

PEFC ST 1003:2024 Alignment

Country: Slovakia
Assessor: Ambra Scodro
Assessment start date: 17/04/2025
Internal Review date: 28/04/2025
Internal Reviewer: Rob Shaw

Revision Summary

The revision request was submitted by PEFC Slovakia to PEFC on 01/04/2025, in line with the time-critical revision procedure described under "ND SFCS 002 - Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation".

The urgency is justified by the alignment to the EUDR regulation.

The following documents have been revised:
TD_SFCS_1001 and TD_SFCS_1003.

The assessment confirmed the alignment to the PEFC ST 1003:2024 requirements.

PEFC Final Approval date: 12/08/2025

EUDR modifications				NGB to complete	Assessor feedback	
				NGB to complete	Assessor to complete	Assessor to complete
Modification number	ST 1003 2018 ref.	ST 1003 2024 ref.	PEFC modification description	Reference to system documentation including quotation of relevant text)	Compliant? YES / NO / N.A.	comments
			Scope			
1	Chapter 1: Scope, page 6	Chapter 1: Scope, page 8	Replacing “covering all their products and services” with “ covering all their forest and tree based products and services ”	Services were explicitly added to the Scope of TD SFCS 1003:2021: "For participants in the certification process, this document: -determines the management rules, procedures and criteria by which the manager: -demonstrates the ability to continuously provide a products and services that meets established internationally recognized standards, regulatory requirements and customer requirements"	YES	The scope is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
			Terms and definitions			
2	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7	3.3, page 9	Introducing the definition of “ Agricultural plantations ” Agricultural plantations - Tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems. Note: Agricultural plantations are excluded from the definition of ‘forest’.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Agricultural plantations: Tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems. Note: Agricultural plantations are excluded from the definition of ‘forest’.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
3	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7	3.4, page 9	Introducing the definition of “ Agricultural use ” Agricultural use - Use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Agricultural use: Use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
4	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.7, page 9	Introducing the definition of Ecologically important non-forest areas : Ecologically important non-forest areas a) Containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative non-forest ecosystems; b) Containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists; c) Containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources; d) Contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Ecologically important non-forest areas: Non-forest areas a)containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative non-forest ecosystems b)containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists c)containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources d)contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024

5	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.10, page 10	Updating the definition of “ Forest ” Forest - Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use source: FAO 2023). Note: Each regional, national or subnational standard may include the specific values for the criteria in their national forest definition. If such specifications for a country are not yet available, the standardising body is responsible to set the values according to the national framework.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Forest: Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ, excluding land that is not registered in the Cadastre in register „C“ as a forest land according to the specification in § 3 Forest lands of Act 326/2005 on forests.	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
6	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	N.a.	Removing the definition of “ Forest conversion ”	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1, corrected to Forest conversion to other land use	YES	Forest conversion definition has been removed.
7	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.11, page 10	Introducing the definition of “ Forest conversion to agricultural use ” Forest conversion to agricultural use: Change of forest to agricultural use whether human-induced or not. Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion to agricultural use.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Forest conversions to agricultural use: Change of forest to agricultural use whether human-induced or not. Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion to agricultural use.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
8	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.12, page 10	Introducing the definition of “ Forest conversion to other land use ” Forest conversion to other land use Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non-agriculture uses.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Forest conversions to other land use: Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non-agriculture uses (use of forest land for other than fulfilment of forest functions) (§5 of Act 326/2005 on forests)..	YES	The adapted definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
9	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 9	3.13, page 10	Introducing the definition of “ Forest degradation ” Forest degradation - Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of: a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or b) primary forests into planted forests.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Forest degradation: Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of: a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or b) primary forests into planted forests.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024

