These are indeed the case. Altogether it was difficult to untangle the planning process given that much of the data on which plans will be based are derived from the national inventory process and are available on “Kilden”.</p> <p>These issues can reasonably be labelled minor non-conformities that the Norwegians must respond to. In so doing perhaps they could be required to explain more clearly what is the planning process, and the planning revision process, for different sized FMUs throughout the forest estate.</p>	<p>Comment is clear.</p>
<p>3.3 p.15 and p.</p>	<p>No reference is found which sufficiently ensures periodical evaluation of the management of forest resources and that the results will be fed back into the planning process.</p>	<p>Data bases of forest inventories are storages of collected data – these are not established to evaluate management operations, although they point out the results of the management operations – there is a lack of instruments in the Norwegian system, if inventories and data</p>	<p>The provided evidence does sufficiently ensure the inventory of most environmental (both ecological and non-ecological) aspects, which covers part of the requirement. The Assessor agrees that this does not sufficiently cover the inventory of the forest to assess the</p>



		bases were the only evidence for this req. Is this NC minor ?	management of the forest. It is however considered minor as it is unlikely to have a critical effect on the proper implementation of the objectives of the certification scheme.
3.3 p.16 and 38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Two issues are found related to requirement 5.1.11: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oThe references insufficiently ensure that conversion of forests to other types of land use shall only entail a small proportion of forest type; oThe provided references insufficiently ensure that the conversion makes a contribution to long-term conservation benefits; Therefore it is not ensured that forest conversion is only allowed if all requirements (a, b, c, and d) are met; 	relevant NC – evidence is insufficient; CAR OK	Comment is clear.
3.3 p.16 and 38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No references were found ensuring that forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorized activities (req. 5.7.2). 	relevant NC – evidence is insufficient; CAR OK	Comment is clear.
P 16 3.4 & p 110 5.1.11	“The references insufficiently ensure that conversion of forests to other types of land use shall only entail a small proportion of forest type”	A case could be made that this is covered under the Nature Diversity Act (2009) Section 8 where it states that the decision should be based on knowledge of “the range and ecological status of habitat types”?	The requirement 5.1.11 explicitly states that the conversion shall only entail a small proportion of forest type. The wording “knowledge of the range and ecological status of habitat types” does not necessarily ensure a small proportion. E.g. in the case of a very common forest type, it might be decided to convert a large areas, which is not allowed under the PEFC

			requirement.
P 16 3.4 last bullet point & p 148 5.7.2	“No references were found ensuring that forest management shall provide adequate protection of the forest from unauthorized activities”	The quote given on page 148 from PEFC N01 Ch. 21 that “the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on (Norwegian) laws and regulations...” together with the second quote from the “General Civil Penal Code (Act)...” seem to me to cover this point; so long as it is accepted that forest managers are expected to be law abiding. Perhaps labelling this as a minor non-conformity is a bit severe?	The references indeed provide sufficient evidence that no unauthorized activities shall be conducted by forest management. However, the requirement does require that forest management shall take action to protect the forest from illegal activities conducted by others. This is not sufficiently covered by the references.
P 20 5.1 second bullet point, &	“..uses here the wording ‘in plenty of time’, which is relatively vague...(as against) the wording ‘in a timely manner (used in the PEFC international procedures)”	In my view ‘in plenty of time’ is no more or less vague than ‘in a timely manner’. There may also be a matter of translation involved.	It shall be noted that either ‘timely manner’ or ‘plenty of time’ need further specification for the national context. This type of wording is typical for a meta standard. However, at national level this wording needs a definition which represents the local context.
7.1 p. 50	. This standard is clearly structures , but relatively extensive	or clearly structured (?)	Updated in the report.
11.1 p.57	Accreditation for forest certification must be issued pursuant to NS/EN ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and supplementary requirements defined by PEFC Norway in PEFC N 04. For chain of custody certification, accreditation must be issued pursuant to NS/EN ISO/IEC 17065.	NS/EN not found in the list of acronyms, p. 6	Updated in the report.
Editorial Comments			
At various points	“rejuvenation”	The Norwegian text constantly refers to “rejuvenation” (which strictly means making	The Assessor assumed it a translation issue. The word regeneration is used in PEFC N 05

