

Finnish Forest Certification Council, Press Release, March 22, 2005

Finnish Forest Certification Meets International Requirements

PEFC Endorsed the Revised Standards of the Finnish Forest Certification System

The revised forest management standards of the Finnish Forest Certification System-FFCS have been internationally approved. The standards are revised every five years. Following the independent expert evaluation, the PEFC member organisations endorsed the FFCS for the next five-year-period.

The revised standards were submitted to PEFC Council in 2004 for endorsement. PEFC commissioned an independent consultant to evaluate the structure and requirements of the revised Finnish Forest Certification Scheme in view of PEFC requirements for sustainable forest management. A working group of 23 different interest groups carried out the revision.

The endorsement indicates that the FFCS meets the PEFC requirements for credible forest certification and sustainable forest management. The revised 28 criteria address *inter alia* safeguarding the biological diversity in the forests, the timely implementation of silvicultural works, sustaining the professional competence of forest workers, and training of forest owners. Partially the requirements are plainly more detailed and more explicit than those in the previous sets of criteria.

Continual improvement and development of the activities is an integral part of forest certification. The research community and all non-governmental organisations were given the possibility to comment on the revision work of the Finnish forest certification standards. The revision was based on practical experience gained in the standard implementation during the last few years, as well as on the latest research results and information acquired from international environmental and forestry processes.

The PEFC endorsement means that the PEFC label can be used also in the future on wood and paper products that originate from Finnish certified forests. The PEFC logo usage rights issued to Finnish mills cover most of the mechanical wood industry production, and some pulp and paper mills in the country.

Further information: PEFC Press Release ” ”PEFC assumes leadership in continuous improvement - Finnish certification system revised and endorsed”
Source: www.pefc.org

Finnish Forest Certification Council
Jari Parviainen, tel. +358-10 2113010, jari.parviainen@metla.fi
Auvo Kaivola, tel. +358-9 29041426, auvo.kaivola@ffcs-finland.org

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes, previously Pan European Forest Certification Scheme) is an organisation for the international approval of national forest certification

schemes. PEFC is at the moment the leading forest certification system, with over 57 million hectares of certified forests in Europe, South America and Australia. Certification systems responding to PEFC requirements are being developed on other continents, as well. Forest industries in different countries have a total of almost 2000 PEFC-certified chain-of-custody systems.

The beginning of Finland's national forest certification system (Finnish Forest Certification System FFCS) dates back to 1996. After an intense development process the FFCS certification system was among the first systems to gain PEFC endorsement in May 2000. Today more than 22 million hectares of Finnish forests are certified to FFCS. Further information on FFCS are available at the FFCS website www.ffcs-finland.org.