TPAC
Timber
Procurement
Assessment
Committee

Summary Report

of the

Final Judgement of

PEFC Austria

by the

Timber Procurement Assessment Committee

(TPAC)

The Hague, Netherlands

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Index

1 Introduction

1.1 The Dutch procurement policy for timber

The Dutch government, like other (European) administrations, has developed a public procurement policy for wood-based products. Central in this procurement policy are the *Dutch Procurement Criteria for timber*, which have been developed in consultation with stakeholders, and were officially established in June 2008. The Minister of Environment has commissioned the *Timber Procurement Assessment Committee* (TPAC) to assess whether existing certification systems for timber meet these Dutch Procurement Criteria. These assessments are essential because starting in 2010 only timber that meets the criteria shall be procured by the Dutch government.

The TPAC assessment procedure consists of several steps, which is concluded by the Final Judgement. The underlying document is the public summary of this Final Judgement.

1.2 Readers guide

This summary report is structured as follows: in section 2, the TPAC assessment method is explained, giving the details on what scores are necessary for a certification system to be assessed as *conforming to the Dutch Procurement Criteria*. Section 3 and 4 give a summary of the Final Judgement of PEFC Austria. Section 5 lists the documents which have been used for the assessment. The last section clarifies the conditions of the Final Judgement.

Note: this document gives a summary of TPAC's Judgement of PEFC Austria and provides an overview to the interested reader. The document by no means attempts to be all inclusive, for more detailed information related to the TPAC assessment procedure please refer to the User Manual which can be downloaded from the TPAC website (www.tpac.smk.nl).

2 The TPAC Assessment

2.1 Assessment procedure

The TPAC assessment procedure consists of several steps involving several parties. The procedure for example includes two opportunities for the system manager of the certification system to review the assessment performed by TPAC. The procedure also includes an online stakeholder forum. On this forum stakeholders are invited to provide information on how the certification system functions in practice. In the 'TPAC stakeholder forum report', the Committee shows how the information of the forum is taken into account in the final judgement of the system.

2.2 Assessment method

The Dutch Procurement Criteria consist of *principles* and *criteria* which are structured in three so-called matrices:

- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM);
- Chain-of-Custody and Logo Use (CoC);
- Development, Application and Management of certification systems (DAM).

The tables below depict the possible scores for criteria and principles.

Scores for Criteria	
=	Fully addressed
≈	Partially addressed
≠	Inadequately addressed
n.r.	Not relevant
c.o.	Covered otherwise in legal and social context

Scores for Principles	
2	Fully addressed
1	Partially addressed
0	Inadequately addressed
n.r.	Not relevant

A certification system is assessed as conforming to the Dutch Procurement Criteria if:

1. all 17 principles of SFM, CoC and DAM have a score of at least 1;
2. at least 50% of the principles have a score of 2;
3. within the social, ecological and economic aspects of SFM, at least *one* of the two principles has a score of 2;
4. the fraction of the criteria that is "inadequately addressed" is not more than 10% of the total of the 76 SFM, CoC and DAM criteria together.

3 Summary of the Final Judgement of PEFC Austria

In the table below an overview is given of the scores of PEFC Austria at the level of the principles: five principles have a score of 1, one principle (principle 7 – Contribution to the local economy) is assessed "not relevant" for the Austrian context, all other principles have a score of 2. Out of the total of 76 criteria, one is inadequately addressed. Based on these findings, TPAC's Final Judgement is that PEFC Austria is:

"Conforming to the Dutch Procurement Criteria"

Summary of the Final Judgement – PEFC Austria

	Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)									Chain of Custody (CoC)			Development, Application and Management (DAM)				
Score	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P1	P2	P3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
2																	
1																	
0																	
n.r.																	