		young again) when the accepted term is “regeneration” (creating a new generation). As it is found in the Norwegian text I am not suggesting a change throughout but perhaps when “rejuvenation” is first used the word “regeneration” can be inserted behind in brackets,	Glossary and Definitions (this document does not use the word rejuvenation). A general observation is added to the report.
p. 7 chapter 2	The PEFC’s decision PEFC’s decision ... (delete: the)	Updated in the report.
p. 9	b. Assessment of the sustainable forest management standard	This heading should be in the beginning of the next page	Updated in the report.
p. 10	1.5. Assessment process	This heading should be in the beginning of the next page	Updated in the report.
1.5.1 p.11	The international.... Comments of the public were considered in the process and can be found in Annex 3. The national ... In total 110 questionnaires were sent out, 10 responses were received.	If the number of responses of the national consultation has been mentioned, why the number of comments of international consultation has been left out?	Updated in the report.
1.5.3 and 1.5.4 p.11	on 10 July 2015 on September 15th, 2015.	Should be harmonized.	These are the correct dates. Please note that it refers to different versions of the report (draft and final draft).
3.1 p. 14	. No non-conformities were found in the Standard Setting Procedures, the Group Certification Procedures, the Chain of Custody Standard, the procedures on PEFC Logo Usage Licensing, the Complaints and Disputes Resolution Procedures, the Notification	Is this comment necessary in the summary of findings? The chapter has already identified the 8 non-conformities which were mentioned in the chapter 2 as well! It does not give any additional information.	Updated in the report.

	of Certification Bodies Procedures and the Certification and Accreditation Procedures.		
3.2 p. 14	PEFC Norway was established on 21 June 1999, and since 24 May 2000 PEFC Norway has been endorsed by the PEFC Council to use the Living Forest standard for certification of sustainable forestry in Norway. In December 2011, PEFC Norway resolved to change the name of the Living Forest standard to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for sustainable forestry.	Name of the chapter is “Structure of the System”. The adjacent text does not add information of “the structure of the system”.	This paragraph provides a summary of chapter 4, which indeed provides more information than solely the structure of the System.
3.4 p.15 and p. 34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No references were found ensuring that management plans or their equivalents are elaborated and periodically updated for plots smaller than 100 decares (req. 5.1.4); 	pls, do not use units which are only confusing!! In PEFC documentation only hectares are used!	The Assessor used the same wording as used by PEFC Norway to ensure it is well understood by the Applicant’s Scheme. The Assessor agrees that using different units might lead to confusion, however understands that national schemes need to be appropriate to the local context, including the use of local units and terminology.
p. 16 3,5	... clearly structure clearly structured	Updated in the report.
p.18 4,1	Introduction	Introduction <u>in the N.</u>	Updated in the report.
p.18 4,1	... stand forest ...	does this mean plantation?	It does indeed mean plantation forestry (with clearcutting and replanting). Updated in the report.
p. 18 4,1		tree-covered areas...	Updated in the report.
p. 18 4,1	4% of forest area	4% of the forest area	Updated in the report.



p. 22 first line		... as observers s , ...	Updated in the report.
p.23 first line		... government have been ... / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original standard text.
p. 23		... committee <u>until</u> / or; deadline Sept. 15 th, 2013 / Quotation also: pp. 26, 29, 67, 75, 76, 79	Not updated, this is a typo in the original standard text.
p. 24 bottom		... should have <u>been</u> part of ...	Updated in the report.
p. 27 centre		actually want_ (delete: s)	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 29 bottom		... previously been ... (delete: have) / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 30 top chapt		... both an_ environment. / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 30 lower down		... following <u>were</u> added / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 48 centre		<u>The</u> forest owner ... / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original standard text.
p. 50 7,1		... clearly structured s , ...	Updated in the report.
p. 62 d.		... overview (graph, table etc.) would be helpful	References are to be provided in the PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist that provide the evidence of conformity. PEFC N 06 did not contain a table or graph, which is why such an overview could not be cited. In the opinion of the Assessor, the references provide sufficient evidence of conformity.
p. 63 4.3		... and decisions s ..	Updated in the report.
p. 66		... government have s been ... / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.



p. 66 last line		... come <u>up</u> with ... / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 69 centre		specialist <u>s</u> / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original standard text.
p. 73		... ENGOs did not reply (or: participate) / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 82 C		... or revision (delete: s) / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original standard text.
p. 89 5.11		... committee' <u>s</u> point ... / Quotation	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 90 first line		the wording "in plenty time" is not acceptable!	As the Norwegian PEFC Scheme describes that procedures must, as a minimum, be compliant with the PEFC Council's requirements described in "PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting – requirements", they automatically conform with the International PEFC requirements. Nevertheless, the Assessor agrees that PEFC Norway has to define what is meant with 'in plenty time'.
p. 91 last line		standards were published (delete: h)	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.
p. 165 centre		... has not collect <u>ed</u> data ...	Not updated, this is a typo in the original text.



