



PEFC/16-1-1

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Recognition as source of legal, sustainable timber

In December, the UK Government confirmed that PEFC sustainable forest management certification provides an assurance that its certified timber-based products originate from legal and sustainable sources.

The government has signalled its preference for certified timber products in its timber procurement policy and recommends consumers make the same responsible choice. The announcement follows a detailed bi-annual review of forest certification systems by the Government's Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) – see www.proforest.net/cpet for further details.

Since PEFC's initial rating as legal and sustainable by the UK Government in August 2005, the PEFC certified forest area has increased by another 80 million hectares globally and currently tops the 210 million mark. The number of Chain of Custody certificates in the UK has risen sharply over the past two years and to date, almost 1,000 paper and timber companies in the UK have opted for PEFC certification.

Ecobuild09 debut



In response to continuing strong demand for PEFC-certified timber products from the UK construction sector, PEFC will be exhibiting at Ecobuild in March. Exhibiting at the UK's premier sustainable construction show is a first for PEFC.

Announcing PEFC's decision to exhibit at this important trade show, PEFC UK's Chairman commented: "to demonstrate their commitment to high environmental standards and responsible sourcing, the construction sector is increasingly looking to show its customers that the timber products it uses originate from legal and sustainable sources. Sourcing from PEFC-certified forests provides the timber supply chain with such assurances.

As the world's largest global forest certification scheme, endorsing national forest certification schemes in twenty four countries with over 210 million hectares under certification, PEFC has greatly increased the availability of certified timber to companies around the world committed to the responsible sourcing of raw materials.

For free admission to the show register online at www.exporeg.co.uk/reg/ecobuild09 and visit us at stand 1777, Earls Court One.

PEFC has published a directory of PEFC-certified printers, see page three for details



PEFC hosts press event for print/paper publishing industry

Next month, PEFC will be hosting a press breakfast for the print/paper and publishing trade press at the Institute of Directors entitled: **Responsible Paper Procurement: Good for Business and the Environment.**

This seminar is designed to update the trade press on developments within the PEFC programme, both in the UK and globally and outline the organisation's future plans

and challenges. The seminar will enable delegates to better understand the importance of chain of custody certification and provide an opportunity to hear case studies from both a leading UK paper merchant and print management company. It will also provide an update on PEFC in the UK and on programme developments at a global level from PEFC's Secretary General.

REVISION OF PEFC LOGO USAGE

The new PEFC Standard (PEFC ST 2001:2008) for PEFC Logo Usage Rules was approved by the General Assembly of PEFC at the General Assembly held in Canberra, Australia at the end of October. A copy of the new Standard can be downloaded from the PEFC website: www.pefc.org

Within the next few months, all existing Logo Licence Users will be sent the new Logo Users Toolkit on CD and this will have all the necessary artwork and the revised usage rules. The new rules will have a transitional introductory period to the end of 2009.

The PEFC label provides information relating to the origin of forest-based product in sustainably managed forest and other non-controversial sources. The overall goal of the PEFC logo/label usage is to communicate accurate and verifiable information and to encourage demand for and supply of those products originating in sustainably managed forests; thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous improvement of the world's forest resource.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD

Change to the Chain of Custody Standard, for volume credit calculations, is now approved.

A minor change to the calculation of the volume credit method has now been introduced to simplify the process for a number of certified businesses. In essence, the revised approach provides companies with a more flexible option for the distribution of the volume credit, as it allows the chain of custody certified companies to sell an increased number of products, which meet the threshold for the PEFC labelling and still guarantees that the company cannot claim more certified raw material than it procures. The full Chain of Custody Annex can be downloaded from the PEFC website: www.pefc.org

FIVE YEAR REVIEW

The major five year review of the PEFC Chain of Custody Annex has now commenced with a plan to draft a new Annex, which will eventually become a PEFC Standard. PEFC members, Certification Bodies, businesses, stakeholder groups and the public will be fully consulted by mid-2009, so that the new document can be approved at the next General Assembly to be held at the end of October. The drafting work and consultation exercise has a tight timetable

but it is hoped that as many users as possible will offer their comments during the process.

The purpose of the initiative is to revise the PEFC chain of custody standard in order to:

- accommodate the experience gained to date from the chain of custody certification,
- to respond to the current and future market circumstances, and customers expectations and needs,
- to continue ensuring truthful, credible and honest claims are made with regard to the content of PEFC certified raw material.

Those wishing to participate in the consultation exercise and be updated on the progress of the revision process should contact Willie Walker at wbw@pefc.co.uk

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

PEFC is now discussing with the forestry sector in the UK, the potential of developing forest management certification under PEFC for UK woodlands and, in particular, how the process

might be developed to encourage the smaller woodland owner to enjoy the benefits of forest certification. The UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) is endorsed by PEFC as part of the PEFC Certification Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management. A series of exploratory meetings has been organised and those interested in participation should contact Willie Walker at wbw@pefc.co.uk.

PEFC IRELAND

PEFC has now been formally established in Ireland and William Merivale (william@cjandco.net) appointed as National Secretary. A major programme of work has now commenced to develop Chain of Custody certification and increase the number of certificates from the present 20 to a target of several hundred over the next two years. Two introductory seminars in Dublin and Cork will take place in March. Please contact PEFC Ireland if you would like more information.

Under the Chairmanship of Sandy Greig, previously of the UK Forestry Commission, PEFC Ireland has begun the task of drafting a National Forest Certification Standard and are now consulting with a wide range of stakeholders.

PEFC UK and PEFC Ireland have agreed to work closely together, as many businesses as well as the markets for PEFC certified products often cross the national boundaries. Both organisations recognise the benefits that should accrue from this co-operation and the potential to increase delivery of Chain of Custody certification.



TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION

Conference and Awards, November 2009

In November, PEFC's UK Chairman, Peter Latham appeared alongside FSC's UK Executive Director, Charles Thwaites at the keynote event of the Timber in Construction Conference and Awards Day; the first time that they had shared a public platform.

Both speakers outlined the main differences and similarities between the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) as the two global sustainable forest management certification schemes. They acknowledged that both schemes are committed to achieving the same

end; the certification of forests to credible, independently verified standards of sustainable forest management.

PEFC and FSC share a vision of a world in which people manage their forests responsibly. However, with less than 10% of the world's forests being certified to date, and most of the vulnerable and endangered forest areas excluded from even this modest achievement, it was acknowledged that the most important challenge facing both schemes was to grow the certified forest area to match rapidly increasing demand for sustainable timber.

As competing colleagues PEFC and FSC recognise that they have a duty their stakeholders to ensure their services remain relevant and add value to their customers. With this goal in mind, both schemes will be launching databases to better facilitate the trade in certified timber and wood-based products in 2009.

Fast approaching the 1,000 certification milestone

The UK Print Sector demonstrates strong demand for Chain of Custody

Demand for Chain of Custody certification from the print and paper sector continues to be strong. From less than 70 printers with chain of custody certification in 2007 – to a figure currently standing at 320 – we witnessed more than a 300% increase in just 12 months. It is heartening to see that even in these challenging economic times, demand for chain of custody certification shows no sign of slowing. PEFC is fast approaching the 1,000 Chain of Custody milestone in the UK and the print sector alone now accounts for over a third of these.

The rapidly increasing demand for chain of custody certification within the print sector demonstrates that environmental responsibility is clearly of growing importance to end-users, publishers, printers and converters. This ensures that the paper they use comes from certified forests and by undergoing Chain of Custody certification, printers can be confident in their supply chain and are able to meet customer expectations on environmental provenance.

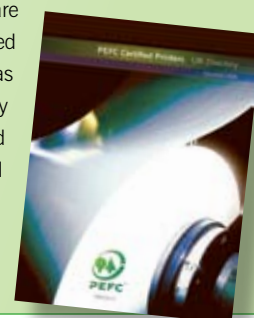


As a result of this rapid take up of chain of custody certification, more and more publishers – both trade and consumer – are using the PEFC logo on their publications to provide environmental assurances on paper sourcing, and hopefully this will help PEFC become more widely recognised by consumers, and increase its prominence as a sign of sustainable paper sourcing for customers and stakeholders alike.

In addition, most of the UK's leading paper merchants are able to supply a range of both PEFC and FSC certified papers to those printers

seeking to capitalise on the increasing demand for greener products.

If you would like to ensure that your organisation's publications are printed on certified paper, PEFC has published a directory of PEFC-certified printers. Email hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk for your free copy.



Growing demand in UK for certified timber

The demand for furniture manufactured from wood-based products which have derived from responsibly managed sources is increasingly rapidly. In the recent past it has been predominantly the 'office and contract' sector along with those companies wishing to enhance their environmental reputations that have responded positively to this demand.

Those supplying Government Departments, leading plcs, universities etc. have for some time been asked to ensure that timber used in the manufacture of their products originate from sustainable sources and that these credentials can be passed on through the supply chain by the implementation of a chain of custody system. An increasing number of tenders for furniture

contracts now stipulate that the product must be certified by one of the major forest schemes such as FSC or PEFC.

A responsible sourcing requirement is likely to expand to all sectors of the furniture industry as the public and therefore retailers are becoming more aware of the need for sustainable procurement, especially of timber items. This will inevitably lead to most companies in the furniture industry supply chain needing to implement their own chain of custody.

PEFC is currently planning a major outreach campaign to this important sector for sustainable products and will be holding a responsible procurement seminar to explain the PEFC sustainable forest management and chain of custody programme on 12th May 2009.

In the meantime, it will shortly be publishing a leaflet on responsible timber sourcing for the furniture sector. If you would like a copy, please e-mail hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk.



PEFC National Secretary to retire

PEFC UK has announced that its National Secretary, William Walker, is to retire in July, following a long and distinguished career in the UK forest industry.

Walker became PEFC UK's National Secretary in 2005, having trained at Aberdeen University in the 1960s before embarking on a long career in forest management. During this time he was responsible for some of the largest privately owned afforestation programmes completed in the Borders during the 1970s and 80s.

In the late 1980s he established an environmental forest consultancy practice which led him to specialise in forest certification and the development of Forest Standards.



This subsequently led to him taking up the National Secretary position with PEFC UK.

The Board of PEFC UK has begun the search process for his successor. The ideal candidate should be an industrious, multi-skilled self starter with a keen eye for detail to run the PEFC operation in the United Kingdom. The successful applicant will have operational responsibility for the technical, administrative and accounting functions of the PEFC office. If you'd like to learn more about this challenging and rewarding role, please email karen.houldershaw@lathams.co.uk for a full job description. **Closing date for applications 27 February 2009.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Press Breakfast: print, paper and publishing trade press

4 February 2009

Institute of Directors, London

Email: hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk

MARCH

Ecobuild and Futurebuild

3-5 March 2009

Earls Court Exhibition Centre

Further information: www.ecobuild.co.uk

Register online for free admission:

www.exporeg.co.uk/reg/ebuild09/regform

MAY

PEFC Responsible Procurement Seminar for the Furniture Industry

12 May 2009

Please register your interest via email:

hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk

JUNE

PEFC Responsible Procurement Seminar for the Print and Publishing Industries

June 2009 - date to be confirmed.

Please register your interest via email:

hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk

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