3.1 Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Principle 1 – Legislation and regulations
Principle 1 focuses on the relevant legislation for forest management and consists of four criteria. Criteria 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, deal with the requirements of the forest manager regarding all types of legislation and regulations. Criterion 1.4 deals with illegal activities. Criterions 1.1 through 1.3 are fully addressed by PEFC Austria. C1.4 is considered to be covered by Austrian legislation. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 2 - Interests of stakeholders
Principle 2 and 3 cover the *social aspects* of sustainable forest management. Principle 2 requires that the interests of stakeholders are taken into account in forest management. The principle includes six criteria. Criterion 2.1 deals with tenure and use rights; criterion 2.2 with effective communication; 2.3 with free and informed consent; criterion 2.4 with the public availability of different documents concerning forest management; criterion 2.5 with dispute resolution; and criterion 2.6 deals with objects of cultural and economic value. C2.1, C2.2 and C2.4 are partially addressed. This relates amongst others to limitations in: the inventory of claims of local populations; the consultation of, and communication with stakeholders regarding the forest management and the public availability of all relevant documents. C2.3 on free and informed consent is addressed by Austrian legislation. C2.5 and C2.6 of this principle are fully addressed. The principle is awarded a score of 1.

Principle 3 - Health and labour conditions
Principle 3 requires that safety, health, and labour conditions are safeguarded and where relevant enhanced. The principle consists of two criteria. Criterion 3.1 deals with health and safety, criterion 3.2 with employment conditions. Both criteria are fully covered. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 4 - Biodiversity
Principles 4 and 5 cover the *ecological aspects* of sustainable forest management. Principle 4 requires that biodiversity is maintained and where possible enhanced. The principle consists of seven criteria on: species and ecosystems (criteria 4.1 and 4.2), plantations (criteria 4.4 and 4.5), conversion (criterion 4.3), GMOs (criterion 4.7) and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) (criterion 4.6). Six of the seven criteria are fully addressed. One criterion, namely C4.7 on plantations, is considered not relevant in the context of Austria. Overall, the principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 5 – Regulation functions
Principle 5 requires the regulation functions and the quality, health, and vitality of the forest to be maintained and where possible enhanced. The principle includes eight criteria which cover soil (criterion 5.1), water (criterion 5.2), ecological cycles (criterion 5.3), reduced impact logging (criterion 5.4), forest fires (criterion 5.5), disease and pests (criterion 5.6), chemicals (criterion 5.7) and waste and litter (criterion 5.8). Five of the eight criteria are fully addressed. Criterion 5.5, on 'forest fires', is not relevant in the context of Austria. Criterion 5.6, on 'diseases and pests,' is partially addressed, because prevention of diseases and pests is not explicitly mentioned. Criterion 5.9 on 'waste and litter' is considered to be covered by Austrian legislation. Overall, the principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 6 - Production function
Principles 6 and 7 cover the *economic aspects* of sustainable forest management. Principle 6 requires that the production capacity of timber and relevant non-timber forest products are maintained. The principle contains one criterion; this is fully addressed by PEFC Austria. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 7 – Contribution to the local economy

Principle 7 requires that forest management contributes to the local economy and to local employment. The principle includes two criteria: Criterion 7.1 deals with employment; criterion 7.2 with infrastructure. Both criteria are considered not to be relevant in the Austrian context, the principle is therefore is awarded the score n.r. (not relevant).

Principle 8 – Management system
Principle 8 requires that sustainable forest management is realised through a management system. The principle consists of six criteria, which cover: the management cycle (criterion 8.1), the forest management plan and maps (criterion 8.2 and 8.3), monitoring (8.4), and knowledge and expertise of the staff (criterion 8.5 and 8.6). Five of the six criteria are fully addressed. Criterion 8.4 is partially addressed because monitoring of social, economic and ecological effects of forest management is not specifically mentioned. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 9 – Management group or regional association
Principle 9 focuses on group certification and requires that forest management in a group or regional association offers sufficient safeguards for sustainable forest management. The principle covers three criteria which require that a group is under the leadership and supervision of an independent legal entity (criterion 9.1 and 9.2) and the compliance with SFM requirements (criterion 9.3). All criteria are fully addressed. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

3.2 Chain of Custody (CoC) and Logo Use

Principle 1 – Chain of Custody system
The first CoC principle requires that a Chain of Custody from the forest unit to the final point of sale is in place. The principle includes six criteria which focus on the organisation (criterion 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3), the legality of sources (criterion 1.4 and 1.5) and on mixed products (criterion 1.6). All criteria are fully addressed by PEFC Austria. The principle is awarded a score of 2 accordingly.

