

Main changes in PEFC ST 1001:2017

Introduction

This document provides an overview of the main changes in the revised PEFC ST 1001:2017, as compared to PEFC ST 1001:2010. The main focus of this revision was adding a procedure for the periodic review of a standard and alignment with external expectations such the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

Changes in the structure of the standard

- A new chapter (4) is added explaining the five principles of standard setting. These principles are not requirements themselves, but describe what the standard setting process will look like if all requirements of the standard are followed.
- The chapter on standard setting process (6) is divided into multiple sections. This makes it easier to identify the different steps in the standard setting process.
- All requirements related to the establishment and functioning of the working group are grouped in one section (6.4).
- The requirements for formal approval and publication of standards have a separate chapter (7).
- A new chapter (8) is added with specific requirements for the periodic review.

Explaining specific clauses

3 Terms and definition

- A definition for editorial changes (3.2) is added. The definition is copied from PEFC GD 1007.
- A definition for publicly available (3.6) is added. The definition clarifies that, unless specifically stated, publicly available means available without the need for request.
- New definitions have been added for the different types of stakeholders referenced in the standard; affected (3.10), disadvantaged (3.11) and key stakeholders (3.12). They are all grouped under the definition of stakeholder (3.9).

4 Standard-setting principles

The principles describe what the standard setting process will look like if all requirements of the standard are followed. At the principle “balanced representation”, the consideration of appropriate gender balance is introduced. Gender balance is further addressed in the requirements at clause 6.4.1.

5.2 Documented information

In line with ISO, “records” are now referred to as “documented information”. New in the clause is the clear specification of the documented information that has to be kept at minimum (5.2.1). Clause 5.2.2 explains that documented information must be kept until the next revision of the standard is completed, but always for at least five years.

6.1 Standard proposal

The standard proposal groups the previous 5.3 (a) “*information about the objectives, scope, steps and timetable*” into one publicly available document. It further adds specific content that needs to be included in the proposal for new standards; the justification of the need, the intended outcomes and the analysis of negative impacts. The proposal has to be included in the announcement of the standard setting activities (6.3.1 b).

6.2 Stakeholder identification

The nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 (UNCED, Rio 1992) are included as a requirement, whereas they were previously referenced in a note. The stakeholder identification (6.2) has to be based on these groups, or at least six of them, with the other groups added if relevant.

6.4 Working group requirements

- Clause 6.4.1 requires the consideration of an appropriate gender balance in the process of accepting and refusing of nominations for the working group. It also adds further characteristics such as relevance of the nominated organisation and the competence and experience of the person nominated to represent the organisation.
- Clause 6.4.3 requires more explicitly additional effort from the standardising body to ensure participation of the key stakeholders.
- Clauses 6.4.5 to 6.4.8 are the requirements around consensus building on the final draft. With a few editorial changes and the new clause 6.4.8 the standard better describes how to ultimately resolve sustained opposition.

6.5 Public consultation

For new standards a requirement for a second round of consultation is introduced (6.5.2). The standard also recommends the use of public consultations to get stakeholder opinions in the process of resolving sustained opposition (6.4.7 c).

7.2 Publication and availability of standards

- A few changes are made to the availability of standards: they have to be made available at no cost (7.2.1) or, in case of printed copies, at a price covering the administrative cost (7.2.3).
- The previous “documentation describing the standard-setting process and its implementation” is made more concrete by replacing it with a reference to the development report (the content of the development report is specified in the revised PEFC GD 1007).

8 Review of standards

One of the biggest changes in ST 1001 is this new chapter with requirements for the periodic review. The periodic review can have two outcomes:

- i) the standard can be reaffirmed (i.e. approved without any changes)
- ii) the standard will be revised.

The main function of this chapter is to ensure that the decision to reaffirm the standard is made on solid grounds and includes the consultation of stakeholders. This avoids that standardising bodies can take an ‘easy route’ by simply reaffirming a standard that in fact should be revised.

The periodic review consist of three steps:

- i) Collecting feedback during the standard’s application (8.2),
- ii) A gap analysis (8.3),
- iii) Additional stakeholder consultation if necessary (8.4).

The main advantage: If the review process followed all required steps (8.2 – 8.4) and identified no need to revise the standard, the standardising body can decide to reaffirm the current standard, without the need to start a revision. It also means that the application for endorsement will be a faster and the assessment will take less time.

The next periodic review of the standard has to start within five years from the new approval date.

9 Revision of standards

Two types of revision are added: editorial and time-critical.

The time critical option is limited to specific situations only. It allows a different process, requiring less time and resources from the standardising body.

Requirements specifically for new standards

The revised standard introduces or better highlights requirements that apply to **new standards**.

These requirements would normally not apply to a **standard revision**.

The requirements are:

- Specific content for the standard proposal (6.1.1)
- An additional 30 day round of public consultation (6.5.2)
- Pilot testing of the standard (6.6)