

# Conformity Assessment PEFC Slovakia Revised Forest Certification Standard

## Final Report

June 2, 2022

Disclaimer: GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LLC, endeavors to produce and provide accurate and complete information while executing its contracted assignment. GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LLC, assumes no liability or responsibility resulting from the outcome of its findings.

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Mr. Hubert Palus, National Secretary PEFC Slovakia

Mr. Hubert Inhaizer, Technical Officer, PEFC

#### **Acronyms and Abbreviations:**

BOD	Board of Directors
CoC	Chain of Custody
CR	Criteria
EA	European Cooperation for Accreditation
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FMP	Forest Management Plan
FMS	Forest Management Standard
GD	Guidance Document
GWGC	GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, Ltd.
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILO	International Labor Organization
IN	Indicator
ISO/IEC	International Standards Organization/International Electrotechnical Commission
N/A	Not Applicable
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PEFCC	PEFC Council
SFCA	Slovak Forest Certification Association
SFCS	Slovak Forest Certification Standard
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
TBD	To Be Determined
WHO	World Health Organization

## 1. Introduction [\[back\]](#)

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is a not-for-profit umbrella organization with its international office in Geneva, Switzerland. PEFC endorses national forest certification systems that have been developed through multi-stakeholder processes and tailored to local priorities and conditions. PEFC admits national forest certification schemes into the organization following a positive assessment of the national scheme against PEFC requirements by a PEFC approved assessor.

PEFC requirements call for certification schemes to be revisited and revised by their governing body on a five-year basis. The revision is assessed by an independent assessor as to whether the revised scheme is in conformity with the PEFC Council's standard and system requirements. This report is the assessment by GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LLC, of the PEFC Slovakia (PEFC SK) Revised Forest Certification Standard against the PEFC requirements for forest certification. It will form the basis for PEFC Council and provides a recommendation for the further formal endorsement of the revised scheme by the PEFC Board of Directors.

### 1.1 GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LLC [\[back\]](#)

GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LLC, was incorporated in 2011. The firm specializes in working with forest products companies, natural resource agencies and natural resource NGOs, and other government agencies, helping them meet their strategic directives involving forest sustainability and legality with focus on family forest owners, cooperatives and communities owning and managing forest land. Clients include, or have included, EFECA, The National Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Hardwood Panel and Veneer Association and Environmental Defense Fund to name a few. PEFC national standards assessments include United Kingdom, Belgium, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Canada and Chile.

Mr. Robert S Simpson is the President and CEO of GWGC and serve as the lead assessor. He completed the PEFC Standard Assessor's Training in Geneva, Switzerland, November 2012 and has successfully completed multiple annual assessors' trainings since that time. He has been involved with PEFC at some level from 1999 to present. Mr. Simpson served eight years on the PEFC Board of Directors and is intimately familiar with the PEFC framework.

Mr. Barry Graden will assist with the assessment. He has 41 years' experience in the forest industry with a focus on sustainable forest management and certification, and standard development. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree (1980), Forestry from Iowa State University and a Master of Business Administration degree (1992) from Winthrop University. He was employed for more than 31 years by AbitibiBowater, Inc. (formerly Bowater Inc.) in various positions of forest management, communications, sustainability, and forest certification, culminating as corporate Director/Manager, Sustainable Forestry. He led

company forest certification efforts to Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management Standards. In 2011 he began employment as Director, SFI Forest Partners® Program with Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc

## 1.2 Scope of the Assessment [\[back\]](#)

The scope of the assessment will be a full assessment as defined in PEFC GD 1007:2017, chapter 6.3.1. Conformity of the PEFC Slovak Forest Certification Standard (SFCS) against PEFC requirements.

## 1.3 Documents and Resources [\[back\]](#)

Documentation for the assessment was provided by both PEFC and PEFC SK. In addition, evidentiary materials were provided through the PEFC SK website.

The following is a list of documents provided by PEFC.

- Standard setting procedures and process (PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting – Requirements)
- Group certification model (PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements)
- Forest certification standard(s) (PEFC ST 1003, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements).
- Chain of custody standard(s) (PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements)
- Complaints and dispute resolution procedures (PEFC GD1004, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 8)
- Forest management certification and accreditation procedures (Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document)
- Chain of Custody certification and accreditation procedures (PEFC ST 2003, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard)

The following documents were provided by PEFC Slovakia.

### **Normative Documents**

1. ND\_SFCS\_001\_EN: Issuance of PEFC Trademark Licenses
2. ND\_SFCS\_002\_EN: Development, Review and Revision of SFCS Documentation
3. ND\_SFCS\_003\_EN: PEFC Notification of Certification Bodies Operating Forest Management on Chain of Custody Certification in the Slovak Republic
4. ND\_SFCS\_004\_EN: PEFC Slovakia Procedures for the Investigation and Resolution of Complaints and Appeals
5. ND\_SFCS\_005\_EN: Training of Participants in the Certification Process for the Application of SFCS

### **Technical Documents**

1. TD\_SFCS\_1001\_EN\_2021: Slovak Forest Certification System – Description and Contents
2. TD\_SFCS\_1002\_EN\_2021: Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements
3. TD\_SFCS\_1003\_EN\_2021: Sustainable Forest Management - Requirements



4. TD\_SFCS\_1004\_EN\_2021: Chain of Custody of Forest and Wood Products - Requirements
5. TD\_SFCS\_1005\_EN\_2021: Requirements of Certification Bodies Operating Forest Management Certification
6. TD\_SFCS\_1006\_EN\_2021: Requirement for Certification Bodies Implementing Certification According to International PEFC Standard for Chain of Custody
7. TD\_SFCS\_1007\_EN\_2021: PEFC Trademark Rules - Requirements
8. PEFC ST 2001 2020 Trademark Rules – Requirements
9. PEFC ST 2002 2020 CoC of Forest and Tree Based Products
10. PEFC ST 2003 2020 Requirements for CB Operating CoC

#### **PEFC Slovakia Checklists**

1. PEFC Slovakia – Checklist PEFC GD 1004 – 2009 Scheme Administration
2. PEFC Slovakia – Checklist PEFC ST 1001 – 2017 Standard Setting Procedures
3. PEFC Slovakia – Checklist PEFC ST 1002 – 2018 Group Forest Management Certification
4. PEFC Slovakia – Checklist PEFC ST 1003 – 2018 Sustainable Forest Management
5. PEFC Slovakia – PEFC ST Annex 6 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

#### **Additional documents**

1. PEFC Slovakia Application Letter
2. Development Report DP\_02-2021-11-15\_EN
3. PEFC Slovakia Statutes\_2006\_EN

## **1.4 Methodology [\[back\]](#)**

Because this assessment was of a revised standard, no travel was required. The assessment was conducted as a desk evaluation by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Graden using the documentation provided by both PEFC and PEFC SK. The provided documentation allowed the assessors to thoroughly review PEFC SK SFCS against the requirements of PEFC certification and note similarities (Conformities) and dissimilar and missing requirements (Nonconformities).

The assessment consisted of the following.

- Assessment of the overall structure of the system
- Assessment of standard setting procedures and processes against PEFC ST 1001:2017 Standard Setting - Requirements
- Assessment of the sustainable forest management standard against PEFC ST 1003:2018 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements
- Assessment of the group certification standard against PEFC ST 1002:2018, Group Forest Management Certification
- Assessment of the chain of custody standard against PEFC ST 2002:2020 – Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products
- Assessment of the certification and accreditation procedures against the PEFC TD Annex 6 and PEFC ST 2003:2012

The report follows the format and content as defined in PEFC GD 1007:2017, Annex 2 as well as additional instructions found in PEFC Secretariat's clarification of 30.10.2012.

## 1.5 Assessment Process [\[back\]](#)

### a) Public Consultation

PEFC Council publicly announced an open comment period for the SFCS. Comments could be submitted through the PEFC website. The comment period ran from 08.06.2021 to 08.08.2021. No comments were received.

### b) Desk Evaluation

GWGC began its desk evaluation of the SFCS on 1 February 2022 and submitted the Draft First Report on 4 March 2022. This was accomplished using the PEFC Checklists. Because this is an assessment of a revised standard an on-site assessment was not needed.

### c) Draft First Report

The Draft First Report was sent to PEFC Technical Unit and PEFC SK on 6 March 2022.

### d) Stakeholder Commenting Period

The Stakeholder Survey was developed during Week 1 of the Desk Evaluation and forwarded to Mr. Hubert Palus, National Secretary, PEFC SK for translation and distribution to the SFCS revision Technical Group. The survey was sent on 21 February with a final return date of 11 March 2022.

### e) Draft Final Report

Following comments from PEFC SK and PEFC Technical Unit and Draft Final Report was submitted 1 April 2022.

### f) Draft Final Report Internal Review

(TBD)

### g) Final Report for PEFC Council

(TBD)

Table 1. Assessment Process Time Table

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Int'l Public Consultation*												
Desk Evaluation												
Stakeholder Report												
Draft First Report												
PEFC SK Comments												
Final Draft Report												
Internal Review												
Final Report												

\* Completed before the desk evaluation

## 1.6 Report Structure [\[back\]](#)

The Report shall be structured according to PEFC GD 1007 – Appendix 2. The Final Draft Report shall have the following content.

- Structure of the system of the proposed applicant system (i.e., national PEFC forest certification system).
- Standard setting procedures and process (PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting – Requirements)
- Forest certification standard(s) (PEFC ST 1003, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements).
- Group certification model (PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements)

- e.Chain of custody standard(s) (PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements)
- f. Forest management certification and accreditation procedures (Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document)
- g.Chain of Custody certification and accreditation procedures (PEFC ST 2003, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard)
- h.Any other aspects which can affect the applicant system’s compliance with the PEFC Sustainability Benchmark (e.g., critical information from stakeholder consultation, survey and other annexes).
- i. Required and additional annexes (as appropriate) include:
  - 1. PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist with Assessor’s Notes
  - 2. Standard setting documentation such as minutes, working group notes, public announcements of the process, public consultation notifications, etc.)
  - 3. Results of stakeholder survey
  - 4. Results of international consultation
  - 5. PEFC Council Secretariat internal comments

## 2. Recommendation [\[back\]](#)

Based on the results of this conformity assessment, GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LLC **RECOMMENDS** the PEFC Secretary General to maintain the endorsement of the PEFC Slovak Forest Certification System with the following conditions.

- a. Five (5) NONCONFORMITIES noted in Annex 1, Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

These NONCONFORMITIES shall be corrected within six (6) months following endorsement.

All NONCONFORMITIES are considered minor.

### 3. Summary of Findings [\[back\]](#)

#### 3.1. Overall [\[back\]](#)

The overall SFCS is a robust document. It is clear and thorough. However, there are four (4) NONCONFORMITIES identified. These are as follows:

Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018) with four (4) NONCONFORMITIES.

There are No NONCONFORMITIES noted.

#### 3.2 System Structure [\[back\]](#)

The PEFC Slovakia acts as the national governing body of the SFCS. It was incorporated and registered under Slovak Republic law. It is established to, among other things to establish and administer the SFCS. The SFCA is a member of PEFC Council.

The SFCA has a General Assembly, Chambers of members, SFCA Council, SFCA Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, Supervisory Board, Secretariat, and Arbitral Commission.

#### 3.3 Standard Setting Procedures and Processes

The SFCA Standard Setting Procedures and Processes are found in PEFC SK TD\_SFCS\_1001\_EN\_2021. It is a thorough and clearly written document that closely adheres to PEFC ST 1001:2007 - Standard Setting Procedures and Processes.

There are No NONCONFORMITIES.

#### 3.4 Group Forest Management Certification [\[back\]](#)

The SFCA Group Forest Management Certification Requirements are found in PEFC SK TD\_SFCS\_1002\_EN\_2021. It is a thorough and clearly written document that closely adheres to PEFC ST 1002:2018 – Group Forest Management Certification.

There are No NONCONFORMITIES.

#### 3.5 Sustainable Forest Management [\[back\]](#)

The SFCS Standard for Sustainable Forest Management is found in PEFC SK TD\_SFCS\_1003\_EN\_2021. It is a thorough and clearly written document. However, the Assessor notes five (5) NONCONFORMITIES. They are considered minor. They are as follows:

TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.1 – includes the phrase “or another system specific claim” which is not relevant to the PEFC SK standard.

TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3 refers only to “exclusion of forest land.” The PEFC Benchmark Requirement specifically states “forest conversion.”

TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3 - defines small area as “no greater than 5% of the managed area.” In some instances, managed area may far exceed certified area as called for in the PEFC requirement.

TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.9 – does not prohibit the disposal of waste but “limit[s] the generation of waste.”

TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.7 – does not completely prohibit the use of GMOs in the forest, but as written only prohibits the use of GMOs in reforestation.

### 3.6 Chain of Custody Standard [\[back\]](#)

SFCS adopts PEFC ST 2002:2013 in its entirety and without modification.

### 3.7 Certification and Accreditation Procedures [\[back\]](#)

SFCS adopts PEFC TD Annex 6 and PEFC ST 2003:2012 in its entirety and without modification.

## 4.0 Structure of SFCS [\[back\]](#)

### 4.1 Forests of the Slovak Republic [\[back\]](#)

Today, forests of the Slovak Republic (SR) cover 1,951.5 thousand ha. This is an increase of 29.8 thousand ha. since 1990. Slovak forests cover about 41.3% of the country's landmass. Additional forest cover, known as "white plots," account for another 4.4% of the country's land mass. White plots are tracts of forest land that have overgrown agricultural and other types of abandoned lands. This gives a total forest cover of 45.7%. NATURA 2000 includes 958,000 ha. of forest land or 51% of the total forest cover.

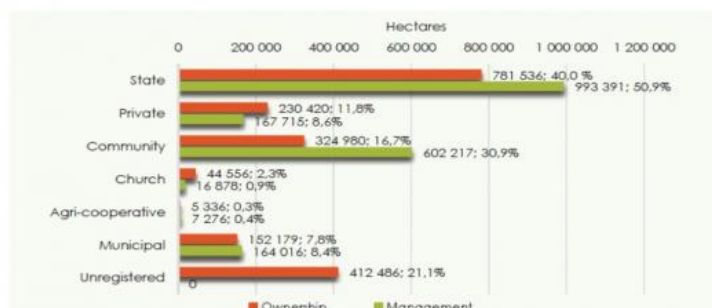
Forest types in the SR are predominantly mixed broadleaved deciduous species. This forest type makes up approximately 64% of the forest. The remaining 34% are mixed conifers. Forest types are situated in elevational regimes. SR forests are divided into altitudinal elevation zones (AVZ) ranging in the oak zone found in the lowest AVZ to dwarf pine in the highest.

The Slovak Republic Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are the national authority regarding forest management. They have offices located in 9 regions with 49 Land and Forestry Offices throughout the SR.

The Ministry of Agriculture manages approximately 993,400 ha. The remainder, 985,000 ha. are by non-state enterprises. Ownership patterns are illustrated in the chart below.

#### Ownership and management of forests in 2020 (ha, %)

Source: NFC 2021.

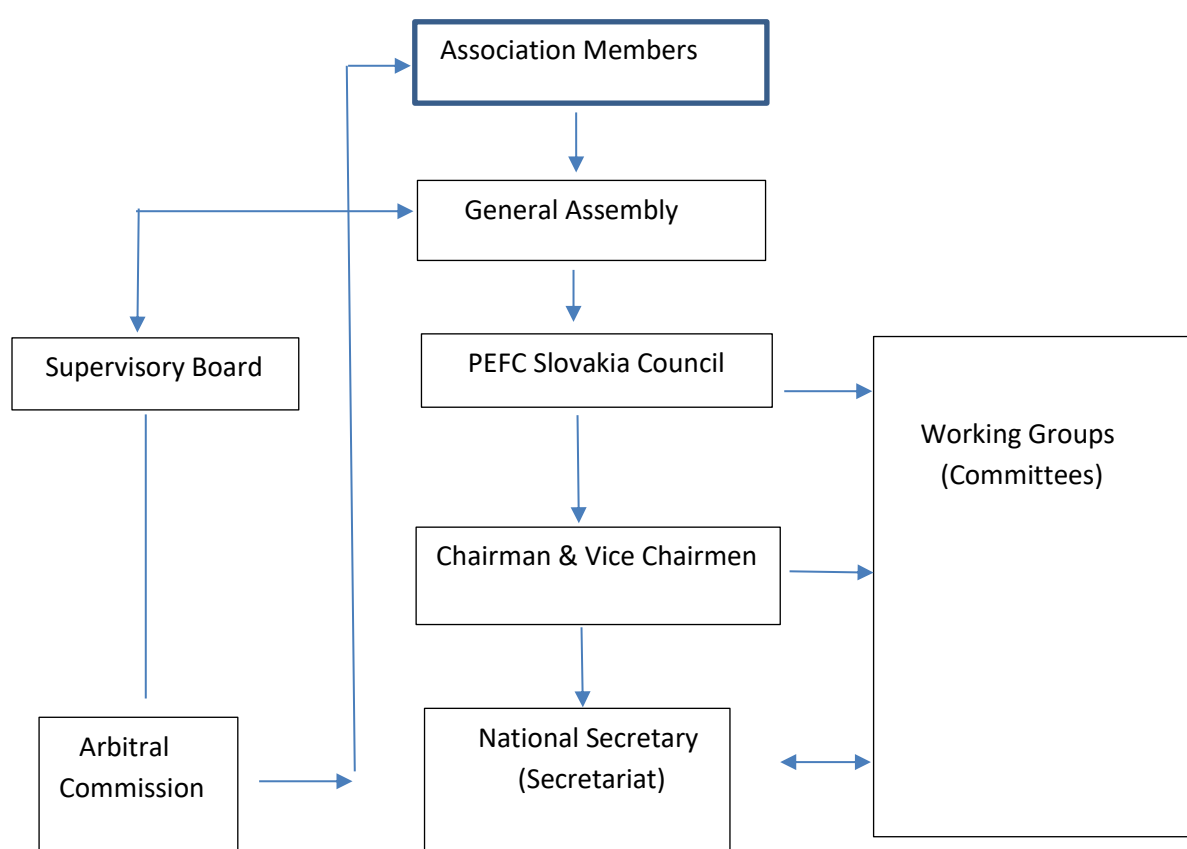


## 4.2 Structure of PEFC SK [\[back\]](#)

PEFC Slovakia (PEFC SK) is voluntary of legal entities (chambers) seeking the same strategic goals of promoting sustainable forest management and the use of sustainable forest products. Originally established as the Slovak Forest Certification Association, it changed its name to PEFC Slovakia in 2011. Its office is located at Štefana Višňovského 2521/4, 960 01 Zvolen, Slovak Republic.

PEFC SK is a member of the PEFC Council and functions as the national governing body of the SFCS. It was initially endorsed in 2005. The General Assembly is the highest authority in the organization with three chambers: Chamber of Forest Owners, Chamber of Wood Processing Industry and Chamber of Other Stakeholders.

*Fig. 4.1 Organizational Chart of PEFC Slovakia*



PEFC Slovakia council is the ultimate body holding authority to both appoint and remove the Chairman and Vice Chairmen. Decision making is based on majority votes. The Chairman has the ability to break a tie vote should one occur. The council appoints the National Secretary who carries out the day-to-day operations of PEFC SK. The Council also appoints working groups (committees) and charges them with specific tasks usually focusing on amendments of technical documents, revision of criteria of forest management and assessment of national schemes.

The Supervisory Board manages the activities of the association bodies with particular emphasis on financial matters.



## 5.0 Standard Setting Procedures and Processes [\[back\]](#)

### 5.1 Standard Setting Procedures [\[back\]](#)

Standard setting procedures are found in SFCS ND\_SFCS\_002\_EN which closely tracks the PEFC benchmarks for standard setting procedures. The PEFC SK checklist for standard setting procedures can be found in Annex 1, section 1. This presents the assessors determinations of conformities, nonconformities and cited evidence for these determinations.

The Assessors found this document to be thorough and unambiguously written.

There are **No NONCONFORMITIES** for Standard Setting Procedures.

### 5.2 Standard Setting Processes [\[back\]](#)

The evidentiary processes supporting standard setting procedures are found in SFCS ND\_SFCS\_002EN which closely tracks the PEFC benchmarks for standard setting procedures. Additionally, process evidentiary information is well documented in DP 02\_2021-11-15EN. The PEFC SK checklist for standard setting processes can be found in Annex 1, section 1. This presents the assessors determinations of conformities, nonconformities and cited evidence for these determinations.

There were **No NONCONFORMITIES** found for Standard Setting Processes.

### 5.3 Scope of the Revision Process [\[back\]](#)

- a) PEFC SK Council explores need for standard revision – the following issues were taken into consideration to determine the need for a revision.
  - a. Changes in PEFC international standards since 2014 (last SFCS revision)
  - b. Changes in PEFC International guidelines
  - c. Permanently collected feedback o SFCW from standard users and other stakeholders
  - d. Results of GAP analysis of SFCS documents against the relevant PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards
  - e. Changes in national forestry and related legislation since the last SFCS revision in 2014
- b) **Identification of relevant stakeholders and constraints of their participation** – the identification of relevant stakeholders, including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders was accomplished through a stakeholder mapping exercise to determine.
  - Stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter as their justification
  - Key issues for each relevant stakeholder group
  - Key stakeholders in each group

- Means of communication to reach stakeholders

Following the mapping exercise, six categories of stakeholders were identified:

- Forest owners
- Business and industry
- Non-government organizations
- Scientific and technological community
- Local authorities
- Women]

The exercise identified 88 “main stakeholders.” It was determined that 32 of those were defined as entities whose participation is crucial for the standard setting work. In addition, 41 “disadvantaged stakeholders” were identified. Disadvantaged stakeholders were identified by either their unfavorable financial situation, small ownership size or distribution of operations which would prohibit them from participating in the process. The Board of Directors agreed to provide the disadvantaged stakeholders with a stipend to cover travel-related expenditures incurred during participation in the Technical Committee meetings.

- Public announcement of the start of the process and stakeholder invitations – PEFC SK publicly announced the invitation for stakeholders to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee. The public announcement and invitations were also sent to main stakeholders, disadvantaged stakeholders and relevant stakeholders.
- Establishment and composition of the Technical Committee – PEFC SK received 27 nominations from 28 organizations. PEFC SK decided on a way to accept all nominations received while respecting the principal of balanced representation.