Principle 2 – Chain of Custody group certification
The second CoC principle requires that, if the certification system allows CoC group certification, the standard must require the group as a whole to comply with the same requirements as imposed on individual companies. The principle consists of four criteria which deal with a juridical entity (criterion 2.1), a management system (criterion 2.2 and 2.3) and the registration of members (criterion 2.4). All criteria are fully addressed by PEFC Austria. The principle is awarded a score of 2 accordingly.

Principle 3 – Logos and labels
The last CoC principle requires that logos and labels of the certification system have an unambiguous meaning and that they are applied in accordance with the rules established by the certification system. The principle includes three criteria. Criterion 3.1 deals with the design of logos and labels, criterion 3.2 with copyright, criterion 3.3 with the control of all claims. All criteria are fully addressed except for criterion 3.1. This criterion is inadequately addressed because the used PEFC logo does not differentiate between timber produced in different PEFC countries. The principle is awarded a score of 1.

3.3 Development, Application and Management (DAM) of certification systems

Principle 1 – Standard development
The first DAM principle requires that the process of standard development and the standard itself to fulfil the requirements as established by international umbrella organisations such as ISO and ISEAL. The principle consists of ten criteria. Criterion 1.1 specifies the required treaties; criterion 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 deal with stakeholder input; criterion 1.5 with public consultation; criterion 1.6 with the handling of conflicts; criterion 1.7 with publication; criterion 1.8 with reference to meta-standards; criterion 1.9 with the general applicability; and criterion 1.10 deals with both process and performance criteria. All criteria are fully addressed except for criteria 1.2 and 1.4. Undue dominance of one stakeholder group (C1.2) is not ruled out as only one environmental representative is a member of the standard development body (against 7 representatives of the forest owners and the industry). C1.4 is partially addressed because input of all relevant stakeholders is not guaranteed as notification is done through a press release. The principle is awarded a score of 1.

Principle 2 – System manager
The second DAM principle requires the system manager to be a legally registered entity (criterion 2.1). Furthermore the responsibilities, authorities, procedures and tasks amongst entities are clear and public available (criterion 2.2). The two related criteria are fully addressed. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 3 – Decision-making bodies and appeal procedures
The third DAM principle requires the decision-making bodies and appeal procedures to reflect the interests of the stakeholders. The principle consists of six criteria: Criterion 3.1 and 3.2 deal with decision making bodies; criterion 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 with objection and appeal procedures. Five of the six criteria are fully addressed. Criterion 3.1 on the composition of decision-making and advisory bodies is partially addressed as practice shows that the eight members of PEFC Austria represent mostly forest owners and industry. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 4 – Certification bodies and procedures
The fourth DAM principle requires the certification bodies to be independent and competent to assess sustainable forest management and the Chain of Custody. The principle includes four criteria. Criterion 4.1 deals with the certification body; criterion 4.2 and 4.3 with the procedure for assessment; and criterion 4.4 deals with public availability. Three criteria are fully addressed by PEFC Austria. Criterion 4.2 scores partially addressed, as consultation of external stakeholders is not required by the Manual of on site audits of PEFC Austria. The principle is awarded a score of 2.

Principle 5 – Accreditation
The fifth DAM principle requires accreditation agencies, who grant accreditations for certification of sustainable forest management and/or the Chain of Custody, to be competent and independent. The principle consists of two criteria. Criterion 5.1 deals with the accreditation body; criterion 5.2 deals with peer review. Both criteria are fully addressed; the principle is awarded a score of 2.

