

CENTRE OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

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Preface

PEFC (The Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental leading global alliance of regional and national forest certification schemes that promotes sustainable forest management through forest certification and forest product labeling.

Products with the PEFC certificate and label provide a guarantee that the raw materials used in their production come from sustainably managed forests. The PEFC standard works throughout the forest supply chain, ensuring that wood and non-timber forest products are produced in accordance with ecological, social and ethical standards.

The Sustainable Forest Management Standard (hereinafter referred to as the FMS Standard) is part of the PEFC Lithuanian Forest Certification Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the Lithuanian Scheme). The purpose of the standard is to promote the sustainable development and management of Lithuanian forests using forest certification, focusing the owners' attention on the economic, ecological, social and cultural aspects of forest management. The standard is reviewed at least every five years with the participation of various stakeholders and updated as necessary.

The official version of this document is Lithuanian; however, the document has been translated into English. In case of any doubt the English version is definitive.

Introduction

This standard helps forest owners and managers effectively manage the forest as a renewable natural resource and increases public awareness of sustainable forestry. The standard was developed through an open and transparent development process. The standard and the recommendatory material justifying its implementation specify the requirements for sustainable forest management.

The FMS standard is a normative document intended for forest owners and managers. The implementation of the FMS standard gives the right to receive the PEFC sustainable forest management certificate according to the Lithuanian scheme.

The Board of the Lithuanian Forest and Land Owners Association (hereinafter LMSA) in 2023. July 22 approved a working group whose purpose was to evaluate the submitted working version of the FMS standard. The discussions were moderated by the PEFC standard development coordinator. The working group worked on the principle of consensus, when the interest of one of the interested parties or organizations could not dominate.

For revision and improvement of the standard in 2023. August - September 6 working group meetings were held. Since in Lithuania the harmonious hearing of forest management was in the center of public attention, the members of the working group were motivated to thoroughly discuss and propose an unambiguous wording of each point of the standard and the need for their real implementation and verifiability.

The FMS standard is designed in such a way that ensuring compliance with PEFC requirements does not become only a burden for its holder. Instead, the FMS standard should contribute to the promotion of sustainable forestry and enable its users to obtain added value. Technical documents are prepared to demonstrate compliance with PEFC requirements and should help improve performance.

Implementation of the standard

The FMS standard describes the criteria and indicators to be implemented by its holder in order to demonstrate compliance with the principles of sustainable forestry.

Forest owners or managers acting according to the established criteria ensure sustainable forest management and confirm compliance with the standard's requirements. Lithuanian forests are very different - diverse in terms of structure and type of terrain; forest management goals and their practical implementation also differ. The FMS standard establishes general requirements, but the specific nature of forest land ownership (size, location, forest management goals, applied measures and intensity of forest use) was taken into account when preparing the standard.

The criteria and indicators presented in the FMS standard determine the minimum required activities that prove compliance with the requirements and ensure the effectiveness of the activity.

A FMS standard holder must keep records of their activities to provide as evidence of compliance when required.

PEFC Sustainability Guidelines

Sustainable forest management in Lithuania is carried out in such a way and to such an extent that the vitality, biological diversity, productivity and regenerative capacity of the forest and its potential to perform ecological, economic, social and cultural functions now and in the future are preserved, without harming other ecosystems.

The structure of the standard is based on 10 groups of criteria that correspond to the main international sustainability criteria of PEFC:

Criteria Group 1: Maintenance and enhancement of the functions of the forest and its ecosystems, taking into account the role of the forest in the carbon sequestration cycle.

Criterion group 2: Activities aimed at maintaining the integrity, vitality and ecological functionality of the forest ecosystem.

Criterion group 3: Wooden products.

Criterion group 4: Conservation, maintenance, restoration and/or enhancement of biological diversity in the forest

Criterion group 5: Maintaining and strengthening the role of the forest as an environment-regulating ecosystem.

Criterion group 6: Maintaining or enhancing the cultural, social and spiritual functions of the forest.

Criterion group 7: Economic value of the forest.

Criterion group 8: Restoration, preservation, maintenance and/or enhancement of non-timber products and their value.

Criterion group 9: Employee rights and working conditions.

Criteria group 10: Performance evaluation (external and internal).

Certification – proof of compliance with the requirements of the standard

Certification is a process that ensures that the forest owner manages the forest in accordance with PEFC requirements.

Certification bodies must be impartial, independent and accredited. In all countries, the accreditation of certification bodies is carried out by a local accreditation body recognized by PEFC and belonging to the International Accreditation Forum. In Lithuania, this requirement is met by the Lithuanian Accreditation Bureau, which belongs to the European Accreditation Organization.

Organizations seeking PEFC certification must demonstrate that they meet PEFC-approved standards. Upon proof of compliance, the certification body issues a certificate valid for 5 years, and the organization acquires the right to use the "Certified PEFC" mark and use the PEFC mark.

After the certificate expires, the certificate holder must apply for a new certification. In addition, annual audits assess ongoing compliance with PEFC requirements.

Complaints related to the standards of the Lithuanian PEFC forest certification scheme or their management will be examined by the National Management Organization (hereinafter NGO) in accordance with the procedure for the preparation and renewal of the Standard, approved on 04.09.2023.

1. Scope

FMS Standard includes PEFC International's sustainability guidelines, which form the basis of PEFC International's approval. **FMS Standard Requirements Apply** to forest land. The requirements apply to forest owners and managers, as well as their contractors' performing activities **in certified and certified areas**. The requirements include all the necessary processes that are aimed at **sustainable forest management**, ensuring provision of **ecosystem services**. This document will apply to the certification of individual holdings and/or group holdings.

