

Development Report

Third Revision of the Swiss PEFC scheme



PEFC Schweiz

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1 Introduction

After the first revision in 2008 and last revision in 2013, following the Standard for Standard Setting of PEFC International in Geneva, the national Swiss forest management Standards were revised for re-endorsement by the PEFC Council starting the procedures in June 2019 and having the first stakeholder meeting in October 2019.

For the revision, new technical knowledge and socio economic factors were considered. The third revision process of the Swiss national PEFC Scheme described below aimed at considering all the experience gained over the last five years and at motivating all interest groups to actively participate in this revision.

2 Scope of the revision process and summary of changes in documents

As defined in the PEFC Council's policies, prior to submission to the PEFC council for approval, the revised and renewed system policies and standards were published for a public consultation after the development of a draft by the working group. The main objectives of the revision were:

- Alignment of the National Forest Standards with requirements of PEFC International
- Adaptation of the National Standards to the conditions and practices in Switzerland
- Improvement of the transparency and clarity of the documents to facilitate their practical use
- Avoidance of redundancies

Major adaptations and changes were undertaken in the following system documents:

- *ND 001 Requirements for group certification*
 - The standard for group certification ND 001, had to be brought in line with the international benchmark 1002:2018. Multiple passages as well as an introductory overview of the system were added for clarity.
- *ND 003 Standard for sustainable forest management and VL001 Principles of the Certification System PEFC Switzerland*
 - The changes in ND 003 were applied to bring the national standard in line with the international benchmark ST 1003:2018 document. Thereby, some passages were extracted and deleted from the mandatory guideline VL 001 and inserted to ND 003. Further, a new paragraph was added to specify soil and ground water protection.
- *VL 004 Standard revision procedures*
 - The mandatory guideline VL 004 Standard revision procedures was adapted to the Standard setting benchmark at the start of the revision and re-endorsement process, to provide for an understandable, complete and straightforward guideline to the process.

Minor changes in other documents were undertaken to complete the list of references by document VL 005, which was not listed yet. Furthermore, contact details for the PEFC Switzerland Secretariat were added to the documents.

The following table (Table 1) presents a summary of major changes and justification of the national documents.

Table 1 List of System Documents of the Swiss National PEFC Scheme and Specification of Type of applied changes

| Title | Name | Changes |
|--------------|---|--|
| ND 001 | Requirements for group certification | Major To meet the PEFC international Benchmark, various paragraphs were added. |
| ND 002 | Requirement of individual certification | Minor. List of references was completed by adding VL 005. To comply with the PEFC Benchmark it was added that enterprises shall provide a commitment to comply with the national PEFC Standards and to improve their forest management system. The standard is still applicable. Neither PEFC International, nor stakeholders or PEFC CH have requested additions. |
| ND 003 | Standards for Forest Management | Major. Inclusion of VL 001, chapter 6 and addition of a paragraph specifying construction works. |
| ND 004 | Chain of Custody requirements | Adoption of newest Standard from PEFC Council (feb 2020). |
| ND 005 | Trademark Rules | Adoption of newest Standard from PEFC Council (feb 2020) |
| VL 001 | Principles of the Certification System PEFC Switzerland | Major: Chapter 6 was transferred to ND 003. |
| VL 002-1 | Requirements for certification bodies - FM | Minor. List of references was completed by adding VL 005. According to the document PEFC Checklist - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6), by PEFC Council, 30.November 2019, references to ISO Guide 65 in Annex 6 have been removed from this checklist, as PEFC forest management certification is expected to be carried out as management certification under ISO 17021. Therefore, all references to ISO Guide 65 (ISO 45011) were replaced by ISO 17021. The standard is still applicable. Neither PEFC International, nor stakeholders or PEFC CH have requested additions. |
| VL 002-2 | Requirements for certification bodies - CoC | Adoption of newest Standard from PEFC Council (feb 2020) |