No.	Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Organization	Name of Representative
1	Forest Owners	Military Forests and Estates of SR	Filip Kuffa
2		Forests of the Slovak Republic	Peter Zima
3		Association of Municipal Forests	Stefan Orolin
4		Forests of the TATRA National Park	Jan Andras
5		Union of Regional Associations of Non-state Forest Owners	Juraj Zuffa
6	Business and Industry	Rettenmeier Tatra Timber s.r.o	Tomas Vozarik
7		Slovwood Ružomberok, a.s	Martin Bartik
8		Central Slovakia Water Supply Company	RN DR. Milan Galko
9	Scientific and Technological Community	National Forest Centre	Jan Kucera
10		National Forest Centre	Matej Schwarz
11		Technical University in Zvolen	Prof. Dr. Jaroslav Salka
12	Union Workers	Association of Forestry Employers in Slovakia	Zdenko Kovac
13		Trade Union – Wood, Forests, Water	Marin Kovalcik
14	Local Authorities	Slovak Environmental Agency	Alexabder Kralik

15		Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of SR	Jozef Doczy, PhD.
16		Ministry of Environment of SR	Peter Balaz, PhD.
17		Slovak Water Management Enterprise	Daniel Kindernay, PhD.
18		TUV SUD Slovakia	Branislav Dubovsky
19		Slovak Wood and Forestry Inspection	Jozef Jurkemik
20	Non-Government Organizations	Slovak Forestry Chamber	Maria Antalov
21		Slovak Forestry Chamber	Pavol Homola
22		Club of Foresters and Friends of the Liptov Forests	Dusan Kovac
23		ENG Prales	Marian Jasik
24		WWF Slovakia	Michal Filipek, PhD.
25		NGO Let's Save the Tatra Chamois	Peter Spitzkopf
26		Slovak Union for Nature and Landscape Conservation of the High Tatras	Marian Sturcel
27	Women	Club of Slovak Ladies Hunters	Prof. Iveta Hajduchova, PhD

**Table 5.2.1 Technical Committee Members**

e) Public solicitation of comments on the scope and process of the document revisions – Comments were taken from 09.12.2019 through 29.02.2020. No comments were received.

f) Consensus building and consideration of comments – the Technical Committee met three times; 1) 09.12.2020, 2.) 21.04.2021, 3.) 09.09.2021. During meetings one and two, public comments were solicited, reviewed and discussed. During meeting 3, the TC unanimously agree that comments provided were already found within the specific requirements of the revised standard documents. The third meeting of the TC included a vote to accept the final drafts of the documents. Results of voting: FOR – 22, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 5. On 25.10.2021 TC final approved drafts were sent to PEFC SK members for formal approval.

Technical Document Title	TD Version	Number of Submitted Comments
TD SFCS 1001:2021 Slovak forest certification system – description and context	TD_SFCE_1001_202X_PND_2020-12-09	38
TD SFSC 1002:2021 Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements	TD_SFCS_1002_202X_PND_2020-12-09	18
TD SFCS 1003:2021 Sustainable Forest Management Requirements	TD_SFCS_1003_202X_PND_2020-12-09	251

**Table 5.2.2 Comments Submitted to Preparatory Drafts**

**g)** Approval of revisions – PEF SK General Assembly approved SFCS Technical Documents on 11.11.2021. Results of voting: FOR – 23, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 5.

**h)** Documents publicly available – PEFC SK maintains the documents. The full standard is kept by the secretariat until completing of the next revision or for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard. Currently valid SFCS technical documents, normative documents and procedures for development of the revised documents are available at <http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov> .

The revised technical documents, revision process and development report for the revision process can be found <http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov-revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty> .

Action	Type of Evidence	Evidence of Conformance
Standard Revision Proposal Approval by Membership	Minutes	<p>Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica (translated from Slovak to English):</p> <p>Item 4. "The final draft technical documents were voted on by the members of the TK present in person on the spot."</p> <p>Item 6. "The results of the regular and correspondence votes are given in the following table:" Following is a table of in-person and correspondence votes unanimously in favor of all three technical documents.</p> <p>(Development Report Annexes: Document 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09)</p>
Public Announcement of Standard Revision	Press Release PEFC SK Website	<p>Press release announcing the opening of the revision of documents of the third revision of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS):</p> <p>(Development Report Annexes: Document 05-Press_release_2019-12-09)</p>
Announcement of Start of Process	Press Release PEFC Website	<p>PEFC Slovakia web site: <a href="#">PEFC Slovakia - PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification</a>: 2021/2022 system assessment, system documentation download.</p> <p>Press release, Press release mailing and Public Announcement mailing:</p> <p>(Development Report Annexes: Document 05-Press_release-2019-12-09; Document 06-Press_release_mailing and Document 08-Public_announcement-mailing)</p>
Invitation to Stakeholders	E-mails PEFC SK Website	<p>PEFC Slovakia web site: <a href="#">PEFC Slovakia - PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification</a>: 2021/2022 system assessment, system documentation download.</p> <p>Press release announcing the opening of the revision of documents of the third revision of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS):</p> <p>(Development Report Annexes: Document 05-Press_release_2019-12-09)</p>
Establishment of TC	Minutes	<p>TC Meeting Minutes:</p> <p>(Development Report Annexes: Document 10-PEFC_SK_Council_minutes_2020-07-07; Document 11-TC_appointed_members)</p>

TC Meetings	Minutes	TC Meeting Minutes:  (Development Report Annexes: Document 10-PEFC_SK_Council_minutes_2020-07-07; Document 12-TC_1_meeting_minutes_2020-012-09; Document 16-TC-2_meeting_minutes_2021-04-21; Document 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09)
TC Approval of Final Revision Documents	Minutes	Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica (translated from Slovak to English):  Item 4. "The final draft technical documents were voted on by the members of the TK present in person on the spot."  Item 6. "The results of the regular and correspondence votes are given in the following table:" Following is a table of in-person and correspondence votes unanimously in favor of all three technical documents.  (Development Report Annexes: Document 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09)
GA Document Approval	Minutes	Voting ballots:  (Development Report Annexes: Document 29_Voting_PEFC-SK-GA)
Document Publication	PEFC SK Website	PEFC SK Website: 2021/2022 system assessment <a href="#">PEFC Slovakia - PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification</a> (Development Report Annexes: TD SFCS)

**Table 5.2.3 Timetable and Links to Standard Setting Processes Actions**

## 6.0 Group Forest Management [\[back\]](#)

The Group Forest Management standard is found in PEFC SK TD 1002 \_2021\_EN. It is a thorough and clearly written document closely adhering to PEFC ST 1002:2018.

### 6.1 Group Forest Management Certification Assessment [\[back\]](#)

PEFC SK Group Forest Management Certification standard is a robust document that is clear and unambiguous. It provides a comprehensive set of requirements that cover the following.

- a. Describing the group organization and its relations with group members, managers, and contractors.
- b. The importance of understanding the needs of group stakeholders (i.e., group members, managers, and contractors.)
- c. Detailed explanation of the PEFC SK group management system.
- d. SFM requirements to be fulfilled on the group level.
- e. Organizational roles and responsibilities of the group entity.
- f. Organizational roles and responsibilities of the group members.
- g. Requirements of group member commitment to the group entity.
- h. Group entity support of the system.
- i. Planning and internal monitoring (including sampling procedures and processes) of member adherence to the group structure and SFM requirements.
- j. Group dispute resolution and continual improvement.

### 6.2 Nonconformities [\[back\]](#)

There are **No NONCONFORMITIES**.

### 6.3 Conformities [\[back\]](#)

The following section provides examples of the PEFC SK SFCS Group Forest Management standard and conformance with PEFC Benchmark Requirements.

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1002:2018,4.2.1** The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:

a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and;

**TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.2.2** “The entity shall identify representatives of the affected stakeholders in the certified area to whom implementation of the standard may cause a direct change in living or working conditions or stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard. The following, but not exhaustive, list of stakeholders concerned, and their expectations may be relevant to the group management system.”

“contractors, employees, forest managers, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, managers of water resources, local population, local authorities” as well as the following “stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard: wood industries, hunting organizations, forest owners, scientific and research institutions”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1002:2018, 4.4.1** The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.

**TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.4.4** “The entity shall identify and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurements, and performance indicators) needed to properly establish and implement the process of sustainable forest management and its improvement. The entity performs the internal monitoring and the internal audit program at regular intervals, at least once a year for all participants in the certification.

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1002:2018, 4.4.1** The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.

**TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.4.4** “The entity shall identify and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurement and performance indicators) needed to properly establish and implement the process of sustainable forest management and its improvement. The entity performs the internal monitoring and the internal audit program at regular intervals, at least once a year for all participants in the certification.

Note: Monitoring is the acquisition of initial or supplementary information that is further processed and evaluated. The results of the monitoring may point to facts that may have a significant impact on the ensurance [sic] of SFM within the group. Their occurrence is taken into account when planning the internal audits. The internal audit systematically verifies the reliability of information, compliance with laws, regulations, rules and compliance of management with the requirements of the SFM standard, efficient and effective functioning of the group organization, use of resources and achievement of operational goals.”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1002:2018, 5.1.2** The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:

c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;

**TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2c,** “To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system, including contractors carrying out forestry operations in the forests on the basis of a contract with the owner or manager. This means that the manager shall be directly responsible for ensuring that the contracted service is performed in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met



## 7.0 Sustainable Forest Management [\[back\]](#)

### 7.1 Sustainable Forest Management Assessment [\[back\]](#)

The SFCS Standard for Sustainable Forest Management is found in PEFC SK TD\_SFCS\_1003\_EN\_2021. It is a clearly written standard and closely adheres to PEFC ST 1003:2018. In several instances throughout the standard reference is mentioned in following to the forest management laws of the Slovak Republic. These can be found in the supporting document TD in Annex 1 to TD SFCS 1003.

There are five (5) NONCONFORMITIES noted. All are considered minor and are detailed in Section 7.2 below.

### 7.2 Nonconformities [\[back\]](#)

The following are found to be Benchmark Nonconformities to PEFC 1003:2018. All are minor.

#### PEFC 1003:2018

##### 4.1 General

The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall:

4.1(e): specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;

##### *PEFC SK TD SFCS 1003:2121, 4.1.1*

*“4.1.1 The claim “100% PEFC certified” or another system specific claim shall be used to communicate the origin of products to customers with a PEFC chain of custody”*

#### **NONCONFORMITY**

The phrase “or another system specific claim” is not relevant to PEFC SK SFCS.

#### PEFC 1003:2018

8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

- a) is 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; and

- b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and
- c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and
- d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and
- e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

#### **NONCONFORMITY**

PEFC 1003:2018, 8.1.4, refers specifically to “forest conversion.” PEFC SK TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3 refers only to “exclusion of forest land.” This needs to be better defined.

#### **PEFC 1003:2018**

8.1.4(b): entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area;

*PEFC SK TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3*

*8.1.1.3 “shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type of the managed area”*

#### **NONCONFORMITY**

The PEFC standard defines small portion as “no greater than 5% of the forest type within the certified area.” PEFC SK 8.1.1.3 defines small area as “no greater than 5% of the managed area.” In some instances, managed area may far exceed certified area.

#### **PEFC 1003:2018**

8.2.5: The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided.

*PEFC SK 1003:2021*

*8.2.3.9 “The measures taken shall limit the generation of waste related to forestry production (does not apply to logging residues). The generated waste shall be continuously removed from the forest and properly disposed.”*

#### **NONCONFORMITY**

As written, PEFC SK SFCS does not stress avoidance of waste, but merely limits it.

#### **PEFC 1003:2018**

8.4.7: The standard requires that genetically modified trees shall not be used.

*PEFC SK 1003:2021*

*8.4.1.1 “Genetically modified trees shall not be used in forest regeneration.”*

#### **NONCONFORMITY**

As written, the SFCS does not prohibit the use of GMOs in forests, but merely restricts their use from forest regeneration.

### 7.3 Conformities [\[back\]](#)

The following section provides examples of the PEFC SK SFCS Sustainable Forest Management standard and conformance with PEFC Benchmark Requirements.

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1003:2018, 6.3.1.2** The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.

**TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.4:** “Forest management shall be in accordance with the applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including ways of forest management, nature and environmental protection, protected and endangered species, property, tenure and land-use rights for local communities or other affected stakeholders, health, labour and safety issues, anti-corruption, and the payment of applicable fees and taxes.”

6.4.2 “Know and comply with applicable legislation on forest management and anti-corruption legislation”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1003:2018, 7.4.1** The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.

**TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.4,** “Appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions”

7.4.1 “Complaints submitted by the complainant in paper or oral form shall be recorded and investigated”

7.4.2 “Legitimate complaints and disputes concerning forest management, land use rights and working conditions shall be settled by mutual agreement with the complainant.”

7.4.3 “The way and result of the investigation and handling of the complaint shall be recorded”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.2** The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.

**TD SFCS 8.3.1** “The volume of timber intended for harvesting shall be determined differently according to forest categories so as to ensure the optimal use of forest production potential and maintain the permanent fulfilment of forest functions, using appropriate management measures and preferring techniques that minimize negative impacts on forest resources. The

harvesting potential reflected in the harvesting possibilities shall be in line with the increment and shall not exceed it in the long term.”

8.3.1.2 “The annual volume of harvesting during the validity of the FMP under the proper forest management shall be in the range between 70% to 130% of the 1/10 of the FMP prescription (does not apply for entities under 1000 ha)”

8.3.1.3 “Timber harvesting shall be carried out in accordance with the condition and needs of the stand according to the harvesting principles and based on a written harvesting permit”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

#### CONFORMITY

**PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.4.2** The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important

**TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.6.2** “Map and textual documentation shall be kept about specially protected areas (ecologically important forest habitats)”

8.4.6.4 “Management measures in protected areas under the special protection of the state shall be carried out in accordance with best practice and, wherever appropriate and possible, in accordance with the principles of the close-to nature forest management, with an emphasis on preserving the subject of protection; if necessary, they shall be consulted with the State Nature Conservancy and affected stakeholders”

**Assessor’s Finding:** CONFORMITY – The PEFC benchmark requirement is met

## 8.0 Trademark Rules – Requirements [\[back\]](#)

PEFC SK SFCS has adopted PEFC ST 2001:2020 Trademarks Rules – Requirements, in its entirety and without modification.

#### CONFORMITY

## 9.0 Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree Based Products [\[back\]](#)

PEFC SK SFCS has adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree Based Products, in its entirety and without modification.

#### CONFORMITY

## 10.0 Requirements for Certification Bodies Operating CoC [\[back\]](#)

PEFC SK SFCS has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies Operating Chain of Custody, in its entirety and without modification.

#### CONFORMITY

## Annex 1: PEFC Checklists [\[back\]](#)

### Part 1: Standard Setting Procedures and Processes

#### PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)

##### 1 Scope

This checklist covers the requirements for standard setting procedures and process as defined in the revised 2017 issue of PEFC ST 1001, *Standard Setting – Requirements*.

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

##### 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Standardising Body</b>			
5.1.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
(a) its legal status and organisational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1),	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC SK Statute_2006_EN</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.1.:</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia is the standardizing body for the development, maintenance, review and revision of standards for the Slovak Forest Certification System. Its legal status, decision making bodies and organisational structure shall be defined in the PEFC SK statute.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.5:</p> <p>“Technical Committee shall be established by the PEFC SK Council on the basis of nominations received. The Technical Committee shall have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002,5.2 Documented information:</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>h) evidence of consensus on the final version of the standards,”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.2 Preparatory stage:</p> <p>“The PEFC SK Council shall be responsible for the acceptance or refusal of the nominations for establishing the Technical Committee or adjusting already existing Technical Committee based on the received nominations.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 Consensus building:</p> <p>“The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus.”</p> <p>“Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.5.1 Formal approval:</p> <p>“When there is evidence of consensus among the Technical Committee the final draft shall be submitted to the PEFC SK General Assembly for the formal approval. The approval shall be governed by the PEFC SK statute.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information:</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) standard-setting procedures,</li> <li>b) stakeholder identification mapping,</li> <li>c) contacted and/or invited stakeholders,</li> <li>d) stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each Technical Committee meeting,</li> <li>e) feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,</li> <li>f) all drafts and final versions of the standard,</li> <li>g) outcomes from Technical Committee considerations,</li> <li>h) evidence of consensus on the final version of the standards,</li> <li>i) evidence relating to the review process, and</li> <li>j) final approval by the PEFC SK General Assembly.</li> </ul> <p>Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.</p> <p>Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.5:</p> <p>“The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.2 Stakeholder identification:</p> <p>“Identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification,</li> <li>b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group,</li> <li>c) key stakeholders in each group,</li> <li>d) means of communication to reach stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and industry,</li> <li>• indigenous people,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.2 Establishment of Technical Committee:</p> <p>“The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 7.3 Stakeholder consultation:</p> <p>“Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC SK shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation. At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.1.2).”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6 Standard setting process:</p> <p>“The standard-setting process is organised in the stages to which the following responsibilities and versions of standards are associated”</p> <p>Subsequent Table (1) describes the standard-setting process in six stages: Proposal stage, Preparatory Stage, Development Stage, Enquiry stage, Approval stage, Publication Stage.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2:</p> <p>“In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods:</p> <p>a) face-to face meetings where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,</p> <p>b) telephone conference meetings where there is a verbal yes/no vote,</p> <p>c) e-mail request to the Technical Committee for agreement or objection where the members provide formal (written) response (vote), or</p> <p>d) combinations of these methods.</p> <p>Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.</p> <p>When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:</p> <p>a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the Technical Committee,</p> <p>b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,</p> <p>c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC SK determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.</p> <p>When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC SK shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.”</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7 Periodic review of standards:</p> <p>“The standards shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard’s implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.”</p> <p>Subsections 7.1–7.4 describe procedures for: “Feedback mechanism; Gap analysis; Stakeholder consultation; Decision-making”.</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 8 Revision of standards:</p> <p>Subsections 8.1-8.4 describe procedures for: “Normal revision; Editorial revision; Time-critical revision; Application and transition of revised standards”.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5 Standardising body:</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available on the PEFC SK website and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.4 PEFC Slovakia Secretariat:</p> <p>“The secretariat shall be responsible, inter alia, for the implementation of the document procedures and other rules relating to the standard development. For this purpose, the secretariat arranges all contacts between the Technical Committee, authorised person and the PEFC SK Council. In particular, the secretariat shall be responsible for:</p> <p>e) making standard setting procedures publicly available,</p> <p>l) establishing contact point for enquires and complaints relating the standard setting activities, administration of complaints and appeals”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information:</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>e) feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.3 Handling of complaints and appeals:</p> <p>“Any substantive or process complaints or appeals relating to the standard-setting procedures shall be resolved using the PEFC SK complaints and appeals resolution procedures</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>approved by the PEFC SK. The procedures are publicly available on PEFC SK website.</p> <p>PEFC Slovakia shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available on PEFC SK website.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 Public announcement of the process:</p> <p>“PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.”</p> <p>This section goes on to describe details of what an announcement and invitation shall include – see Process below.</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2 Public consultation:</p> <p>“The start and the end dates of the public consultation shall be announced on PEFC SK website and through suitable media. Public consultation shall be announced at the latest the day before the start of public consultation.”</p> <p>“The received feedback and views together with the preliminary proposals for their resolutions shall be considered in an open and transparent way by the Technical Committee as set out in clause 6.3. All proposed resolutions and changes to the enquiry draft shall be recorded.</p> <p>A synopsis of feedback shall be compiled for each single material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue and in the way that each stakeholder is able to identify its own feedback. The synopsis shall be made publicly available on PEFC SK website and sent to each stakeholder that gave feedback.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 7.1 Feedback mechanism:</p> <p>“PEFC SK shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the PEFC SK website with clear directions for providing feedback.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process		<p>Standard setting procedures available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/struktura-dokumentov/interne-dokumenty/nd_sfcs_002.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/struktura-dokumentov/interne-dokumenty/nd_sfcs_002.pdf</a></p> <p>Feedback point available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs</a></p> <p>DP_02-2021-11-15 EN, Sections:</p> <p>2. Timetable of the revision process: this table shows the expected timetable determined in the Proposal and its real</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>implementation, including: Proposal stage, Preparatory stage, Development stage, Enquiry stage, Approval stage, Publication stage;</p> <p>3. Identification of relevant stakeholders and constraints of their participation</p> <p>“Within the stakeholder categories, there were 88 main stakeholders identified, out of which 32 main stakeholders whose participation is crucial for the results of standard setting work, and 41 disadvantaged stakeholders<sup>4</sup>. The main criterion for identification of disadvantaged stakeholders was their unfavourable financial situation, their small size or spread distribution of operations, which does not have to allow them to participate in the process of revision. To motivate disadvantaged stakeholders to participate in the process the Board of Directors agreed to cover and reimburse travel and all other cost related with the participation in Technical Committee meetings.”</p> <p>4. Public announcement of the start of process and invitation of stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEFC Slovakia web page (9.12.2021) <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a> including the press release</li> <li>• the press release sent to the main press agencies and editorial offices of newspapers and magazines, professional forestry and wood processing media and portals (TASR, SITA, Hospodárske noviny, Sme, Pravda, lesmedium.sk, grevmag.sk, etc.) and published on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://www.lesmedium.sk/aktualne/slovensko-otvara-reviziu-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie-lesov">https://www.lesmedium.sk/aktualne/slovensko-otvara-reviziu-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie-lesov</a> (10.12.2019)</li> <li>- <a href="https://drevmag.com/2019/12/12/revizia-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie/">https://drevmag.com/2019/12/12/revizia-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie/</a> (12.12.2019)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Announcement of the start of the process and invitation of stakeholders to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee was also sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to main stakeholders (by registered mail) and disadvantaged stakeholders (by registered mail – receipt 9.12.2019)</li> <li>• to identified relevant stakeholders, PEFC Slovakia members and holders of SFM and COC certificates (E-mail correspondence – sending of the notice on the start of the revision (9.12.2021))</li> <li>• through PEFC Newsletter (News) (9.12.2019) <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-reviziu-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-03ef-30e7">https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-reviziu-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-03ef-30e7</a></li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.2.1 The standardising body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:			
(a) Standard-setting procedures,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information:</p> <p>"PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>a) standard-setting procedures"</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6 Standard setting process:</p> <p>"The standard-setting process is organised in the stages to which the following responsibilities and versions of standards are associated"</p> <p>Subsequent Table (1) describes the standard-setting process in six stages: Proposal stage, Preparatory Stage, Development Stage, Enquiry stage, Approval stage, Publication Stage.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	NO	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>Announcement of the start of the process and invitation of stakeholders to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee through PEFC Newsletter (News) (9.12.2019): <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-reviziu-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-03ef-30e7">https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-reviziu-dokumentov-narodneho-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-03ef-30e7</a></p> <p>Information about the establishment of TC was published on the PEFC SK website: <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/zzlinka-sirokospektralna-komisia-pre-tvorbu-standardov-udrzatelneho-obhospodarovania-lesov-e2d1">https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/zzlinka-sirokospektralna-komisia-pre-tvorbu-standardov-udrzatelneho-obhospodarovania-lesov-e2d1</a></p> <p>"8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution.</p> <p>Announcement of the start of public consultation and invitation of stakeholders to comment on documents was also sent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>through PEFC Newsletter (News)</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.pefc.sk/Novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-verejne-konzultacie-k-narodnemu-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-0a3d">https://www.pefc.sk/Novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-verejne-konzultacie-k-narodnemu-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-0a3d</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information:</p> <p>"PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>b) stakeholder identification mapping"</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.2:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>"Identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification,</li> <li>b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group,</li> <li>c) key stakeholders in each group,</li> <li>d) means of communication to reach stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and industry,</li> <li>• indigenous people,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p> <p>PEFC SK shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>"3. Identification of relevant stakeholders and constrains of their participation:</p> <p>Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the identification of relevant stakeholders, including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders has been done using the mapping exercise...</p> <p>Within the stakeholder categories, there were 88 main stakeholders identified, out of which 32 main stakeholders</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>whose participation is crucial for the results of standard setting work, and 41 disadvantaged stakeholders.”</p> <p>DP_02-2021-11-15 Annex 04-Stakeholder_mapping:</p> <p>Chart shows Stakeholder Groups with individuals’ names and contact info.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>“c) contacted and/or invited stakeholders”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>“5. Establishment and composition of Technical Committee</p> <p>The Technical Committee members were appointed by the appointment letter and their contact information were available on the PEFC SK web page</p> <p><a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/technicka-komisia">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/technicka-komisia</a>.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>d) stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each Technical Committee meeting”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>“5. Establishment and composition of Technical Committee</p> <p>The PEFC Slovakia secretariat received 27 nominations from 25 organisations. The PEFC Slovakia Council on its meeting on 7.7.2020 considered the nomination received and respecting the principle of balanced representation of interests and multispectral participation of stakeholders decided on the composition of the Technical Committee in a way that it accepted all nominations received...</p> <p>Tab. 3 Technical Committee members” Table shows names of 26 Technical Committee Members from 7 Stakeholder categories.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,			<p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>e) feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annex 24-Comments_public_consultation_mailing_TC:</p> <p>Document lists public comments/questions and responses.</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annex 15-Comments_submitted_to_preparatory_drafts:</p> <p>Documents PF_1001 through PF_1005 list public comments/questions and responses.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>f) all drafts and final versions of the standard”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annexes 18-TD_SFCS_100x_202x_PND-VP_2021-05-14 (Draft documents for comment)</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annex TD_SFCS_1005_2021_EN (Approved: PEFC Slovakia General Assembly Date: 11.11.2021)</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>g) outcomes from Technical Committee considerations”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Outcomes from Technical Committee considerations are found in the Development report DP_02-2021-11-15 Annexes</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>h) evidence of consensus on the final version of the standards”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence of consensus on the final version of the revision of the Slovak Forest Certification System is found in the Development report DP_02-2021-11-15 Annexes, including at least:</p> <p>28_Voting_final_drafts (postal ballots)</p> <p>29_Voting_PEFC_SK_GA (postal ballots)</p> <p>26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09 (translated)</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>i) evidence relating to the review process”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process		<p>Evidence relating to the review process is found in the Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annexes including at least:</p> <p>23-Comments_from_public_consultations</p> <p>24-Comments_public_consultation_mailing_TC</p> <p>25-Considered_comments_from_public_consultation</p> <p>16-TC_2_meeting_minutes_2021_04_21</p> <p>26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p>j) final approval by the PEFC SK General Assembly”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annexes, including:</p> <p>Foreword sections of TD SFCS 1001: 2021; TD SFCS 1002: 2021; TD SFCS 1003: 2021; TD SFCS 1005:2021;</p> <p>“This document was submitted to the national governing body of the Slovak Forest Certification System for formal adoption. The document was adopted as TD SFCS 100x:2021 on 11.11.2021.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information “Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.” Kept at the secretariat <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Documented information is available at the time of this assessment, including the Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN and Annexes. Documented information on the process could also be found on the SFCS website: <a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 5.2 Documented information “Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Available upon request at the secretariat Documented information on the process could be found on the SFCS website: <a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
5.3.1 The standardising body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardising body shall:			
(a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 5.3 Handling of complaints and appeals: “Any substantive or process complaints or appeals relating to the standard-setting procedures shall be resolved using the PEFC SK complaints and appeals resolution procedures approved by the PEFC SK.” ND SFCS 004: “6.3 The national secretary shall without delay: a) acknowledge to the complainant / appellant (in writing) the receipt and subject of the complaint / appeal or rejection of the complaint / appeal with justification if it is not in