2. Terms and Definitions

Plant protection product: registered a preparation used to protect trees and other plants from pests and/or diseases, as well as **for wood protection against** pests or to control or destroy pests (source: ST working group, Plant Protection Act).

Audited organization: Organization which formed a PEFC audit is carried out in the certified area or part of it (source: ST working group, PEFC documents).

Ecosystem: A functional system of living organisms and their living environment, the components of which are connected by mutual relations, metabolism and energy exchange processes. (source: Law on Protected Areas of the Republic of Lithuania)

Ecosystem services: these ecosystem functions are directly beneficial to humans. (obtaining material and/or non-material benefits from **ecosystems**). The term "benefits from the natural environment" can also be used (source: ST working group,)

Sustainable forest management: the forest is managed in such a way and to such an extent as to maintain their vitality, biodiversity, productivity and regenerative capacity and their potential now and in the future to provide relevant ecological, economic, social and cultural functions without harming other **ecosystems** (source: ST working group).

Landscape plan: Nature management plan - a strategic planning document that assesses and describes the ecological condition of the protected area or part of it, the problems and possibilities of landscape protection and management, the protected species of endangered animals, plants and fungi, their habitats and natural habitats, the objectives of the management of the area, management and protection measures, the funds needed to implement them, and the executors. (source: ST working group, Methodology for the preparation of Nature Management Plans, Ministry of the Environment)

Natural values: single trees of different species, groups of trees with a second forest and/or understory; wood in different states of decay (e.g. standing and lying dead trees, decayed wood, stumps); terrain microstructures, forests of different composition and age, spontaneous growth and diversity of understory and understory, as well as valuable species of birds, animals, plants, mosses, lichens, fungi, etc., indicating the biological condition and diversity of the forest, as well as geological and hydrological values. (source: ST working group)

Landscape: it is the natural (surface rocks and relief, underground air, surface and groundwater, soil, animal organisms) and/or anthropogenic (archeological remains, structures, engineering facilities, land and information field) components of the earth's surface, related to material, energy and information connections, territorial compound. (source: ST working group, Ministry of Environment).

Tree: part of a forest in which the structure of woody vegetation is the same, a certain type of trees prevails, the vegetation is of similar age, has common vegetation and this part of the forest differs from neighboring parts of the forest by these indicators. (source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania)

Forest: an area of at least 0.1 hectare of land covered with trees with a density of at least 0.3 and a height of at least 5 meters in the natural habitat at maturity, and other forest vegetation, also at least 0.1 hectare of land an area where the stand has thinned or there are temporarily no trees due to human activity or natural factors (forest squares to be planted, clearings, dead stands). Groups of trees located in fields, roadsides, near water bodies, residential areas and cemeteries, plantations planted on road lanes, trees and bushes growing on non-forestry land plots managed by the public railway infrastructure manager in trust, narrow strips of trees up to 10 meters wide are not considered forests. , hedges, single trees and shrubs, as well as greenery planted on non-forestry land in cities and rural areas. The maintenance, protection and use of these gardens are regulated by the Law on Gardens of the Republic of Lithuania. (source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania)

Forest restoration: afforestation and/or afforestation of previously forested plots (source: ST working group, Forest restoration and planting regulations)

Forest reproductive material: parts of plants, seed material and plantings grown from them (seedlings and saplings) or self-grown seedlings used for planting and restoring forests (source: ST working group, Regulations on Forest Reproductive Material).

Forest group – areas of forest land with similar main farming objectives and farming regime. Groups are divided into subgroups. (source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania)

Forest infrastructure: infrastructure installed in forest nurseries, forest roads on forest land, forest land drainage system devices, forest fire protection system engineering structures and devices, as well as other engineering structures and devices intended for the implementation of forest recreational or environmental protection functions. (source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania).

Forest structure: the species composition and three-dimensional arrangement of trees and other plants together with other spatial elements such as soil, landforms, water bodies and evaluated at the scale of stands, microrelief, or landscape. Typical elements of the forest structure are trees and other woody plants (undergrowth and thicket), their fragmentation, species composition and distribution by age and height; dead wood, oak trees, landscape microforms, as well as single trees, shrubs and woody plants; Forest structure elements form micro-habitats for biota. (source: ST working group)

Forest management works: logging, restoration, cultivation, forest protection, as well as other enabling works **provision of ecosystem services on forest land.** (source: ST working group).

Forest management plan: the organization uses document **for the forest and forest management** describes goals and describes principles, and uses **ecosystem services** provided (source: ST working group). The document can be physical or electronic.

*Note: **Forest management plan** is equated to an internal forest management project and/or a nature management plan.*

Forest land: areas of land covered with forest - stands, as well as areas of land not covered with forest - clearings, dead stands, forest clearings, forest squares, small forest swamps, forest nurseries, forest tree seed plantations and sets of clones, land intended for planting forests. Forest land includes forest roads located in the same area, areas occupied by blocks, technological cuttings and lines, fire belts, wood warehouses and other forest-related facilities (ditches, culverts, bridges, fire towers, etc.), recreation areas, animal feed areas . (source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania).

Non-timber forest products: are forest products that are not made from wood. (source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania)

Organization: legal or natural person seeking or having **PEFC certificate and** responsible for **PEFC standard** fulfillment of requirements (source: ST working group).

Affected Stakeholder: the group of people it directly affects organizations activity. Stakeholders are: local communities, employees of the organization, immediate neighbors, regional companies, local authorities, customers and suppliers (source: ST working group).

