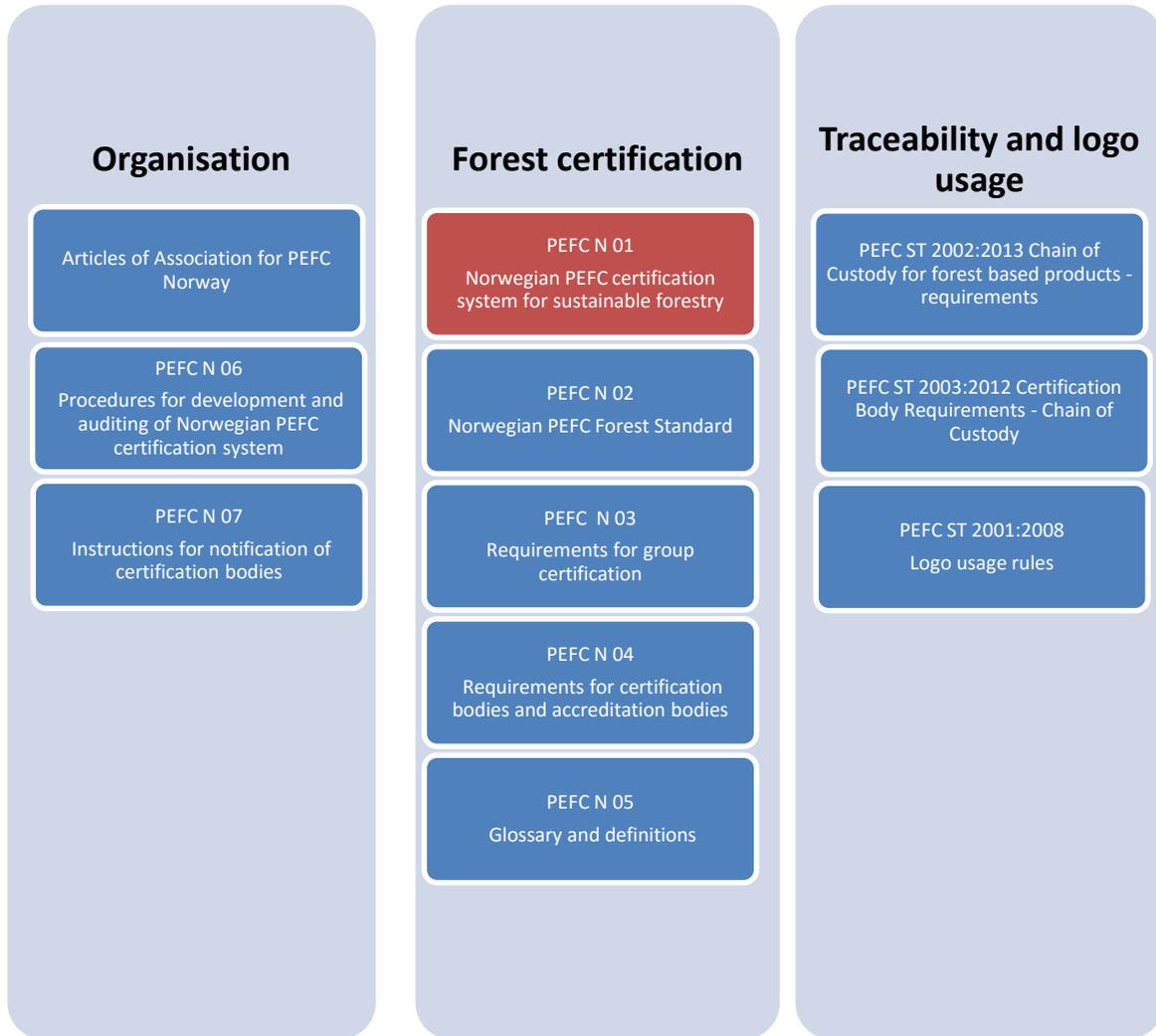


PEFC N 01

Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry



Foreword

Revision of PEFC Norway's forest certification system

The PEFC forest certification system must be revised every five years, and PEFC Norway commenced the revision process on 13 May 2013 with an open invitation for input for the process and participation in a working committee.

The working committee has worked between October 2013 and January 2015 to revise the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and other standards included in the system.

The working committee was made up of representatives of the following organisations:

- United Federation of Trade Unions
- Association of Intermunicipal Outdoor Recreation Boards
- Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors
- Norwegian Forest Owners' Association
- NORSKOG
- Statskog SF
- Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association
- Norwegian Sawmilling Industry

The Norwegian Environment Agency and the Norwegian Agriculture Agency were also represented by observers on the working committee.

Oslo, January 27th 2015

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The official version of the document is in Norwegian, but it has also been translated into English. In cases of doubt, the Norwegian version takes precedence.

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Norwegian PEFC forest certification system for sustainable forestry

1. Introduction

Norwegian forestry is run in accordance with international conventions, national legislation, verifiable knowledge and experience. Within PEFC Norway forest certification, this is concretised in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, and checks are carried out to ensure that forest owners and timber purchasers operate in compliance with this during felling and forestry operations. The forestry industry which purchases certified timber documents this via PEFC Norway's traceability certification so that customers purchasing products made from trees can feel secure in the knowledge that the forests from which the timber is taken are managed in compliance with sustainable development.

Sustainable development was launched by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 in the final report *Our Common Future*. The main message of this report is that sustainable use and development must be arranged so that today's use of nature does not take place at the expense of the needs of future generations. This must be achieved by balancing environment, finance and social development.

Today's practical understanding of sustainable forestry is that necessary considerations for the environment, outdoor recreation and climate should be planned and implemented so that forest owners and society achieve the greatest possible financial returns when trees are felled. The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and associated certification system must ensure that forest owners operate sustainably when felling or other forestry operations are carried out.

2. History of forest certification in Norway

The international market has been demanding products made from timber grown via environment certified forestry over the past few decades. In the early 1990s, Norwegian sawmills, paper mills and wood processing companies received their first enquiries from abroad to document environmental considerations. As a result, in 1995 forestry and the forestry industry jointly established a project with the aim of helping to ensure sustainable Norwegian forestry and develop environmental standards. This project was named Living Forest and was concluded in 1998.

As part of this project, the "Living Forest standard for sustainable Norwegian forestry" was developed by a working group involving representatives of forestry, the forestry industry, nature conservation organisations, outdoor recreation organisations, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Consumer Council of Norway. The process was supported by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture. On 27 March 1998, the parties agreed on the Living Forest standard for sustainable forestry.

PEFC Norway was established on 21 June 1999, and since 24 May 2000 PEFC Norway has held approval from the PEFC Council to use the Living Forest standard for certification of sustainable forestry in Norway.

The standard was revised in the autumn of 2006. The 2006 standard specified 25 requirements which formed the basis of PEFC's forest certification in Norway. In the summer of 2010, the nature conservation organisations and outdoor recreation organisations withdrew from the partnership and the consensus on the Living Forest standard. This was because the parties were unable to agree on the revision of the requirements on afforestation and tree species replacement and use of foreign tree species.

In December 2011, PEFC Norway resolved to change the name of the Living Forest standard to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for sustainable forestry. The present international

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approval from the PEFC Council to use the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard in PEFC Norway's forest certification will remain in force until 5 November 2015.

PEFC forest certification is the clearly dominant certification system in Norwegian forestry, and almost all Norwegian forestry is PEFC-certified. As regards traceability certification in the value chain, almost all of the pulp and paper industry and timber production in Norway hold PEFC traceability certification. In total, more than 50 traceability certificates are registered in Norway. There is increasing demand for traceability certification elsewhere in the value chain.

3. Forests in Norway

Forests and other tree-covered area account for around 14 million hectares, or 43 per cent of the land area of Norway. Of this, 8.6 million hectares are productive forest, i.e. forest area which over time may produce more than one cubic metre of timber per hectare and year. With the current price of timber and costs for felling, around 6 million hectares of the productive area is used for forestry.

There has been a steady increase in annual growth over the last 70 - 80 years. In this period, it has increased from about 10 to about 25 million cubic metres per year. The difference between felling and growth has resulted in the standing growing stock increasing throughout the same period from about 300 to about 900 million cubic metres without bark. The increase in growth and standing volume is due to the introduction of stand forestry, with systematic forest management and planting.