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>accordance with clause 4.1 and 4.2 (in case of the complaint) or 5.1 and 5.2 (in case of the appeal).</p> <p>b) provide the complainant / appellant with details of the PEFC SK complaints and appeals procedures.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	No evidence of substantial and process complaints or appeals.
(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.3 Handling of complaints and appeals:</p> <p>“Any substantive or process complaints or appeals relating to the standard-setting procedures shall be resolved using the PEFC SK complaints and appeals resolution procedures approved by the PEFC SK. The procedures are publicly available on PEFC SK website.</p> <p>PEFC Slovakia shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available on PEFC SK website.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 004, 6 Complaints and appeals acceptance:</p> <p>“6.2 The secretariat decides on formal acceptance:</p> <p>a) of the complaint and its further investigation provided that the complaint is in accordance with 4.1 and the information supporting the complaint can be authenticated as being in compliance with 4.2,</p> <p>b) of the appeal and its further investigation provided that the appeal is in accordance with 5.1 and the information supporting the appeal can be authenticated as being in compliance with 5.2.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 004, 7 Complaint investigation and resolution process:</p> <p>7.1 After receiving the complaint, the PEFC SK chairman shall assign the Arbitral Commission to investigate the complaint. The investigators shall have no vested, or conflict of, interest in the complaint.</p> <p>7.2 The Arbitral Commission shall undertake a thorough investigation and seek a resolution. The Arbitral Commission shall submit in a timely matter, a detailed written report, to the PEFC SK chairman and the national secretary shall present it to the PEFC SK Council. The report shall include a statement indicating whether, or not, the complaint has been substantiated, procedures for its resolution and decision on resolving the complaint.</p> <p>Note: it is expected that complaints not requiring an on-site investigation should normally be investigated within 1 month”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	N.A.	No evidence of substantial and process complaints or appeals.
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.3</p> <p>ND SFCS 004 7 Complaint investigation and resolution process:</p> <p>“The national secretary shall inform in writing the complainant and other interested parties about the outcomes of the complaint resolution process and, based on the character of the outcome, the secretary shall request the adoption of appropriate corrective and preventive measures.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	No evidence of substantial and process complaints or appeals.
5.3.2 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.4 PEFC Slovakia Secretariat</p> <p>“The secretariat shall be responsible, inter alia, for the implementation of the document procedures and other rules relating to the standard development. For this purpose, the secretariat arranges all contacts between the Technical Committee, authorised person and the PEFC SK Council. In particular, the secretariat shall be responsible for:</p> <p>l) establishing contact point for enquires and complaints relating the standard setting activities, administration of complaints and appeals</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.3 Handling of complaints and appeals</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available on PEFC SK website.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Information available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Contact point for enquires <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs</a></p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN</p> <p>“4. Public announcement of the start of process and invitation of stakeholders</p> <p>The announcement also included information about the establishment of contact point for enquires and complaints relating the standard revision activities. The contact point was publicly available on PEFC Slovakia web (<a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a>).”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
<b>Standard-setting process</b>			
6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardising body shall develop a proposal including:			
(a) the scope of the standard,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.1.1 a “6.1.1 Standard proposal For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Slovakia shall develop a proposal including: h) the scope of the standard” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, p. 4 <a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a> : <b>“2 Scope and clear identification of the issue</b> Tab. 1 Scope of revision of SFCS technical documentation” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.1.1 b “6.1.1 Standard proposal For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Slovakia shall develop a proposal including: i) a justification of the need for the standard” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a> : <b>0 Introduction</b> “Both received comments and the results of the gap analysis were considered by the PEFC SK Council on 15.11.2019 and in accordance with the chapter 7.3.1.1 PEFC GD 1007: 2017 Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision recommended revision of SFSC documents. Based on the recommendation of the PEFC SK Council, the General Assembly of PEFC SK decided on 30 November 2019 to carry out a proper revision of the SFSC documents.”

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.1 c</p> <p>“6.1.1 Standard proposal</p> <p>For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Slovakia shall develop a proposal including:</p> <p>j) a clear description of the intended outcomes”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a>:</p> <p><b>3 Description of the development stages and expected timetable</b></p> <p>“Stages of development process and expected timetable is shown in tab. 2.”</p> <p>Following Tab. 2 lists Stages of document revision and timetable.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.1</p> <p>“6.1.1 Standard proposal</p> <p>For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Slovakia shall develop a proposal including:</p> <p>d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively,</li> <li>- unintended consequences of implementation,</li> <li>- actions to address the identified risks, and</li> </ul> <p>e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	No risk assessment is found. However, the requirement relates to new standards, and no new standard was developed.
(e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.1</p> <p>“6.1.1 Standard proposal</p> <p>For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Slovakia shall develop a proposal including:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).			<p>e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.</p> <p>NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1)."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>DP-01_2019-12-04_EN:</p> <p>"3 Description of the development stages and expected timetable</p> <p>Stages of development process and expected timetable is shown in tab. 2."</p> <p>Following is a table containing the process and timelines for review, with expected dates for the various stages / events.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.1:</p> <p>"6.1.1 Standard proposal</p> <p>For the creation of a new standard, PEFC Slovakia shall develop a proposal including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the scope of the standard,</li> <li>j. a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable." <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p> </li></ul>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, pp. 4-6</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.2</p> <p>"Identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification,</li> <li>b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group,</li> <li>c) key stakeholders in each group,</li> <li>d) means of communication to reach stakeholders." <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p> </li></ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.</p>	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, pp. 6-7</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>“4 Identification of relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <p>a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification</p> <p>b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group</p> <p>c) key stakeholders in each group</p> <p>d) means of communication to reach stakeholders</p> <p>Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21. The categories of considered stakeholder groups and their key issues/interests are shown in table 3.”</p> <p>Following is a table containing the Category of stakeholders and Key issues for the category.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and industry,</li> <li>• indigenous people,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> </ul>	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.2:</p> <p>“Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest owners,</li> <li>• business and industry,</li> <li>• indigenous people,</li> <li>• non-government organisations,</li> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scientific and technological community,</li> <li>• workers and trade unions.</li> </ul> <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p>			<p>technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p> <p>PEFC SK shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, pp. 6-7</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>"4 Identification of relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification</li> <li>b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group</li> <li>c) key stakeholders in each group</li> <li>d) means of communication to reach stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21. The categories of considered stakeholder groups and their key issues/interests are shown in table 3."</p> <p>Following is a table containing the Category of stakeholders and Key issues for the category.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.1.2</p> <p>"PEFC SK shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, pp. 6-7</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
and a key stakeholder at the same time.			<p><b>“1 Structure of proposal of documents revision</b></p> <p>The proposal was elaborated from the secretariat's own initiative. Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the standards proposal shall cover the following issues:</p> <p>c) identification of stakeholders relevant to the objective and scope of the standard setting activity, including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders, and address any constraints of their participation”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 <i>Through suitable media</i> means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1</p> <p>“6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>a) overview of the standard-setting process,</p> <p>b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1.1),</p> <p>c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,</p> <p>d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the Technical Committee (refer to 6.2.2). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand, e.g. registered post, e-mail receipt confirmation,</p> <p>e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and</p> <p>f) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures available on PEFC SK website.</p> <p>NOTE 1 Through suitable media means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p> <p>The announcement shall be made in a timely manner, e.g. at the latest four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>PEFC SK secretariat shall make the standard-setting procedures publicly available on PEFC SK webpage and review it based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, p. 5</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a>:</p> <p><b>“3 Description of the development stages and expected timetable</b></p> <p>Stages of development process and expected timetable is shown in tab. 2.”</p> <p>Following is a table containing the Stages of document revision and timetable.</p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 a:</p> <p>“6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>a) overview of the standard-setting process”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN, p. 5</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a>:</p> <p><b>“3 Description of the development stages and expected timetable</b></p> <p>Stages of development process and expected timetable is shown in tab. 2.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Following is a table containing the Stages of document revision and timetable.</p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 b:</p> <p>“6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1.1)”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZI/P/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 c:</p> <p>“6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 d:</p> <p>“6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the Technical Committee (refer to 6.2.2). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand, e.g. registered post, e-mail receipt confirmation”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 e:</p> <p>“6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
scope and standard-setting process, and			<p>process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1 f:</p> <p>"6.2.1 Public announcement of the process</p> <p>PEFC SK shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The start of the process shall be announced by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website and through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <p>f) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures available on PEFC SK website."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip">https://consultations.pefc.org/gf2.ti/f/1341602/118613701.1/ZIP/-/2021_SFCS_Revised_Documentation.zip</a></p> <p>Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021</a></p> <p>Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_2019-12-09.pdf</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.3.2 The standardising body	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.2.1:

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
shall review the standard-setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.			<p>“PEFC SK secretariat shall make the standard-setting procedures publicly available on PEFC SK webpage and review it based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.4.1:</p> <p>“Received feedback and views as well as preliminary proposals for their resolutions shall be considered in an open and transparent way. These comments as well as changes resulting from the PEFC SK members consultation shall be communicated to the PEFC SK members through e-mail communication or other appropriate means.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>2. Timetable of the revision process (Tab.1 shows “providing and considering feedback as having occurred 9.12.2020-31.5.2021)</p> <p>“10. Reference to publicly available documentation and procedures</p> <p>The currently valid SFCS technical documents, normative SFCS documents and procedures for the development of SFCS documents are available on <a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov</a>.</p> <p>The revised technical documents, process of revision and the development report for the revision process are available on <a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty</a>.</p> <p>The process of revision has been documented. The documented information from the process of revision of SFCS documents content:</p> <p>- feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.5:</p> <p>“5.1.5 Technical Committee</p> <p>Technical Committee shall be established by the PEFC SK Council on the basis of nominations received.</p> <p>The Technical Committee shall have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process.</p> <p>The Technical Committee shall include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.			<p>who are affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard.</p> <p>The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.</p> <p>The members of the Technical Committees are accessible through the publicly available contact information on PEFC SK web page.</p> <p>Technical Committee members vote for a committee chairman who leads the discussions and authorises correctness and completeness of implementation of adopted decisions into documents. Administration of the Technical Committee activities is provided by the National Secretary or by the person authorised by the PEFC SK Council.</p> <p>ND SFCS 002 - Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation</p> <p>Technical Committee is established on a temporary basis for the period of SFCS standard development or revision."</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.2:</p> <p>"6.2.2 Establishment of Technical Committee</p> <p>The invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee is done as part of the announcement. The nominations are collected by the secretariat.</p> <p>The PEFC SK Council shall be responsible for the acceptance or refusal of the nominations for establishing the Technical Committee or adjusting already existing Technical Committee based on the received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting The secretariat shall inform the members of the Technical Committee of their acceptance.</p> <p>Requirements for the Technical Committee representation are defined in chapter 5.1.5.</p> <p>In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Slovakia shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.1.2) represented. PEFC Slovakia shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</p> <p>NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, PEFC Slovakia may consider alternative options."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>"2. Timetable of the revision process</b> (Tab.1 shows "Technical Committee establishment" as having occurred 7.7.2020)</p> <p><b>"5. Establishment and composition of Technical Committee</b></p> <p>The PEFC Slovakia secretariat received 27 nominations from 25 organisations<sup>9</sup>. The PEFC Slovakia Council on its meeting on 7.7.2020<sup>10</sup> considered the nomination received and respecting the principle of balanced representation of interests and multispectral participation of stakeholders decided on the composition of the Technical Committee in a way that it accepted all nominations received (tab. 3). The Technical Committee members were appointed by the appointment letter<sup>11</sup> and their contact information were available on the PEFC SK web page <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/technicka-komisia">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/technicka-komisia</a>. Information about the establishment of TC was published on the PEFC SK website <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/zmlinka-sirokospektralna-komisia-pre-tvorbu-standardov-udrzatelneho-obhospodarovania-lesov-e2d1">https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/zmlinka-sirokospektralna-komisia-pre-tvorbu-standardov-udrzatelneho-obhospodarovania-lesov-e2d1</a>. This was shared by the webnoviny.sk portal and made available on <a href="https://www.webnoviny.sk/nasvidiek/na-slovensku-vznikla-komisia-pre-tvorbu-standardov-udrzatelneho-obhospodarovania-lesov/">https://www.webnoviny.sk/nasvidiek/na-slovensku-vznikla-komisia-pre-tvorbu-standardov-udrzatelneho-obhospodarovania-lesov/</a>.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.4.2 The working group shall:			
(a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.5 Technical Committee</p> <p>"The Technical Committee shall have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>"1. Structure of proposal of documents revision</b></p> <p>The proposal was elaborated from the secretariat's own initiative. Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the standards proposal shall cover the following issues:</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>k) requirements for representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee and their balanced representation</p> <p><b>“5. Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee</b></p> <p>The Technical Committee shall have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process.”</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>“1. Scope of the revision process</b></p> <p>The process of revision of the technical documentation was initiated by the PEFC Slovakia Council (Board of Directors) on 4.12.2019, which approved the Proposal for the revision of SFCS (DP_01_2019-12-04_EN). The Proposal defines the scope, identification of relevant stakeholders including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders and identification of constraints of their participation, requirements for representation of members and stakeholders in the Technical Committee and their balanced representation, proposal for an authorised person, description of the development stages including expected timetable and resources required for the development work.”</p> <p><b>“5. Establishment and composition of Technical Committee</b></p> <p>The PEFC Slovakia secretariat received 27 nominations from 25 organisations. The PEFC Slovakia Council on its meeting on 7.7.2020 considered the nomination received and respecting the principle of balanced representation of interests and multispectral participation of stakeholders decided on the composition of the Technical Committee in a way that it accepted all nominations received (tab. 3).”</p> <p>Technical Committee <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/technicka-komisia">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/technicka-komisia</a> (List of Members of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents)</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 5.1.5:</p> <p>“The Technical Committee shall have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.			<p>The Technical Committee shall include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those who are affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>“5 Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee</b></p> <p>The PEFC SK Council will be responsible for the acceptance or refusal of the nominations for establishing the Technical Committee or adjusting already existing Technical Committee based on the received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual’s competence, an individual’s relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.</p> <p>The Technical Committee shall have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process.”</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>“The PEFC Slovakia secretariat received 27 nominations from 25 organisations<sup>9</sup>. The PEFC Slovakia Council on its meeting on 7.7.2020<sup>10</sup> considered the nomination received and respecting the principle of balanced representation of interests and multispectral participation of stakeholders decided on the composition of the Technical Committee in a way that it accepted all nominations received (tab. 3).”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.2.2:</p> <p>“The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the Technical Committee, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual’s competence, an individual’s relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting”</p> <p>“In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Slovakia shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.1.2) represented. PEFC Slovakia shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.			<p>participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</p> <p>NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, PEFC Slovakia may consider alternative options."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>"1 Structure of proposal of documents revision</b></p> <p>The proposal was elaborated from the secretariat's own initiative. Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the standards proposal shall cover the following issues:</p> <p>l) requirements for representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee and their balanced representation,"</p> <p><b>"5 Requirements for representation and decision making of stakeholder categories in the Technical Committee</b></p> <p>In order to achieve balanced representation, PEFC Slovakia shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups represented. The aim is to ensure the participation of the identified main interest groups in the process, for which the available means of communication and opportunities will be used."</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>"3. Identification of relevant stakeholders and constrains of their participation</b></p> <p>To motivate disadvantaged stakeholders to participate in the process the Board of Directors agreed to cover and reimburse travel and all other cost related with the participation in Technical Committee meetings."</p> <p><b>"10. Reference to publicly available documentation</b></p> <p>The process of revision has been documented. The documented information from the process of revision of SFCS documents content:</p> <p>- Technical Committee members including their participation in each Technical Committee meeting"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.2.3:

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group,			<p>“6.2.3 Elaboration of preparatory draft of documentation</p> <p>Either the secretariat or the person authorised by the Council shall prepare a preparatory draft of the relevant document which shall be supplied to and serve as a working draft for the Technical Committee.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.1 a:</p> <p>“6.3.1 Providing and consideration of feedback</p> <p>Activities of the Technical Committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:</p> <p>a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the Technical Committee,”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>“7. Evidence on the consensus building, including a summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution</b></p> <p>On 10.12.2020 the preparatory drafts<sup>13</sup> together with commenting forms were sent out to the TC members with the requirement to comment to the drafts and submit the comments back to the PEFC Slovakia secretariat by 31.1.2021<sup>14</sup>.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> Preparatory drafts (SFCS 100x:202x PND 9.12.2020)”</p> <p><b>“8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution</b></p> <p>The enquiry drafts together with commenting forms (online and offline) were publicly available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie</a>.</p> <p>On 25.10.2021 the final drafts were sent to PEFC Slovakia members for formal approval using the postal ballot 3/2021”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.1 b:</p> <p>“6.3.1 Providing and consideration of feedback</p> <p>Activities of the Technical Committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:</p> <p>b) all members of the Technical Committee shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback to the working draft”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN: <b>"2. Timetable of the revision process"</b> (Tab.1 Timetable of the revision process, shows Development stage/Providing and consideration of feedback, Responsibility of Technical Committee/ Authorised person, Working Draft Document version, as having occurred 9.12.2020-31.5.2021)." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.3.1 c: "6.3.1 Providing and consideration of feedback Activities of the Technical Committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: c) feedback and views given by any member of the Technical Committee, together with the preliminary proposals for their resolutions, shall be considered in an open and transparent way. All outcomes of these considerations shall be recorded." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN: <b>"7. Evidence on the consensus building, including a summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution"</b> The proposal for considering and acceptance of comments was approved unanimously. The final decision on the final wording of all submitted comments as well as of additionally made comments during the meeting was made by consensus of all TC members as recorded in the meeting minutes <sup>16</sup> <sup>16</sup> Minutes of 2. TC meeting (21.4.2021)" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilise the following methods:			
(a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 a: "6.3.2 Consensus building The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods: i) face-to face meetings where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>“10. Reference to publicly available documentation and procedures</b></p> <p>The currently valid SFCS technical documents, normative SFCS documents and procedures for the development of SFCS documents are available on <a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov</a>.</p> <p>The revised technical documents, process of revision and the development report for the revision process are available on <a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty</a>.</p> <p>The process of revision has been documented. The documented information from the process of revision of SFCS documents content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evidence of consensus on the final version of the standards”</li> </ul> <p>Development Report Annex: 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09</p> <p>Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica:</p> <p>“4. The final draft technical documents were voted on by the members of the TK present in person on the spot.”</p> <p>The results of the regular and correspondence votes are given in a table indicating unanimously in favour of the final draft.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 b:</p> <p>“6.3.2 Consensus building</p> <p>The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) telephone conference meetings where there is a verbal yes/no vote”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	The consensus was reached during a face-to-face meeting by regular and correspondence votes.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 c:</p> <p>“6.3.2 Consensus building</p> <p>The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods:</p> <p>k) e-mail request to the Technical Committee for agreement or objection where the members provide formal (written) response (vote)”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09</p> <p>Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica:</p> <p>“4. The final draft technical documents were voted on by the members of the TK present in person on the spot.”</p> <p>The results of the regular and correspondence votes are given in a table indicating unanimously in favour of the final draft.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 d:</p> <p>“6.3.2 Consensus building</p> <p>The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the working draft for public consultations or final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the Technical Committee can utilise the following methods:</p> <p>l) combinations of these methods.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09</p> <p>Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica:</p> <p>“4. The final draft technical documents were voted on by the members of the TK present in person on the spot.”</p> <p>The results of the regular and correspondence votes are given in a table indicating unanimously in favour of the final draft.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
6.4.6 Where a vote is used in decision-making, the standard-setting procedures shall determine and include decision-making thresholds that quantifies consensus. The threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2:</p> <p>“Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.</p> <p>When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:</p> <p>a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the Technical Committee,</p> <p>b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,</p> <p>c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC SK determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.</p> <p>When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC SK shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Annex: 26-TC_3_meeting_minutes_2021-09-09</p> <p>Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica:</p> <p>“4. The final draft technical documents were voted on by the members of the TK present in person on the spot.”</p> <p>The results of the regular and correspondence votes are given in a table indicating unanimously in favour of the final draft. There was no sustained opposition.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:			
(a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 a</p> <p>“Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.</p> <p>When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>g) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the Technical Committee”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply. There was no sustained opposition.
(b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 b:</p> <p>“Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.</p> <p>When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:</p> <p>h) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply. There was no sustained opposition.
(c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The standardising body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2 c:</p> <p>“Where a vote is used in decision-making, consensus shall be deemed to be a two thirds majority decision by the members of the Technical Commission, provided that none of the votes represents a sustained opposition.</p> <p>When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:</p> <p>i) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC SK determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply. There was no sustained opposition.
6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.3.2:</p> <p>“When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC SK shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.	Process	N.A.	Does not apply. There was no sustained opposition.
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, NOTE <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2 Public consultation: “The secretariat shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft.  The start and the end dates of the public consultation shall be announced on PEFC SK website and through suitable media. Public consultation shall be announced at the latest the day before the start of public consultation.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annexes: 05-Press_release_2019-12-09 Public announcement <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie</a> 19-Press_release_2021-06-07 Press release <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_pefc_2021-06-07.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/tlacova_sprava_pefc_2021-06-07.pdf</a>  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(b) a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2 Public consultation: “A direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft shall be sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.1.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN: <b>“3. Identification of relevant stakeholders and constrains of their participation</b>  Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the identification of relevant stakeholders, including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders has been done using the mapping...”  <b>“8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution</b>  Announcement of the start of public consultation and invitation of stakeholders to comment on documents was also sent to:

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• main stakeholders (by registered mail) and disadvantaged stakeholders (by registered mail) (7.6.2021)</li> <li>• through PEFC Newsletter (News)  <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-verejne-konzultacie-k-narodnemu-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-0a3d">https://www.pefc.sk/novinky/pefc-slovensko-otvara-verejne-konzultacie-k-narodnemu-systemu-certifikacie-lesov-0a3d</a>  (8.6.2021)”</li> </ul> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2: “The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in understandable format and ensure that the information reaches its recipient, e.g. registered post, e-mail receipt confirmation.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN: <b>“8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution</b> Announcement of the start of public consultation and invitation of stakeholders to comment on documents was also sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• main stakeholders (by registered mail) and disadvantaged stakeholders (by registered mail) (7.6.2021)</li> </ul> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2 Public consultation “The secretariat shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft. The start and the end dates of the public consultation shall be announced on PEFC SK website and through suitable media.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:” <b>“8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution</b> The enquiry drafts together with commenting forms (online and offline) were publicly available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie</a> .” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2 Public consultation

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,			<p>"The public consultations shall be at least 60 days and the enquiry draft shall be made publicly available and accessible on the PEFC SK website and on request."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>"8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution"</b></p> <p>Public consultation to inquiry drafts<sup>18</sup> was organised by the PEFC Slovakia secretariat. Public consultation period was from 8.6.2021 to 8.8.2021."</p> <p>Development Report Annex: 19-Press_release_2021-06-07:</p> <p>"Comments, suggestions and comments on submitted documents can be sent during the duration of the consultations from 8.6.2021 to 8.8.2021 via online published forms, electronically to info@pefc.sk or in writing to PEFC Slovakia."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
(f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2:</p> <p>"The received feedback and views together with the preliminary proposals for their resolutions shall be considered in an open and transparent way by the Technical Committee as set out in clause 6.3. All proposed resolutions and changes to the enquiry draft shall be recorded."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p><b>Minutes of the 2. Technical Commission meeting on SFCS revision held online on 21.4.2021</b></p> <p>"3. Discussion of comments on technical documents</p> <p>In accordance with the procedure set out in point 2, each comment was made by TD SFCS 1003, TD SFCS 1002, TD SFCS 1001. All resulting texts were recorded in tabular form in MS EXCEL (Annex A-D) files. If the members of the TK agree with the preliminary proposal of the PEFC SK Secretariat for the resulting consensus (acceptance or non-acceptance of the comment), the final text of the Secretariat (column I) shall be deemed to be the final text. If the members of the TK agreed to modify the final text, this was recorded for each comment (column J). In particular, the final the text of the observations on TD SFCS 1003 Nos 43, 49, 58, 62, 177, 209, 210 (Annex C) and the adaptation of point 4.2.1 in TD SFCS 1002 (Annex E) was adopted."</p> <p><b>Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Technical Commission for the Revision of SFCS Documents held on 9 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica</b></p> <p>"3. Discussion of comments on technical documents</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>1. The members of the Technical Commission (TK) present were welcomed by Hubert Paluš, National Secretary of PEFC SK. It recalled the guiding principles for the revision of the SFCS technical documents set out in the content intent. It briefly recapitalised the progress of the commission's work so far in commenting on the preparatory draft documents and stressed that today's online negotiation aims to agree on the final text of the open comments received from the members of the Commission from the second round (14.3.2021). These were adopted for documents TD SFCS 1001, TD SFCS 1002, TD SFCS 1003 and TK members received in summary form together with the proposal of the PEFC SK Secretariat for the resulting consensus in advance.</p> <p>3. In accordance with the procedure set out in point 2, each comment was made by TD SFCS 1003, TD SFCS 1002, TD SFCS 1001. All resulting texts were recorded in tabular form in MS EXCEL (Annex A-D) files. If the members of the TK agree with the preliminary proposal of the PEFC SK Secretariat for the resulting consensus (acceptance or non-acceptance of the comment), the final text of the Secretariat (column I) shall be deemed to be the final text. If the members of the TK agreed to modify the final text, this was recorded for each comment (column J). In particular, the final the text of the observations on TD SFCS 1003 Nos 43, 49, 58, 62, 177, 209, 210 (Annex C) and the adaptation of point 4.2.1 in TD SFCS 1002 (Annex E) was adopted."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>(g) a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.</p> <p>NOTE For clarity the standardising body's synopsis may aggregate responses on material issues where there was similar feedback from different stakeholders.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 6.4.2:</p> <p>"A synopsis of feedback shall be compiled for each single material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue and in the way that each stakeholder is able to identify its own feedback. The synopsis shall be made publicly available on PEFC SK website and sent to each stakeholder that gave feedback."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>The original feedback documents submitted by stakeholders are placed on the SFCS web site. These are compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue as Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annex:15-Comments_submitted_to_preparatory_drafts</p> <p>Publicly available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/verejne-konzultacie</a></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
However, best practice would be to publish each piece of original feedback and the response, to allow each stakeholder to identify its own feedback.			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.5.2 For new standards the standardising body shall organise a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days.	Procedures	N.A.	Does not apply. The requirement relates to new standards, and no new standard was developed.
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply.
6.6 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The working group shall consider the outcome of pilot testing.  NOTE Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.	Procedures	N.A.	Does not apply. The requirement relates to new standards, and no new standard was developed.
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply
<b>Approval and Publication</b>			
7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.5.1: “When there is evidence of consensus among the Technical Committee the final draft shall be submitted to the PEFC SK General Assembly for the formal approval. The approval shall be governed by the PEFC SK statute.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN: “8. Information on public consultations and summary of submitted and considered comments and their resolution  On 25.10.2021 the final drafts were sent to PEFC Slovakia members for formal approval using the postal ballot 3/202129. The documents were approved by the PEFC Slovakia General Assembly (28 members) as SFCS Technical Documents on 11.11.202130. The results of voting: FOR - 23, AGAINST – 0, ABSTAIN – 5.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardising body.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.1: “The formally approved standards shall be published and made publicly available by the Secretariat on PEFC SK website at no cost within 14 days of approval.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN: “ <b>10. Reference to publicly available documentation and procedures</b> The currently valid SFCS technical documents, normative SFCS documents and procedures for the development of SFCS documents are available on <a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/struktura-dokumentov</a> . The revised technical documents, process of revision and the development report for the revision process are available on <a href="http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty">http://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty</a> . <b>CONFORMITY</b>
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:			
(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.1 Standard publication: “Standards shall include: m) identification and contact information for the PEFC Slovakia” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	TD SFCS 100x:2021 Cover <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.1 Standard publication: “Standards shall include: n) official language of the standard” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	TD SFCS 100x:2021 Imprint <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.1 Standard publication: “Standards shall include:

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.			o) a NOTE that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	TD SFCS 100x:2021 Imprint <b>CONFORMITY</b>
(d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review  NOTE The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.1 Standard publication: "Standards shall include: p) the approval date and the date of next periodic review" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	TD SFCS 100x:2021 Imprint <b>CONFORMITY</b>
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.1 Standard publication: "Secretariat shall make printed copies available upon request free of charge." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Imprint <b>CONFORMITY</b>
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 6.6.2 Development report: "Secretariat in cooperation with the Technical Committee/Authorised person shall elaborate a development report which provides the following evidence on the process compliance with this document's procedures: a) a summary of the standard setting process with timetable, b) list of stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping with contact details, c) information on the announcement of the process and invitation to stakeholders, d) synopsis of comments from the public consultations, e) evidence on the consensus, including a summary of presented oppositions and their resolution, f) a summary of major changes and justification (for revised standards)  Secretariat shall make the development report publicly available on the PEFC SK website."



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Publicly available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty</a> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
<b>Periodic review of standards</b>			
8.1 The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7 Periodic review of standards:</p> <p>"The standards shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input."</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 7.1 Feedback mechanism:</p> <p>"PEFC SK shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the PEFC SK website with clear directions for providing feedback.</p> <p>NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.</p> <p>All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded by the Secretariat and considered by the PEFC SK Council."</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 7.2 Gap analysis:</p> <p>"At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard."</p> <p>PEFC SK shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 7.3 Stakeholder consultation:</p> <p>"Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC SK shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.1.2).</p> <p>PEFC SK shall organise:</p> <p>a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.4.2) and/or,</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>b) stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>PEFC SK shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.2.1)."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>"0 Introduction</b></p> <p>According to the PEFC ST 1001:2017 Standard Setting – Requirements and ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the normative documents of national standards shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. PEFC GD 1007 Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of Certification Systems and their Revision requires the review of a system shall have started five years from the approval date included in the forest management standard (SFM).</p> <p>The current version of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS) was approved by the General Assembly of PEFC Slovakia on 12 December 2014 and recognized by the PEFC Council on 14 January 2016 for a period of 5 years. The periodic review of SFCS standards shall start no later than 12.12.2019 (review date). By the review date, PEFC Slovakia shall publicly announce the start of the periodic review process."</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>"1. Scope of the revision process</b></p> <p>The process of revision of the technical documentation was initiated by the PEFC Slovakia Council (Board of Directors) on 4.12.2019, which approved the Proposal for the revision of SFCS (DP_01_2019-12-04_EN)3. The Proposal defines the scope, identification of relevant stakeholders including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders and identification of constraints of their participation, requirements for representation of members and stakeholders in the Technical Committee and their balanced representation, proposal for an authorised person, description of the development stages including expected timetable and resources required for the development work.</p> <p>The following issues were taken into consideration to define the scope of the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- changes in PEFC international standards since 2014</li> <li>- changes in PEFC international guidelines</li> <li>- permanently collected feedback on SFCS from standard users and other stakeholders</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>- results of gap analysis of SFCS documents against the relevant PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards</p> <p>- changes in national forestry and related legislation since the last SFCS revision in 2014"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.2.1 The standardising body shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the website of the standardising body and/or PEFC National Governing Body with clear directions for providing feedback.</p> <p>NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.1:</p> <p>"7.1 Feedback mechanism</p> <p>PEFC SK shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the PEFC SK website with clear directions for providing feedback.</p> <p>NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.</p> <p>All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded by the Secretariat and considered by the PEFC SK Council."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>"0 Introduction:</b></p> <p>"From 10.5.2019, PEFC SK enables the permanent collection and recording of feedback on the current wording of the SFCS standards via the website <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs</a>. The website provides clear guidance on how feedback can be provided."</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p>"1. Scope of the revision process</p> <p>The following issues were taken into consideration to define the scope of the process:</p> <p>permanently collected feedback on SFCS from standard users and other stakeholders"</p> <p>Feedback point available on <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs</a></p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.2.2 All feedback received through all	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 7.1 Feedback mechanism:

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.			<p>“All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded by the Secretariat and considered by the PEFC SK Council.”</p> <p>ND SFCS 002, 5.2. Documented information:</p> <p>“PEFC Slovakia shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">q) feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p> <p>“From 10.5.2019, PEFC SK enables the permanent collection and recording of feedback on the current wording of the SFCS standards via the website <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs">https://www.pefc.sk/dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov/priebezne-pripomienkovanie-dokumentov-sfcs</a>. The website provides clear guidance on how feedback can be provided.”</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN Annexes:</p> <p>15-Comments_submitted_to_preparatory_drafts</p> <p>23-Comments_from_public_consultations</p> <p>24-Comments_public_consultation_mailing_TC</p> <p>25-Considered_comments_from_public_consultation</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.2 Gap analysis:</p> <p>“At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p> <p>“According to the PEFC ST 1001:2017 Standard Setting – Requirements and ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the normative documents of national standards shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. PEFC GD 1007 Endorsement and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Mutual Recognition of Certification Systems and their Revision requires the review of a system shall have started five years from the approval date included in the forest management standard (SFM).</p> <p>The current version of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS) was approved by the General Assembly of PEFC Slovakia on 12 December 2014 and recognized by the PEFC Council on 14 January 2016 for a period of 5 years. The periodic review of SFCS standards shall start no later than 12.12.2019 (review date). By the review date, PEFC Slovakia shall publicly announce the start of the periodic review process.</p> <p>The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.2 Gap analysis:</p> <p>PEFC SK shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>"0 Introduction</b></p> <p>"On 25 October 2019, the secretariat elaborated a gap analysis of SFCS documents with relevant international PEFC standards, national legislation and regulations, and other relevant standards, and identified potential non-conformities, taking into account the latest scientific knowledge reflected in relevant standards and laws (Annex B)."</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>"3. Identification of relevant stakeholders and constrains of their participation</b></p> <p>Tab. 2 Categories of stakeholders and their key issues"</p> <p>Following table lists "Implementation of science and research results in forest management" as Key issues for the scientific and technological community category of stakeholders.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.3 Stakeholder consultation:</p> <p>"Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall organise</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
revise the standard, the standardising body shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardising body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.			stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC SK shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a gap analysis did identify a need to revise the standard.
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, ND SFCS 002, 7.3: Stakeholder consultation:  "Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC SK shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.  At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.1.2).  PEFC SK shall organise:  a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.4.2) and/or,  b) stakeholder meetings.  PEFC SK shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.2.1)." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	YES	Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a> :  <b>4 Identification of relevant stakeholders</b>  "Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the identification of stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities shall be done using the mapping exercise, which includes identification of:  a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification  b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group  c) key stakeholders in each group  d) means of communication to reach stakeholders

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21.”</p> <p>Development report DP_02-2021-11-15_EN:</p> <p><b>“3. Identification of relevant stakeholders and constrains of their participation</b></p> <p>Following the requirements of ND SFCS 002 Development, review and revision of SFCS documentation the identification of relevant stakeholders, including the disadvantaged and key stakeholders has been done using the mapping exercise in order to determine:</p> <p>a) stakeholder groups relevant to the subject matter and their justification</p> <p>b) key issues for each relevant stakeholder group</p> <p>c) key stakeholders in each group</p> <p>d) means of communication to reach stakeholders</p> <p>Stakeholder categories and their key issues are shown in tab. 2.”</p> <p>The following Tab. 2 shows Categories of stakeholders and their key issues.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.3 The standardising body shall organise:			
(a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or,	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.3 Stakeholder consultation:</p> <p>“Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. PEFC SK shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.1.2).</p> <p>PEFC SK shall organise:</p> <p>a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.4.2)”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply, since a need to revise the standard was identified.
(b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.3 Stakeholder consultation</p> <p>“Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>see a need for revising the standard. PEFC SK shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>At the start of a review, PEFC SK shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.1.2).</p> <p>PEFC SK shall organise:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) stakeholder meetings."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply, since a need to revise the standard was identified.
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.3 Stakeholder consultation:</p> <p>"PEFC SK shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.2.1)."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>"0 Introduction</b></p> <p>"If the periodic review results in the start of a revision process, PEFC Slovakia shall publicly announce the revision process within 12 months after the review (12.12.2020) and submit the revised system for assessment by PEFC Council within 24 months after the review date (12.12.2021)."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.4 Decision-making:</p> <p>"Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC SK General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.</p> <p>Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, PEFC SK shall provide a justification for the decision and Secretariat shall make the justification publicly available.</p> <p>Where the decision is to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision)."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>“On 25 October 2019, the secretariat elaborated a gap analysis of SFCS documents with relevant international PEFC standards, national legislation and regulations, and other relevant standards, and identified potential non-conformities, taking into account the latest scientific knowledge reflected in relevant standards and laws (Annex B).</p> <p>Both received comments and the results of the gap analysis were considered by the PEFC SK Council on 15.11.2019 and in accordance with the chapter 7.3.1.1 PEFC GD 1007: 2017 Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision recommended revision of SFSC documents. Based on the recommendation of the PEFC SK Council, the General Assembly of PEFC SK decided on 30 November 2019 to carry out a proper revision of the SFSC documents.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.4 Decision-making</p> <p>“Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard’s implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC SK General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p> <p>“Based on the recommendation of the PEFC SK Council, the General Assembly of PEFC SK decided on 30 November 2019 to carry out a proper revision of the SFSC documents.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardising body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.4: Decision-making</p> <p>“Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard’s implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC SK General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.</p> <p>Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, PEFC SK shall provide a justification for the decision and Secretariat shall make the justification publicly available.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply, as a decision was made to revise the SFSC documents.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p> <p>“Based on the recommendation of the PEFC SK Council, the General Assembly of PEFC SK decided on 30 November 2019 to carry out a proper revision of the SFSC documents.”</p>
8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardising body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 7.4 Decision-making</p> <p>“Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard’s implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC SK General Assembly shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.</p> <p>Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, PEFC SK shall provide a justification for the decision and Secretariat shall make the justification publicly available.</p> <p>Where the decision is to revise the standard, PEFC SK shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p> <p>“On 25 October 2019, the secretariat elaborated a gap analysis of SFCS documents with relevant international PEFC standards, national legislation and regulations, and other relevant standards, and identified potential non-conformities, taking into account the latest scientific knowledge reflected in relevant standards and laws (Annex B).</p> <p>Both received comments and the results of the gap analysis were considered by the PEFC SK Council on 15.11.2019 and in accordance with the chapter 7.3.1.1 PEFC GD 1007: 2017 Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision recommended revision of SFSC documents.</p> <p>Based on the recommendation of the PEFC SK Council, the General Assembly of PEFC SK decided on 30 November 2019 to carry out a proper revision of the SFSC documents.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>Revision of standards</b>			

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.1 Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.1 Normal revision</p> <p>“Procedures for revision of standards shall conform to those stated in section 6.</p> <p>A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>Proposal for the revision of SFCS DP-01_2019-12-04_EN <a href="https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf">https://www.pefc.sk/files/documents/tvorba-dokumentov/revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/dp_01-2019-12-04_sk_prilohy.pdf</a>:</p> <p><b>0 Introduction</b></p> <p>“The current version of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS) was approved by the General Assembly of PEFC Slovakia on 12 December 2014 and recognized by the PEFC Council on 14 January 2016 for a period of 5 years. The periodic review of SFCS standards shall start no later than 12.12.2019 (review date). By the review date, PEFC Slovakia shall publicly announce the start of the periodic review process.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.2 Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardising body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.2 Editorial revision</p> <p>“Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. PEFC SK General Assembly shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N. A.	Does not apply since editorial revision was not conducted.
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision</p> <p>“A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.
9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:			
(a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision</p> <p>“A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
with PEFC International requirements			(a) change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.
(b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision “(b) instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:			
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision “The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: a) PEFC SK shall draft the revised standard” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision “The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: b) PEFC SK may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	YES	ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision “The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: c) the revised standard shall be approved formally by the PEFC SK General Assembly” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	YES /NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
(d) The standardising body shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.3 Time-critical revision</p> <p>“The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:</p> <p>d) PEFC SK shall explain the justification for the urgent changes and shall make the justification publicly available on PEFC SK website.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	N.A.	Does not apply since a time-critical revision was not conducted.
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.4 Application and transition of revised standards</p> <p>“A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standards.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>TD SFCS 100x:2021 Imprint</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.4 Application and transition of revised standards</p> <p>“A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standards.</p> <p>An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standards, introduction of changes, information dissemination and training.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>TD SFCS 100x:2021 Imprint</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardising body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.	Procedures	YES	<p>ND SFCS 002, 8.4 Application and transition of revised standards</p> <p>The transition period shall not exceed one year. PEFC SK may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
	Process	YES	<p>TD SFCS 100x:2021 Imprint</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

### 3 Application documentation

The application for the endorsement and mutual recognition as defined in PEFC GD 1007 shall include information which enables the assessment of the applicant system's compliance with the PEFC Council requirements.

The application documentation should identify and make reference to other detailed documentation such as minutes, internal procedures and rules, reports, etc. which do not need to create a part of the application documentation.