10	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 9	3.28, page 13	Updating the definition of “Forest plantation” to “Plantation forest” Plantation forest - Planted forest that is intensively managed and meets, at planting and stand maturity, all the following criteria: one or two species, even age class, and regular spacing. It includes short rotation plantations for wood, fibre and energy, and excludes forests planted for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Plantation forest: Planted forest formed by one or two tree species with regular spacing and the same age, with a maximum production function, the benefits of which are used for industrial use; they are usually located in locations with high production potential (§2t of Act 326/2005 on forests). It excludes forests planted for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests.	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
11	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 10	3.16, page 11	Introducing the definition of “Geolocation” Geolocation - Geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of forest and tree based products, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Geolocation: Geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of forest and tree based products, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
12	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 10	3.22, page 12	Introducing the definition of “Naturally regenerating forest” Naturally regenerating forest - Forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration; it includes any of the following: a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated; b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity; c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration; d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Naturally regenerating forest: forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration; it includes any of the following: a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated; b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity; c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration; d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
13	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.24, page 12	Updating the definition of “Non-wood forest products” with removing the text “and Trees outside Forests source: following FAO 2017)”	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Non-wood forest products: Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024

14	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.25, page 12	Introducing the definition of “ Non-wood products from TOF areas ” Non-wood products from TOF areas - Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from trees.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Non-wood products from TOF areas: Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from trees.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
15	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.27, page 12	Introducing the definition of “ Other wooded land ” Other wooded land - Land not classified as forest spanning more than 0,5 hectares, with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of 5% to 10%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, or with a combined cover of shrubs, bushes, and trees above 10%, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 (national definition used) Other wooded land: Land covered with forest trees with the character of a forest stand, excluding land registered as forest land in the Cadastre and in the Forest Management Information System (§45 of Act 326/2005 on Forests).	YES	The adapted definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
16	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.29, page 13	Introducing the definition of “ Planted forest ” Planted forest - Forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Planted forest: Forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
17	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.30, page 13	Introducing the definition of “ Primary forest ” Primary forest - Naturally regenerating forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Primary forest: naturally regenerating forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
18	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.34, page 13	Updating the definition of “Trees outside Forests TOF)” Trees outside Forests TOF) - Trees growing outside areas of forest land. Such areas will normally be classified as other wooded land, agricultural use or urban environment.	TD SFCS 1001, 2.1 Trees growing outside areas of forest land. Such areas are registered in the Cadastre as agriculture land, urban environment or other land.	YES	The adapted definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
			Chapter 4 - Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard			

19	Chapter 4, page 14	4.3.3, page 15	Introducing new requirement on geolocation: 4.3.3 The organisation shall maintain an inventory of geolocation data related to the certified area where forest and tree-based products are harvested. Note: The geolocation data can be limited to active operational sites of the organisation.	TD SFCS 1003, 4.3.4 + Remark 4.3.4.The inventory of geolocation data related to the certified area where forest and tree-based products are harvested shall be maintained. The geolocation data can be limited to active operational sites.	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST1003:2024
			Chapter 6: Planning			
20	Chapter 6: Planning, page 15	6.2.5, page 16	Updating requirement 6.2.5 with removing text “degradation and”	TD SFCS 1003, 8.1.2.2 8.1.2.2The applied forest management practices shall prevent the damage to existing communities, both in their biological component and in soil and water resources	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST1003:2024
21	Chapter 6: Planning, page 15	6.3.1.2, page 16	Updating requirement 6.3.1.2 with adding text “, trade, customs”	TD SFCS 1003, 6.4.2 6.4.2Know and comply with applicable legislation on forest management, anti-corruption legislation, trade and custom legislation.	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST1003:2024
			Chapter 8: Operation			
22	Chapter 8: Operation, page 18	8.1.4, page 19	Following the further structured forest conversion related definitions, the former 8.1.4 is separated into two requirements, first addressing the ‘forest conversion to agricultural use’: 8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion to agricultural use shall not occur.	TD SFCS 1003, 8.1.1.1 8.1.1.1Conversion to agricultural land use is prohibited	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST1003:2024