4 Assessment Matrices

4.1 Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Legislation and Regulation		
Legislation and regulation	P 1. Relevant international, national, and regional/local legislation and regulations shall be respected. To that end the system requires that:	2
Requirements of forest manager	C 1.1. The forest manager holds legal use rights to the forest.	=
	C 1.2. The forest manager complies with all obligations to pay taxes and royalties.	=
	C 1.3. Legal and regulatory obligations that apply to the forest management unit, including international agreements, are fulfilled.	=
Illegal activities	C 1.4. The forest management unit is sufficiently protected against all forms of illegal exploitation, illegal establishment of settlements, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	c.o.
Social Aspects		
Interests of stakeholders	P 2. The interests of directly and indirectly involved stakeholders shall be taken into account. To that end the system requires that:	1
Tenure and use rights	C 2.1. The legal status of the management of the forest management unit and claims of the local population, including indigenous peoples, regarding the property/tenure or use rights in the forest management unit or a portion thereof have been inventoried and are respected.	≈
Consultation and permission	C 2.2. Effective communication with and consultation and participation of stakeholders take place regarding the management of the forests.	≈
	C 2.3. The local population and indigenous peoples have a say on the basis of free and informed consent, and hold the right to grant or withhold permission and, if relevant, receive compensation where their property/use rights are at stake.	c.o.
Public availability	C 2.4. The forest management plan and accompanying maps, relevant monitoring results and information about the forest management measures to be applied are publicly available, except for strictly confidential business information.	≈
Dispute resolution	C 2.5. Adequate mechanisms are in place for resolving disputes regarding forest management, property/usage rights, work conditions, or social services.	=
Objects of cultural and economic value	C 2.6. Objects of cultural and traditional economic value are identified and inventoried in consultation with the stakeholders, and are respected.	=
Health and labour conditions	P 3. Safety, health, and labour conditions shall be sufficiently safeguarded and where relevant enhanced. To that end the system requires that:	2
Health and safety	C 3.1. The forest manager must take adequate health and safety measures, at least in compliance with relevant legislation and in accordance with ILO conventions, in order to protect the personnel, including contractors and their employees and, where appropriate, the local and indigenous population.	=
Employment conditions	C 3.2. Employees have the right to organise and negotiate wages and employment conditions, in accordance with national laws and the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).	=
Ecological Aspects		

Biodiversity	P 4. Biodiversity shall be maintained and where possible enhanced. To that end the system requires that:	2
Species and Ecosystems	C 4.1. Objects of high ecological value and representative areas of forest types that occur within the forest management unit are identified, inventoried and protected.	=
	C 4.2. Protected and endangered plant and animal species are not exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures have been taken for their protection and, where relevant, increase of their population.	=
Conversion	C 4.3. Conversion of forests in the FMU to other types of land use, including timber plantations, shall not occur unless in justified exceptional circumstances.	=
Plantations	C 4.4. In case of plantations native species are preferred and a relevant proportion of the plantation shall be allowed to regenerate to natural forest.	=
	C 4.5. Plantations shall not be established through the conversion of natural forests after 1997.	n.r.
Non-timber forest products, hunting and fishing	C 4.6. The exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, are regulated, monitored and controlled. Insofar as relevant, knowledge of the local population, indigenous peoples, and locally active environmental organisations is utilised in monitoring commercial exploitation.	=
Genetically modified organisms	C 4.7. Genetically modified organisms are not used.	=
Regulation functions	P 5. The regulation function and quality, health, and vitality of the forest shall be maintained and where possible enhanced. To that end the system requires that:	2
Soil	C 5.1. The soil quality of the forest management unit is maintained and, where necessary, improved, whereby special attention is given to shores, riverbanks, erosion-prone parts and slopes.	=
Water	C 5.2. The water balance and quality of both groundwater and surface water in the forest management unit, as well as downstream (outside of the forest management unit), are maintained and, where necessary, improved.	=
Ecological cycles	C 5.3. Important ecological cycles, including carbon and nutrient cycles, which occur in the forest management unit, are at least maintained.	=
Reduced impact logging	C 5.4. Avoidable damage to the ecosystem is prevented by application of the most suitable and available methods and techniques for logging and road construction under the prevailing conditions.	=
Forest fires	C 5.5. Initiating of forest fires is only permitted if that is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit and adequate safety measures are taken.	n.r.
Diseases and pests	C 5.6. Forest management is geared towards preventing and controlling diseases and pests, inasmuch as they threaten the timber production.	≈
Chemicals	C 5.7. The use of chemicals is only permitted if maximum use of ecological processes and sustainable alternatives proves insufficient. The use of class 1A and 1B pesticides, as drafted by the World Health Organisation, and of chlorinated hydrocarbons is not permitted.	=
Waste and litter	C 5.8. Non-organic waste and litter are avoided, collected, stored in the designated places and removed in an environmentally responsible manner.	c.o.
Economic Aspects		
Production function	P 6. The production capacity of timber and relevant non-timber forest products shall be maintained. To that end the system requires that:	2
Production capacity	C 6.1. The production capacity of each forest type of the forest management unit as a whole is maintained.	=