**Asses. basis\*** The standard setting is assessed against the PEFC Council requirements in two stages: (i) compliance of written standard setting procedures ("Procedures") and (ii) compliance of the standard setting process itself ("Process").

For "Procedures" the applicant should refer to the part(s) of its standard setting procedures related to the respective PEFC requirement. For "Process" the applicant should either refer to the report/records of the standard setting process forming a part of the submitted application documents or describe how the PEFC requirement was fulfilled during the standard setting process

## Part 2: Group Forest Certification Management

### PEFC Checklist - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)

#### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2018, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements*.

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

#### 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>4. Context of the group organisation</b>		
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context		
The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:		
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.1.4 Forms and limiting factors for creating a group organization:</p> <p>k. regional group: a group of forest owners and managers, including local associations regardless of the type of ownership, located (clearly deployed) within clearly defined boundaries of the region not exceeding 1/2 of the forest area of Slovakia</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) other groups and/or	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.1.4 Forms and limiting factors for creating a group organization:</p> <p>l. other groups:</p> <p>i. the group consists of organizational units of one forest manager, whose forest areas are located in the territorial district of Slovakia,</p> <p>ii. existing associations of non-state forest owners</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.	NO	<p>Does not apply. Specific circumstances influencing the implementation of the group management system are listed individually, for example:</p> <p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.1.7: "The participant enters the certification usually with all managed forest property located in the given area. If the participant enters the process of forest certification only with a part of the managed property, he/she is obliged to have a system in place for individual evidence (separation) of wood raw material, wood sales and controlled movement of wood so that there is no mixing of uncertified wood with certified wood. This process must be controlled."</p> <p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.1.9: "Small forest owners (usually up to 500 ha of forest land) can, for the purposes of certification, set up local associations within the boundaries of historical</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>regions, or on the basis of a common certified forest manager. They act as one participant in the certification. On their behalf acts an authorized representative, who ensures technical and organizational matters related to the management of the certification process in the local association in accordance with the concluded contract with the group organization entity.</p> <p>Note: As a rule, the total area of forest land does not exceed 10,000 ha."</p> <p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.1.10: "In the case when participants are structurally divided into territorially integrated organizational units for which a Forest Management Plan is elaborated, they may participate in the group certification process independently."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.2.1 "The entity shall identify representatives of the affected stakeholders in the certified area to whom implementation of the standard may cause a direct change in living or working conditions or stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard. The following, but not exhaustive, list of stakeholders concerned, and their expectations may be relevant to the group management system."</p> <p>Following is a table listing the following stakeholders and Expectations and needs of affected stakeholders:</p> <p>"contractors, employees, forest managers, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, managers of water resources, local population, local authorities" as well as the following "stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard: wood industries, hunting organizations, forest owners, scientific and research institutions"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.2.1 "The entity shall identify representatives of the affected stakeholders in the certified area to whom implementation of the standard may cause a direct change in living or working conditions or stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard. The following, but not exhaustive, list of stakeholders concerned, and their expectations may be relevant to the group management system."</p> <p>Following is a table listing the following stakeholders and Expectations and needs of affected stakeholders:</p> <p>"contractors, employees, forest managers, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, managers of water resources, local population, local authorities" as well as the following "stakeholders that may be users of the standard and</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard: wood industries, hunting organizations, forest owners, scientific and research institutions"  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system		
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:		
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant),	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.1.1 "The organization, activity and management of the group shall be performed by a legal entity - a group representative - a certificate holder. It can be one of the participants in the group or another legal entity. The representative shall provide the necessary structural, material and personnel conditions to meet the needs of this document. It shall be generally responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of forests in the certified area according to the sustainable forest management standard or other applicable requirements of the certification system. It shall use a group management system for this purpose."  TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.1.2 "The participants in the group are forest managers registered in the register of forest lands at the relevant office of the forestry state administration, who have the ownership or use right to manage forests."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) the certified area,	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.1.3 "The certified area is the sum of the forest areas of the participants in the certification covered by the common certificate."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) the group certificate and	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.1.4 "A group certificate is a document issued by a certification body on the basis of an audit confirming the compliance of the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard or other applicable requirements of the certification system with reality. The group entity is the group certificate holder."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.1.5 "The document confirming participation in the group forest certification is a confirmation on participation in the group certification issued by the group entity to the group participants."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.2 Establishment, boundaries and applicability of the management system  4.3.2.1 "The group management system shall refer to the immediate processes related to forest certification, which are in accordance with the following articles of this document."  4.3.2.2 "The management system shall be comprehensible, measurable and feasible for all participants."

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		4.3.2.3 "It shall apply to all participants in a particular group organization." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.3 Requirements of SFM standard fulfilled on group level</p> <p>4.3.3.1 "The standard also includes requirements that require the establishment of specific procedures to meet them. Due to the widespread nature of such procedures, it is not possible to provide for such procedures as a separate requirement. The standard therefore requires a representative to adjust the following processes in the form of a document binding for a whole group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The group entity is obliged to specify the requirement for protection of water quality in forest stands and riparian stands</li> <li>- The group entity is obliged to specify the requirement to minimize damage to stands and soil during forestry activities"</li> </ul> <p>4.3.3.2 "The entity is also entitled to adopt other binding procedures, especially in areas where there is a significantly different fulfilment of the requirement within the individual participants of the group."</p> <p>4.3.3.4 "The subject of the management system is for the participants in the certification part of the entity's documentation, which is publicly available."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	YES	<p>The Slovak standard states that it shall be a part of group entity documentation that is publicly available in TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.3.3.4: "The subject of the management system is for the participants in the certification part of the entity's documentation, which is publicly available."</p> <p>Also, TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.6.5 contains a table titled "Mandatory documented information", in which row 3 lists "group management system".</p> <p>All Technical Documents are available on the PEFC SK web site.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>4.4 Group management system</b>		
4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.4.4 "The entity shall identify and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurement and performance indicators) needed to properly establish and implement the process of sustainable forest management and its improvement. The entity performs the internal monitoring and the internal audit program at regular intervals, at least once a year for all participants in the certification.</p> <p>Note: Monitoring is the acquisition of initial or supplementary information that is further processed and evaluated. The results of the monitoring may point to facts that may have a significant impact on the ensurance of SFM within the group. Their occurrence is taken into account when planning the internal audits. The internal audit systematically verifies the reliability of information, compliance with</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		laws, regulations, rules and compliance of management with the requirements of the SFM standard, efficient and effective functioning of the group organization, use of resources and achievement of operational goals." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.4.5 "The group entity, which acts as a trader and is not covered by the group certificate, shall have in place the certified PEFC chain of custody system." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
5. Leadership		
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities		
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:		
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1 "a) To implement and maintain group management system for all participants of the group." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) 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	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1 b) "To represent the group organisation in the certification process, including communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1 m. "To establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1 n. "To establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its size." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1 o. "To establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities from the scope of group certification. Group participants excluded from any certification

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
accepted within 12 months after exclusion		group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
f) to keep documented information of:  i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system,  ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),  iii. the certified area,  iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1  g) "To keep documented information of:  i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system  ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its size  iii. the certified area  iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken"  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding 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 nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard;  Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1  h) h) "To establish connections with all participants based on a binding 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 nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard.  Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing local associations, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.		
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1</p> <p>i) “To provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification (Annex 1).”</p> <p>Annex 1 is a certificate of “Confirmation on participation in group forest certification”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1</p> <p>j) “To provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1</p> <p>k) “To address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants’ conformity with the certification requirements;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1</p> <p>l) “To operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants’ conformity with the certification requirements.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1</p> <p>m) “To operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1</p> <p>n) “To operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.1 q): “To provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.		or the NGB for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:		
a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.  Note: The requirement for "written agreement" and participants' "commitment" is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2  a) "To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system. Group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.  Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing local associations, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2  b) "To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2  c) "To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system, including contractors carrying out forestry operations in the forests on the

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>basis of a contract with the owner or manager. This means that the manager shall be directly responsible for ensuring that the contracted service is performed in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) 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 related or with implications for the management system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2</p> <p>d) “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 related or with implications for the management system.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2</p> <p>f) To inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2</p> <p>g) To implement relevant corrective and preventive actions following from the certification body audits, internal audits and established by the group entity for all group participants.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
5.2 Commitment and policy		
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.1</p> <p>a) To comply with the SFM standard and other applicable requirements of the Slovak Forest Certification System.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.1</p> <p>b) To integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.1</p> <p>c) To continuously improve the group management system.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.1  d) To continuously support the improvement of the SFM of the forests by the participants.  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.2  “The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.3 The group participant is obligated:  a) To follow the rules of the management system.  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.2.3 The group participant is obligated:  b) To implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related SFCS requirements in the managed forests.  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6. Planning		
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 6.2  “In the case, that the group organization plans any changes to the processes and procedures of the group management system and SFM responsibilities, these changes shall be included in the group management plan.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 6.3  “The requirements of the SFM standard met at the group level (chapter 4) must be included in the group management plan.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
7. Support		
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.1 “The group entity shall create the conditions and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system. These resources shall include:  - human resources (employees)  - infrastructure (office spaces, hardware, software)



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- means of transport</li> <li>- information and communication technologies</li> <li>- financial resources"</li> </ul> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.2 "The persons responsible for organizing and carrying out the work of the group management system shall have the necessary competences, knowledge and experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- university forestry education of the second degree</li> <li>- the competence of a professional forest manager, forest management plan elaboration or professional competence for the state administration in forestry, respectively</li> <li>- five years' experience in forestry activities</li> <li>- completion of an educational program for the application of the Slovak Forest Certification System</li> <li>- knowledge of the context of the organization and the management system of the group organization"</li> </ul> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning:		
a) the group management policy;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.3 "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of:</p> <p>a) the group management policy"</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.3 "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of:</p> <p>b) the requirements of the SFM standard"</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.3 "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of:</p> <p>c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance"</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.3 "The representative shall in a verifiable manner notify the certification participants of:</p> <p>d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements"</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:		
a) on what to communicate;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.4.1 “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve:</p> <p>b) On what to communicate - the subject of communication (processes, procedures and responsibilities) resulting from the group management system”</p> <p>Following is a Matrix of internal and external communication showing Who/partner, On what, How, and When affected stakeholders to whom the standard implementation can cause direct change in living or working conditions, and; Stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) when to communicate;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.4.1 “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve:</p> <p>d) When to communicate - date of communication”</p> <p>Following is a Matrix of internal and external communication showing Who/partner, On what, How, and When affected stakeholders to whom the standard implementation can cause direct change in living or working conditions, and; Stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) with whom to communicate;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.4.1 “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve:</p> <p>a) With whom to communicate - affected stakeholders as appropriate to the subject of communication (who are affected by communication or are able to react to it)”</p> <p>Following is a Matrix of internal and external communication showing Who/partner, On what, How, and When affected stakeholders to whom the standard implementation can cause direct change in living or working conditions, and; Stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) how to communicate.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.4.1 “An efficient and effective communication process shall involve:</p> <p>c) How to communicate - determining the way of communication (communication channels)</p> <p>Following is a Matrix of internal and external communication showing Who/partner, On what, How, and When affected stakeholders to whom the standard implementation can cause direct change in living or working conditions, and; Stakeholders that may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the requirements of the standard.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
7.5 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.5 “The entity shall have in place documented process place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a complaint is a form of disagreement by a group participant with the actions and procedures of a group entity</li> <li>- a dispute is a form of disagreement by a group participant with the assessment of compliance with the activities related to the management of the group and SFM standard by the group representative”</li> </ul> <p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.5.1 “7.5.1 The entity shall have in place documented process place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations. Upon receipt of a complaint the entity shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) formally acknowledge the complaint to the complainant within ten workdays</li> <li>b) gather and verify all necessary information to evaluate and validate the complaint and make a decision on the complaint</li> <li>c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant</li> <li>d) ensure that appropriate corrective and preventive actions are taken, if necessary”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:		
a) up to date;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.6.4 “Documentation shall be kept up to date, easily identifiable, readable, and adequately protected against the loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.6.4 “Documentation shall be kept up to date, easily identifiable, readable, and adequately protected against the loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.”</p> <p>Following is a table of Description and Type of Mandatory documented information.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 7.6.4 “Documentation shall be kept up to date, easily identifiable, readable, and adequately protected against the loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.”</p> <p>Following is a table of Description and Type of Mandatory documented information.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
8. Operation		
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:		
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 8.1.1 "The group entity, in cooperation with the group participants, shall plan, implement and manage the processes required for:</p> <p>a) meeting the process requirements of the group management system and the SFM standard"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 8.1.1 The group entity, in cooperation with the group participants, shall plan, implement and manage the processes required for:</p> <p>b) the implementation of changes in the processes and procedures of the group management system and SFM responsibilities</p> <p>c) the assessments of the recentness and justification of procedures leading to the achievement of the objectives of the SFCS certification criteria at the group level, which are not regulated by the legal order of the Slovak Republic</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 8.1.2 "The planning, implementation and controlling shall be based on the assessment of risks and opportunities arising from the structure of group participants, the results of monitoring and internal audit of the entity or the certification body audit. These shall be in integrated and implemented into the management system. Such knowledge shall be the basis for:</p> <p>a) The selection of procedures for assessing the level of compliance of the group certification standard and the SFM standard with the determined evaluation criteria."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 8.1.2 "The planning, implementation and controlling shall be based on the assessment of risks and opportunities arising from the structure of group participants, the results of monitoring and internal audit of the entity or the certification body audit. These shall be in integrated and implemented into the management system. Such knowledge shall be the basis for:</p> <p>b) Carrying out inspections of procedures using an evaluation questionnaire.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) keeping documented information to the extent	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 8.1.2 "The planning, implementation and controlling shall be based on the assessment of risks and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.		<p>opportunities arising from the structure of group participants, the results of monitoring and internal audit of the entity or the certification body audit. These shall be integrated and implemented into the management system. Such knowledge shall be the basis for:</p> <p>c) Records keeping ensuring compliance of the processes within the scope of the evaluation questionnaires.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:		
a) what shall be monitored and measured;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.1.1 "The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of SFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured:"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Subject of monitoring, Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses, Time schedule of monitoring and measurement, Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results, and Documented proof of results</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.1.1 "The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of SFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured:"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Subject of monitoring, Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses, Time schedule of monitoring and measurement, Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results, and Documented proof of results</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.1.1 "The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of SFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured:"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Subject of monitoring, Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses, Time schedule of monitoring and measurement, Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results, and Documented proof of results</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.1.1 "The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of SFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured:"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Subject of monitoring, Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses, Time schedule of monitoring and measurement, Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results, and Documented proof of results</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.1.1 "The internal monitoring program is a systematic, annual activity of the group entity focused on assessing the conformity of forest management with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and related requirements of SFCS documentation. The internal monitoring program shall be used to detect weaknesses and for risk management for all participants in the group forest certification. It is one of the underlying evidence for the certification body when carrying out initial, surveillance and recertification audits. In order to obtain and examine information concerning the group organization's compliance with the requirements of the SFM standard, at least the following shall be monitored and measured:"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Subject of monitoring, Methods of monitoring, measurement and analyses, Time schedule of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		monitoring and measurement, Time schedule of analysing and evaluation of results, and Documented proof of results <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.1.2 "At least annually, the entity shall at regular intervals evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the group management system regarding the implementation of the SFM requirements. The subject of the evaluation is the analysis of compliance and applicability of the group management system documentation." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:		
a) conforms to  i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system;  ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.1.1 "The annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:  a) Conforms to  i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system  ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.1.1 The annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:  b) Ensures the implementation of the SFM standard on the participant level <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.1.1 The annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:  c) Is effective, implemented and maintained <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 4.4.4 "The entity shall identify and apply the criteria and methods (including monitoring, measurement and performance indicators) needed to properly establish and implement the process of sustainable forest management and its improvement. The entity performs the internal monitoring and the internal audit program at regular intervals, at least once a year for all participants in the certification."  TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.1.2 "The annual internal audit programme shall cover the representative of the group and all participants in the group. The representative of the group must

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		be audited annually. Participants may be selected on the basis of sampling." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "The internal audit programme shall cover at least:  a) Planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "The internal audit programme shall cover at least:  b) Definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "The internal audit programme shall cover at least:  c) Competences of internal auditors according to the requirements in 7.2." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "The internal audit programme shall cover at least:  d) Selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "The internal audit programme shall cover at least:  h) Ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.2.2.1 "The internal audit programme shall cover at least:  i) Retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results (7.6)." <b>CONFORMITY</b>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme		
9.3.1 General		
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme. These requirements shall include the following procedures for:	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.1.1 “The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2)</li> <li>b) determination of sample categories (9.3.3)</li> <li>c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4)</li> <li>d) selection of the participants (9.3.5)</li> <li>e) requirements for the sampling of the pre-existing local associations (9.3.6)”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.1.1 “The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2)”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) determination of sample categories(9.3.3);		<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.1.1 “The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) determination of sample categories (9.3.3)”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.1.1 “The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4)”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.1.1 “The criteria for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme shall include the following procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) selection of the participants (9.3.5)”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.1.2 “The entity may define additional requirements for the group.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.6 “Requirements for sampling of participants from pre-existing local associations</p> <p>9.3.6.1 Determination of the sample size</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.		<p>The sample size usually represents 10% of the number of participants in a local association, rounded up to the nearest whole number.</p> <p>Note: It shall be taken into account that the audit program includes mainly forest managers with an area of more than 50 ha.</p> <p>9.3.6.2 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>Adequately according to 9.3.3.</p> <p>9.3.6.3 Distribution of the sample to the categories</p> <p>Adequately according to 9.3.4.</p> <p>9.3.6.4 Selection of the participants</p> <p>Depending on the number of members of the local association, as appropriate, in accordance with 9.3.5."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size		
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.2.1 "The entity shall determine the sample size from the number of participants of the group organisation."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ( $y=\sqrt{x}$ ), rounded to the upper whole number.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.2.2 "The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants (<math>y = \sqrt{x}</math>), rounded to the upper whole number."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:		
a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.2.3 "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of:</p> <p>a) results of a risk assessment of sample categories (9.3.4)</p> <p>- in the case of low risk: by a coefficient of 0.7</p> <p>- in the case of high risk: by a coefficient of 1.2"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.2.3 "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of:</p> <p>b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits</p> <p>- in the case of non-conformity at the group level (10.1.c): by a coefficient of 2"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.2.3 "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of:</p> <p>c) quality/level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme</p> <p>- in the case of reliably identified favourable results of the internal monitoring program (9.1.1): by a coefficient of 0.7"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements;</p> <p>Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.</p>	NO	<p>Does not apply. Such technologies are not used for gathering information concerning specified requirements.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground.</p> <p>Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.2.3 "The size of the sample may be adapted on the basis of:</p> <p>d) survey with participants in the certification process:</p> <p>- in the case of substantiated concerns by the stakeholders concerned and citizens: by a coefficient of 1.2</p> <p>- in the case of provision of reliable information (self-assessment) by participants confirmed by the state authorities: by a coefficient of 0.7</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</b>		
<p>9.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:</p>		
a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>9.3.3.1 "The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <p>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</p> <p>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</p> <p>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		d) Operations, processes and products of group participants e) Richness of biological diversity f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research i) Forest governance and law enforcement and j) Climate change. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) size of management units (different size classes);	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories 9.3.3.1 "The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators" Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators: k) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private) l) Size of management units (different size classes) m) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities) n) Operations, processes and products of group participants o) Richness of biological diversity p) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests q) Dependence of and interaction with local communities r) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research s) Forest governance and law enforcement and t) Climate change. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories 9.3.3.1 "The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators" Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators: u) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private) v) Size of management units (different size classes)

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		w) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities) x) Operations, processes and products of group participants y) Richness of biological diversity z) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests aa) Dependence of and interaction with local communities bb) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research cc) Forest governance and law enforcement and dd) Climate change. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories 9.3.3.1 "The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators" Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators: ee) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private) ff) Size of management units (different size classes) gg) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities) hh) Operations, processes and products of group participants ii) Richness of biological diversity jj) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests kk) Dependence of and interaction with local communities ll) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research mm) Forest governance and law enforcement and nn) Climate change. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
e) deforestation and forest conversion;	NO	Does not apply, allowed only with permission of state administration
f) rotation period(s);	NO	Does not apply – determined by the state administration in FMP
g) richness of biological diversity;	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>9.3.3.1 "The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</li> <li>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</li> <li>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</li> <li>d) Operations, processes and products of group participants</li> <li>e) Richness of biological diversity</li> <li>f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests</li> <li>g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities</li> <li>h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research</li> <li>i) Forest governance and law enforcement and</li> <li>j) Climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>9.3.3.1 "The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators"</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</li> <li>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</li> <li>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</li> <li>d) Operations, processes and products of group participants</li> <li>e) Richness of biological diversity</li> <li>f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests</li> <li>g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities</li> <li>h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research</li> <li>i) Forest governance and law enforcement and</li> <li>j) Climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>9.3.3.1 “The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators”</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</li> <li>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</li> <li>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</li> <li>d) Operations, processes and products of group participants</li> <li>e) Richness of biological diversity</li> <li>f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests</li> <li>g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities</li> <li>h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research</li> <li>i) Forest governance and law enforcement and</li> <li>j) Climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>9.3.3.1 “The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators”</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</li> <li>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</li> <li>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</li> <li>d) Operations, processes and products of group participants</li> <li>e) Richness of biological diversity</li> <li>f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests</li> <li>g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities</li> <li>h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research</li> <li>i) Forest governance and law enforcement and</li> <li>j) Climate change.</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
k) governance and law enforcement.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>9.3.3.1 “The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators”</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</li> <li>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</li> <li>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</li> <li>d) Operations, processes and products of group participants</li> <li>e) Richness of biological diversity</li> <li>f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests</li> <li>g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities</li> <li>h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research</li> <li>i) Forest governance and law enforcement and</li> <li>j) Climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.3 Determination of sample categories</p> <p>9.3.3.1 “The matrix of preconditions for determining the risk of group organisation according to indicators”</p> <p>Following is a matrix of Indicator and Risk level (Low, Medium, and High) for these indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest ownership type (state, community, municipal, private)</li> <li>b) Size of management units (different size classes)</li> <li>c) Biogeographic of area (e.g. lowlands, middle mountains, alpine localities)</li> <li>d) Operations, processes and products of group participants</li> <li>e) Richness of biological diversity</li> <li>f) Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forests</li> <li>g) Dependence of and interaction with local communities</li> <li>h) Available resources for administration, operations, training and research</li> <li>i) Forest governance and law enforcement and</li> </ul>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		j) Climate change. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.3.4 Distribution of the sample  The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.4 Distribution of the sample to the categories  9.3.4.1 "The sample shall be distributed to the categories based on the results of a risk assessment as follows:  a) When redistributing a sample into categories, the representation of participants by type of ownership shall be generally respected  b) An evaluation of the potential possibility of the existence of risk shall be performed according to the results of the risk assessment in the matrix for the evaluation of the necessary preconditions for determining the risk for individual forms of ownership in a group organization (9.3.3.1.)  c) The risk category of the type of ownership for SFM shall be determined; all conditions must apply simultaneously to determine the risk category of the sample"  Following is a matrix of Integrated risk categories and Proportion of the risk level of indicators (Low, Medium, High)  d) The number of participants in the sample shall be divided into the risk category of the form of ownership in a ratio of 3: 2: 1 in favour of the category with the highest risk, taking into account the number of certification participants within the category  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.5. Selection of the participants  9.3.5.1 "At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random."  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.3.5 Selection of the participants  9.3.5.2 "The remainder should be selected so that the differences among the selected participants should be as large as possible.  9.3.5.3 The following factors shall be taken into account when selecting other participants according to the risk categories (9.3.4):  - fulfilment of conditions for a high level of risk for individual indicators  - records of complaints and other relevant aspects of corrective and preventive action  - results of internal audits, management reviews or previous certification audits