PEFC certificate: a document issued by an accredited certifier confirming that organization corresponds to **PEFC standard** requirements (source: ST working group).

PEFC standard: PEFC **Sustainable Forest management** Standard for Lithuania (source: ST working group).

PEFC Chain of Custody Certificate: a document issued by an accredited certifier confirming that organization meets the requirements of the PEFC international standard PEFC ST 2002:2020 (Requirements for the production chain of forest products) (source: ST working group).

PEFC claim: sales and delivery documents use the label that wood or non-wood forest products or other ecosystem services come from a certified area. The mark can be "100% PEFC certified" and/or "100% certified" and have equal power (source: ST working group).

Protected species: endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic species of animals, plants or fungi, entered in the list of protected species of animals, plants and fungi of the Republic of Lithuania and/or the lists of species of animal and plant species of importance of the European Community or protected in accordance with international agreements in accordance with the procedure established by this law, as well as all species of wild birds naturally distributed in the European territory of the European Union member states (source: ST working group, Law on protected animals, plants, mushroom species and communities of the Republic of Lithuania).

Certified area: for the organization owned and/or managed area in which implementations are implemented **PEFC standard requirements** (source: ST working group).

Management system: management of **organization** ensures consistent achievement of set goals and contribution to **sustainable forest management** and **provision of ecosystem services**. This requires designing, validating, executing, controlling and improving processes (source: ST working group).

wood (source: ST working group)

Water body protection belt : the part of the protection zone of the surface water body, which includes the land section of the determined width closest to the boundary of the surface water body, where the right of the public to use water bodies, to walk along their shores is ensured, favorable conditions are created for the development of recreation and other public needs, but economic activities that may negatively affect the water are limited the stability of the reservoir and its coastal ecosystems, change the natural landscape of the coasts and its aesthetic values, damage the function of migration corridors.(source: ST working group; Description of the procedure for determining surface water bodies' protection zones and coastal protection strips, Ministry of the Environment)

Water body protection zone: a stretch of land bordering a surface water body along the boundary of a surface water body of a specified width, where economic activities are restricted that may negatively affect the stability of the water body and its coastal ecosystems, change the natural landscape and its aesthetic values, violate the function of migration corridors and the public's right to use water bodies and their coasts. (source: ST working group; Description of the procedure for determining surface water bodies' protection zones and coastal protection strips, Ministry of the Environment)

Internal forest management project: internal forest management projects are forestry activity plans prepared for all state forest managers and private forest holdings or for forest land located on a plot of non-forestry land and dedicated to establishing a system of specific management measures in them(source: ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania).

Local community: residents of a municipality's residential area (part of it or several residential areas) connected by common needs and interests of living in the neighborhood and satisfying these needs and interests acting in various forms of direct participation (meeting, public hearing, survey, activities through their representatives, community organizations, etc.) (source: ST working group, LR Local Communities Self-Government Policy Law).

Raw wood: wood from the stems of trees felled on forest land, intended for the preparation of wood products (source ST working group, Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania).

3. Content and requirements of the PEFC standard

3.1 General **PEFC standard** principles

3.1.1. **PEFC standard** requirements apply to all activities in a **certified area or area in the process of certification** and it obliges **organizations to adhere to** PEFC requirements.

3.1.2. **Organization** can participate in the certification through an authorized person, but in this case as well **organization** undertakes certification responsibilities.

3.1.3. **PEFC certificate** includes all forest land owned and/or managed by the organization as defined by the Forest Law. Partial **Certification** of Forest land in one parcel is not allowed.

3.1.4. **Organization must** match **PEFC standard** requirements throughout on **forest land owned and/or managed by the organization** as well as organization in **plantations not in the forest land specified for PEFC certification**.

3.1.5. In the case of reasonable objections regarding ownership or ownership rights, the place of dispute cannot be certified, and **wood, non-wood forest products** and other ecosystem **services received** from that location should not be labeled **PEFC mark**, until the dispute is resolved.

3.1.6. In case that organization has a valid **PEFC certificate** gains and/or increases **forest land** area, it is also considered **certified area** from the date of purchase in case that after the scope of the certificate is changed at the next surveillance or extraordinary audit.

3.1.7. **Organization** is not responsible for uncoordinated activities of third parties on the plot of land and/or the previous owner until the organization acquires land. **Organization**, if possible, eliminates the inconsistencies caused by such activities and reconciles them with the **PEFC standard requirements** or, in case of important reasons, a longer deadline of 3 months is set for eliminating non-conformities.

3.1.8. **Organization keeps** records of its activities for 5 years in such a way that compliance can be demonstrated **PEFC standard** requirements.

3.1.9. Only organizations, which have valid **PEFC certificates and signed license agreement** can mark products with **PEFC trade mark, which** confirms their receipt from certified **areas**.

3.1.10. The organization has right to label **PEFC trade mark and PEFC claim for wood, non-timber forest products and the main ecosystem services**, thus informing buyers and consumers that the product originates from certified **area**.

3.1.11. **PEFC claim** only products made from round wood, wood chips, energy wood, **non-timber forest products**, as well as other **products of key ecosystem services that come from certified areas**.

3.1.12. In case that **PEFC standard** does not indicate the limits of compliance, the requirements set out in the legislation apply.

3.1.13. An audit assesses compliance **PEFC standard requirements forest management during forest infrastructure works**, using **PEFC standard indicators**. The indicators used in the audit must be defined, up-to-date and relevant and suitable for use in assessing the forest, forest use, performed works and similar activities.