| Title | Name | Changes |
|--------|--|---|
| VL 003 | Dispute settlement procedures | Editorial. List of references was completed by adding VL 005. The standard is still applicable. Neither PEFC International, nor stakeholders or PEFC CH have requested additions. |
| VL 004 | Standard revision procedures | Major The guideline was adapted to meet Standard setting benchmark. |
| VL 005 | Notification of Certification Bodies Issuance of Logo Usage Licenses | Reapproved/Minor The standard is still applicable. Neither PEFC International, nor stakeholders or PEFC CH have requested additions. |
| SD 001 | Begriffe und Definitionen | Reapproved The standard is still applicable. Neither PEFC International, nor stakeholders or PEFC CH have requested additions. |
| SD 002 | Gebührenordnung/ Scale of fees | Minor Specifications on the costs for individual enterprises and CoC are added. List of references was completed by adding VL 005. |
| SD 003 | Statuten von PEFC Schweiz/ Statutes | Minor PEFC Switzerland's Non-Profit-Organisation status was added. |

3 Chronology and content of the review and revision process

The revision process followed the requirements of the “ VL 004 Standard revision procedures” which was adopted by the Lenkungsgremium/Certification Committee on 15. January 2020 and published on 20. January 2020^{Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.}.

The following paragraphs describe the actions for the revision of the national standards, especially the proceedings to

1. Update VL 004 Standard setting procedures ,
2. Adapt ND 003 Standards for Forest Management to the benchmark PEFC ST 1003:2018 by adding two paragraphs. One in Chapter 2 and one in Chapter 3, while the latter paragraph was extracted from document VL 001 Principles of the Certification System. To meet the Forest Management Benchmark by the PEFC Council, the checklist ST 1001:2017 was followed, as further documented in table 2, with the list of stakeholders, evidence for stakeholder invitations, consensus from the working groups and synopsis of feedback received.
3. Shorten VL 001 Principles of the Certification System by the paragraphs extracted and added in ND 003,
4. Adapt ND 001 Requirements for group certification to the benchmark PEFC ST 1002:2018, following the checklist ST PEFC ST 1002:2018.

The re-endorsement process was started with sending out Save the Date invitations on 3. July 2019 for a stakeholder meeting at the [PEFC Forum on 30th October 2019](#), where all stakeholders identified in a stakeholder mapping activity in June 2019 (result: updated stakeholder list) were invited to discuss the need for a standard revision from their point of view. In the invitation, the stakeholders were explicitly asked to send their feedback and comments to Olin Bartlome, CEO of PEFC Switzerland. No feedback was received neither before nor during or after the event, which is interpretable as no need for revision, and was communicated on the [website](#). This information page was updated with any new event upcoming or past and a synopsis of the events.

The document VL 004 was adapted to the Standard setting benchmark at the start of the revision and re-endorsement process, to provide for an understandable, complete and straightforward guideline to the process. The draft was approved by the certification committee on 15. January 2020 and the [document](#) was published on 20. January 2020.

A Gap Analysis revealed the necessity to subject the Swiss Standards for Sustainable forest management (ND 003) and Requirements for Group Certification (ND 002) to a normal revision in order to bring them in line with the PEFC Council's sustainability benchmark ST 1003:2018 and PEFC Council's Benchmark ST 1002:2018, respectively.

To work on the Standard for Forest management (ND 003), invitations were sent out to all stakeholders to participate in the working group. A reminder was sent out later to all stakeholders.

On 18. February 2020, the working group discussed the only piece of feedback received up to 18. February 2020 and reached consensus on a new draft for the Forest Management Standard ND 003, which was developed and was (together with VL001, where a main paragraph was extracted from) subsequently approved by the certification committee on 18. March 2020. The outcome of the discussions during the working group meeting was communicated to the sender of the feedback by e-mail.