As growth has increased more than felling, since the Norwegian National Forest Inventory began in the 1920s there has been an increase in the number of trees of diameters of breast height above 30 cm from about 50 million trees, to 270 million trees in 2010. This is more than five times the number. In 1990, the number of large pine trees passed the number of large spruce trees.

Of the total forest area in Norway, about 6% are protected within various conservation categories. Around 4% of forest area is protected as national park or nature reserve, of which 2.8% of the productive forest is protected. Protected forest area has increased significantly since 1990, and there has been a major increase since the "voluntary forest conservation" scheme was established in the early 2000s following proposals from the Norwegian Forest Owners' Association. Voluntary forest conservation is a scheme in which forest owners who have forests worthy of protection voluntarily offer areas for establishment as nature reserves and are paid financial compensation for them.

The 2010 Norwegian Red List for species cites 1845 forest-dwelling species as being endangered or near threatened. Insects and fungi constitute the biggest groups. Around 20% of species are included in the Red List. This figure has remained more or less stable since the first Red List was devised in 1992. Thus the Red List for species does not indicate specifically whether any species are more threatened now than they used to be, given the fact that a number of measures have been implemented in forests in order to take these into account. For example, as part of forest certification more than 60 000 key habitats of a total area of about 65 000 hectares have now been allocated. These key habitats are important habitats in forests which research has shown are important to species included in the Red List.

In Norwegian forests, there are now about 100 million cubic metres of dead wood, of which about 93 million can be found in productive forest. This figure is increasing by about 3

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million cubic metres per year. This is a significant increase, and is highly likely to be the reason as to why woodpecker species are currently maintaining stable populations and have been removed from the Red List.

The forest is an important arena for outdoor recreation and is therefore of great significance to the well-being and health of the inhabitants. Hiking in woodlands and outfields is done by 2 of 3 Norwegians at least once a month and is by far the most common recreational activity in Norway (MMI/Norsk Monitor). People's health and the use of local areas for recreation have been more emphasized during the last years. Fishing and hunting and picking of berries and mushrooms are valuable activities in woodlands as well.

4. Significance of forests in respect of climate

Norwegian forest sequesters 25-30 million tonnes of CO₂ each year. This is equivalent to more than half the total amount of Norwegian emissions. This sequestration is a result of persistent efforts to build up forest resources over the last 80 years.

In addition, Norwegian forestry supplies around 10 million m³ of renewable timber. This reduces the need to use fossil resources. Using wood instead of alternative materials reduces net emissions by 1.6 tonnes of CO₂ per m³ of timber on average. Thus using Norwegian timber reduces greenhouse gas emissions by around 4 million tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to 40% of emissions from Norwegian road traffic. There are also significant climate benefits which result from the use of timber for bioenergy, either directly as wood chips or as waste. Many of the products manufactured at the Borregaard biorefinery (biofuels, various biochemicals and biomaterials) also replace the use of products which would otherwise have been oil-based.

Forest production is crucial to the significance of Norwegian forests in a climate context. Better rejuvenation work, increased investments in afforestation and tree species replacement, increased emphasis on sapling processing and fertiliser could give significant climate benefits. At the same time, this will provide a basis for an increase in added green value in the future.

It is also important for Norwegian forest products to be able to increasingly replace products based on oil and materials with an environmental impact such as steel, aluminium and concrete. In a climate context, therefore, it is important for the Norwegian forestry industry to succeed in switching to green, climate-friendly products.

5. Forests as a basis for value creation

Annual felling over the last 70 - 80 years has remained at around the current level, which is about 10 million cubic metres, of which about 8 million m³ have been supplied to industry. The annual growth has increased in the same period from around 10 million m³ to around 25 million m³. Even though growth (increased standing growing stock in the forest) and timber volume are not directly comparable units, this shows that in terms of resources, there are grounds for a significant increase in felling in Norway. Within an environmentally sustainable framework, felling can be increased from the current 10 million m³ to 15 million m³ per year. A significant amount of the potential is linked with the coastal areas, difficult terrain and areas far away from roads. The greatest potential is offered by deciduous trees and pine, while there is less potential for spruce.

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Most Norwegian forests are privately owned. Only 12% is owned by the state, county authorities and municipalities. Private forest is largely owned by individuals. It is common for these people to own both agricultural and forestry sites, but only 27% of forest property is now run in combination with business income from agriculture. No fewer than 129 000 properties are registered now, with more than 2.5 hectares of productive forest. However, properties with less than 10 hectares (34% of the total) do not own more than 3.5% of the total productive forest area, while the 13 000 properties with over 100 hectares (10% of the total) own 62% of the area.

The property structure has remained very stable over time. Therefore, the properties have become gradually smaller in an economic sense. While timber felling also used to provide an income for forest owners, this work is now mainly done by contractors using mechanical means. Thus for the majority of forest owners, the forest provides merely a contribution to the total household income.

The total added value in forestry is nevertheless around NOK 5 billion per year. However, the added value in the processing segment is greater. The forestry industry's total added value stands at around NOK 20 billion. There are also significant ripple effects in other sectors.

The forestry industry's added value has remained relatively stable for many years. The significance for the Norwegian economy has thus been reduced. The forestry industry now contributes around 1% to the country's GNP.

Added value has fallen over the last few years as a consequence of significant closure of pulp and paper companies. This is due to peculiarly Norwegian high cost levels, poorer conditions than in important competing countries and the fact that the industry has largely been focusing on declining markets (printing paper). Even so, Norwegian forestry activity has been maintained. Norway has gone from being a net importer of timber to being a significant net exporter.

However, both politicians and the industry clearly acknowledge the need to rejuvenate the forestry industry. For forestry, being able to supply competitive timber is crucial. The industry has to readjust to new products while also revitalising existing industry at the same time. Reducing costs is crucial in both forestry and the rest of the value chain. Norway ought to have the forest resources, the expertise and the capital needed to turn the forestry industry into an important Norwegian industry of the future.

Employment in forestry has been greatly reduced over the last 50 years. Just under 5 000 man-years (full-time work equivalents) are now being implemented in forestry. Employment throughout the entire forestry industry stands at around 30 000 full-time work equivalents.

6. Norwegian forest policy

Norwegian forest policy aims to reinforce forests' contributions to adding value throughout the country and achieving important energy, climate and environmental targets.

This requires profitable, sustainably run forestry, better accessibility of forest resources and competitive value chains. Arrangements must be made for increased sustainable felling and extraction of forest biomass, and increased accumulation of forests. This must be combined with better knowledge of environmental values in forests and improved environmental considerations in forestry.

Implementation of Norwegian forest policy is based on a range of measures and methods. These include legislation, tax policy, financial funding, research and instructions. Norwegian

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obligations due to international agreements have also been included in Norwegian regulations, including criteria for sustainable forestry negotiated as part of a European forest partnership.

The aim of the Forestry Act is to promote sustainable administration of forest resources with a view to active local and national value creation, and to ensure biodiversity, consideration for the landscape, outdoor recreation and cultural values in the forest. The Forestry Act is applicable to all forests, regardless of who owns them.

The Act and its associated regulations provide a clear framework with regard to how forestry must take place. Within this framework, forest owners have the freedom to make their own decisions on how they want to manage their forests. However, there are requirements relating to permits when building forest roads, spraying as a silvicultural measure, use of foreign tree species and felling in special areas.

The resource summaries prepared by the Norwegian National Forest Inventory for each county at regular intervals have provided an important foundation for the formulation of forest policy since early last century.

The forest fund scheme has been established in order to secure finance for sustainable administration of forest resources. Forest funding is a compulsory fund allocation where funds can be used for silviculture, building and maintenance of forest roads, forestry planning and environmental measures. The Forestry Act requires forest owners to allocate between 4 and 40 per cent of the gross sales value of timber and wood to a separate forestry fund account. Forest owners are encouraged to use the forest fund scheme actively by charging income tax on just a percentage of the funds invested in the property.

Subsidies for industrial and environmental measures include subsidies for silviculture, forest road building and environmental measures in forests. Subsidies for forestry planning with environmental registrations are the fundamental way of ensuring that forestry is carried out within correct resource and environmental frameworks.

Greater emphasis has been placed on the role of forests in Norwegian climate policy over the last few years. When the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) discussed Norwegian climate policy in 2011, this signalled the fact that there would be emphasis on a number of forestry measures. This has been followed up by means of investigations (coordinated by the Norwegian Environment Agency) concerning the establishment of forests in new areas as climate measures and target fertilisation of forests as climate measures. These investigations concluded by stating that it is possible to plant at least another 100 000 hectares, with acceptable consequences for natural diversity and other environmental values, and that there is the potential to fertilise 5000 – 10 000 hectares per year.