Contribution to local economy	P 7. Forest management shall contribute to the local economy and employment. To that end the system requires that:	n.r.
Employment	C 7.1. Forest management stimulates employment of the local population, including indigenous peoples, as well as the local processing of timber and non-timber forest products.	n.r.
Infrastructure	C 7.2. Insofar as not provided for otherwise, a contribution is made to the development of local physical infrastructure and of social services and programmes for the local population, including indigenous peoples. This contribution is made in agreement with the local population.	n.r.
Management Aspects		
Management system	P 8. Sustainable forest management shall be realised through a management system. To that end the system requires that:	2
Management cycle	C 8.1. Forest management aims to achieve the goals formulated in the forest management plan and comprises the cycle of inventory and analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and improvement.	=
Forest management plan	C 8.2. There is a forest management plan, consisting of, or dealing with at least: a. a description of the current condition of the forest management unit b. long-term objectives c. the average annually allowable cut per forest type, and, if relevant, the annual allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products, based on reliable and current data d. budget for the implementation of the forest management plan.	=
Maps	C 8.3. Essential elements for forest management are indicated on maps.	=
Monitoring	C 8.4. The implementation of the forest management plan and the ecological, social, and economic effects of forest management on the FMU and its surroundings are monitored periodically on the basis of adequate data.	≈
Knowledge and expertise	C 8.5. Forest management is based on scientific research and, if needed, information on comparable forests types.	=
	C 8.6. Forests are managed by professional staff and forest workers. Adequate periodic training secures the level of skills, including knowledge of relevant laws and treaties.	=
Management group or regional association	P 9. Forest management in a group or regional association shall offer sufficient safeguards for sustainable forest management. To that end the system requires that:	2
Group or regional association	C 9.1. A group or regional association is under the leadership and supervision of an independent legal entity.	=
	C 9.2. The management system of a group or regional association offers sufficient guarantee to fulfil criterion 9.3.	=
Sustainable forest management requirements	C 9.3. A group or regional association complies with the requirements set by the SFM standard of the certification system. In addition, each member of a group or regional association complies with these requirements, inasmuch as they apply to its operations.	=

4.2 Chain of Custody (CoC) and Logo Use

Chain of Custody system	P 1. A Chain of Custody (CoC) must be in place from the forest unit of origin to the final point of sale, which provides a link between the certified material in the product or product line and certified forest units. To that end the system requires that:	2
Organisation	C 1.1 Each individual organisation in the CoC possesses an operational CoC system.	=
	C 1.2 The management system of each organisation in the CoC provides sufficient guarantees that the requirements of the CoC standard are being met.	=
	C 1.3 Each individual organisation in the CoC registers quantities and the names and certificate numbers of the organisations from which it purchases timber and to which it sells timber.	=
Legal sources	C 1.4 If the system allows for mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material, the non- SFM certified material is covered by a verifiable system to ensure that it is from non-disputed, at least legal sources. This applies to new-, including pre-consumer recycled material, and post-consumer recycled material.	=
	C1.5 SFM-certified timber, including timber products, timber from other verified legal sources and timber from non-verified (legal) sources are administratively separated. Timber from non-verified (legal) sources is also physically separated from the other two sources.	=
Mixed wood and assembled products	C1.6 If the system allows for mixing of SFM-certified and non-SFM-certified material, (one of) the following approaches shall be used: a. mass balance claim: the proportion of the product sold as SFM certified is equal to the proportion of SFM certified material entering a process; b. percentage based claim: the percentage of SFM certified material in a product or product line is reported.	=
Chain of Custody group certification	P 2. If Group certification of the CoC is allowed, the standard must require that the group as whole must comply with the same requirements which are posed on individual companies. To that end the system requires that:	2
Juridical entity	C 2.1 A group has a juridical entity, which is responsible for the group as a whole.	=
Management	C 2.2 The group has a management system that provides sufficient guarantees that C 2.3 will be met.	=
	C 2.3 The group operates according to principle 1; in addition, each member of the group complies with these requirements inasmuch as they apply to its operations.	=
Registration	C 2.4 The group leader has a registration system in place including: a. names and addresses of the group members b. declarations of each member to comply with the certification requirements of the CoC.	=
Logos and labels	P 3. Logos and labels that belong to the certification system and occur on products and documents shall have an unambiguous meaning and shall be applied in accordance with the rules established by the certification system. To that end the system requires that:	1
Design and use of	C 3.1. The system manager employs rules for the use of logos and labels and for supervision of compliance. The rules comprise at least:	≠