4. Management

4.1. **Organization** undertakes to comply **PEFC LT 1003:2024 standard** and other applicable PEFC requirements.

4.2. **Organization** confirms compliance with the **PEFC LT1003:2024 standard** requirements. The confirmation must be publicly available **organizations or CSFM** website or other publicly available register/database.

4.3. Management system of the organization

4.3.1. **Forest management work system must** be based on the principles of planning, organization, execution, monitoring and evaluation of results. **In forest management works** environmental, social and economic impact is also assessed. The organization carries out constant monitoring.

4.3.2. **Organization systematically** improves **control system** according to **sustainable forest management requirements**

4.3.3. **Organization** determines and prepares **control systems**, document management, communication with the local community, audit, dispute and complaint handling principles, and appoints the person(s) responsible for this **PEFC standard** implementation of requirements in the organization.

Note: in case that **organization** is a person, he is by default responsible for compliance with PEFC **standard requirements**, unless the individual has authorized another person(s) to assume this responsibility.

4.4 Compliance requirements

4.4.1 Legal compliance

4.4.1.1 The activities of the organization shall comply with legal acts.

4.4.1.2 The **organization** shall take measures to prevent illegal activities in the **forest**. **The organization** has policies in place to ensure that all employees have relevant and up-to-date knowledge and the activities comply with legal acts and illegal activities in the **forest** are prevented.

4.4.2 Property rights

4.4.2.1 The ownership or possession of each property of the **organization** shall be unequivocally proved. The ownership or possession has been unequivocally proved in the state register or documented.

5. Planning

5.1. Actions to address risks and opportunities

5.1.1. **Organization** takes into account the risks and opportunities associated with **PEFC standard** compliance with the requirements. The risk and opportunity assessment must be updated and relevant.

5.2. Affected stakeholders

5.2.1. **Organization Determines Affected stakeholders**, affected by **forest management activities** and assesses their potential needs and expectations.

5.3. Management plan

5.3.1. **Organization** has the latest and most relevant information about their **forest**. In accordance with the valid legal acts periodically, an inventory of forests was carried out and cartographic materials were prepared. On the basis of inventory data, activity planning in the forest is carried out in the management plane. **Organization** has instruments to ensure the use of up-to-date and reliable information about the forest.

5.3.2. **Organization has** management policies that reduce the risk of ecosystem damage and deterioration, and policies that help ensure good **ecosystems** conditions. The organization has implemented risk and opportunity assessment methodology.

5.3.3. **Management plan** must include the following minimum requirements:

- a) commitment to comply with the requirements of the PEFC standard;
- b) land cadastre data about the parcel
- c) data about the forest;
- d) Planned activities of forest use in the parcel
- e) long-term goals of sustainable forest management;
- f) average annual harvest area and/or volume.
- g) justification in accordance of legal acts of Lithuanian Republic.

5.3.4. When the **organizations** management plan includes commercial **use of non-timber forest products** and next **basic ecosystem services**, **organization** should determine the annual **commercial non-timber forest products** and other **basic ecosystem services** scope and/area of use, ensuring their long-term sustainability.

5.3.5. Science-based methods are used **in forest management operations** and **forest** management. Organization must have approved documents and records about this.

5.3.6. **Organization makes management plan** summary public. Summary must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a) commitment to comply with the requirements of the PEFC standard;
- b) long-term forest management goals and a summary of the organization's forest management principles;
- (c) a summary of the previous PEFC audit (if any).

Note: the information must be published on the website of the organization and/or NGB or in another publicly available register/database.

Note: confidential information, the disclosure of which is restricted by law (e.g. nature protection restrictions, personal data) and confidential information in the audit report shall be excluded from the summary of the management plan.

6. Support

6.1. Resources

6.1.1. The organization plans resources to create, operate and improve the management system according to the organization's long-term goals of sustainable forest management.

6.2. Competence

6.2.1. The organization must ensure that forest management works are performed by competent persons. The organization's employees have a document confirming competence (such as a professional certificate, professional education, training certificate or document proving instruction) or a corresponding requirement has been included in the service contracts.

6.2.2. Persons performing forest management work in the organization have knowledge of sustainable forest management and continuous learning, including participation in training or courses introducing the principles of sustainable forest management. Persons performing forest management work have a document confirming knowledge of sustainable forest management.

(e.g. training certificate or attended briefing) and/or service contracts include a relevant requirement.

6.3. Communication

6.3.1 Information about forest operations in the certified area must be available to the local community and the nearest neighbor.

6.4. Complaints

6.4.1 Organization has a dispute and complaint resolution policy regarding forest management works, property and working conditions. Disputes and complaints are resolved in accordance with the principles of this policy.

6.5. Documentation

6.5.1 The organization must keep documentation about performed forest management operations. It must be up-to-date and relevant.

6.5.2 When supplying wood to customers with a PEFC production chain certificate, the organization must provide the following minimum information: provide cadastral location information, indicating the origin of the wood, the name of the assortments; quantity of assortments; species of trees or groups of trees (deciduous, coniferous); PEFC certificate number; information about the applicable PEFC claim; organization name; waybill number, delivery date.

7. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT GROUPS OF CRITERIONS, CRITERIONS AND INDICATORS

Criteria Group 1: Maintenance and strengthening of the functions of the forest and its ecosystems, taking into account the role of the forest in the carbon sequestration cycle

Criterion 1.1: The purpose of forest management is maintenance and strengthening of forest ecosystem services (including economic, ecological, social functions).