7. Organisation of Norwegian PEFC forest certification

PEFC Norway

PEFC Norway is organised as a registered organisation, with an annual general meeting and a Board. As the owner of the certification system, PEFC Norway is responsible for development and operation of the system. The revision and development of standards must be compliant with the procedures specified in PEFC N 06.

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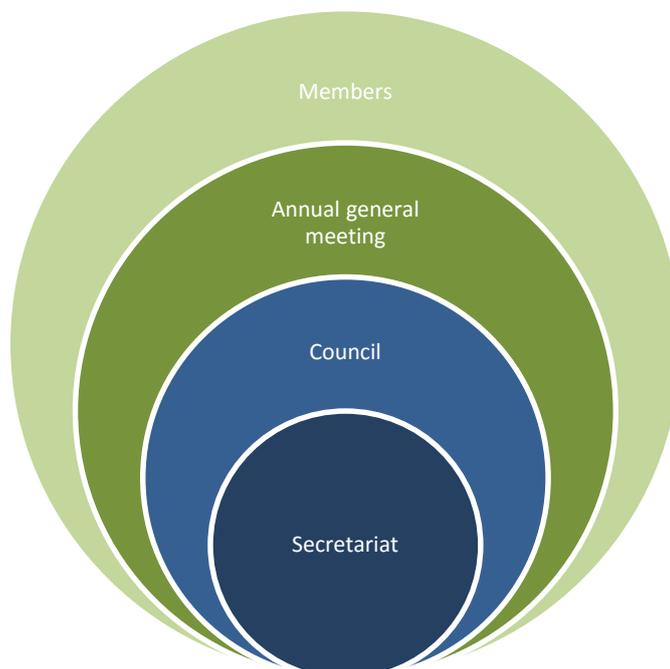


Figure 6.1: Organisation of PEFC Norway

Accreditation body

PEFC is based on an independent system for accreditation and certification. Certification bodies carrying out forest or traceability certification must be accredited by an internationally approved accreditation organisation. In other words, the accreditation body must be a member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and/or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation body must also have implemented procedures described in ISO/IEC 17011:2004 and other documents recognised by the EA and IAF. Norwegian Accreditation is the official accreditation body in Norway. The requirements for accreditation bodies are specified in PEFC N 04.

Certification bodies

Independent certification bodies which are accredited and notified by PEFC Norway in accordance with PEFC N 04 and PEFC N 07 are approved to certify and issue certificates. Certification bodies cannot take part in formulation of the standards included in the certification system. The requirements for certification bodies are specified in PEFC N 04.

Certificate holders

The Norwegian PEFC certification system has two options for certification of forest management: individual certification and group certification

Individual certification

In the case of individual certification of forest properties, the individual forest properties are certified directly by certification bodies and are issued with their own certificates.

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Individual forest management certificates are issued on the basis of the requirements in PEFC N 02 - Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and management system requirements as specified in Chapter 9. In addition the following specified in PEFC N 03 apply:

- Formal requirements for the certificate holder, Chapter 5.1, Section 3-6.
- Routines and documentation for compliance with Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, chapter 7.2
- Requirements for inspections and internal audit, Chapter 7.3

Group certificate holder

A group certificate holder is an organisation which organises and administers group certification of forest owners in accordance with the PEFC Norway certification system. The group certificate holder represents all members of the group in respect of the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Norwegian PEFC scheme.

The aim of group certification is to divide certification costs over a group of forest owners. Forest owners are certified under a joint certificate which is managed by a group certificate holder. As well as sharing the costs of certification, forest owners become part of a community for information and advice linked with the certification.

All forest owners under a group certificate holder must meet the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard – PEFC N 02.

To be able to administer group certification of forest owners a group leader applies for certification of his activities. The group leader is termed the group certificate holder.

Certification of group leaders takes place pursuant to PEFC N 03 – Requirements for group certification, as well as requirements for management systems as specified in Chapter 9 in this document.

PEFC Norway annual fee

All certified companies (with forest certification or/and chain of custody certification) must pay an annual certification fee to PEFC Norway. The fee rate is fixed by PEFC Norway Council. The current rate is at all times available on PEFC Norway's website.

8. Document structure

PEFC Norway's certification system is based on a number of documents which define the requirements for forest and traceability certification. The document structure is shown in Figure 5.1.

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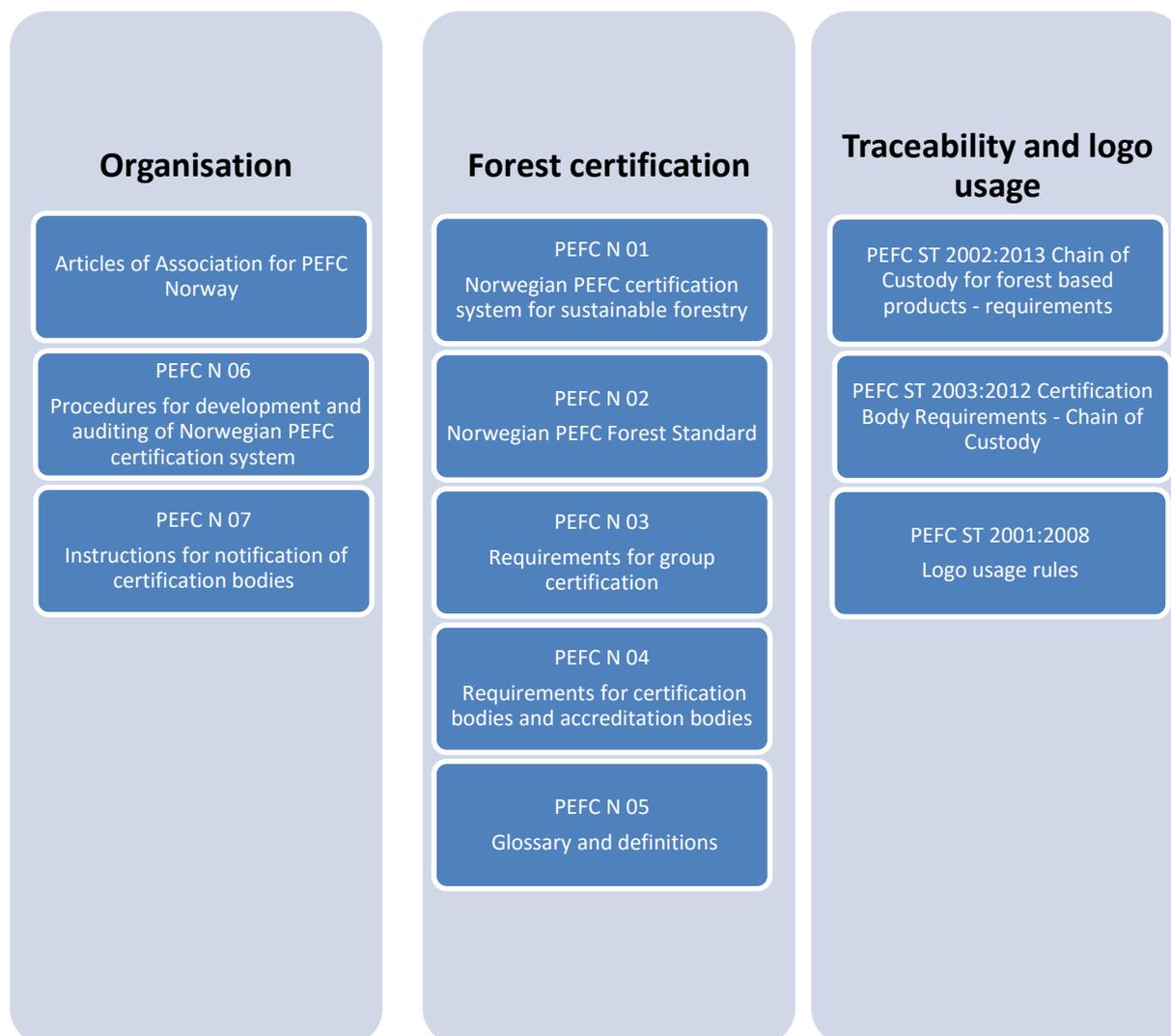


Figure 6.1: Document structure in the PEFC Norway certification system

9. Chain of Custody certification

The chain of custody certification within the framework of the Norwegian PEFC certification system for sustainable forestry is carried out pursuant to the requirements in PEFC International's standard: PEFC ST 2002:2013 – Chain of custody for forest based products – requirements.

