



PEFC

PEFC/41-01-01

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MER 00:2023
v1

Introduction to the Hungarian Forest Certification

Important note

This document is part of the Hungarian forest certification scheme. A list of all the documents of the scheme can be found in *MER 00 Introduction to the Hungarian Forest Certification Scheme*. The official language of the documents is English, and the latest versions are publicly available at www.pefc.org. The Hungarian versions of the documents are published at www.pefc.hu. In case of doubt about the content, the English language versions published on www.pefc.org shall be decisive.

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Title:	Introduction to the Hungarian Forest Certification
Code:	MER 00:2023
Approved by:	Hungarian Forest Certification Council
Date of approval:	05.01.2024
Issue date:	-
End of transition:	-
Review date:	30.05.2026

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1 Preface

- 1.1 Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd was established in order to develop and operate a forest certification and forest based product certification scheme: the Hungarian Forest Certification.
- 1.2 Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd is legally representing the Hungarian Forest Certification, which is developed and operated according to its written rules and procedures described in Chapter 3 in this document.
- 1.3 Hungarian Forest Certification aligns itself from mission through principles to requirements with PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) certification, and seeks for endorsement.
- 1.4 In Hungary, Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd is acting on the PEFC Council's behalf as PEFC authorised body, based on an administration contract signed with the PEFC Council in accordance with PEFC GD 1004:2009.

2 Mission statement

- 2.1 The primary objective of the Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd is to develop and operate a forest and forest-based product certification that meets the international requirements of PEFC.
- 2.2 It shall make all efforts to maintain a relationship with its direct partners and those indirectly concerned – including the natural environment – that is based on responsibility for its actions, the protection of universal human values and the sustainable use of the environment.
- 2.3 The development and operation of the Hungarian Forest Certification shall be based upon the principles of sustainability, participation, consensus, transparency, continuous improvement and independent accreditation and certification.
- 2.4 In addition to scheme development and operation, the Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd is dedicated to the promotion of forest products, and in particular forest wood products and processed wood products.

3 Scheme description

- 3.1 When endorsed, Hungarian Forest Certification and PEFC apply mutual recognition of certificates.
- 3.2 The HFC scheme is written in English. Translations of the document can be provided by the Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd. In case of any doubts the English version is decisive.
- 3.3 The scheme is divided to separate documents, but shall be applied as one single set of rules and requirements with all amendments.
- 3.4 The scheme is being assessed by the PEFC Council before endorsement and accepted as fully compliant with the PEFC Council's requirements. In case of any doubts or inconsistencies, PEFC Council's requirements overrule the Hungarian Forest Certification scheme.
- 3.5 According to 1.4. technical changes in the PEFC Council's requirements directly and immediately apply to the Hungarian Forest Certification without further action.
- 3.6 References to various documents always refer to their latest version published at www.pefc.hu, www.pefc.org, or iso.org etc. due regards to their transition periods.
- 3.7 Hungarian Forest Certification adopts the following PEFC documents as part of its scheme:
 - a) PEFC ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements
 - b) PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements
 - c) PEFC GD 2001:2022 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products and Related Standards – Guidance for Use

d) PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard

3.8 The table below summarizes the documents of the scheme.

Type	Code	Title	Content
System description	MER 00:2023	Introduction to the Hungarian Forest Certification	This document.
	MER 01:2023	Definitions and Abbreviations	Definitions of terms and abbreviations used throughout the scheme.
	MER 02:2023	Structure of Organization	Organizations that are responsible for the development and the operation of the scheme.
Scheme Procedures	MER 03:2023	Decision-making Procedures	Rules of general decision-making process, and the means of building consensus.
	MER 04:2023	Rules of Standard Setting	Rules of standard setting.
	MER 05:2023	Scheme Administration Procedures	Description of the record keeping procedures within the Hungarian Forest Certification Ltd. in relation to operating the scheme. It includes registration of certificate holders, notification of certification bodies and the issuance of logo usage licences.
	MER 06:2023	Scheme Administration Forms and Templates	Collection of forms and templates to be used throughout the administrative procedures.
Forest Certification Standard	MER 1001:2023	Sustainable Forest Management	Standard against which the forest managers, or their group organization can be certified.
	MER 1002:2023	Group Forest Certification	Requirements for the operation of a forest management certification group including the internal monitoring programme.
	MER 1003:2023	Forest Management Certification Bodies	Requirements for certification bodies with a description of necessary competencies and the audit process.
CoC Certification Standard	PEFC ST 2002:2020	Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements	Fully adopted with all amendments.
	PEFC GD 2001:2022	Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products and Related Standards – Guidance for Use	Fully adopted with all amendments.
	PEFC ST 2003:2020	Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard	Fully adopted with all amendments.
Logo	PEFC ST 2001:2020	PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements	Fully adopted with all amendments.