The consensus on the draft lead to the [announcement](#) of the public consultation on the draft ND 003 Standard for forest management. To manage incoming feedback from the public consultation, a comment section was introduced on the [pefc.ch/revision/kommentar](#) page in German and French. The piece of feedback received before the working group meeting, was published with the explanation given on why the comment was not included in the standard's draft. As shown with the feedback sheet (including the synopsis of comments from the public consultation and other incoming requests for information on the revision process), no feedback regarding the content of the standards was received during the public consultation. The [end of the public consultation](#) was announced in the early morning of the last day of public consultation to give stakeholders a last chance for feedback and which was communicated in the e-mail as well as on the [website](#). No feedback was received.

Therefore, the final version of the standard was sent for approval by the certification committee and approved on 29.07.2020.

The standard for group certification was adapted to meet the PEFC Council's benchmark and approved on 15.09.2020.

The document ND 004 Chain of Custody was replaced with PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody.

The document ND 005 Trademark Rules was replaced with 2001:2020 Trademark Rules Requirements.

The document VL 002-2 Requirements for certification bodies - COC was replaced with Requirements for PEFC ST 2003:2020 Certification Bodies providing Chain of Custody Certification.

The documents:

Kommentiert [d1]: Link zu VL 004

- ND 002 Requirement for Individual Certification,
- VL 002-1 Requirements for certification bodies – Forest Management,
- VL 003 Dispute settlement procedures
- SD 003 Statutes

were subject to minor editorial changes: as the list of references was lacking VL 005 and the documents were lacking a contact information, these items were added to the documents.

The document SD 002 Scale of fees was completed by explanatory text regarding the fees. SD 003 was completed by explicitly mentioning PEFC Switzerland's status as a non-profit organisation. The document SD 001 Terms and Definitions was reapproved due to being still applicable.

These modifications were also sent for approval to the certification committee and were approved on 28. September.

All updated documents were uploaded to the pefc.ch website on 29. September 2020, together with the development report.

The above proceedings are summarized in Table 2.

| Time table Reendorsement PEFC | 2019 | | | | | 2020 | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Aug | Sep | Okt | Nov | Dez | Jan | Feb | Mär | Apr | Mai | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |
| Vorbesprechung/preliminary meeting | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Einladung Interessensgruppen & Medien zum PEFC Forum/ Invitation stakeholders & media to PEFC Forum | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PEFC Forum: Auftakt zum Revisionsprozess/ PEFC Forum: Start of revision process | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gap Analysis ND003 Standards für die Waldbewirtschaftung / Gap analysis ND 003 Standard for sustainable forest management | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Überarbeitung VL004 und Verabschiedung durch Zertifizierungskommission/ Revision of VL 004 and approval by certification commission | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| Entwurf 1, ND003 Standards für die Waldbewirtschaftung/ draft 1, nd 003 standards for sustainable forest management | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| Standardrevision: Stakeholdermapping, Einladung Interessensgruppen zur Arbeitsgruppe/ standard revision: stakeholder mapping, invitation of stakeholders to working group | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| Festlegung Arbeitsgruppe/ definition of working group | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 1. Sitzung Arbeitsgruppe / 1. meeting working group | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | |
| Entwurf 2, ND 003 Standards für die Waldbewirtschaftung/ Draft 2, nd003 standard for sustainable forest management | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | |
| Verabschiedung Entwurf 2 durch Zertifizierungskommission/ approval draft 2 by certification commission | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | |
| Öffentliche Konsultation/ public consultation | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |
| Überarbeitung "ND 001 Zertifizierung auf Ebene einer Gruppe" / revision ND 001 standard for group certification | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| Endgültiger Entwurf Waldstandard / Final Draft SFM | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | |
| Entscheidung Zertifizierungskommission über alle Systemdokumente/ Approval of all System Documents by Certification Commission | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ |
| Antragsstellung bei PEFC International / Application for re-endorsement PEFC International | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ |

Table 2 Time Table of the Revision and Re-endorsement Process 2019/2020