10. PEFC Logo usage

Ownership and usage of the PEFC logo

The PEFC logo is copyrighted material and is a registered trademark owned by the PEFC Council. Unauthorised use of the copyrighted material is prohibited and may lead to legal actions. The use of the PEFC logo require a PEFC Logo usage licence issued by PEFC Norway or other PEFC bodies authorised to issue a PEFC Logo license. PEFC Norway has on contractual bases with PEFC Council the right to issue PEFC logo licenses in Norway. The

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license shall be based on a written contract between the licensing body and the Logo user and shall require a valid PEFC forest management or chain-of-custody certificate for claims and logo use regarding management of forest properties or forest products.

PEFC Norway issue logo licenses to three groups of users:

Group B: Forest owners and managers

Forest owners and managers with PEFC Norway recognised forest management certificates and eligible entities participating in group certification

Group C: Forest related industries

Forest related industries, traders and sites with PEFC Norway recognised chain of custody certificates.

Group D: Other users

Organisations and other entities other than forest owners and managers and forest related industries and traders which are using the PEFC logo off product for promotional, educational or communication purposes.

The logo usage group is clearly defined in the logo license contract.

Certified forest owners and managers and forest related industries and traders with valid certificate and logo license may use the logo on-product and off-product. Other users with a logo license shall only use the logo off-product. The usage rules are defined in PEFC Council's document PEFC ST 2001:2008 v2 - Logo usage rules.

PEFC Norway may allow a one-off usage of the PEFC Logo for off product purposes to users without an individual license (e.g. in newspapers, reports, publications etc.) under the following conditions:

- The use shall not conflict the objectives and good name of PEFC Norway/PEFC International.
- The PEFC Logo shall be used with the PEFC Norway registration number (PEFC/03-1-01).
- The disclaimer "Reproduced with the permission of PEFC Norway" shall be used.

The application for the one-off use of the PEFC Logo is specified in appendix 4 to this document.

Application, registration and issuing of licenses

Forest owners and managers and forest related industries and traders with valid PEFC certificate and other users shall apply to PEFC Norway for a logo license. The Application form is adopted as appendix 3 to this document.

PEFC Norway shall verify the fulfilment of the requirements and verify that the certified units are a legal entity and properly registered. The accepted applicants shall sign a logo license contract with PEFC Norway, and PEFC Norway will then issue the logo license confirmation document. The PEFC Logo usage license shall be issued to an individual legal entity based on the requirements of PEFC ST 2001:2008.

PEFC Norway may issue a PEFC Logo usage multi-license to a holder of a multi-site chain of custody certificate, which covers the whole part or a part of the multisite organisation provided that the central office and the sites are a part of a single legal entity or the central office and the sites are a part of a single company with a single management and organisational structure.

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The default contract is adopted as appendix 1 and the default confirmation document as appendix 2 to this document.

The logo license for forest owners and managers and forest related industries and traders are subject to valid PEFC certificates and shall be suspended or withdrawn if the certificate is no longer valid. The validity for other users is specified in the Logo license contract.

PEFC Norway shall have a register of logo licenses and logo license numbers and issue the licenses with numbers in accordance with the PEFC registration and coding system defined by PEFC Council.

PEFC Norway shall monitor the usage of PEFC logos and claims. The fee for Logo usage is included in the PEFC Norway annual fee, see chapter 7.

11. PEFC Norway's management system requirements

PEFC Norway requires companies to be approved as group certificate holders and forest properties which are directly certified to be certified pursuant to the environmental management system ISO 14001.

For traceability certification, the management system requirements are defined in PEFC ST 2002:2013 – Chain of Custody for forest based products, Chapter 8.

12. Processing of complaints relating to certification

If a forest owner or certificate holder receives a complaint about felling or forestry operations, the complaint must first be assessed by the certificate holder in order to clarify whether there may be non-conformances in procedures or implementation of forestry operations or considerations described in any requirement in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. Attempts must essentially be made to deal with complaints and seek to resolve them at the lowest level possible.

Group certificate holders must have procedures in compliance with requirements in ISO 14001 in order to receive and deal with complaints. See PEFC N 03. Certification bodies and accreditation bodies must have such procedures. See PEFC N 04.

13. Disputes

Disputes linked with certification pursuant to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Certification System for Sustainable Forestry must be dealt with by certification bodies in compliance with ISO 17021 and the standards to which these are accredited so as to be able to implement certification in compliance with PEFC technical documents for international forest certification.

Appeals relating to compliance with the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard among forest owners with group certification agreements must be dealt with by the group certificate holder, and certification bodies if serious non-conformances are deemed to exist. See Chapter 7.2 in PEFC N 03 "Guidelines for dealing with certification non-conformances among forest owners with group certification agreements".

Norwegian PEFC forest certification system for sustainable forestry

Forest owners may raise disputes with PEFC Norway which are linked with suspension or termination of certification agreements leading to such forest owners losing the right to supply certified timber in Norway. Please see PEFC N 03, chapters 5.4 and 7.4.

PEFC Norway must deal with disputes as follows:

- a. Acknowledge receipt of the appeal.
- b. Collect and check the necessary information, validate information and undertake an impartial assessment before making a decision in the form of a ruling.
- c. Rulings linked with the appeal are defined by the Board of PEFC Norway;
 1. Consensus rulings; the results are reported to the parties as a basis for any reactions from the certificate holder, certification body or accreditation body.
 2. A voluntary arbitral tribunal will be set up in the event of disagreement or dispute between organisations in PEFC Norway. Rulings in voluntary arbitration are reported to the parties as a basis for any reactions from the certificate holder, certification body or accreditation body.
- d. Formally report the results of the appeal and the appeals process to the appellant.
- e. Based on the results, take appropriate corrective and preventive actions.

Decisions on disputes and appeals must be complied with by everyone covered by the PEFC Norway certification system.

If the dispute ruling requires specification of procedures and requirements, this will be dealt with by PEFC Norway pursuant to Chapter 12 in this document.

Errors discovered by someone other than the forest owner or group certificate holder and communicated as complaint should be treated according to the same procedures. Complaints related to PEFC Norway's management of the certification system shall be treated in a similar manner as in the treatment of disputes (checkpoints a-d).

14. Specification of procedures and requirements

Specifications are minor changes, clarifications or descriptions of tolerance limits for procedures or requirements in PEFC Norway's documents for forest certification or traceability certification.

Rulings on the specification of procedures and requirements in PEFC Norway's documents for forest certification and traceability certification are defined by PEFC Norway. Rulings on specifications are approved by the Board of PEFC Norway.

Prior to rulings, specifications of requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard (PEFC N 02) must be heard by the parties on the working committee which was responsible for preparing the standard. Adopted specifications must be submitted to the PEFC Council for approval.

In rulings, specifications must always have a specific date from which they are valid. This date must be in the future so that group certificate holders have enough time to notify group certificate members and establish necessary procedures.

Queries relating to specification can be addressed by the Board at PEFC Norway, group certificate holders, properties with individual certification, certification bodies, accreditation bodies and organisations participating in the working committee responsible for preparing

Norwegian PEFC forest certification system for sustainable forestry

PEFC Norway's forest certification system. Queries from the general public concerning specification must be addressed via one of the above companies or organisations.

15. Public access of information

PEFC Norway supports the principle of freedom of information linked with information which is of interest to the general public. Emphasis must be placed on providing correct information in compliance with provisions in laws and regulations which regulate which types of information are to be made public.

In Norway, the right to environmental information forms part of the Constitution (Section 110b). This is a follow-up to the Aarhus Convention, ratified by Norway in 2003 (*The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters*).

The Aarhus Convention in Norway forms the basis of the Environmental Information Act, which in Norway places public and private enterprise on an equal footing as regards provision of environmental information to the general public. In private enterprise, the obligation is limited to environmental information for which the enterprise has knowledge obligations.

Publication of information from certified forest owners

Pursuant to Requirement 9 Openness on environmental information, forest owners must provide environmental information to the general public in compliance with the Environmental Information Act.