Indicators: The internal forest management project and/or nature management plan and/or document or legal action according national legislation, describe the long-term goals of maintenance and proper improvement of the forest and its ecosystem services or functions. (economic, ecological and social)

Criterion 1.2: To maintain and improve the ability of the forest to sequester carbon dioxide.

Indicators:

a) Avoiding negative impact on the main ecosystem functions and wood quality, priority is given to efficient activities that conserve the climate and forest resources in forest management activities.

b) An increment balance of growth is maintained in the short and long term.

Note: Short term is 10-year period; long term is no less than 50 years.

Criterion 1.3: Legal compliance.

Indicators: The organization has no current violations of national legislation in reducing carbon sequestration.

Criterion Group 2. Activities aimed at maintaining the integrity, vitality and ecological functionality of the forest ecosystem

Criterion 2.1: Good ecosystem status is maintained or improved by preserving the forest's spatial structure and natural processes.

Indicators:

a) Condition of the forest together with the long-term goals of forest management is described in the internal forest management project and/or nature management plan and/or document valid according to legislation.

b) Damaged or progressively impoverished ecosystem with reduced ecological integrity (degraded ecosystem) is already restored or is in the process of restoration.

Criterion 2.2: The vitality of the forest and its resistance to adverse environmental factors are ensured in order to maintain the genetic, species and structural diversity of the forest, and natural regulatory mechanisms are also promoted.

Indicators:

a) multi-species and multi-age stands are formed in the forest;

b) Different status of decomposition of woody biomass in the forest (e.g. trunks and cords, decayed wood, stumps, biodiversity trees);

c) Different stands and understory; also showing significant quantity of forest's biological conditions and diversity of animals, birds, plants, mosses, fungi, etc.;

d) Certified plantings with provenance documents are purchased.

Criterion 2.3: The state of the forest ecosystem is not endangered or damaged by alien or invasive plants.

Note: An exception is made for plants of alien species introduced for scientific purposes.

Indicators:

a) There are no alien and/or invasive plant species and genotypes in the forest;

b) Measures are being taken to eradicate them within 5 years.

Criterion 2.4: Use of fire in forest management works.

Indicators: Fire is not used in forest management works, except for the implementation of measures provided for in the nature management plan.

Criterion 2.5: Oil and fuel spills and littering of the territory are prevented during forest management works.

Indicators:

- a) No oil and fuel spillage and littering of the territory during forest management works;
- b) The observed pollution has been eliminated or measures have been taken;
- c) Workplace of forest machinery-equipped with pollution control measures.
- d) Organization has established procedures that include the preparedness and ability to prevent and clean up oil and fuel spills.

Criterion 2.6: Protection of forest plants.

Indicators:

- a) Registered forest plant protection products were used in the treatment of forest plants, following instructions of producers.
- b) Use of biological plant protection products is recommended;
- c) Use of protection products are documented.
- d) Use of protection products which contains glyphosate is possible only with a risk assessment.
- e) Use of forest plant protection products of hazard classes 1A and 1B according to World Health Organization (WHO) and other very toxic plant protection products is prohibited.
- f) Users are instructed, non-biological users of plant protection products have the appropriate plant protection certificate;
- g) Personal protective equipment is used;
- h) Documentation on employee briefing and training is relevant.

Criterion group 3. Maintaining productivity functions of wood products

Criterion 3.1: Sustainable supply of wood is ensured.

Indicators:

- a) Wood is supplied according to an internal forest management project and/or nature management plan and/or document or legal action valid according to legislation;
- b) The legality of wood supply has been maintained;
- c) Action of wood supply is proved by valid documents;

Criterion 3.2: Forest management works must be carried out at the right time and in the right way, without reducing the potential of the forest to supply raw wood.

Indicators:

- a) Legal acts and regulations are observed when performing work.
- b) Organization keeps documents and records to prove the statement of Indicator a);

Criterion 3.3: Forest felling quantity ensure sustainable forest use.

Indicators: Felling rate does not exceed the amount provided in the internal forest management project and/or nature management plan and/or document valid according legislation.

Criterion group 4 Restoration, preservation, maintenance and/or enhancement of non-wood products and their value

Criterion 4.1: Non-wood- forest use planning

Indicators:

- a) Forest management project, nature management and/or document valid according to national legislation identify the valuable properties of non-wood products;
- b) Forest management project, nature management and/or document valid according to national legislation provide measures for the protection and nurturing of these values.

Criterion 4.2: Non-timber forest management measures

Indicators:

- a) Recreational infrastructure is being developed in the organization's forests;
- b) Forest resources are diversified (e.g. planting of hazelnut, forest jam or forest herb plantations, etc.) and forms of activities in the forest are diversified (e.g. recreational and active leisure services, installation of forest beehives, education on forest herbs, etc.).

Criterion 4.3: Accounting for the use of non-timber forest products

Indicators:

- a) It develops the production of non-wood forest products and the provision of services, and the existing forest infrastructure is rationally used for their development.

b) Economic-statistical accounting of non-timber forest products production and service forests is kept (accounted for).

Criterion 4.4: increasing the potential of the forest as a landscape element forming a recreational environment

Indicators:

a) The format of mutual agreements between the organization and the society is used in order to enable the use of the forest estate for recreation, meeting people's cultural, spiritual and health needs.

b) Various forms of partnership, cooperation and integration with local communities are applied.

Criterion group 5. Conservation, maintenance, restoration and/or enhancement of biological diversity in the forest

5.1. criterion: When planning forest management works, biodiversity and landscape preservation (at the ecosystem and species and genetic level) is taken into account.