23	Chapter 8: Operation, page 18	8.1.5, page 19	<p>Following the further structured forest conversion related definitions, the former 8.1.4 is separated into two requirements, second addressing the 'forest conversion to other land use':</p> <p>"8.1.5 The standard requires that forest conversion to other land use shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion...."</p>	<p>Revised in TD SFCS 1003, 8.1.1.4</p> <p>8.1.1.1Conversion to agricultural land use is prohibited</p> <p>8.1.1.2Conversion (exclusion) of forest land and forests growing on it to other land uses than silviculture and forestry purposes shall be based on a valid decision of state administration body</p> <p>8.1.1.3When issuing the permission for the exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forest land shall be protected, in particular in protective forests and special purpose forests - only the inevitably necessary area of forest land shall be used and disturbance to the integrity of the forest shall be limited - the use of the functions of the surrounding forest shall not be restricted <p>8.1.1.4Forest conversions to other land use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shall be in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders - shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type within the certified area - shall not have negative impacts on protected species, habitats and/or protected area, elements of cultural or spiritual significance - shall not concern areas of significantly high carbon stock - makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits. 	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
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24	Chapter 8: Operation, page 18	8.1.6, page 19	<p>Introducing new requirement on forest degradation:</p> <p>8.1.6 The standard requires that human-induced forest degradation shall not occur.</p> <p>Note 1: Plantation forests established by converting primary forest or naturally regenerating forests after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification.</p> <p>Note 2: Planted forests established by converting primary forest after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification.</p> <p>Note 3: This requirement is not applicable for plantation forests established for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests</p> <p>Note 4: Incorporation of the definition into regional, national or subnational standards may consider the context of national forestry terminology and legal requirements. This can result in system-specific clarifications and guidance, as long as this delivers at minimum an equivalent outcome to the intended outcome of the definition.</p>	<p>TD SFCS 1003</p> <p>8.1.2.1 Conversions of primary forests to planted forests are prohibited.</p> <p>Note: Planted forests established by converting primary forest after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification</p> <p>8.1.2.2 Synergy with the FMP elaborators and affected stakeholders shall be provided in designing proposals for the proclamation of protective forests and forests fulfilling specific ecological, social and cultural functions</p> <p>8.1.2.3 The applied forest management practices shall prevent the damage to existing communities, both in their biological component and in soil and water resources</p> <p>8.1.2.4 Any human interventions and activities that result in forest degradation are prohibited</p>	YES	the requirement is in line with PEFC ST1003:2024
25	Chapter 8: Operation, page 19	N.a.	Removing the former 8.1.6 requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations	31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification	YES	no such a requirement in place
			Appendix 1			
26	Appendix 1, page 27	N.a.	Removing the interpretation option for the former 8.1.4 requirement on forest conversion	from part 8.1.2 of SFCS 1003: "Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."	N/A	Not in scope
27	N.a.	Appendix 1, page 27	<p>Introducing the interpretation option for the 8.1.7 requirement on afforestation with the text "with plantation forests"</p> <p>The requirement for the "reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems" means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested with plantation forests after 31 December 2010 in other than "justified circumstances" do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p>	from part 8.1.2 of SFCS 1003: "Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."	N/A	Not in scope
28	Appendix 1, page 28	N.a.	Removing the interpretation option for the former 8.1.6 requirement on requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations	from part 8.1.2 of SFCS 1003: "Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."	N/A	Not in scope
			Appendix 2 - TOF			

29	Appendix 2, page 30	Appendix 2, page 30	Updating the interpretation option for the 6.2.5 requirement on management plans linked to Modification #20.	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
30	Appendix 2, page 30	Appendix 2, page 30	Updating the interpretation option for the 6.3.1.2 requirement on management plans linked to Modification #21.	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
31	N.a.	Appendix 2, page 30	Introducing the interpretation option for the 6.2.4 requirement on allowable use of non-wood products 6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood products from TOF areas shall be included in the management plan where management covers commercial use of non-wood products from TOF areas at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
32	Appendix 2, page 31	Appendix 2, page 31	Introducing the interpretation for the 8.1.4 requirement on forest conversion to agricultural use 8.1.4 TOF Agriculture area established by forest conversion to agricultural use after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification.	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
33	Appendix 2, page 31	Appendix 2, page 31	Introducing the interpretation for the 8.1.5 requirement on forest conversion to other land use 8.1.5 Non-agriculture TOF area established by forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification. Note: For TOF Agriculture category, see 8.1.4	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
34	Appendix 2, page 32	N.a.	Removing the interpretation for the former 8.1.6 requirement on requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
35	Appendix 2, page 32	Appendix 2, page 32	Updating the interpretation option for the 8.3.1 requirement on non-wood products by removing “forest” from the TOF interpretation	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope
36	N.a.	Appendix 2, page 32	Introducing the interpretation option for the 8.3.4 requirement on harvesting levels of non-wood products 8.3.4 The standard requires that harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood products from TOF areas shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.	No TOF in scope	N/A	Not in scope