



**PEFC** is the world's largest forest certification system and the certification system of choice for smaller woodland owners. Since 2010, more than one million hectares of UK forests have been certified to PEFC's sustainable forest management standard, but more needs to be done.

PEFC endorses the **UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)** as the basis for certification in the UK, but at present, approximately only 50% of UK forests are certified, leaving about 1.5 million hectares of woodland uncertified.

To increase the amount of certified forests in the UK, PEFC has developed a **new certification tool** designed to enable small and medium-sized woodland owners to participate in forest certification. This new online system aims to provide a simple and cost-effective solution to assist the UK's private forest owners to become PEFC-certified. The new tool is designed to help increase the UK's certified forest area and boost the supply of certified material to the UK primary processing sector and its customers.

Forest certification is sometimes viewed as being too onerous and expensive. As a result, the growth of the UK certified forest area has slowed. This is having a growing impact on the UK primary processing sector which needs an increasing supply of certified timber to meet customer demand. Certified materials are increasingly requested by a growing number of forest product users including retailers, the construction industry and energy suppliers.

## BUSINESS BENEFITS

In conjunction with Dutch consultancy **Evan Buytendijk BV (IEB)**, **PEFC UK** has developed an online forest certification system which aims to provide:

- a cost-effective and competitive solution designed to assist small and medium-sized private forest owners achieve certification and demonstrate compliance
- an aid to Group Certification managers to enable them to function more efficiently and reduce costs
- a user-friendly means of assessing the compatibility of existing forest management plans with those required by UKWAS
- improved consistency of internal audits via online checklists and the use of a bespoke App for your smartphone and tablet
- a larger PEFC-certified forest area which can deliver a greater supply of material to both primary processors and end-users.

**The expansion of PEFC-certified forest cover in the UK would result in better managed woodlands and an improved supply of certified material to a ready-made and growing market. Having more certified woodlands will ensure that forest owners can access markets that are keen to procure certified raw materials.**

## SIMPLE & STRAIGHTFORWARD

The new online system works via simple checklists, designed to evaluate whether the current forest management plan meets the requirements of UKWAS. If not, it shows where improvements are required, creating a helpful gap analysis. Each section can be saved so that the whole checklist does not have to be completed in one sitting.

The saved results are the basic documentation for the certification body to undertake an audit and potentially remove the need for detailed pre-assessments. The tool can be used by a Group Certification manager to invite forest owners to participate and evaluate their ability to comply with the requirements of UKWAS.

## THE ADVANTAGES FOR GROUP CERTIFICATION

Group Certification managers will have the ability to co-ordinate the information produced by their members and access the details by signing into their own sub-domain. There is a small cost to Group Managers to take ownership of the sub-domain which includes an initial set-up fee and a small ongoing annual maintenance charge. These fees are generally recovered by Group Scheme charges.

The system is clear and transparent:

- Based on the UK Woodland Assurance Standard
- Cuts down on unnecessary paperwork
- Remote access from anywhere via the internet
- Results of forest owner will be sent to a unique email address (the Group Manager)
- Results will be saved in a database protected by a secure password
- The Group Manager can issue its own usernames and passwords for the forest owners (group member)
- The UK site manager (PEFC UK) can update the checklist when necessary
- Documents, images and maps, can be uploaded.

Individual forest owners wishing to use the system will be issued with log in details by PEFC UK. In both cases the certification body will continue to charge for the assessments, annual surveillance visits and notification fee costs.







## THE NEW ONLINE SYSTEM FROM PEFC UK MAKES CERTIFICATION SIMPLE AND EASY TO MANAGE.

[www.pefc.co.uk/forestry/forestry-certification-system-tool](http://www.pefc.co.uk/forestry/forestry-certification-system-tool)

It has long been understood that a cost-effective certification solution was required to enable smaller woodland owners to participate in certification. A solution is now available.

SAVE TIME SAVE MONEY  
INCREASE MARKET ACCESS  
DEMONSTRATE RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT  
PROMOTE UK FORESTRY  
ACCESS DATA ONLINE FROM ANY LOCATION

This project was part-funded by the **PEFC Collaboration Fund**. The Fund seeks to support efforts to advance sustainable forest management and forest certification around the world by members and partner organisations. Through its competitive small grants programme, PEFC encourages locally relevant advancements in the sustainable management of forests.



**PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification)** is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management through independent third-party certification.

PEFC is a federal organisation that works by endorsing national forest certification systems and has recognised certification systems in more than 30 countries. These account for over 263 million hectares of certified forests, making PEFC the world's largest forest and wood product certification system.

More than 16,000 companies are involved with PEFC Chain of Custody certification worldwide. PEFC's distinctive 'green trees' logo transcends language barriers making it a truly global brand.

For more details and guidance on PEFC Certification for Small & Medium Sized UK Woodland Owners email: [info@pefc.co.uk](mailto:info@pefc.co.uk) or visit: [www.pefc.co.uk/forestry/forestry-certification-system-tool](http://www.pefc.co.uk/forestry/forestry-certification-system-tool)

**PEFC UK Limited**  
Sheffield Technology Parks  
Cooper Buildings, Arundel Street  
Sheffield S1 2NS  
t 0114 307 2334  
e [info@pefc.co.uk](mailto:info@pefc.co.uk)  
w [www.pefc.co.uk](http://www.pefc.co.uk)



## PEFC SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

AN ONLINE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR UK WOODLAND OWNERS