Indicators:

a) Planting material used for reforestation comes from an authorized area of origin;

b) Alien species and genotypes that pose a threat to biodiversity were not used for planting in the forest land;

c) In the event of the threat of invasion of species threatening the natural balance, the relevant national authority was notified and recommendations were received and implemented (implemented) in order to prevent the spread of those species.

d) Forest works are carried out in a way that does not disturb the local landscape.

5.2. criterion: Places of natural value are known to the organization.

Indicators:

a) Natural values are described during regular (every 10 year) forest inventory and mapping.

b) Values are included in forest management projects and/or nature management plans and/or document valid according legislation or identified according to national registers and/or voluntary decision of the organization.

5.3. criterion: The purpose of planning and carrying out forest management works is to preserve natural values. Methods are used that do not harm natural values, but promote the preservation, restoration or enrichment of those values.

Indicators:

a) Forest inventory data, cartographic material allows to determine the location and ensures that natural values and their environment are maintained and/or managed according to prepared internal forest management and/or nature management projects and/or document according to national legislation.

b) Performed forest management works meet the requirements of valid legal acts.

c) No felling was carried out during the bird nesting season.

d) Documents and records are kept

Criterion 5.4: Long-term sustainability of forest and/or key ecosystem functions and preservation of biodiversity through forest restoration is ensured.

Indicators:

a) Forest is restored or regenerated and the main ecosystem functions are preserved.

b) Forest restoration or regenerated within the time limit, which is established by legislation, together with criteria about when forest restoration or regeneration fulfills requirements to be accepted as forest.

c) All forest restorations or regenerations are registered and kept by Organization.

Criterion 5.5: Suitability of forest planting material.

Indicators: The species used for reforestation come from the appropriate area of origin according to legislation.

Criterion 5.6: Forest management technologies are used that helps preserve, improve or restore natural values.

Indicators:

- a) The organization used the necessary technologies and work methods, with the help of which the necessary spatial structures and characteristics of stands are formed, ensuring the preservation of natural values (e.g. single trees of different species, groups of trees with a second fall and/or understory; wood in different states of decay (e.g. standing and lying dead trees, decayed wood, stumps);
- b) Protective strips are left according to legislation;
- c) Terrain microstructures and forest soils preserved;
- d) Mixed and multi-aged stands, self-regrowth and understory and understory diversity and woody plants, as well as State protected species of birds, animals, plants, mosses, lichens, fungi, etc., which indicate the biological condition and diversity of the forest.
- e) Biodiversity trees or tree bio groups are left in the clear-cutting exchange to ensure sustainability;
- d) In logging areas tree bio-groups are kept.
- e) In national and regional parks, main clear-cutting is carried out according legislation.
- h) Crossing of water bodies, disturbance of forest roads is prohibited.

Note or explanation regarding the buffer zone indicator: buffer zones are primarily left at the edge of the clearing, adjacent to agricultural land, in semi-natural meadows, marshes or near natural water bodies. Where conditions are appropriate, existing standing and dead trees should be preserved and individual trees or groups of trees allowed to grow

Criterion 5.7: The origin of the planting material.

Indicators: The use of genetically modified planting material is prohibited.

Criterion 5.8: Planning and implementation of forest infrastructure works.

Indicators:

- a) Impacts and risks to natural values during the design and construction of forest infrastructure were assessed;
- b) Necessary permits/approvals obtained;
- c) In case of exposure, mitigation measures are taken;

Criterion 5.9: Control of animal damage to the forest ecosystem.

Indicators: The organization has a wildlife damage assessment and control plan

Criterion 5.10: Conservation of ecologically important elements.

Indicators: Ecologically important elements such as various dead wood, trees with oaks and micro-habitats, trees with traces of burning, isolated trees and their groups that have reached natural maturity, large isolated trees (diameter more than 60cm), rare tree species in stands, boulder accumulations, stands of rare tree species (lindens, maples, larches, larch, etc.) stands of various ages and species are described in forest management project and/or nature protection project and/or document valid according legislation.

Criterion group 6. Maintaining and strengthening the role of the forest as an environment-regulating ecosystem

Criterion 6.1: The role of the forest in stopping wind and water erosion, regulating the water regime, and ensuring carbon sequestration is maintained and strengthened.

Indicators:

- a) Near natural water bodies, in coastal protection belts and water protection zones, farming is carried out in compliance with valid legal acts.
- b) The vegetation cover of the coastal protection strips was not destroyed, trees were left to grow in the sloping vegetation, and the undergrowth and track were preserved.
- c) Measures are taken to avoid damage caused by wind and water erosion.

Criterion 6.2: organization fulfils preservation and management of forests performing the function of environmental protection, ensuring the long-term preservation of these functions

Indicators: organization with an internal forest management project and/or nature management plan and/or document according national legislation, which are prepared in accordance with the schemes of forest groups and subgroups and in which forests with a protective function are distinguished.

Criterion 6.3: Forest-friendly construction, techniques and methods are used to minimize soil damage, prevent erosion and sediment entering water bodies, and prevent damming of natural waterways.

Note: The culvert prevention requirement does not apply to wetlands and reforestation areas characterized by excess moisture.

Indicators:

- a) Forestry work is done at the right time. Techniques and methods are used that preserve the forest floor and do not cause soil erosion and sediment entering water bodies.
- b) Forest management works do not change the hydrological regime of natural water bodies.
- c) Uncontaminated soil and water bodies. No wood, fuel or oils are stored in the water protection belt.

Criterion 6.4: Impact on construction, reconstruction and renewal of forest infrastructure.