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- results of monitoring and measurements</li> <li>- significant variations in the size of area of participants</li> <li>- modifications since the last certification audit</li> <li>- geographical dispersion</li> </ul> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.4 Management review		
9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.1 "The group entity is obliged to review the group management system at the planned annual intervals to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and efficiency and compliance with the needs of SFM. The annual management review shall include at least:</p> <p>a) The status of actions from previous management reviews."</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.1 "The group entity is obliged to review the group management system at the planned annual intervals to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and efficiency and compliance with the needs of SFM. The annual management review shall include at least:</p> <p>b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system (number of participants, legislative changes)."</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance;		<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.1 "The group entity is obliged to review the group management system at the planned annual intervals to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and efficiency and compliance with the needs of SFM. The annual management review shall include at least:</p> <p>c) The status of conformity with the SFM standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance."</p> <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.1 "The group entity is obliged to review the group management system at the planned annual intervals to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and efficiency and compliance with the needs of SFM. The annual management review shall include at least:</p> <p>d) Information on the group performance, including trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) nonconformities and corrective actions</li> <li>ii) monitoring and measurement results</li> <li>iii) audit results"</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
e) opportunities for continual improvement.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.1 "The group entity is obliged to review the group management system at the planned annual intervals to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and efficiency and compliance with the needs of SFM. The annual management review shall include at least:</p> <p>e) Opportunities for continual improvement."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.2 "The outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 9.4.3 "The entity shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
<p>a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</p> <p>i. take action to control and correct it;</p> <p>ii. deal with the consequences;</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.1 "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall:</p> <p>a) React to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</p> <p>i) take action to control and correct it</p> <p>ii) deal with the consequences"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:</p> <p>i. reviewing the nonconformity;</p> <p>ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</p> <p>iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.1 "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall:</p> <p>b) Evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:</p> <p>i) reviewing the nonconformity</p> <p>ii) determining the causes of the nonconformity</p> <p>iii) determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) implement any action needed;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.1 "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall:</p> <p>c) Implement any action needed. When nonconformities are found at any individual participant of group</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>certification, either through the entity's internal auditing or from auditing by the certification body, the group entity shall review the nonconformities to determine whether they indicate an overall forest management deficiency applicable to all participants in group certification or not (group nonconformity). If they are found to do so, corrective action shall be performed both at the group entity and at the individual forest owners/managers. If they are found not to do so, the group entity shall be able to demonstrate to the certification body the justification for limiting its corrective actions to certain forest owners/managers."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.1 "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall:</p> <p>d) Review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.1 "When a nonconformity occurs, the group entity shall:</p> <p>e) Make changes to the group management system, if necessary"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.2 "The entity shall retain documented information as evidence of:</p> <p>a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.2 "The entity shall retain documented information as evidence of:</p> <p>b) the results of any corrective action"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.1.3 "Exclusion or suspension of participation in certification:</p> <p>e) The participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>10.2 Continual improvement</b> The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	YES	TD SFCS 1002:2021, 10.2.1 “The suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the SFM shall be continuously improved.” <b>CONFORMITY</b>

\* If the answer to any question is NO, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

## Part 3: Sustainable Forest Management

### PEFC Checklist - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

#### 1 Scope

This checklist covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2018, *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*.

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

#### 2 Checklist

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<b>Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard</b>		
<b>4.1 General</b> 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; Note: An example of a situation where a requirement can be defined as being at another level (e.g. group/regional) is monitoring of forest health. Through monitoring of forest health at regional level,	YES	TD SFCS 1001:2021, 9 Forest Certification “Requirements for sustainable forest management 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” <b>CONFORMITY</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
and communicating of results at the FMU level, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring of each forest management unit.		
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 9 Forest Certification</p> <p>“Requirements for sustainable forest management shall:</p> <p>b) be clear, performance based and auditable”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 9 Forest Certification</p> <p>“Requirements for sustainable forest management shall:</p> <p>c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1002:2021, 5.1.2 Responsibilities and authorities of the participants</p> <p>c) “To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system, including contractors carrying out forestry operations in the forests on the basis of a contract with the owner or manager. This means that the manager shall be directly responsible for ensuring that the contracted service is performed in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.5 DOCUMENTED INFORMATION</p> <p>“The organisation’s management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system”</p> <p>Requirements call for the type of documented information, and that it be valid, easily identifiable, legible and available.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;	NO	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.1:</p> <p>“4.1.1 The claim "100% PEFC certified" or another system specific claim shall be used to communicate the origin of products to customers with a PEFC chain of custody”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim "100% PEFC certified", and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website <a href="http://www.pefc.org">www.pefc.org</a> .		...or another system is not relevant to the PEFC SK system. <b>NONCONFORMITY</b>
f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim "100% PEFC-certified" or a system specific claim;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.2: "Products with the claim "100% PEFC certified" or with another system specific claim are placed on the market by the participants in the certification only if they originate from certified forests covered by a recognized PEFC certificate issued in accordance with this standard" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.2: "Products with the claim "100% PEFC certified" or with another system specific claim are placed on the market by the participants in the certification only if they originate from certified forests covered by a recognized PEFC certificate issued in accordance with this standard" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.3: "4.1.3 Information provided to a PEFC certified customer in the chain of custody shall include: a) the organisation's name as the supplier of the PEFC material b) product identification c) quantity of product with the date of delivery / delivery period / accounting period d) the applicable PEFC claim specifically for each claimed product covered by the documentation e) the certificate number of the supplier's PEFC recognised certificate" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.	NO	Does not apply. TD SFCS 1003:2021 reflects all requirements of the PEFC ST regardless of whether they are also addressed in national legislation. Legislative background of each requirement is given for each process and the overview of the applicable legislation is also attached in Annex 1 to TD SFCS 1003. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.2.1:</p> <p>“Participant on certification shall:</p> <p>a) identify the affected stakeholders that are territorially relevant for sustainable forest management”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.2.1:</p> <p>“Participant on certification shall:</p> <p>b) identify the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the management system		
4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.3.1:</p> <p>“4.3.1 The management system with a description of processes, competencies, management tools and control mechanisms in SFM shall correspond to the legal form, size and volume of work performed by the participant”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
4.3.2 The standard requires that 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 practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.		<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.3 Objective:</p> <p>“To ensure the effective functioning of the management system leading to the fulfilment of the expected functions by the public and the owners, including the processes of its continuous improvement.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.3.2:</p> <p>“The subject of SFM process management shall comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assessment of the state of forests</li> <li>- elaboration of the annual operational plans</li> <li>- implementation of the annual operational plans</li> <li>- monitoring the quality of work</li> <li>- assessment of the effects of the management practices on SFM, including their social, environmental and economic impacts”</li> </ul> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP):</p> <p>“The survey and assessment of the state and development of forests within the framework of forest management planning are carried out in the following stages:</p> <p>a) detailed survey of forest state</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>- Detailed survey of forest state is forest mapping and survey of data, in particular about the forest form, operational unit, terrain exposure and gradient, area, forest stand age, stocking, growing stock in the forest stand and data on tree species composition, mean height, mean thickness, site quality, stand damage and the phenotypic class; these data are used for elaboration of forest stand description and serves as a basis for detailed planning." (p.17)</p> <p>"Forest management plans are elaborated for a ten-year period for all forest lands in Slovakia." (p. 18)</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
5. Leadership		
5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 5.1:</p> <p>8) "Commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other related applicable requirements of the SFCS certification system"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 5.1:</p> <p>8) "to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 5.3:</p> <p>"The commitment shall be publicly available to the organization's employees, certification participants, suppliers, consumers and stakeholders."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 5.2</p> <p>"Responsibilities and authorities in SFM process and management of forestry activities shall be determined in writing and assigned to particular persons (does not apply to the manager – natural person)"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6. Planning		
6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities		
6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.2. MEASURES TO ADDRESS RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES:</p> <p>"The participant in certification shall consider the risks and opportunities related to compliance with the requirements"</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.		for sustainable forest management. The size and scope of the organization's operations shall be considered." TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.2.1: "The assessment of risks and opportunities of the development of the state of forest resources shall minimally consist of the need for reforestation, care for young forest stands, the need for stand tending, start and end of stand regeneration, forest protection, construction and condition of transport infrastructure, the impact of forest management on specific natural values and the quality of life of local people and affected stakeholders. It shall be performed annually." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.	YES	TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP): The "pillars of forest management planning" include: - "Quality forest maps" which are used for the creation of forest stand maps (p. 16); - "Comprehensiveness of survey of the forest state – all basic data on forest management planning are surveyed on the whole area, by evaluating individual JPRLs" (unit of special forest distribution, by definition). (p. 16) "The survey and assessment of the state and development of forests within the framework of forest management planning are carried out in the following stages: b) detailed survey of forest state - Detailed survey of forest state is forest mapping and survey of data, in particular about the forest form, operational unit, terrain exposure and gradient, area, forest stand age, stocking, growing stock in the forest stand and data on tree species composition, mean height, mean thickness, site quality, stand damage and the phenotypic class; these data are used for elaboration of forest stand description and serves as a basis for detailed planning. (p.17)" TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3 <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:		
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	YES	TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP): "- Time arrangement of the forest – addresses the time frame of planning harvesting and silvicultural operations in forest stands, so that the required management goals are achieved." (p. 17)

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>“Forest management plans are elaborated for a ten-year period for all forest lands in Slovakia.” (p. 18)</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003: 2021, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements:</p> <p>6.1 Full Wording: “All forests shall be managed in accordance with regularly revised forest management plans or forest land management projects.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP):</p> <p>“Since 1930, the obligation of management according to management plans has been introduced for all forests over 50 ha, i.e. for about 85% of forests. On January 1, 1952, the state organization Lesoprojekt was established. In 1958, the Decree on Forest Management No. 75 was issued, which unified the content and form of forest management plans, including the inclusion of the so-called special surveys into the elaboration of FMPs.</p> <p>At present, according to the Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. On forests, as amended, the forest care program (hereinafter referred to as the “forest management plans”) and the forest land management project are the state tools for ensuring the sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Forest management planning includes the survey of the state of the forests, natural, social, technical and economic conditions of management, production and harvesting possibilities. Based on these surveys, it sets goals for ensuring the long-term development of forestry and sustainable forest management.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.3 DETERMINING THE SCOPE OF THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:</p> <p>“The management system concerns the management, administration and direction of the activities and processes related to the provision of SFM managed by the certification participant.</p> <p>It shall be comprehensible, measurable and feasible for everybody. Its scope is adapted to the legal form, organizational structure, size and volume of work performed by the participant. The key management activities of the forest entity are represented by planning, organization, operational management, and control.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP):</p> <p>“In 1879, the Hungarian Forest Act was issued, which stipulated the obligation to manage forests according to the approved management plans for state, municipal and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>community forests. Since 1930, the obligation of management according to management plans has been introduced for all forests over 50 ha, i.e. for about 85% of forests. On January 1, 1952, the state organization Lesoprojekt was established. In 1958, the Decree on Forest Management No. 75 was issued, which unified the content and form of forest management plans, including the inclusion of the so-called special surveys into the elaboration of FMPs.</p> <p>At present, according to the Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. On forests, as amended, the forest care program (hereinafter referred to as the "forest management plans") and the forest land management project are the state tools for ensuring the sustainable forest management."</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.2 Overview of the basic applicable legislation ensuring the international benchmark requirements of PEFC ST 1003:</p> <p>"Requirements regarding the forest management planning processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. On forests as amended</li> <li>- Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. On forest management and forest protection as amended</li> <li>- Working procedures for forest management no. A/2008/1611</li> <li>- Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. On nature and landscape protection as amended"</li> </ul> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.4 Other international conventions:</p> <p>"The Slovak Republic as a signatory state has ratified and implemented other international conventions listed in table 6.2 into the national legislation.</p> <p>Tab. 6. 2 Other international conventions ratified by the SR, lists 16 Conventions, Agreements, Protocols and Frameworks, the requirements of which are relevant to forest management and are included in SFCS through the national legislation.</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) adequately covering forest resources.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP):</p> <p>"Since 1930, the obligation of management according to management plans has been introduced for all forests over 50 ha, i.e. for about 85% of forests." (p. 16)</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.3 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLANS – MANAGEMENT PLANS:</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
functions of the managed forest area.		<p>“6.3.2 The planned scope and intensity of management shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest areas”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.1.1:</p> <p>“FMP of forest manager shall consist minimally of:</p> <p>a) general part consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- decision of ŠS (state administration) LH on the FMP approval with defined amount of harvesting</li> <li>- forest management models</li> </ul> <p>b) forest stand description</p> <p>c) plan of management operations</p> <p>d) area table</p> <p>e) summary tables</p> <p>f) relief and stand map”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP):</p> <p>“Forest management planning includes the survey of the state of the forests, natural, social, technical and economic conditions of management, production and harvesting possibilities. Based on these surveys, it sets goals for ensuring the long-term development of forestry and sustainable forest management. It plans a prospective focus of forestry and management measures aimed at increasing the productive and public benefit functions of forests and their optimal and rational use, forest protection and sustainable harvesting in the long term. It monitors and evaluates the fulfilment of objectives and tasks and the implementation of the planned as well as unplanned forest management measures. As a scientific discipline as well as practical activity it integrates, uses and applies knowledge and experience in forestry, forest protection, harvesting, economics and other forestry disciplines. The result of forest management planning are the FMPs and other forest management works.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3. MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)</p> <p>8.3.1.1 “The total volume of timber harvesting prescribed in FMP for forest unit and forest category shall not be exceeded”</p> <p>8.3.1.2 “The annual volume of harvesting during the validity of the FMP under the proper forest management shall be in the range between 70% to 130% of the 1/10 of the FMP prescription (does not apply for entities under 1000 ha)”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.	NO	Does not apply. According to current practice, the commercial use of non-timber products is not a common part of forest management and is therefore not included a in the development of forest management plans. If the manager decides to produce non-wood products to such an extent that may affect their long-term sustainability, his/her procedures are regulated by process 8.3.3, in particular with reference to:  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.2  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.	YES	TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3  TD SFCS 1003:2021, MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE:  8.1.2.2 "The applied forest management practices shall prevent the degradation of existing communities, both in their biological component and in soil and water resources"  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	YES	TD SFCS 1001:2021, 3.1 Forest management planning and Forest Management Plans (FMP):  "Forest management planning procedures are based on the principles of differentiated forest management, which is defined in § 2, point j) of the Forest Act as a purposeful system of forest management, which takes into account the diverse natural, stand, management, economic and social conditions and requirements applied in the elaboration and implementation of the forest management plan. Based on scientifically based criteria, a basic scale for the division forests according to their functions was established: production, anti-erosion, water management, anti-avalanche, watercourse protection, anti-deflation, water protection, recreational, spa treatment, nature conservancy, anti-emission, hunting, educational and research, which is more detailly structured into 62 functional types (multifunctional approach)." (p. 17)  TD SFCS 1003: 2021, 7.2. COMPETENCE:  "Sustainable forest management shall be carried out by professionally qualified persons according to the latest scientific knowledge and research"  TD SFCS 1003: 2021, 8.6 MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS  8.6.3. "The latest scientific knowledge from forestry and natural science disciplines as well as other scientific disciplines, the knowledge of which has an impact on the improvement of SFM shall be used and promoted in forest

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		management. Traditional management practices shall be applied wherever appropriate.” TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3 <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.1.4: “Forest management plans, relevant maps, basic management frameworks and information on the results of forest management shall be publicly available, except of confidential information that are subject to business secret” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.1.4: “Forest management plans, relevant maps, basic management frameworks and information on the results of forest management shall be publicly available, except of confidential information that are subject to business secret” Additionally, it follows from the Act 326/2005 on forests and the Act 211/2000 on free access to information (Annex 1 to TD SFCS 1003) that all other information is publicly available and, moreover, this information is the subject to public consultation during the FMP development process. <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.3 Compliance requirements		
6.3.1 Legal compliance		
6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation.  Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the “legislation applicable to forest management” is defined by the VPA agreement.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.4.1 “The participant shall have access to the applicable legislation relating to forest management” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property,	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.4: “Forest management shall be in accordance with the applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including ways of forest management, nature and environmental protection, protected and endangered species, property, tenure and land-use rights for local communities or other affected stakeholders, health, labour and safety issues,

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.		anti-corruption, and the payment of applicable fees and taxes.”  6.4.2 “Know and comply with applicable legislation on forest management and anti-corruption legislation”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.	NO	“Does not apply, anti-corruption legislation exists”
6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.4.3  “Implement measures to ensure adequate protection of forests against unauthorized activities”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		
6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.  Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.5  “Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Only persons who can prove ownership, governance or other legal document authorizing them to manage the forest are entitled to manage the forest.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations 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	NO	Does not apply. Indigenous peoples do not live in the Slovak Republic in the sense of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO 169.  The rights of Slovak citizens to use forests are ensured within the following processes:  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.2: “UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS”  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.5 “OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST LANDS”  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6 “MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS”