The provision of the Forestry Act concerning forest registration and forestry plans states that summaries of environmental values emerging through forestry planning must be accessible to the public, and also refers to Environmental Information Act. In the regulation on sustainable forestry, this is also regulated via the provision on environmental documentation and environmental registrations in Section 21, which requires forest owners to explain the environmental considerations which form the basis for measures planned or executed in the forest.

The obligation to provide information on the environment linked with felling comes into force when a contract is concluded with a certified timber buyer concerning the sale of timber. Where felling has taken place and where felling is to take place constitute environmental information. Data on the forest's growing stock and timber quality is not environmental information.

All information on environmental data in a forestry plan/landscape plan or environmental plan is environmental information. If the general public request environmental information, forest owners must provide such information from the forestry plan. If information is available from publicly accessible databases such as Kilden, forest owners may refer to these.

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Publication of information from certified organisations

A summary of the certification body's audit report must be prepared and published after each certification, recertification and follow-up audit. The summary must be prepared by the certification body and include:

- a. A description of the organisation and operation certified.
- b. The scope and date of the completed audit.
- c. A general description of conclusions and improvements that can be made.
- d. A summary of non-conformances and observations linked with the practising of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard for sustainable forestry.
- e. A description of how relevant information from external parties is handled.
- f. The summary must not include tasks of an internal nature or of significance to the business operations of the certified organisation.

The certificate holder must make the summary publicly accessible and place it on a website if it has one. The certification body or certificate holder must send the summary to PEFC Norway for publication on the PEFC website. See also PEFC N 04, Chapter 7.3.

16. Targets for the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard

Sustainable forestry involves taking into account economic, ecological and social considerations when managing forest resources. To achieve this, an evaluation was carried out among stakeholders when the requirements of the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard were established. The requirements are established on the basis of current knowledge and reflect the challenges which are considered to be most important at that point in time.

The requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard must not be a bar to test areas and testing within the Norwegian forest research.

The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard must safeguard the following:

Financial interests

The standard must provide a basis for active utilisation of forest resources and for maintaining profitability and value creation in the industry at a satisfactory level. It must also help to ensure provision of Norwegian forest products on the international market. The requirements in the standard must also ensure that future generations have a resource base which is at least as good as it is today, and also provide the opportunity for continued building of the resource base in respect of both volume and timber quality.

Ecological/environmental interests

The requirements in the standard must generally safeguard forest qualities and ensure diversity of ecosystems and species in Norwegian forests. The requirements must also ensure that forests in Norway, in the short and long term, provide a basis for viable populations of species which are naturally resident in the country.

The requirements must ensure that the significance of forests is maintained from a climate perspective, and also provide opportunities to increase forests' contributions from a climate

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perspective. The requirements must also ensure that contamination from forestry is reduced. The requirements of the standard must also help to preserve cultural monuments and preserve and develop the cultural landscape.

Social interests

The requirements must guarantee opportunities to maintain and further develop the contributions of forestry to living communities, and ensure that forests in Norway provide a basis for varied outdoor recreation with rich nature experiences. The requirements must also help to ensure that people working in the industry have a work environment in which health and safety are safeguarded, and also to safeguard consumers' interests.

17. Development in the forest since forest certification was introduced

The Living Forest (1995 – 1998) project examined the basis for consensus on the "Living Forest standard" which was adopted on 27 March 1998. These investigations were published in Living Forest reports 9 A, B, C and D, Standard investigations from Living Forest. These reports describe, among other things, development in forest status and the foundation for selection of levels for consideration or implementation of measures.

As part of the efforts to revise the "Living Forest standard" (2004 2006), as adopted in autumn 2006, the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute evaluated the following "standards" in order to illustrate status and any changes:

- Areas of biological importance
- Old, large trees and dead wood
- Felling forms
- Wetlands and swamp forest
- Water protection

This evaluation shows that the qualities to be safeguarded by the standards were stable or increasing. Source: *Hobbelstad, K., Godbakken, T. and Swärd, J. Evaluering av Levende Skog, Tilstand og utvikling i norsk skog vurdert i forhold til enkelte standarder. Nijos Rapport 19/04.*

When revising the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard, the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute has worked on behalf of the Norwegian Forest Owners' Association and NORSKOG to examine "Status and development in Norwegian forests, 1994-2012, for selected environmental properties" on the basis of data from the Norwegian National Forest Inventory and annual results control for forestry/the environment. Dead trees in the forest are not assessed as these are investigated in other projects.

Status and development documented in the report relate in most cases to productive forest which is not protected pursuant to the Nature Diversity Act, i.e. the areas in which Norwegian forestry is managed pursuant to the Forestry Act and the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard. Development trends for most characteristics are shown for different regions, vegetation zones, vegetation types, site quality classes and felling classes.

The area of old growth forest is steadily increasing throughout the country for two age classes (120-159 years, 160 years and above) over the entire period. The same tendency is true of most subgroups, but individual subgroups have a stable percentage of old growth forest

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throughout the period. There has been strong growth in standing volume in parallel with this development. This is applicable to all tree species and diameter classes; the greatest relative growth has taken place for the diameter class "over 40 cm".

The number of retention trees left behind during rejuvenation felling has increased throughout the entire period, particularly for the species pine and trees with diameters over 40 cm.

Various types of felling form are used for rejuvenation felling, clear cutting and seed tree stand felling being the two most common. Use of the various felling forms has remained relatively stable throughout the entire period, but with a tendency for clear cutting to have reduced slightly and for seed tree stand felling to have increased slightly.

Area distribution of various felling classes reflects how the forest is used for extraction of timber, and at the same time provides a view of old growth land (which can be found in forest ready for felling). The percentage of forest area ready for felling has increased throughout the entire period – mostly with regard to low site quality, to some extent with regard to medium site quality, and marginally with regard to good site quality.

Buffer zones to wetlands, lakes and waterways (streams, rivers) are documented for a width of 10 metres. Such buffer zones together make up 6.7% of the productive forest area and vary slightly in scope from region to region, the greatest percentage being found in Trøndelag. In buffer zones around wetlands, the percentage of forest ready for felling has increased slightly and the percentage of recently felled forest has fallen significantly. A similar tendency appears to have taken place along lakes and waterways, but a change in the basic area throughout the period generates some uncertainty. Consideration for buffer zones during rejuvenation felling involves leaving a buffer zone of forest which is at least five metres wide. Such considerations have increased to a significant degree in buffer zones around wetlands. There have also been increasing considerations in buffer zones around lakes and waterways, but to a lesser extent compared with buffer zones around wetlands.

Older forest has been assessed with regard to density (open to light/shaded, and with potential for partial shade plants providing a "green" forest floor), layering and inclusion of deciduous trees. Bilberry is used as an indicator species for partial shade plants, and the potential for this has been stable, or possibly even slightly improved, throughout the period. The degree of layering (one, two, multi-layer) is documented for various forest types and shows the greatest degree of layering in deciduous forests and swamp forests, and the lowest degree of layering in low-growing pine forests. The inclusion of deciduous trees (from 0 to over 50%) varies to a significant degree between geographical region, vegetation zones and local growing conditions (vegetation type, site quality): this is due to inherent natural conditions, but probably forest maintenance as well.

The species oak has shown a significant volume increase over a period of 55 years, mainly for the diameter class "over 30 cm". The species aspen has shown a similar volume increase over the same period, but with a flattened tendency since 1989. The volume increase has been stable for the diameter class "over 30 cm".

Biologically important areas, in accordance with definitions developed during revision of Living Forest in 2007, show that these made up 17.1 per cent of productive forest in 2010, with a variation of between 6.7 and 30.1 per cent between counties.

Source: *Stokland, J N., Eriksen, R., Granhus, A. 2014. Tilstand og utvikling i norsk skog 1994-2012 for noen utvalgte miljøegenskaper. Case report from Forest and Landscape, 03/14.*

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18. Amendment of the requirements in the Forest Standard

The revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2015 has 27 requirements. This section looks at why two requirements have been removed and four new ones have been included.

Requirements removed

The requirement **Mountain forest** has been removed, but the requirement to use a selective felling form in mountain forest has been transferred to the *Felling* requirement. The *Mountain forest* requirement focused on maintaining forest area bearing signs of old growth and used the felling form "mountain forest felling", small-scale clear cutting or seed tree stand felling as far as possible. There is generally not much forestry activity in mountain forest, and data from the *Case report 03/14 from Forest and Landscape* shows that the percentage of forest more than 120 years old in northern boreal vegetation zones has increased from 21.1% to 24.4% of the productive area between 1996 and 2010. Of this, forest more than 160 years accounts for 2.5%, which is an increase from 1.9% in 1996.