Indicators: During forest infrastructure works, damage to the forest, forest liter (floor), soil and water bodies is avoided.

Criterion group 7. Maintaining the cultural, social and spiritual functions of the forest or strengthening

Criterion 7.1: Support of cultural, social and spiritual functions of the forest.

Indicators:

- a) Organization is guided by the forests of cultural heritage and their protection zones identified in the schemes of forest groups and subgroups. when carrying out forest management works;
- b) These forests are identified and marked in the internal forest management project and/or nature management plane and cartographic material.

Criterion 7.2: Visiting the forest.

Indicators: The organization does not restrict visits to the forest, except for cases provided for by law.

Criterion 7.3: Historical, cultural and spiritual values as provided for in legislation or identified by the local community and organization are taken into account.

Indicators:

- a) Organization identified the places of protected historical, cultural and spiritual values in the internal forest management project and/or nature management plan and/ or document valid according to legislation;
- b) Forest management works are carried out, taking into account the preservation of those values.

Criterion 7.4: Promoting the cultural and social well-being of the local population in the long-term perspective of the forest management process.

Indicators:

- a) Organization identified significant cultural and social ecosystem services.
- b) Local community is involved in the planning of forest management works. Reasonable suggestions from the local community have been answered and taken into account.
- c) Conditions have been created for the community to fulfill its expectations by means of a separate agreement with the organization.
- d) Where relevant local forest knowledge and experience are applied to improve sustainable forest management.

Criterion 7.5: Promotion of employment of local residents.

Indicators: local labor is used in forest management works where possible, and local companies are given preference according to possibilities and market conditions.

Criterion 7.6: Conducting scientific research in the forest.

Indicators: The organization made it possible to carry out scientific research in its forest. Priority is given to scientific research that supports sustainable forest management.

Criterion 7.7: Activities of the Lithuanian military forces in the forest.

Indicators: the organization does not create unreasonable obstacles for the exercises of the structural units of the national defense system.

Criterion group 8. Maintaining productivity functions of wood products

8.1. criterion: Forest infrastructure and innovation.

Indicators:

- a) **Organization** has a clear understanding of activities related to the improvement of forest infrastructure; work projects and relevant permits for their implementation (construction and reconstruction) have been prepared.
- b) Investments done in forests, their infrastructure and innovations.
- c) Habitats of protected species, environmental protection requirements and other restrictions were taken into account during the works.
- d) Improvements implemented (design, construction, reconstruction), updated and maintained in such a way as to reduce negative environmental impacts by improving the availability of timber, commercial non-timber forest products and other key ecosystem services.

8.2. criterion: Maintaining the economic value of the forest.

Indicators: Organization is guided by the prepared internal forest management project or other document valid according legislation, which provides for the economic viability of the Organization.

Criterion 8.3: Usage of the economic value of the forest

Indicators:

- a) Organization provides sustainable and continuous multi-purpose use of the forest.
- b) Application of the principles of cascading wood utilization.
- c) Rational use of logging residues.

Criterion 8.3: Increasing the economic value of the forest

Indicators:

- a) Application of measures to increase the productivity of stands in commercial forests,
- b) Formation of more resistant multi-functional forests is provided by Organization;
- c) Organization increases amount of growing wood per hectare.
- d) Organization has objective in formatting multi-species and multi-age stands in adaptation to climate change.
- e) Usage of professional and nature-saving forest care technologies and tools and provided by Organization.

Criterion 8.4: means of increasing the economic value of the forest, the intensity and quality of forest maintenance

Indicators:

- a) Organization continuously carries out forest certification according to PEFC requirements.
- b) Valid Internal Forest management project, nature management or other documents valid according legislation provides forest health, resilience, restoration and fire protection measures and their application.

Criterion 8.5: Forest management economic vitality.

Indicators:

- a) Organization income from the use of all forest resources, products is obtained from the forest are sold transparently at the market price;
- b) Organization gets income from diversified forest recourses;
- c) Organization account system is maintained according legislation.

Criterion group 9. Employees rights and working conditions

Criterion 9.1: Employees safety and health

Indicator:

a) Activities are planned, organized and carried out in such a way as to identify and eliminate risks to health and the possibility of accidents. Employees are informed about the risks related to their work, trained and comply with the requirements in matters of occupational safety and health. Preventive health check-up of employees is carried out periodically; Employees are vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis and are periodically tested for Lyme disease.

b) Risk assessment of workplaces has been carried out; Prepared worker safety and health instructions for professions, work processes, use of work tools, harmful substances and preparations; Collective and individual worker safety measures and work clothes are used in accordance with the identified risks at the workplace; Employee safety and health training and briefings are organized; Continuous monitoring of employees' compliance with occupational safety and health requirements is carried out;

c) In case of defined accidents or incidents, the causes of their occurrence are discussed and measures are taken to prevent them;

Criterion 9.2: Labor rights of employees

Indicator:

a) The main conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts regulating labor relations are observed.

b) The employment relationship is voluntary and based on a contractual basis; Work and rest time norms are followed; night work and overtime work are correctly accounted for; e Real scope of the work norms or performed official functions is determined for the employees;

c) Women and men have the same employment opportunities, they are paid the same salary for equal work; Confidential and effective measures have been prepared to report and eliminate cases of corruption, psychological and sexual harassment, discrimination based on gender, marital status, parentage or sexual orientation. No child or illegal labor is used.

Note: Employment of minors is possible according to the procedure provided for by the legal acts regulating employment relations; Settlements, volunteering and environmental actions in the forest are not subject to this standard.