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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.		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6 Normative references for the development of the Slovak Forest Certification system:</p> <p>“The Slovak Republic is a party to almost all basic UN human rights conventions that are reflected in the legal order, including the main UN conventions covering human rights issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- - UN Charter</li> <li>- - Universal Declaration of Human Rights”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions</b>		
<p>6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.</p> <p>Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.3 International ILO conventions:</p> <p>“The fundamental ILO Conventions (table 6.1) as amended have been ratified by the Slovak Republic and implemented into the national legislation. Therefore, it is not necessary to cover them directly by the SFCS certification criteria.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions</b>		
6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations 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.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.6 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORKING CONDITIONS:</p> <p>6.6.1 “Specific conditions of workplace, warning signs, risk assessment and procedure in the event of health injury shall be provided in writing and in an appropriate manner during work assignment”</p> <p>6.6.5 “Monitoring of compliance with the essential requirements of safety and health at work by participants in forestry operations shall be carried out continuously. Changes shall be implemented, if required.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.6 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>		<p>6.6.2 "Forest work is carried out in accordance with the procedures for ensuring safety and health at work specified in Decree 46/2010 Coll."</p> <p>6.6.7 "The rights and obligations of employees arising from the employment relationship, at least in accordance with the Labour Code, shall be stated in the collective agreement or employment contract or in another legally binding document"</p> <p>6.6.8 "Consultancy and training on safety in work procedures shall be provided for all forestry operations"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.6 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORKING CONDITIONS:</p> <p>6.6.3 "Wages and payables for work performed shall meet legal standards and shall be paid on time and in the agreed amount. This obligation shall be also required from contractors – employers"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.6 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORKING CONDITIONS:</p> <p>6.6.4 "The conditions for carrying out forestry activities respect gender equality. They shall not be discriminatory against the local population. As far as possible, workers from local communities shall be preferred. The manager shall supports the training of employees in relation to the work performed."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
7. Support		
7.1 Resources		
<p>7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.1. RESOURCES:</p> <p>"The participant in certification shall establish appropriate conditions and provides necessary resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system."</p> <p>7.1.2 "Conditions and resources correspond to the legal form, size of the property and shall be sufficient to permanently ensure the maintenance of the favourable state of forests and its improvement"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
7.2 Competence		
7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.2 COMPETENCE:</p> <p>“Forest managers, contractors, employees as well as forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this document”</p> <p>7.2.1 “The person (s) responsible for SFM shall have a professional education in forestry and a completed educational program organized by PEFC SK for the application of the Slovak Forest Certification System. Forestry education can be replaced by work experience in management of forestry operations for at least 5 years.”</p> <p>7.2.2 “Persons responsible for the forest production processes shall have sufficient access to information on sustainable forest management and possibilities for continuing education in this area”</p> <p>7.2.3 “Natural persons performing work in the forest shall be professionally qualified to perform forestry operations (valid certificates of professional competence) and informed about the quality requirements of the PEFC certification scheme.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
7.3 Communication		
7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided. <b>CONFORMITY</b>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.3 COMMUNICATION</p> <p>“Regarding sustainable forest management. Effective communication and consultation with local communities and other stakeholders shall be provided. Local communities and affected stakeholders shall have an irreplaceable place in relation to forests as they create an environment for them, a space for work and the maintenance of their traditions and/or they are also the subject of interest of their professional and leisure activities in accordance with the applicable legislation.”</p> <p>7.3.1 “Effective communication and consultation shall be provided with local governments, local communities and NGOs about the way and forms of SFM and its impacts on long-term health and quality of life – justified proposals are incorporated into implementation plans”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
7.4 Complaints		
7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.4 COMPLAINTS</p> <p>“Appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>7.4.1 "Complaints submitted by the complainant in paper or oral form shall be recorded and investigated"</p> <p>7.4.2 "Legitimate complaints and disputes concerning forest management, land use rights and working conditions shall be settled by mutual agreement with the complainant."</p> <p>7.4.3 "The way and result of the investigation and handling of the complaint shall be recorded"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
7.5 Documented Information		
<p>7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.5 DOCUMENTED INFORMATION:</p> <p>"The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system"</p> <p>7.5.1 "The following documents shall be kept and maintained on determined media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) management policy and objectives</li> <li>b) description of the organizational structure, processes, competencies and control mechanisms for the implementation of the SFM policy,</li> <li>c) procedures leading to the achievement of the objectives of the SFCS certification criteria</li> <li>d) authorized plans of forestry operations"</li> </ul> <p>7.5.2 "The following records shall be kept and maintained on determined media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) decisions and statements of the state administration bodies concerning the content of certification criteria</li> <li>b) written communication with stakeholders</li> <li>c) reports from internal monitoring audits of the group entity</li> <li>d) audit reports of the certification body</li> <li>e) records of own internal audits, measures taken and their implementation</li> <li>f) self-assessment</li> <li>g) management review report</li> <li>h) report on implementation of imposed corrective and preventive measures</li> <li>i) records of the movement of timber originating from non-certified and controversial sources</li> <li>j) records of handover and takeover of the workplace by the contractor</li> </ul>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>k) records of the results of investigations and the handling with complaints</p> <p>l) a list of the affected stakeholders"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.5.3:</p> <p>"Documented information shall be valid, easily identifiable, legible and available"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>8. Operation</b>		
<b>8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle</b>		
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1 MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE</p> <p>8.1.1 "Forest management shall aim to maintain or increase the existing forest area as a basic pillar for the provision of ecosystem services, improve the global carbon cycle and maintain or increase the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forests"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3 MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)</p> <p>8.3.1 "The volume of timber intended for harvesting shall be determined differently according to forest categories so as to ensure the optimal use of forest production potential and maintain the permanent fulfilment of forest functions, using appropriate management measures and preferring techniques that minimize negative impacts on forest resources. The harvesting potential reflected in the harvesting possibilities shall be in line with the increment and shall not exceed it in the long term."</p> <p>8.3.1.2 "The annual volume of harvesting during the validity of the FMP under the proper forest management shall be in the range between 70% to 130% of the 1/10 of the FMP prescription (does not apply for entities under 1000 ha)"</p> <p>8.3.1.3 "Timber harvesting shall be carried out in accordance with the condition and needs of the stand according to the harvesting principles and based on a written harvesting permit"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission	YES	<p>8.3 MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.		<p>8.3.4. FOREST ROAD NETWORK:</p> <p>“Development of transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, outlets, drainages etc.) shall be planned; each construction shall be established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts of individual components on the environment.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4 MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.4.1. “A gradual change of tree species composition is the key tool for adapting forests to climate change. Forest regeneration shall be carried out using the management methods ensuring the achievement of the provenance suitable natural regeneration contributing to maintaining the diversity of genotypes, natural species composition, structure and ecological stability of forest ecosystems which responds appropriately to changing climatic conditions. Genetically modified tree species shall be excluded from regeneration.”</p> <p>8.4.1.4 “Provenance suitable natural regeneration of original, site suitable tree species and provenances (those having a higher potential to resist climate change) shall be preferred to artificial afforestation”</p> <p>8.4.2.3 “By strengthening the natural climate-positive practices, defined for close-to-nature forest management, in management measures, the preconditions for genetically original, species and structurally diverse, stable and vital stands shall be created, wherever natural and operational conditions allow.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is 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; and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1 MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE</p> <p>8.1.1.3 “Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <p>The PEFC Benchmark Requirement specifically refers to “forest conversion” and not “exclusion.” This requires greater definition from PEFC SK.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	NO	<p>8.1.1.3 “Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <p>- shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type of the managed area</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>The PEFC standard defines small portion as “no greater than 5% of the forest type within the <u>certified area</u>.” PEFC SK 8.1.1.3 defines small area as “no greater than 5% of the managed area.” In some instances, managed area may far exceed certified area.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES	<p>8.1.1.3 “Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shall not have negative impacts on protected species, habitats and/or protected area, elements of cultural or spiritual significance</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and		<p>8.1.1.3 “Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shall not concern areas of significantly high carbon stock</li> </ul>
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	<p>8.1.1.3 “Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shall not have negative impacts on protected species, habitats and/or protected area, elements of cultural or spiritual significance</li> <li>- shall be prosperous for local communities”</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is 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; and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND</p> <p>8.1.3.3 “Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body</li> <li>- if it is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection</li> <li>- unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems</li> <li>- if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site</li> <li>- if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained</li> <li>- if the carbon stock is improved</li> <li>- if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives”</li> </ul> <p>8.1.3.4 “Landscape-enhancing elements that increase biodiversity, and the existence of which is historically</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>conditioned and located in the managed area, and which are owned / managed by the manager, such as meadows, views, crossings shall be maintained"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND</p> <p>8.1.3.3 "Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body</li> <li>- if is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection</li> <li>- unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems</li> <li>- if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site</li> <li>- if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained</li> <li>- if the carbon stock is improved</li> <li>- if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives"</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) nonforest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND</p> <p>8.1.3.3 "Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body</li> <li>- if is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection</li> <li>- unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems</li> <li>- if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site</li> <li>- if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained</li> <li>- if the carbon stock is improved</li> <li>- if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives"</li> </ul> <p>8.1.3.4 "Landscape-enhancing elements that increase biodiversity, and the existence of which is historically conditioned and located in the managed area, and which are owned / managed by the manager, such as meadows, views, crossings shall be maintained"</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND</p> <p>8.1.3.3 "Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body</li> <li>- if is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection</li> <li>- unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems</li> <li>- if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site</li> <li>- if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained</li> <li>- if the carbon stock is improved</li> <li>- if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives"</li> </ul> <p>8.1.3.4 "Landscape-enhancing elements that increase biodiversity, and the existence of which is historically conditioned and located in the managed area, and which are owned / managed by the manager, such as meadows, views, crossings shall be maintained"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND</p> <p>8.1.3.3 "Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body</li> <li>- if is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection</li> <li>- unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems</li> <li>- if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site</li> <li>- if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained</li> <li>- if the carbon stock is improved</li> <li>- if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives"</li> </ul> <p>8.1.3.4 "Landscape-enhancing elements that increase biodiversity, and the existence of which is historically conditioned and located in the managed area, and which</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		are owned / managed by the manager, such as meadows, views, crossings shall be maintained" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND</p> <p>8.1.3.3 "Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body</li> <li>- if is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection</li> <li>- unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems</li> <li>- if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site</li> <li>- if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained</li> <li>- if the carbon stock is improved</li> <li>- if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives"</li> </ul> <p>8.1.3.4 "Landscape-enhancing elements that increase biodiversity, and the existence of which is historically conditioned and located in the managed area, and which are owned / managed by the manager, such as meadows, views, crossings shall be maintained"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is 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; and	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and		<p>management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	NO	<p>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations. In the Slovak Republic, the Act 326/2005 on forests clearly states a preference for shelterwood and nature-friendly forest management to emulate natural forest characteristics and processes. No legal framework exists for establishing forest tree plantations on forest land. Management planning procedures do not include forest plantation establishment procedures, basic management frameworks and management principles. Therefore, they are not subject to PEFC forest certification in Slovakia.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2: "Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</b>		
8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.1. INTEGRATED FOREST PROTECTION AND REVITALISATION OF DAMAGED FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.2.1.1 "Implemented measures shall ensure the preservation or improvement of the health of forest ecosystems. Damaged and degraded forest ecosystems are revitalized in order to maintain or restore the genetic, species and structural diversity corresponding to the relevant HSLT"</p> <p>8.2.1.4 "If natural and operational conditions allow, cleared areas caused by harmful factors shall be revitalized (regenerated forest) with a maximum use of naturally occurring tree species according to the</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		operational arrangement or through the phase of preparatory forest, respectively”  8.2.2.2 “Effective and accessible conservation, defensive and preventive measures shall be implemented at all stages of forest development to prevent the spread and reproduction of pests, including project-based measures to prevent the spread and reproduction of pests. Biological and biotechnical products and processes shall be used wherever appropriate and justified.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.2 STRUCTURE AND NATURAL CHARACTER OF FORESTS  8.4.2.3 “By strengthening the natural climate-positive practices, defined for close-to-nature forest management, in management measures, the preconditions for genetically original, species and structurally diverse, stable and vital stands shall be created, wherever natural and operational conditions allow.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.5. FIRE PROTECTION  8.2.5.1 “8.2.5.1 Burning of harvesting residues shall be carried out only as part of forest protection measures in order to prevent the spread of bark beetles or other pathogens only in the event of their calamitous overgrowth or the threat of their calamitous overgrowth. All legislative requirements shall be met.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.4 The standard requires that 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.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.3. GENETIC RESOURCES  8.4.3.1. “Principles of the use of reproduction material originating from approved reproduction resources for reforestation and afforestation shall be followed; records of the origin of reproduction material for reforestation shall be kept”  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3. TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES  8.2.3.5. “The tree method of timber production minimizes damage to standing trees. It shall not be used for deciduous trees during the growing season. Whenever possible, other methods are preferred to the tree method of timber production.”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible	NO	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3. TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.9: “The measures taken shall limit the generation of waste related to forestry production (does not apply to logging residues). The generated waste

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.		shall be continuously removed from the forest and properly disposed.”  As written, PEFC SK SFCS does not stress avoidance of waste, but merely limits it.  <b>NONCONFORMITY</b>
8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.1 INTEGRATED FOREST PROTECTION AND REVITALISATION OF DAMAGED FOREST ECOSYSTEMS  “Integrated forest protection shall be focused on effective, systematically applied prevention and environmentally sound suppression of effects of biotic pests. It shall use the utmost management and silvicultural measures promoting natural structures and processes as well as preventive biological and amelioration measures enhancing natural regulatory mechanisms and ecologisation of forestry operations.”  TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.4.5:  “8.2.4.5 The use of pesticides and other products shall be properly documented and justified. It is permissible as an alternative to other, mainly biotechnical measures, provided that these biotechnical measures are significantly economically demanding or that there is a shortage of manpower”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.4.5:  “8.2.4.5 The use of pesticides and other products shall be properly documented and justified. It is permissible as an alternative to other, mainly biotechnical measures, provided that these biotechnical measures are significantly economically demanding or that there is a shortage of manpower”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.4.2  “The use of non-registered and highly toxic products and WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides in forest protection is prohibited”  <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.2.9 The standard requires that pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.4. PESTICIDES APPLICATION  8.2.4.1 “The use of persistent substances such as e.g. chlorinated hydrocarbons as defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
<p>accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.</p> <p>Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</p>		<p>Rotterdam Convention on Dangerous Chemicals is prohibited"</p> <p>8.2.4.2 "The use of non-registered and highly toxic products and WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides in forest protection is prohibited"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.4.6 "Applicants of chemical substances shall have completed mandatory training, use appropriate protective equipment, means and procedures, including disposal of their residues and packaging in accordance with the manufacturer's safety instructions (safety data sheets). They shall carry out their activities under the supervision of the holder of a certificate of professional competence in the field of plant protection products."</p> <p>The instructions of pesticide manufacturers for their use are in accordance with Act 67/2010 on the conditions for placing chemical substances and chemical mixtures on the market specified in the Safety Data Sheets (TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.4.6).</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.1. INTEGRATED FOREST PROTECTION AND REVITALISATION OF DAMAGED FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.2.1.3 "Fertilizers shall be used to a limited extent in forest nurseries and only individually applied in artificial forest regeneration"</p> <p>8.2.1.5 "The use of fertilisers shall be properly documented"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
<p>8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.</p>	YES	<p>8.3.3. NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES</p> <p>8.3.3.1 "During the process of FMP elaboration, the manager shall, if applicable, require application of procedures to ensure that forests are able to produce a full range of not only wood but also non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.2 ROUNDWOOD</p> <p>"Timber from sustainably managed sources shall be placed on the market in order to achieve acceptable economic performance necessary to ensure sustainable forest management, including the fulfilment of all its functions."</p>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
with all relevant goods and services of forests.		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.2 STRUCTURE AND NATURAL CHARACTER OF FORESTS</p> <p>8.4.2.1 "Tending and regeneration operations shall correspond to the growth phase and maturity of forest stands and shall be implemented on time and in favour of improving the structure and standing volume of stands. Small-scale forms of restoration shall be preferably used. Large-scale regeneration shall be applied only in justified cases."</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3 TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES</p> <p>8.2.3.5 "The tree method of timber production minimizes damage to standing trees. It shall not be used for deciduous trees during the growing season. Whenever possible, other methods are preferred to the tree method of timber production."</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.1 "The maximum permissible limits for damage to the terrain, soil, forest roads, forest stands and trees by felling and transport of timber shall be kept"</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.2.3.2 "At the end of the work, as well as during the work, measures shall be taken that demonstrably and effectively minimize the impacts of the technologies used. They shall be implemented at the latest when the maximum permissible limits of damage to the terrain, soil or forest roads have been reached"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.3.4 The standard requires that 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 products.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3 MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)</p> <p>8.3.1.1 "The total volume of timber harvesting prescribed in FMP for forest unit and forest category shall not be exceeded"</p> <p>8.3.3.2 "The commercial use of non-wood forest products shall be planned, based on a sustainable basis. Production shall be recorded."</p> <p>8.3.3.3 "In hunting grounds, which are managed by certification participants, the condition of the game and its care shall be governed by plans approved by the state administration bodies ensuring their sustainability. Records of venison production shall be kept."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.3.5 The standard requires that adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.4 FOREST ROAD NETWORK</p> <p>"Development of transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, outlets, drainages etc.) shall be planned; each construction shall be established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.		<p>minimising negative impacts of individual components on the environment. Forest road network shall be maintained in a favourable condition; potential erosion shall be minimized by the use of anti-erosion protection and road drainage.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<b>8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems</b>		
8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4. MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.4.1.9 “During FMP elaboration process, the manager shall require procedures to ensure the conservation, protection or enhancement of biodiversity at landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas.</p> <p>Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4. MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.4.6.2 “Map and textual documentation shall be kept about specially protected areas (ecologically important forest habitats)”</p> <p>8.4.6.4 “Management measures in protected areas under the special protection of the state shall be carried out in accordance with best practice and, wherever appropriate and possible, in accordance with the principles of the close-to nature forest management, with an emphasis on preserving the subject of protection; if necessary, they shall be consulted with the State Nature Conservancy and affected stakeholders”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened 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>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4. MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.4.7.1 “Commercial use of protected species is prohibited. An exemption is allowed if it is in accordance with the CITES requirements.”</p> <p>8.4.7.4 “Approved management programs for endangered species in forests, including habitats of their seasonal concentration and approved protection programs, as well as approved management programs for protected areas or NATURA 2000 sites, subject of which is the protection of endangered species, or particularly valuable or rare habitats shall be respected and complied with”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.4.4 The standard requires that successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1. FOREST REGENERATION</p> <p>8.4.1.3 “Forest stands shall be secured at the latest within the period specified in FMP, while at least 60% of the regenerated area shall consist of suitably distributed trees of target tree composition, out of which minimally 30% are represented in the respective forest management model”</p> <p>8.4.1.4 “Provenance suitable natural regeneration of original, site suitable tree species and provenances (those having a higher potential to resist climate change) shall be preferred to artificial afforestation”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. 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 scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.3 GENETIC RESOURCES</p> <p>“Maintaining biological resources of forests, their genetic, species and ecosystem diversity as well as their sustainable use for the establishment of new forest stands. Preference shall be given to native tree species suitably adapted to the site conditions.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.4 NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE TREE SPECIES</p> <p>“Only those non-native tree species, provenances or varieties shall be used, whose impact on the ecosystem and the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances has been assessed and evaluated, and if they pose none or only limited risk to native tree species or to the protection of ecosystems in the given area; invasive species shall be mitigated and measures shall be taken to limit their further spread”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.2 “Regenerated areas shall be planted within the legal deadlines by tree species supporting biodiversity also with the help of undergrowths and pre-plantings in accordance with the site conditions”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are</p>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.1 “Genetically modified trees shall not be used in forest regeneration”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.		
8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.	YES	<p>8.4 MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS</p> <p>8.4.1. FOREST REGENERATION</p> <p>“A gradual change of tree species composition is the key tool for adapting forests to climate change. Forest regeneration shall be carried out using the management methods ensuring the achievement of the provenance suitable natural regeneration contributing to maintaining the diversity of genotypes, natural species composition, structure and ecological stability of forest ecosystems which responds appropriately to changing climatic conditions. Genetically modified tree species shall be excluded from regeneration.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.5 “Artificial regeneration shall not be used to establish monocultural forests”</p> <p>8.4.2 STRUCTURE AND NATURAL CHARACTER OF FORESTS</p> <p>Objective: “To promote tree species, age and vertical diversity of forest stands by using appropriate silvicultural measures”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.2.1 “Tending and regeneration operations shall correspond to the growth phase and maturity of forest stands and shall be implemented on time and in favour of improving the structure and standing volume of stands. Small-scale forms of restoration shall be preferably used. Large-scale regeneration shall be applied only in justified cases.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.6.6 “Traditional practices that maintain forests of high natural values in a favourable condition for a long time shall be encouraged and used wherever possible. It shall be monitored whether the management measures do not have a negative impact on maintaining and improving their condition”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.10 The standard requires that 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 maintain or improve biological diversity.	YES	<p>8.4.2 STRUCTURE AND NATURAL CHARACTER OF FORESTS</p> <p>“Applied forest management measures shall support close-to- nature internal arrangement, construction and composition of forest stands corresponding to the typical character and diversity of the landscape”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.2.1 “Tending and regeneration operations shall correspond to the growth phase and</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>maturity of forest stands and shall be implemented on time and in favour of improving the structure and standing volume of stands. Small-scale forms of restoration shall be preferably used. Large-scale regeneration shall be applied only in justified cases.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.2.3 “By strengthening the natural climate-positive practices, defined for close-to-nature forest management, in management measures, the preconditions for genetically original, species and structurally diverse, stable and vital stands shall be created, wherever natural and operational conditions allow.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.11 The standard requires that infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimizes 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.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.4.4 “The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be planned, legal and carried out in such a way as to minimize soil exposure, erosion of soil into watercourses and to ensure protection of the natural function and condition of watercourses. Adequate drainage facilities shall be built and properly maintained on the roads.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.4.5 “Designing and constructing of forest transport infrastructure, including temporary approach roads over 50 m in length, shall take into account the ecological and environmental value of the area, the occurrence of specially protected areas, rare species of fauna and flora and migratory routes of protected animals shall be considered. The construction of infrastructure in the habitats of critically endangered species is prohibited.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.4 “Hunting shall not disturb the natural development, stability of stands and the fulfilment of other forest functions”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.5 “Damage to vegetation by game shall be monitored, damage recorded and resolved with the relevant user of hunting ground.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.8 “Young forest stands shall be protected, or the population of game shall be controlled so that there is no destruction or devastation of the stands”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and 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.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.5 LEAVING STANDING WOOD</p> <p>“Standing trees and dead wood shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard the existing biological diversity and to allow to survive of all species dependent on old trees and dead wood that are typical for natural ecosystems under given conditions. Dead wood and left standing trees shall neither threaten forest visitors or the health and stability of standing forests and surrounding ecosystems.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.1. PROTECTION OF FOREST LAND</p> <p>“Forest management shall aim to maintain or increase the existing forest area as a basic pillar for the provision of ecosystem services, improve the global carbon cycle and maintain or increase the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forests”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.1 SOIL PROTECTION</p> <p>“Implementation of appropriately timed and intensity-appropriate management measures to maintain the functionality and resilience of forests aimed at soil protection, prevention of erosion, avalanches, landslides, ravines, rubble and subsequent degradation of the used land”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.2 PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES</p> <p>“Implementation of appropriately timed and intensity-appropriate management measures to maintain the functionality and resilience of forests aimed at water resources protection”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.3 WATER RETENTION REGIME IN THE LANDSCAPE</p> <p>“Reducing surface outfall by surface retention of rainwater in the country, its infiltration and evaporation, and maintaining the natural water regime by appropriate forest management measures in the country to minimize the potential for floods”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.1.1 “FMP of forest manager shall consist minimally of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">8) relief and stand map”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.1.4 “Forest management plans, relevant maps, basic management frameworks and information on the results of forest management shall be publicly available, except of confidential information that are subject to business secret”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.7.2 “The occurrence of protected species of plants and animals and especially valuable and rare habitats shall be mapped and documented”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.2.3 “Water protection zones shall be documented; water quality measures shall be kept”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.4.4 “The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be planned, legal and carried out in such a way as to minimize soil exposure, erosion of soil into watercourses and to ensure protection of the natural function and condition of watercourses. Adequate drainage facilities shall be built and properly maintained on the roads.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.2 “regeneration (reforestation) of protective forests intended for the protection of easily vulnerable and erodible soil in extreme habitats shall be carried out as soon as possible”</p> <p>8.5.1. SOIL PROTECTION</p> <p>“Implementation of appropriately timed and intensity-appropriate management measures to maintain the functionality and resilience of forests aimed at soil protection, prevention of erosion, avalanches, landslides, ravines, rubble and subsequent degradation of the used land”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.1.1 “Forest stands fulfilling soil protective functions shall be managed in a way that ensures their permanent forest cover, preference shall be given to the principles of close-to-nature forest management”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.1.3 “Areas prone to erosion or shallow soil shall be regenerated primarily using the natural regeneration. The operations and technologies used shall minimize damage to the soil surface”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.5.4 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations 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. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.2.2 “Springs and waterlogged habitats shall be specially protected during logging; appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent damage to such sites”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.2.3 “Water protection zones shall be documented; water quality measures shall be kept”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.5.2.4 “In localities of natural accumulation of surface water and groundwater, it is prohibited to apply aerial application of fertilizers, plant protection products and biocidal products at a distance of less than 50 m from surface waters, exposed groundwater and water bodies, where water pollution or water quality hazards may occur.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.5.5 The standard requires that 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	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.4.4 “The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be planned, legal and carried out in such a way as to minimize soil exposure, erosion of soil into watercourses and to ensure protection of the natural function and condition of</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.		watercourses. Adequate drainage facilities shall be built and properly maintained on the roads." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions		
8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.	YES	TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.2.3 TD SFCS 1001:2021, 6.6 Certification criteria "SFM certification criteria cover all range of forest functions including all economic, ecological and social functions." TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1.2. MULTIFUNCTION USE OF FOREST RESOURCES Objective "To increase the use of economic, environmental, cultural and social values of forest resources for the development of rural areas" TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6 MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS "Places of special historical, cultural or spiritual significance which are important for meeting the needs of local communities shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the sites" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.1 ACCESSIBILITY OF FORESTS "The public has guaranteed free access to forests. Forests create an environment for the public, a space for work and the maintenance of traditions." TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.1.1 "Appropriate and safe forest land and infrastructure (accommodation facilities, forest transport network) shall be made available to the public all year round for recreation, leisure, recovery, sports and cultural activities. Their management shall take into account the purpose of the function and the aesthetic value of the forests." <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.2.1 "Management measures shall take into account the existence of places of special historical, cultural or spiritual significance that are important for meeting the needs of local communities (e.g. health, livelihoods). The performance of forestry operations (mainly logging) shall be preceded by consultations with stakeholders." <b>CONFORMITY</b>



PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 7.3.1 “Effective communication and consultation shall be provided with local governments, local communities and NGOs about the way and forms of SFM and its impacts on long-term health and quality of life – justified proposals are incorporated into implementation plans”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.3.3 “Practical experience and traditional skills related to forests, innovations and practices of forest owners, NGOs and local communities shall be utilised in forest management. They all shall have the opportunity to participate in their implementation, if appropriate and safe.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.3.2 “The subject of SFM process management shall comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assessment of the state of forests</li> <li>- elaboration of the annual operational plans</li> <li>- implementation of the annual operational plans</li> <li>- monitoring the quality of work</li> <li>- assessment of the effects of the management practices on SFM, including their social, environmental and economic impacts”</li> </ul> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.6.4 “The conditions for carrying out forestry activities respect gender equality. They shall not be discriminatory against the local population. As far as possible, workers from local communities shall be preferred. The manager shall support the training of employees in relation to the work performed.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.1.3 “Local communities are not excluded from forest benefits (forest attendance, fruit picking, access to wood)”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.1.1 “Continuous monitoring of the state of forest resources and regular assessment of the level of forest management shall minimally cover the need for reforestation, care for young forest stands, the need for stand tending, start and end of stand regeneration, condition of transport infrastructure, the impact of forest management on forests of high natural values, habitats of protected species, particularly valuable and rare habitats, including ecological, social and economic impacts. The results of monitoring shall be the basis for the creation of annual operational plans and operational management.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
8.6.7 The standard requires that 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.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.3.1 “Constructive cooperation in research projects with scientific and research institutions and implementation of their application outputs shall be ensured”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.6.3.2 “Monitoring and research sites shall be managed in accordance with the purpose of their establishment”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.1.1 “Continuous monitoring of the state of forest resources and regular assessment of the level of forest management shall minimally cover the need for reforestation, care for young forest stands, the need for stand tending, start and end of stand regeneration, condition of transport infrastructure, the impact of forest management on forests of high natural values, habitats of protected species, particularly valuable and rare habitats, including ecological, social and economic impacts. The results of monitoring shall be the basis for the creation of annual operational plans and operational management.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.1.2 The standard requires that 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 pollutants or by forest management operations.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.1.2 “Health status and vitality of forest stands shall be periodically monitored. Monitoring shall cover in particular key biotic, abiotic and anthropogenic harmful factors that have the potential to negatively affect the health status and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests (<i>Ips typographus</i>, <i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i>, <i>Lymantria</i> sp.), diseases, overgrazing, overstocking, fire, as well as damage caused by climatic factors, air pollution or inappropriate management operations.”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	NO	<p>Does not apply. All natural watercourses and areas are owned by the Slovak Republic which delegates fishing rights to the Slovak Fishermen’s Association. Therefore, forest owners cannot own fishing grounds on forestlands under management.</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.3: “In hunting grounds, which are managed by certification participants, the condition of the game and its care shall be governed by plans approved by the state administration bodies ensuring their sustainability. Records of venison production shall be kept.”</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.4: “Hunting shall not disturb the natural development, stability of stands and the fulfilment of other forest functions.”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.5: "Damage to vegetation by game shall be monitored, damage recorded and resolved with the relevant user of hunting ground."</p> <p>Additionally, the commercial use of non-timber products is not a common part of forest management and is therefore not included a in the development of forest management plans. If the manager decides to produce non-wood products to such an extent that may affect their long-term sustainability, his/her procedures are regulated by process 8.3.3, in particular with reference to:</p> <p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.3.3.2: "The commercial use of non-wood forest products shall be planned, based on a sustainable basis. Production shall be recorded."</p>
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 6.6.5 "Monitoring of compliance with the essential requirements of safety and health at work by participants in forestry operations shall be carried out continuously. Changes shall be implemented, if required."</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system		
<p>8) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the organisation's requirements for its management system;</li> <li>• the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard</li> </ul>	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2 INTERNAL AUDIT</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>"Internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system:</p> <p>a) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the participant's requirements for the implemented management system</li> <li>• the requirements of the national standard for sustainable forest management"</li> </ul> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2 INTERNAL AUDIT</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>"Internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system:</p> <p>b) is effectively implemented and maintained"</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires that the organisation shall:		

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2. INTERNAL AUDIT</p> <p>“Verification of the reliability of information, compliance with laws, regulations, PEFC requirements of the SFM standard, efficient and effective use of resources and achievement of operational objectives”</p> <p>Objective “Internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system:</p> <p>8) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the participant's requirements for the implemented management system</li> <li>• the requirements of the national standard for sustainable forest management</li> </ul> <p>8) is effectively implemented and maintained”</p> <p>“The participant in the internal audit process shall:</p> <p>9.2.2 perform an internal audit of the compliance of management with the standard of sustainable forest management at least once a year to the extent specified by the certificate holder (self-assessment)”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2. INTERNAL AUDIT</p> <p>“Verification of the reliability of information, compliance with laws, regulations, PEFC requirements of the SFM standard, efficient and effective use of resources and achievement of operational objectives”</p> <p>Objective “Internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system:</p> <p>8) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the participant's requirements for the implemented management system</li> <li>• the requirements of the national standard for sustainable forest management</li> </ul> <p>8) is effectively implemented and maintained”</p> <p>“The participant in the internal audit process shall:</p> <p>9.2.2 perform an internal audit of the compliance of management with the standard of sustainable forest management at least once a year to the extent specified by the certificate holder (self-assessment)”</p> <p><b>CONFORMITY</b></p>
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2.3 “select auditors and perform audits to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process”</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2.4 “submit the results of audits and self-assessment to the relevant management of the group (certificate holder)” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.2.5 “retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and audit results” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.3 Management review		
9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 9.3.1 “Annual management review shall at least include: a) the status of actions from previous management reviews” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	YES	9.3.1 “Annual management review shall at least include: b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results;	YES	9.3.1 “Annual management review shall at least include: c) information on the SFM processes and results, including trends in: - nonconformities and corrective actions - monitoring and measurement results - audit results - corrective actions received by the certificate holder for the group” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) opportunities for continual improvement	YES	9.3.1 “Annual management review shall at least include: d) opportunities for continual improvement” <b>CONFORMITY</b>
9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.	YES	9.3.2 “Outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system” <b>CONFORMITY</b>

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	YES	9.3.3 "Outputs of management reviews shall be documented and retained as evidence of the results of management reviews" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021, 10.1.1: "In case of nonconformity the participant shall a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it ii. deal with the consequences" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
8) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: 8. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 10.1.1 "In case of nonconformity the participant shall b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity" ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
c) implement any action needed;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 10.1.1 "In case of nonconformity the participant shall c) implement any action needed;" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 9.1.1 "In case of nonconformity the participant shall d) d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 10.1.1 In case of nonconformity the participant shall e) e) make changes to the management system, if necessary

PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
		<b>CONFORMITY</b>
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 10.2.1 "Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the identified nonconformities" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 10.2.2 "All written information on all contexts and proceedings that led to the infringement shall be documented and maintain as evidence of: a) nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	TD SFCS 1003:2021 10.2.2 All written information on all contexts and proceedings that led to the infringement shall be documented and maintain as evidence of: b) the results of any corrective action" <b>CONFORMITY</b>
10.2 Continual improvement The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	YES	10.2 <b>CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT</b> Requirements: "Suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the management system and the SFM shall be continuously reviewed and improved" <b>CONFORMITY</b>

\* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

## Annex 2: Results of International Stakeholder Survey [\[back\]](#)

PEFC Secretariat publicly announced that the PEFC Slovak Forest Certification System had applied to PEFC for re-endorsement of their revised SFCS. PEFC also announced that it was seeking public comment on the revised standard. The public comment period was from 29 November 2021 to 27 January 2022.

PEFC Secretariat has informed GWGC that no comments were received during the comment period.



## [Annex 3: Stakeholder Survey](#) [\[back\]](#)

On 14 February 2022 the PEFC SK National Secretary notified the members of the TC that as part of the PEFC SK SFCS assessment, TC members were being asked to participate in a stakeholder survey. The original survey along with a cover letter from GWGC, was presented to the National Secretary who in turn translated both documents to Slovak. He then contacted the former TC members and provided them a hyperlink for the survey. (See below)

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxdXRLKBNBQhtfWNwmR05VvwZIs5XodSSXQGtIEq1Vbiji bQ/viewform>)

The survey period ended 11 March 2022. At the end of the survey period, eleven (11) TC members had responded. Names and contact information of respondents are available upon request.

### Part 1: Stakeholder Survey – English [\[back\]](#)

PEFC Slovakia Revised Forest Certification System Assessment	
Stakeholder Questionnaire	
Question	Response
Name	
Organization	
1. What stakeholder category do you represent?	Forestry Owners _____ Business and Industry _____ Workers _____ NGOs _____ Local Authorities _____ Academic/Technological/Professional _____ Women _____ Other (please specify) _____
2. How were you notified of the standard revision process?	Letter _____ Newspaper _____ Website _____ Email _____ Other (please specify) _____
3. When were you notified of the standard revision process?	Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____
4. In your view, were all interested parties given the possibility to participate and contribute to the standard revision?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.

5. In your view, did participating parties represent the range of interests in forest management in the Slovak Republic? If No, which other interests should have been represented?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, what other parties should have represented?
6. In your opinion, did the organizers provide you relevant working documents on a timely basis to participate in the standard revision process?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.
7. Were all working documents easily available to all members of the Technical Committee?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.
8. Was the revision process well planned and structured?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.
9. Do you believe your views, as well as views of all members of the Technical Committee, were appropriately considered during the revision process?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.
10. Have all comments received during the public consultation been considered in an objective manner by the Technical Committee?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.
11. Are you aware of any substantive or procedural complaints relating to the standard revision process, brought forward by you or by any other stakeholder?	Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, please explain.
12. Do you believe a consensus was reached in the development of the certification criteria?	Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain.
13. Do you believe any aspects of the certification standard deserve further consideration by PEFC Slovakia?	Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, please explain?
14. Is there anything about the process you would change?	Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, please explain.

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. Please return your completed responses to [simpson@gwgcltd.com](mailto:simpson@gwgcltd.com).

## Part 2: Stakeholder Survey – Slovak

Hodnotenie revidovaného systému SFCS	
Dotazník pre záujmové skupiny	
Otázka	Odpoveď
Meno:	
Organizácia:	
1. Ktorú kategóriu záujmových skupín zastupujete?	Vlastníci/obhospodarovatelia lesov _____ Podnikanie a priemysel _____ Zamestnanci/zväzy _____ NGO _____ Miestne orgány _____ Vedecké a technologické inštitúcie _____ Ženy _____ Iné (uvedte) _____
2. Ako ste boli informovaní o procese revízie štandardov?	List _____ Noviny/tlač _____ Web stránka _____ Email _____ Iné (uvedte) _____
3. Kedy ste boli informovaní o procese revízie štandardov?	Deň: _____ Mesiac: _____ Rok: _____
4. Podľa vášho názoru, bola všetkým záujmovým skupinám poskytnutá možnosť zúčastniť sa a prispieť k revízii štandardov?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite.
5. Zastupovali podľa vás záujmové skupiny okruh záujmov v lesnom hospodárstve v Slovenskej republike? Ak nie, ktoré iné záujmy mali byť zastúpené?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, ktoré iné záujmy mali byť zastúpené?
6. Podľa vášho názoru vám organizátori poskytli relevantné pracovné dokumenty včas, aby ste sa mohli zúčastniť na procese revízie štandardov?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite.
7. Boli všetky pracovné dokumenty ľahko dostupné všetkým členom Technickej komisie?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite
8. Bol proces revízie dobre naplánovaný a štruktúrovaný?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite
9. Myslíte si, že vaše názory, ako aj názory všetkých členov technickej komisie, boli počas procesu revízie náležite zohľadnené?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite
10. Posúdila technická komisia všetky pripomienky prijaté počas verejných konzultácií objektívnym spôsobom?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite

11. Viete o akýchkoľvek vecných alebo procedurálnych sťažnostiach týkajúcich sa procesu revízie štandardov, ktoré ste predložili vy alebo iná záujmová skupina?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Áno, prosím vysvetlite
12. Myslíte si, že pri tvorbe certifikačných kritérií sa dosiahol konsenzus?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Nie, prosím vysvetlite
13. Myslíte si, že niektoré aspekty certifikačného štandardu si zaslúžia ďalšiu pozornosť zo strany PEFC Slovakia?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Áno, prosím vysvetlite
14. Je niečo, čo by ste na procese revízie zmenili?	Áno _____ Nie _____ Ak Áno, prosím vysvetlite

Ďakujem Vám za váš čas pri vyplňaní tohto dotazníka.

Prosím, zašlite vyplnený dotazník na [simpson@gwgcltd.com](mailto:simpson@gwgcltd.com).

### Part 3: Compiled Stakeholder Survey Results [\[back\]](#)

PEFC Slovakia Revised Forest Certification System Assessment	
Stakeholder Questionnaire	
Question	Response
Name	
Organization	
1. What stakeholder category do you represent?	Forestry Owners <u>  3  </u> Business and Industry <u>  2  </u> Workers <u>  1  </u> NGOs <u>  2  </u> Local Authorities <u>  2  </u> Academic/Technological/Professional <u>  1  </u> Women <u>  0  </u> Other (please specify) _____
2. How were you notified of the standard revision process?	Letter <u>  1  </u> Newspaper _____ Website _____ Email <u>  10  </u> Other (please specify) _____
3. When were you notified of the standard revision process?	Day: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____
4. In your view, were all interested parties given the possibility to participate and contribute to the standard revision?	Yes <u>  10  </u> No <u>  1  </u> If No, please explain. <i>*No explanation included.</i>
5. In your view, did participating parties represent the range of interests in forest management in the Slovak Republic? If No, which other interests should have been represented?	Yes <u>  11  </u> No _____ If No, what other parties should have represented? _____
6. In your opinion, did the organizers provide you relevant working documents on a timely basis to participate in the standard revision process?	Yes <u>  11  </u> No _____ If No, please explain. _____
7. Were all working documents easily available to all members of the Technical Committee?	Yes <u>  11  </u> No _____ If No, please explain. _____
8. Was the revision process well planned and structured?	Yes <u>  11  </u> No _____ If No, please explain. _____
9. Do you believe your views, as well as views of all members of the Technical Committee, were appropriately considered during the revision process?	Yes <u>  11  </u> No _____ If No, please explain. _____
10. Have all comments received during the public consultation been considered in	Yes <u>  11  </u> No _____ If No, please explain. _____

and objective manner by the Technical Committee?	
11. Are you aware of any substantive or procedural complaints relating to the standard revision process, brought forward by you or by any other stakeholder?	Yes __1__ No __10__ If Yes, please explain. <i>*No explanation included.</i>
12. Do you believe a consensus was reached in the development of the certification criteria?	Yes __11__ No ____ If No, please explain.
13. Do you believe any aspects of the certification standard deserve further consideration by PEFC Slovakia?	Yes __11__ No ____ If Yes, please explain?
14. Is there anything about the process you would change?	Yes ____ No __11__ If Yes, please explain.

## Annex 4: Assessor's Comments [\[back\]](#)

The Following comments are intended to provide guidance to PEFC SK as a means of developing a more robust standard document. The items below are not Nonconformities, but simply suggestions regarding more appropriate English word choice.

### TD SFCS 1001:2021 – Slovak Forest Certification System – Description and Context

**Accidental felling:** Part of forest protection measures or measures related to the elimination of the effects of harmful factors in forests.

Recommendation: Replace “Accidental Felling with “Sanitary Felling”

**Harmful factor:** Agent that can reduce the resilience of a forest, its ecological stability, damage or destroy the forest or its parts; is divided into:

- a) biotic, in particular insects, game or other living organisms
- b) abiotic, in particular wind, flood, drought, icing, snow or other natural phenomena
- c) anthropogenic, which is the negative effect of man

Recommendation: Replace “Harmful factor” with “Risk Factor.”

**Forest governor:** Legal entity whose founder or establisher entrusted the care of the forest property in their possession

Recommendation: Provide an example of “Forest Governor” to demonstrate the difference with “Forest Owner” and “Forest Manager.”

### TD SFCS 1003:2021 – Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements

#### 8.3 MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)

8.3.4.1 Permanent approach roads of the **3L** category shall be secured against erosion after the completion of wood skidding; temporary approach roads shall be restored in order to fulfil forest functions.

Recommendation: Provide a definition of “**3L**” category in the definitions section.

## Annex 5: Internal Review [\[back\]](#)

### PEFC SK SFCS Technical Documents PEFC Internal Review

Minor Comments Regarding PEFC SK SFCS Technical Document Text		
PEFC SK Normative Document Text	PEFC Internal Review Comments	Assessor's Response
<p>TD SFCS Technical Document 1001:2021 – EN, Description and Context, Definitions, 2.1</p> <p><b>Accidental Felling</b> – Part of forest protection measures or measures related to the elimination of the effects of harmful factors in forests.</p> <p><b>Forest Governor:</b> Legal entity whose founder or establisher entrusted the care of the forest property in their possession</p> <p><b>Harmful Factor:</b> Agent that can reduce the resilience of a forest, its ecological stability, damage or destroy the forest or its parts; is divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) biotic, in particular insects, game or other living organisms</li> <li>b) abiotic, in particular wind, flood, drought, icing, snow or other natural phenomena</li> <li>c) anthropogenic, which is the negative effect of man</li> </ul>	<p>“Sanitary Felling would be a better fit.”</p> <p>“What is the gap which is filled by the Forest Governor term which is not covered by “Manager” or “Forest Owner/Manager?”</p> <p>“Maybe “Risk Factor” would be a better fit?”</p>	<p><u>Agreed:</u> The Assessor has suggested to PEFC SK to replace “Accidental Felling” with the more accurate term “Sanitary Felling.”</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> The Assessor has asked PEFC SK to better define “Forest Governor” in context to “Manager” or “Forest Owner/manager.”</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> The Assessor has asked PEFC SK to replace “Harmful Factor” with “Risk Factor” as it is a more accurate term.</p>
<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021 Sustainable Forest Management – EN, 8.3.4.1 Permanent approach roads of the 3L category shall be secured against erosion after the completion of wood skidding; temporary approach roads shall be</p>	<p>“An explanatory note of the 3L category would be appreciated.”</p>	<p>Agreed:</p>



restored in order to fulfil forest functions.		
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Assessment Text	PEFC Internal Review Comment	Assessor's Response
<p>Section 5.3 – Scope of Revision Process</p> <p>“The revised technical documents, revision process and development report for the revision process can be found at <a href="http://www.pefc.sk.dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov-revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty">http://www.pefc.sk.dokumenty-sfcs/tvorba-dokumentov-revizia-sfcs-2019-2021/revidovane-dokumenty</a> .”</p>	<p><i>“ Link does not work.”</i></p>	<p>Link has been refreshed by PEFC SK, 05.28.2022</p>
<p>Table 5.2.3: Timetable and Links to Standard Setting Processes Actions</p>	<p>The following quote is the PEFC internal review comment with reference to all hyperlinks within the table representing evidentiary conformance.</p> <p><i>“The link is not needed here, because this file will be not available later on. The reference to the particular document is fine as it is in the brackets below.”</i></p>	<p>All links were deleted.</p>
<p>Section 6.0 Group Forest Management, Subsection 6.2, Nonconformities</p> <p>“There were No NONCONFORMITIES”</p>	<p><i>“It would be great to include a selection of conformities, to improve the information content of the report and the assessment.”</i></p>	<p>The Assessor included a random selection of five (5) conformities and placed them in Section 6.3, Conformities.</p>
<p>Section 7.0 Sustainable Forest Management, Subsection 7.2, Nonconformities</p> <p>“There were No NONCONFORMITIES.”</p>	<p><i>“It would be great to include a selection of conformities, to improve the information content of the report and the assessment.”</i></p>	<p>The Assessor included a random selection of five (5) conformities and placed them in Section 7.3, Conformities.</p>

# Annex 1 Internal Review

PEFC Internal Review Comments Re: PEFC SK SFCS TD 1003:2021 SFM and Assessor Responses			
TD SFCS 1003:2021 – SFM	Initial Assessor Decision	PEFC Comment	Assessor's Response
<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 4.1.1:</p> <p><i>"4.1.1 The claim "100% PEFC certified" or another system specific claim shall be used to communicate the origin of products to customers with a PEFC chain of custody"</i></p>	<b>CONFORMITY</b>	<p><i>"...or specific to another system..."</i></p> <p>Not relevant in Slovakia and should be taken out to avoid misunderstandings. Potentially it's more an editorial issue, then a technically challenging issue.</p>	<p>Agreed: Assessor suggests that <i>"...or specific to another system..."</i> be deleted from the PEFC SK standard.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.1 MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE</p> <p>8.1.1.3 <i>"Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</i></p> <p><i>- 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"</i></p>	<b>CONFORMITY</b>	<p>This would need further clarification, because the checklist content for 8.1.6 <i>The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion states that:</i></p> <p><b>Does not apply. Legislation does not permit the establishment of forest plantations.</b></p>	<p>Agreed: PEFC 1003:2018, 8.1.4, refers specifically to "forest conversion." PEFC SK 1003:2021, 8.1.1.3 makes reference only to "exclusion of forest land." This needs to be better defined.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>

		<p>In this case, the SFCS requirements can only refer to forest conversion activity, if it results in non-forest land. However, this limitation is not captured in the standard (SFCS 1003:2021 req. 8.1.1.1-8.1.1.5) The definition of forest conversion also does not reflect that in the Slovak framework conversion to forest plantations is not applicable.</p>	
<p>8.1.1.3 “Exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions: - shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type of the managed area”</p>	<b>CONFORMITY</b>	<p>During an Internal Review Zoom call analysis with PEFC TU staff, it was additionally noted that this standard was in Nonconformance due to a malapropism, or incorrect choice of words, e.g., managed vs certified.</p>	<p>Agreed: The PEFC standard defines small portion as “no greater than 5% of the forest type within the <u>certified area</u>.” PEFC SK 8.1.1.3 defines small area as “no greater than 5% of the managed area.” In some instances, managed area may far exceed certified area.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>
<p>PEFC SK 1003:2021 8.2.3.9 “The measures taken shall limit the generation of waste related to forestry production (does not apply to logging residues). The generated waste shall be continuously removed from the forest and properly disposed.</p>	<b>CONFORMITY</b>	<p>This does not prohibit the disposal of waste, but limits it only. This might be worth to revisit and update the standard wording to reach full compliance.</p>	<p>Agreed: As written, PEFC SK SFCS does not stress avoidance of waste, but merely limits it.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>

TD SFCS 1003:2021, 8.4.1.1 <i>“Genetically modified trees shall not be used in forest regeneration”</i>	<b>CONFORMITY</b>	This doesn't cover afforestation and enhancement [sic] planting activities (sites, where regeneration commitments are not generated). Additional information (e.g. relevant section of national legislative framework) or revising the standard's wording would be required on these aspects to support the conformity decision.	<p>Agreed: PEFC 1003:2018 – SFM Requirements <i>“8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.”</i></p> <p>As written, the SFCS does not prohibit the use of GMOs in forests, but merely restricts their use from forest regeneration.</p> <p><b>NONCONFORMITY</b></p>
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