The Norwegian National Forest Inventory in 2002 showed that the percentage of forest in felling classes 4 and 5 in northern boreal vegetation zones amounted to 69%. This has increased to 72.7% for the land forest period 2009 to 2013. If we consider the fact that the Norwegian National Forest Inventory now includes all mountain forest and Finnmark, the percentage of forest of felling classes 4 and 5 is no less than 74.5%.

The purpose and focus of the use of selective felling forms is continued in the requirement *Felling*. Monitoring of this item continues. See Chapter 17.

The **Forest structure** requirement has been removed. This requirement related to monitoring and did not involve direct requirements for forest owners. This requirement aimed to monitor development in forest structure, i.e. density and layering. Data from the Norwegian National Forest Inventory presented in *Case report 03/14 from Forest and Landscape* concerning bilberry coverage for the vegetation types cowberry-bilberry woodland and bilberry woodland and forest structure in the form of two-layer and multi-layer forest shows that more than 50% of the forest in felling classes 4 and 5 is two-layer or multi-layer and that the area containing bilberry is stable even though the forest has become slightly denser. Here, the data shows that previously very sparse forest has become a little denser, providing better conditions for bilberry. Monitoring of this item must continue, see Chapter 17.

Requirement included

Requirement 1 **Administrator responsibility and forest certification agreements** is new and has been included in the standard in order to clarify the fact that forest owners are responsible for planning and implementation of forestry operations and that this must be done in compliance with legislation regulating forestry. Further, there is a requirement which states that the sale of timber to PEFC-certified timber buyers must take place in compliance with a signed agreement. Parts of this are required by the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2006. Other parts of this requirement are continued in requirement 2 **Workforce and safety**.

Requirement 3 **Use of foreign tree species** is a new requirement. In the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2006, the use of foreign tree species is part of the requirement Afforestation and tree species replacement.

Requirement 22 **Consideration for owls and birds of prey** and requirement 23 **Consideration for capercaillie leks** are new requirements. Consideration for birds of prey, owls and capercaillie leks are part of the requirement Landscape plan in the Norwegian PEFC

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Forest Standard 2006. Specification of how such consideration should be given has been advice which each individual certified timber buyer has clarified as part of their procedures pursuant to ISO 14001. These have been included as separate requirements in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2015 so as to achieve a more uniform application of such consideration.

19. Monitoring

In some areas, there is a need to monitor development in order to ensure that it is acceptable. The results from monitoring must provide a basis for assessment of the need for changes to the forest standard the next time the standard is revised.

Requirement 3. Planning in forestry

At least 5% of the productive forest area will be managed as biologically important areas (BIAs). However, only 5% BIAs are required to be allocated on properties which have to prepare their own landscape plans.

Otherwise, it is necessary to use county-specific statistics to document the fact that at least 5% of productive area is managed as BIAs. PEFC Norway must obtain these statistics. If the statistics show that there is a risk of the target of 5% BIAs not being achieved, the need to amend the forest standard will be assessed the next time the standard is revised. The same methodology used when establishing the applicable forest standard must be used as a basis for the county-specific statistics.

Requirement 11. Felling

Old growth percentage in mountain forest

At least 50% of mountain forest must be of old growth nature.

PEFC Norway must monitor development of the old growth percentage. This must be based on the data provided by the Norwegian National Forest Inventory for the county in question. The old growth percentage will be measured as forest in felling classes 4 and 5. All land allocated as key habitats and forest areas protected pursuant to the Nature Diversity Act will be deemed to be old growth forest.

If monitoring shows a development which threatens the target for the old growth percentage, the need to amend the forest standard must be assessed specifically the next time the standard is revised.

Forest structure

It is important to maintain a forest structure with a significant element of two-layer or multi-layer forest and for a significant proportion of the forest in question to be of a density suitable for blueberry.

PEFC Norway must therefore monitor the development of

- Two-layer and multi-layer forest in felling classes 4 and 5.
- The density of cowberry-bilberry woodland and blueberry woodland in felling classes 3-5 suitable for bilberry.

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Requirement 16. Distribution of tree species

This requirement does not demand a specific percentage of deciduous forest at property level. The deciduous forest percentage will necessarily vary to an enormous degree with the natural conditions. The deciduous forest percentage is generally considered to be at a satisfactory level. However, PEFC Norway must monitor this development so that data is available for assessment of the need for amendment of the requirement during future revisions of the forest standard.

Requirement 19. Use of foreign tree species

The aim is to limit the use of foreign tree varieties and to keep the spread of foreign tree varieties under control. The Council of PEFC Norway must therefore monitor development of the use of foreign tree species for forestry purposes.

The use of foreign tree species and afforestation/tree species replacement touch upon some very current issues linked with climate changes, for instance. The significance of increased growth, the risk of new pests and altered conditions for ecosystems may alter the criteria for use of foreign tree species and afforestation/tree species replacement. The requirements "Use of foreign tree species" and "Afforestation and tree species replacement" must therefore be the object of specific assessment at the time of the next revision, working on the basis of new knowledge.

Requirement 20 Afforestation and tree species replacement

Please see requirement 19. Use of foreign tree species.

20. Forestry plans

Forestry planning goes back a long way in Norway. Since 1954, giving all forest owners offers for forestry plans has been a priority. Since 1973, public funding has been allocated to the preparation of forestry plans. Many forest owners have audited their forestry plans several times.

Between 2001 and 2014, about 80 000 forest owners with a forest area totalling 52 million decares have prepared new forestry plans. Given the fact that there are 85 173 forest properties in Norway of an area greater than 100 decares and that about 60 million decares of productive forest is used for forestry at the moment, very high numbers of properties and areas have updated forestry plans. *Source: Tomter, S. M. and Dalen, L. S. (Eds.) 2014) Bærekraftig skogbruk i Norge.*

There is no public requirement in Norway to have a forestry plan. In the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard 2007-2015, property plots larger than 10 000 decares are required to have landscape plans, and properties larger than 100 decares have to have environmental plans prepared before trees there can be felled and the timber sold via certified timber buyers.

Forestry planning in Norway excels in terms of technology. Remote surveying is used to a great extent, and we are now seeing more and more forest owners preparing their forestry plans on tablets and mobile phones. The public sector receives copies of forestry plan data for which public funding has been provided, and all environment-related data from the forestry plans which constitute public environmental information is made accessible in an open database. See Kilden.

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A very large number of forest owners have updated forestry plans, and in addition to this Norway carries out annual surveys of forest status by means of the Norwegian National Forest Inventory. This has been carried out since 1919, and we have now reached the 10th National Forestry Inventory. Data has been collated using the same inventory level since the 7th National Forestry Inventory in 1994-1998. This provides excellent data for development in the forest. Data from the Norwegian National Forest Inventory and other databases regarding site quality, age, tree species, growing stock and habitats/key habitats together with property boundaries is now available to forest owners and the general public in the Kilden database. Very good coverage of forestry plans and the fact that all properties larger than 10 000 decares have updated landscape plans, plus the fact that all relevant data for sustainable administration is accessible in public databases means that all forest owners can meet requirements for sustainable forest management.

The Kilden and Gårdskart databases contain maps of forest properties and summaries of site quality, tree species and age. Simple calculations of growing stock are also available in SAT SKOG, which is part of Kilden. The same database also includes links to cultural monuments, species information and areas managed pursuant to the Nature Diversity Act. There are separate databases for landslide risk and geology for use when planning roads and felling.

21. Relationship between laws and certification requirements

The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard is based on laws and regulations which regulate commercial activity in forests. Regulatory provisions take precedence over the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard where laws and regulations regulate commercial activity in forests.

Laws and regulations are binding for all who have their work in forestry. The authorities are responsible for checking that there is compliance with the legislation. Following the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard means that you can be sure of carrying out sustainable forestry. If the requirements in the standard are used as a basis when carrying out forestry operations, you are also on safe ground as regards the legislation. However, the requirements do not set aside the legislation. Even if the requirements are followed, it is still necessary to acquire municipal approval of new forest roads, felling in protection forest and suchlike, for example.

The Forestry Act and regulation on sustainable forestry

The Forestry Act (Act dated 27 May 2005, no. 31 concerning forestry) is an industrial law which regulates forestry activities. When discussing the Act in the Storting, there was broad political consensus that the Forestry Act should be an industrial law and that it should pursue the principle of "freedom with responsibility".