Criterion 9.3: Economic and social guarantees of employees

Indicator:

a) Salary is not less than the national average; Minimal monthly salary(MMS) is paid only for unskilled work; Salary is paid at the agreed time and other agreed motivating forms of benefits are implemented;

b) Downtimes due to natural conditions and other reasons are correctly accounted for and paid for; Fair compensation is paid to employees who have suffered property losses, contracted an occupational disease or suffered an occupational injury as a result of their work activities.

Criterion 9.4 Collective representation of employee interests

Indicator:

a) Collective representation of employees is ensured, protecting the rights, social and economic interests of employees; The right of employees to establish themselves or to join already established trade unions or other employee associations is respected; Trade unions are guaranteed the right to collective representation of employees and collective bargaining;

b) The provisions of the agreed collective agreement are followed in good faith; The participation of employee representatives in resolving individual labor disputes and investigating violations of labor discipline is ensured; A real opportunity is created for employee representatives to represent the interests of employees at all stages of the process of reorganization or optimization of operations.

Criterion group 10. Evaluation of organization performance (external and internal)

Criterion 10.1: The organization periodically assesses changes in forest resources, the quality of forest management works and the impact on the forest and the main ecosystem

functions, and adjusts its activities if necessary. The organization must also assess the environmental, social and economic impact of forest management activities.

Indicators:

- a) Quality of forest management works and various impacts were evaluated.
- b) Results of the evaluation were taken into account.
- c) Necessary changes made in the planning and management of Organization.

Criterion 10.2: The presence of natural and human-caused damage and its impact on the state of the forest and the quality of key ecosystem functions.

Indicators:

- a) Periodically monitored and adjusted if necessary.
- b) Actions have been taken to repair man-made and naturally occurring damage.
- c) Organization has determined the monitoring frequency.

Criterion 10.3: Use and development of non-timber forest products.

Indicators:

- a) Organization regularly monitors and evaluates the use, condition and development of non-timber forest products.
- b) Organization has determined the monitoring frequency.

Criterion 10.4: At least once during the validity period of the certificate, the organization analyzes its activities in planning and carrying out work and the compliance of activities with the requirements of the PEFC standard.

Indicators: The analysis has been carried out and there are supporting documents.

Criterion 10.5: The organization regularly reviews the management system; It includes a review of non-conformances and corrective actions identified during the previous audit, decisions from the previous review and, if necessary, improvements to the management system.

Indicators:

- a) Management system is effectively implemented.
- b) Necessary corrective measures have been taken. Discrepancies and corrective measures were discussed.
- c) Results of the review were documented.

Criterion 10.6: Organization reacts on occurrence of nonconformity with the standard and assess the reasons for nonconformity. Plan measures to prevent the recurrence of nonconformity and if possible, eliminate it. Organization addresses the results of nonconformities, assess the effectiveness of corrective action.

Indicators:

- a) Causes for the nonconformity have been assessed and measures for the prevention of the recurrence of the nonconformity have been planned (including at management level).
- b) Corrective action shall be in compliance with the impact of the identified nonconformity.
- c) Changes to the management system have been made, if necessary.
- d) Nonconformities and corrective actions of the organization have been documented.

Criterion 10.7: organization shall maintain an up-to-date and suitable management system.

Indicators:

- a) Organization uses an up-to-date and appropriate management system.
- b) Organization ensures the ability of the management system to respond appropriately and in a timely manner to non-conformities and provide evidence thereof.

1 Appendix

International regulatory documents

Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No.87)
Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No.29).
Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No.100)
Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No.05)
Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No.111)
Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No.135)
Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138)
Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No.144)
Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182)
ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 1: Requirements
United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 1998.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), OJ L 75, 2015
European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe 176, 2000
Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union
International Plant Protection Convention, 1997
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1982
Directive 2009/147 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds
Council Directive 92/43 / EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting – Requirements
PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements
PEFC GD 1007, PEFC Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Schemes and their Revision
PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements ISO
Guide 2, Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)

REGULATION (EU) No 1143/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
(Ramsar, 1971)

Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)

Appendix 2

Legal acts apply in Lithuania

Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law on Plant Protection of the Republic of Lithuania;
LR Phytosanitary Law;
LR Wildlife Law
Law on Wild Vegetation of the Republic of Lithuania;
Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law on Protected Territories of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law of Special Land Conditions of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law on Protected Animals, Plants, Fungal Species and Communities of the Republic of Lithuania;
the Land Law of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law on self-government policy of local communities of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law on Trade Unions of the Republic of Lithuania;
Corruption Prevention Law of the Republic of Lithuania

Provisions of the State Cadastre of Forests of the Republic of Lithuania;
Description of the procedure for determining protection zones and coastal protection belts for surface water bodies;
Accounting procedure for abiotic factors, diseases, damage caused by insects and animals to the forest;
Round wood classification and labeling rules;
Description of the procedure for issuing forest cutting permits;
Procedure for issuing permits for the use of mushrooms, wild berries and fruits, medicinal plants (or their parts), reeds, tree and shrub branches;
Description of the procedure for issuing permits to import and use forest propagating material for afforestation;
Description of roundwood transportation procedure;
Description and norms of the procedure for assigning forests to forest groups;
Forest cutting rules;
Forest sanitary protection rules;

Provisions for reforestation and planting;
Provisions of forest reproductive material;
Forest work safety rules;
Forest fire protection rules;
Rules for the preparation of internal forest management projects;
Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Lithuania;
Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania;
Law on Employee Safety and Health of the Republic of Lithuania;
General rules of occupational safety and health;
Provisions for providing employees with personal protective equipment;
Description of the road maintenance procedure;