logos and labels	a. specification of the logos and labels b. unambiguous description of the claim that the logos and labels represent, including the requirement to communicate the actual or minimum percentages of SFM certified- and post-consumer recycled material included in the product or product line c. rights to use logos and labels d. instructions regarding the use of logos and labels and the informative text they show.	
Copyright	C 3.2. The logo is copyrighted and is a registered trademark.	=
Clear and accurate claims	C 3.3 There is a clearly defined mechanism for controlling all claims made about the certified nature of products, which ensures that claims are clear and accurate and that action is taken to prevent any false or misleading claims.	=

4.3 Development, Application and Management (DAM) of certification systems

Standard Development and Application		
Standard development	P 1. The process of standard development and the standard itself shall fulfil the requirements as established by international umbrella organisations (such as ISO and ISEAL). To that end the system requires that:	1
ISEAL and ISO Guide 59	C 1.1. The development process of the standard fulfils the requirements established in the *ISEAL 'Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards'*, the *ISO Guide 59 'Code of Good Practice for Standardisation'* or equivalent requirements. The development process and application of the standard at least fulfil the following criteria: 1.2. through 1.10; 2.1. and 2.2.; 3.3. through 3.6. of this assessment table.	=
Stakeholder input	C 1.2. The standard development body comprises the relevant interested groups that serve the economic, social and environmental interests without undue dominance of one interest.	≈
	C 1.3 Decisions of the standard development body are made, if possible, by consensus. If consensus is not reached, qualified majority voting applies.	=
	C 1.4. The development of the standard takes place with input of the relevant stakeholders. Potential limitations for certain groups such as indigenous peoples and small forest owners to contribute directly are taken into account.	≈
Public consultation	C 1.5. The standard development procedure provides for public input during a reasonable period of time.	=
Justification for handling comments	C 1.6. With the development of the standard, the standard setting organisation takes into account any comments submitted in writing and communicated verbally. The organisation maintains reports of the development process of the standard including the received input and how it is dealt with. A summary of it is published and is freely available.	=
Publication	C 1.7. The standard setting organisation publishes the standard as soon as it has been established.	=
Reference to international standards	C 1.8. A national standard which is part of an international certification system with a generic standard or which is based on a generic standard of an umbrella organisation, must refer to the relevant generic standard and be accepted by the relevant international system or organisation.	=
General applicability	C 1.9. The standard and the procedures for establishing compliance are sufficiently flexible to be applied under changing local conditions and to forest management units of any size, either as a part of a group or regional association or otherwise.	=
Process criteria and	C 1.10. The standard contains both process and performance criteria and consists, where appropriate, of measurable, unambiguous	=

performance criteria	parameters with guidelines for interpretation.	
Certification system management		
System manager	P 2. The certification system shall be managed by a legal entity (system manager). The tasks and responsibilities shall be clearly distributed among the organisations, which form an organisational and/or functional part of the system. To that end the system requires that:	2
Legal entity, statutes	C 2.1. The system manager is a legally registered organisation with statutes, contact address, telephone, e-mail, and website.	=
Entities, distribution of responsibilities	C 2.2. The distribution of the responsibilities, authorities, and tasks among the entities, comprising an organisational and/or functional part of the certification system, and the procedures to be followed are clear and publicly available. The certification system comprises at least rules for the following functions: a. standard development b. certification c. accreditation d. supervision of proper performance of tasks and compliance with the rules e. objection and appeal handling f. design and use of logos and labels	=
Decision-making bodies and objection and appeal procedures	P 3. Decision-making bodies shall reflect the interests of stakeholders and shall provide for adequate procedures for objection and appeal regarding the decisions made and the functioning of the decision-making bodies. To that end the system requires that:	2
Composition	C 3.1. The decision-making and advisory bodies comprise the relevant interested groups without undue dominance of one interest.	≈
Decision-making	C 3.2. Decisions of decision-making and advisory bodies are made, if possible, by consensus. If consensus is not reached, majority voting applies.	=
Provision for objection or appeal	C 3.3. Objection and appeal procedures are publically available and clearly indicate the entity a stakeholder must turn to in the event of an objection or appeal against the operation of a particular entity or against a decision made by a particular entity.	=
Justification	C 3.4. The objection and appeal procedures require that the submitter or a representative substantiates the objection or appeal with arguments and relevant documentation.	=
Reasonable period	C 3.5. Objection and appeal procedures contain clear and reasonable deadlines for handling of the objection or appeal.	=
Independent forum	C 3.6. A forum of independent persons, which adequately represent legal and domain knowledge, handles appeal cases. Decisions are taken by majority voting.	=
Certification Bodies and Certification Procedures		
Certification bodies and procedures	P 4. Certification bodies shall be independent and shall be competent to assess sustainable forest management and the chain of custody system. To that end the system requires that:	2
Certification bodies	C 4.1. The certification bodies are accredited on the basis of the requirements and guidelines in ISO 17021[1] *'Conformity Assessment - Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems'* and/or ISO Guide 65 (EN 45011) *'General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems'* and preferably on the basis of specific supplemental requirements for performance of conformity assessments according to the standards for	=