Purpose

The purpose of both the Forestry Act and the regulation on sustainable forestry is to promote sustainable forestry. This means that both forest and environment values in forests must be safeguarded during forestry operations.

The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard reflects this fact in a number of specific requirements which overall aim to ensure that forestry is carried out in a sustainable manner. The requirements have requirements and rules for forestry operations which individually or jointly can secure the resource base and biodiversity and also take into account the landscape, outdoor recreation interests and cultural values in forests.

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There may appear to be conflict between the chapter on measures to prevent damage to forests in the regulation on sustainable forestry the requirements with rules relating to leaving behind trees and forests for free development, e.g. the requirements Key habitats and Retention trees and dead wood. However, it is understood in the regulation that biodiversity has to be taken into account. Thus the requirements do not breach the general rules in the regulation on felling and clearance in damaged forests. However, if specific orders are given for a specific area pursuant to the regulation on clearance, this order takes precedence over requirements to leave behind trees and forests.

Forest owners' administrator responsibility

Section 4 of the Forestry Act states that forest owners are responsible for ensuring that anything done in forests is compliant with legislation. This paragraph defines the concept "freedom with responsibility" by stating that forest owners can freely manage their forests on the basis of the framework defined by the law. At the same time, forest owners are required to have knowledge by being obliged to maintain an overview of environmental assets in their forests and to take these into account when carrying out forestry operations. Forest owners are also required, if necessary, to refrain from felling if such is necessary in order to ensure biodiversity.

Environmental considerations

Section 4 of the Forestry Act also includes authorisation for establishment of the regulation on sustainable forestry, which specifies environmental considerations, requirements for active rejuvenation and building of new forest and good health within the forest. Chapter 2 in the regulation refers to the environmental considerations, and Section 5 of the regulation in particular specifies the environmental considerations which forest owners are obliged to observe when carrying out work in the forest.

This regulation is linked directly to the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard's requirement relating to key habitats.

Forest registration and forestry plans

The provision of the Forestry Act concerning forest registration and forestry plans states that summaries of environmental values emerging through forestry planning must be accessible to the public, and also refers to Environmental Information Act. In the regulation on sustainable forestry, this is also regulated via the provision on environmental documentation and environmental registrations in Section 4, which requires forest owners to explain the environmental considerations which form the basis for measures planned or executed in the forest.

The same provision in the regulation indicates that felling can normally only be carried out in areas where environmental registration has taken place. In the case of felling in areas where such registrations have not yet taken place, the precautionary measures specified in the Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard must be applied.

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Rejuvenation, care and felling of forests

The Forestry Act states that when felling, it is necessary to take into account the forest's future production and rejuvenation, while also observing environmental considerations (Section 8). The significance of satisfactory rejuvenation is further emphasised in Section 6 of the Forestry Act and in Chapter 3 of the regulations.

Roadbuilding in forests

The Forestry Act states that forest roads may only be built once permission has been granted by the municipality. There are separate regulations on planning, approval and building of forest roads. In the Forestry Act, the authorities demand that planning, building and renovation must take place in a manner which takes important environmental assets into account. At the same time, such measures must be implemented in a manner which secures complete agricultural solutions, in which emphasis must be placed on achieving a rational road system. The Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard has a separate requirement on forest roads.

Nature Diversity Act

The Act relating to the Management of Biological, Geological and Landscape Diversity (the Nature Diversity Act, dated 19 June 2009, no. 100) must operate in parallel with sector laws such as the Forestry Act. In other words, the Nature Diversity Act with regulations is also applicable where forestry takes place in compliance with the Forestry Act with the regulation.

The Act has general provisions on sustainable use, one objective being that the diversity of habitats, biodiversity and ecological processes must be safeguarded as far as is considered reasonable. To achieve this, a general duty of care is applicable which states that all parties must act with care and do whatever is reasonable to prevent damage to nature diversity.

The Nature Diversity Act has a provision stating that species and habitats requiring special protection can be selected as priority species, Section 23, and that habitats can be selected, Section 52, and managed pursuant to separate regulations. Where a regulation is adopted for a priority species or selected habitat, the rules for administration take precedence over regulations pursuant to the Forestry Act.

The Act has separate paragraphs for forest conservation in reserves, landscape conservation areas and national parks.

22. Summary of relevant laws and regulations for sustainable forestry

Below is a list of the relevant laws and regulations of significance to sustainable forestry. The laws are sorted into:

- a) Laws and regulations which are relevant in respect of forestry and with regard to safeguarding environmental considerations.
- b) Laws and regulations which are relevant for other conditions linked with the practice of forestry, for all parties or for individual parties with special needs.

All laws and regulations can be accessed at Lovdata (www.lovdata.no) and can be downloaded or printed from there. Relevant electronic sources besides Lovdata are the

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websites of the Norwegian Environment Agency (www.miljodirektoratet.no), the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority (www.arbeidstilsynet.no/ and www.regelhjelp.no) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/lmd).

The following laws with associated regulations are relevant in respect of sustainable forestry and with regard to safeguarding environmental considerations:

Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
<p>The Act concerning Forestry, dated 27 May 2005. (Forestry Act) Applicable from 19.06.09</p>	<p>Describes primary lines and frameworks within which forestry must take place, with the rights and responsibilities of forest owners. This Act provides a legal basis for factors such as forest supervision, environmental regulations where applicable, and forestry funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on planning and approval of roads for agricultural purposes (20.12.96). • Regulation on measures to prevent insect damage (07.04.97) • Regulation on forest seeds and forest saplings (01.03.96). • Regulation on forest management and forestry operations for forest areas in Oslo and nearby communities (the forest regulation) (02.04.93) • Regulation on forest funds (2006). • Regulation on sustainable forestry (2006) • Regulation on subsidies for industrial and environmental measures in forestry (2004) • Regulation on subsidies for planning with environmental registration (2004)
<p>The Act concerning Outdoor Recreation dated 28 June 1957. (Outdoor Recreation Act) Last amended on 11.07.12</p>	<p>Reviews public rights related to free movement and picking of berries and mushrooms on uncultivated land, and provides regulations on motorised traffic on uncultivated land.</p> <p>Plantations are no longer included as cultivated land, but traffic may be prohibited there if it would be likely to do significant damage.</p>	
<p>Act concerning the Cultural Heritage, dated 9 June 1978. (Cultural Heritage Act) (Last amended on 19.06.09)</p>	<p>Safeguarding and protection of cultural monuments and cultural environments, including automatically protected cultural monuments, cf. Section 4.</p> <p>Regulates, among other things, the options for ground preparation in the immediate vicinity of historical relics.</p>	

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Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
<p>Act concerning Wildlife, dated 29 May 1981. (Wildlife Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 17.09.10</p>	<p>Management of wildlife and wildlife habitats, both wildlife suitable for hunting and other wildlife. Legal basis for public wildlife administration.</p> <p>Protection of wildlife habitats and regulation of movement on uncultivated land. This Act provides authority for central and local regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on management of predators. (2012) • Regulation on management of deer and beaver. (2002). • Regulation on hunting and trapping (2002). • Regulation on hunting and trapping times (2012). • Regulation on implementation of the provisions concerning the merging of properties to form joint wildlife areas in Section 37 of the Wildlife Act (1984) • Regulation on implementation of the provisions concerning merging in order to achieve minimum area for deer hunting in Section 38 of the Wildlife Act (1984)
<p>Act relative to Salmonids and fresh-water fish and related matters, dated 15 May 1992. (Fresh-water Fish Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 14.12.12</p>	<p>Describes, among other things, management of lakes and waterways in relation to fishing (Chap. 1 and 2), fishing rights (Chap. 4) and protection and development of fish stocks and habitats (Chap. 3).</p> <p>Also describes landowners' fishing rights, as well as the rights of the general public to fish, including children's rights to free fishing.</p> <p>This Act provides authority for central and local regulations.</p> <p>The entire text of the Act was amended slightly in the last issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on physical measures in waterways (2004) • The freshwater fish regulation (2009) • Regulation on fishing times (2012)
<p>Act concerning protection against pollution and waste, dated 13 March 1981. (Pollution Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 19.01.09</p>	<p>Reviews, among other things, rules on leaving behind refuse and other waste in the countryside</p> <p>Section 28, handling of special waste Section 31, and dealing with acute pollution/emissions in nature Section 39.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on internal inspection (1996) • Regulation on recycling and processing of waste (the waste regulation) (2008) • Regulation on limitation of pollution (the pollution regulation) (2004). • Regulation on reporting acute pollution (1992)
<p>Act relating to the control of products and consumer services, dated 11 June 1976. (Product Control Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 19.06.09</p>	<p>Purpose: to prevent any product causing damage to health or environmental interference. This Act assigns responsibility to the person using a product as regards taking action to prevent the product causing environmental interference, plus due care requirements (Section 2, and 3).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on lead shot (2001) • The water regulation (2004). • The pollution regulation (2004).

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Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
<p>Act concerning environmental information and participation in public decision-making processes of significance to the environment, dated 09.05.2003.</p> <p>(Environmental Information Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 19.05.06.</p>	<p>Describes the rights of the general public to environmental information from public and private enterprises (Section 1)</p> <p>Anyone requested to submit information can themselves decide on the form in which the information can be made available. (Section 18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulation on the appeals board for environmental information (2003)
<p>Act on river systems and groundwater. Dated 24 November 2000.</p> <p>(Water Resources Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 27.01.12</p>	<p>Reviews, among other things, requirements for buffer zones (Section 11) and permanently protected waterways waterway (Chap. 5), public rights in and on lakes (Section 16) and rights for maintenance of trenches in agriculture and forestry (Section 12). Also indicates responsibility for follow-up and maintenance of dams.</p> <p>The last amendment relates specifically to hydropower.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on frameworks for water administration (the water regulation) (2006). • Regulation on safety at watercourse structures (the dam safety regulation) (2009) • Regulation on internal inspection (2011)
<p>Act relative to the use of motor vehicles on uncultivated land and watercourses, dated 10 June 1977.</p> <p>(Motor Traffic Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 20.06.03</p>	<p>Regulation of the use of motor vehicles on uncultivated land with a view to promoting the natural environment and wellbeing. Includes vehicles, boats and aircraft landings. Does not restrict the use of motor vehicles linked with forestry. (Section 4)</p> <p>The municipality has authority to issue permits. (Sections 5 and 6)</p> <p>The landowner may refuse. (Section 10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal regulations. • Regulation on the use of motor vehicles on uncultivated land and frozen waterways (1988). • Regulation on prohibition of the use of tracked vehicles (snow scooters) on public roads (2001).

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Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
<p>Act concerning planning and building applications (Planning and Building Act) dated 27.06.2008.</p> <p>Last amended on 10.08.12</p>	<p>This Act regulates public and private spatial planning and building applications.</p> <p>Among other things, the Act provides authority for expropriation and municipal rulings on special restrictions on commercial activity in special areas, which can affect forestry.</p> <p>The Act includes requirements for environmental impact assessments on all major intervention in the landscape. Forest road systems more than 15 km long are subject to this requirement.</p> <p>The last amendment relates specifically to regulation plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal regulations based on National policy guidelines for permanently protected waterways, linked with zone division of the 100m belt along these waterways • Municipal regulations based on National policy guidelines for planning in coastal and sea areas in the Oslofjord region. • Regulation on impact assessments (2009). Relevant to larger forest road systems, etc.) • National policy guidelines for protected waterways (1994)
<p>Act on the management of biodiversity (Nature Diversity Act) dated 19.06.2009.</p> <p>Last amended on 14.12.12</p>	<p>Replaces the Nature Conservation Act of 1970. Reviews protection of natural assets in the form of national parks, landscape conservation areas, nature reserves and natural monuments and selected habitats, species conservation of plants and animals, and sustainable use.</p> <p>Legal basis for nature management.</p> <p>The last amendment relates specifically to the stocking of new species Section 30, and a corresponding regulation on foreign tree species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on fishing relating to freshwater fishing, etc. and catching crayfish. (the freshwater fish regulation) (2009) • Regulation on the stocking of fish and other freshwater organisms (1993). • Regulations on priority species (northern dragonhead, lesser white-fronted goose, dune tiger beetle, hermit beetle, musk orchid, chequered blue butterfly, red helleborine and black-tailed godwit) (2011) • Regulation on selected habitats (2011). • Regulation on protection of threatened species (2012) • Regulation on the planting of foreign tree varieties (2012)
<p>Act relative to food production and food safety, dated 19.12.03. (Food Act)</p> <p>Last amended on 26.03.10</p>	<p>Relevant to forestry in respect of drinking water sources and precautions linked with the use of pesticides, with requirements for both substances used and people who are to use the substances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on water supply and drinking water (2001) (Provides authority for restrictions to forestry activities in the vicinity of drinking water) • Regulation on the spread of pesticides in forests (04.08.87). • Regulation on pesticides (2004)

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Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
Act on natural areas in Oslo and nearby communities (Forest Act) Dated 05.06.2009	Describes rules for administration of area within the forest boundary, with strong restrictions on reallocation of space. Provides authority for forest conservation for outdoor recreation purposes.	

The following acts with associated regulations are also relevant in respect of sustainable forestry for all or individual property categories as a consequence of area of activity, location, property conditions or other conditions.

Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
Act concerning village commons dated 19 June 1992. (Village Commons Act) Last amended on 29.06.07.	Regulates operation, administration and property transactions for village commons, including usage rights, timber rights, hunting, fishing and forestry operations.	
Act on firearms and ammunition, dated 9 June 1961. (Weapons Act). Last amended on 19.09.09	Provides rules on the acquisition and storage of firearms and ammunition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation on firearms, firearm parts and ammunition (the weapons regulation) (2009)
Act concerning land use, dated 12 May 1995. (Land Act). Last amended on 19.06.09	Describes the primary lines for agriculture, and to a certain extent the collective agriculture within which to operate. Relevant to forestry in relation to provisions on division of property, and property development, and reallocation of areas for forests, etc.	
Act concerning tax on wealth and income, dated 26 March 1999. (Tax Act) Last amended on 07.12.12.	Legal basis for significant parts of the Norwegian tax system, in which forestry is a very limited part of the timber area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation on forest funds (2006)
Act concerning allodial rights and qualified right of inheritance of agricultural land, dated 28 June 1974. (Allodial Rights Act) Last amended on 19.06.09.	Regulates the sale and other transfer of agricultural properties within families and outside of families. This includes terms for allodial rights, allodial succession, residential and operation obligations, allodial release and valuation.	

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Act	Scope	Relevant regulations.
<p>Act relative to concessions for the acquisition of real property, dated 28 November 2003. (Concessions Act). Last amended on 19.16.09.</p>	<p>Regulates all sales outside immediate family of forest areas larger than 5 decares, etc. Including pricing, buyers' qualification requirements, residential obligations and rights of first refusal.</p> <p>The Act includes requirements for impact assessment of all major facilities which will include forest road systems of 15 km or more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prices of agricultural properties relative to concessions (Circular, Ministry of Agriculture (2002)). • Regulation on concession freedom for certain acquisitions (2003).
<p>Act concerning work environment and employment protection, dated 17 June 2005. (Work Environment Act) Last amended on 16.12.11.</p>	<p>Securing of work environment and worker rights, obligations of employers and employees. This Act is applicable to any enterprise employing staff.</p> <p>Amendment from previous list: Amendment in Section 3, etc. concerning joint and several liability for clients with regard to pay for hired workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on internal inspection (1996). • Regulation on the Work Environment Act's use of operations in agriculture and forestry not involving employment of staff (1986). • Regulation on canopies on tractors (1966 and 1994). • Regulation on use of personal protective equipment (1993). • Regulation on safety representatives and work environment committees (1977). • Regulation on heavy and monotonous work (1995). • Regulation on protection against occupational noise (2006). • Regulation on rest stop huts (1978). • Regulation relating to protection against exposure to chemicals in the workplace (Chemicals Regulation) (2001)
<p>Act relating to protection against fire, explosion and accidents involving hazardous substances and the fire service duties (Fire and Explosion Act). Last amended 29.05.15.</p>	<p>Legal Basis for provisions on fuel storage, including storage of petrol for chainsaws.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations concerning the handling of flammable, reactive and pressurized substances as well as equipment and facilities used in the handling (2009)

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Appendix:

Appendix 1: PEFC Logo license contract

Appendix 2: Logo license confirmation

Appendix 3: Application scheme for Logo license

Appendix 4: Application for one-off use of the PEFC Logo