[1] ISO 17021 has replaced ISO Guide 62 (EN 45012) and ISO Guide 66. A transition period applies. ISO Guide 62 (EN 45012) and ISO Guide 66 may be used until September 2008.

	sustainable forest management and the chain of custody.	
Procedure for assessment	C 4.2. The certification contains an assessment of system documents, site visits, and sufficient consultation of external stakeholders.	≈
	C 4.3. In case of a group certification an adequate sample of group members must be audited.	=
Public availability	C 4.4. The certification agency makes the following items public in addition to the requirements in ISO 17021 and ISO Guide 65: a. summaries of assessment reports b. a list of the granted certificates	=
Accreditation		
Accreditation	P 5. The accreditation agencies that grant the accreditations for certification of sustainable forest management and/or the chain of custody shall be competent and independent, national or international organisations that are preferably member of the IAF. To that end the system requires that:	2
Accreditation body	C 5.1. Accreditation must be granted by a national or international organisation that fulfils requirements as included in ISO 17011 '*General Requirements for Assessment and Accreditation of Certification Bodies'*.	=
Peer review	C 5.2. The accreditation body takes part in a peer review process with sister organisations, preferably within the framework of the IAF.	=

5 Documents PEFC Austria

The following documents were used for the assessment of PEFC Austria.

- Austrian Forest Certification Scheme System Description, June 2006.
- Criteria and Indicators for Assessing Sustainable Forest Management in Austria, June 2006 (Appendix 1).
- Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC) in Austria, June 2006 (Appendix 2).
- PEFC Austria, Statutes, June 2006 (Appendix 6).
- Forest Owner's Voluntary Declaration of Obligation, [not dated] (appendix 7).
- Standard setting procedures in Austria [not dated] (Appendix 8).
- Procedure of Arbitration [not dated] (Appendix 9).
- Conducting On-Site Inspections of the Region [not dated] (Appendix 10).

- PEFC Council Technical Document, 5 October 2007.
- Annex 2: Rules for Standard Setting, 27 October 2006.
- Annex 3: Basis for Certification Schemes and their implementation, 5 October 2007.
- Annex 4: Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products-Requirements, 17/6/2005, with separate amendment 5 10 2007.
    - Appendix 4 to Annex 4, Implementation of the Chain of Custody standard in multi-site organisations, 17 June 2005.
    - Appendix 6 to Annex 4, Specification of the origin for the purposes of PEFC label and declarations covering recycled raw material.
    - Appendix 7 to Annex 4, Implementation of requirements for the avoidance of the procurement of raw material from controversial sources, 27 October 2006.
- Annex 5: PEFC Logo Use Rules, 5 October 2007.
- Annex 6: Certification and accreditation procedures, October 2007.
- Annex 7: Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Standards and their Revision, 5 October 2007.
- Guidelines PEFC Council Minimum Requirements Checklist, 26 January 2007.

6 Concluding remarks

The decision on the conformity of PEFC Austria is valid for a period of five years: from January 2010 until January 2015. Towards the end of this period a full reassessment will take place. Revision of the assessment will also take place when PEFC Austria changes its standard, or when adaptations are made in the Dutch Procurement Criteria for timber, or when serious flaws in the implementation of the standard appear.