

PCSN X Guidance DOCUMENT

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PEFC Certification System Netherlands - Guidance document

PEFC Netherlands

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1 Scope

This document provides guidance for the implementation of the requirements of the *PCSN I PEFC Standard Netherlands* and *PCSN II Implementation of Forest Management Certification*

2 Definitions

Definitions are listed in PCSN Scheme Document *PCSN VIII Scheme Description*.

3 Guidance for the use of *PCSN I PEFC Standard Netherlands*

3.1 Products to be sold with the PEFC claim

All forest products that originate from the forest owners PEFC certified forest can be sold by the forest owner as PEFC certified product.

3.2 Criterion 1.1

- **Boswet: (Forest Act):** applies to 1.4: the forest owner can deliver a copy of his final felling notification at the forest authority, in case clear cuts are to be made or have been made in the past for regeneration. Regeneration (natural or by planting) has to be sufficient within a given time frame fulfilling approval of the authorities.
In case of forest conversion a written approval from the national or provincial authority has to be submitted.
If no clear cuts or conversions have been made a forest owner automatically obeys the Boswet.
- **Flora and Fauna wet (Flora and Fauna Act):** applies to 2.4b and 4.7, 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11: the forest owner shall demonstrate that the code of conduct for careful forest management practices is followed either by hiring qualified contractors (ErBo certified which are already obliged to act according to this code) or by delivery of copies of checklists of the Gedragscode Zorgvuldig Bosbeheer (Code of Conduct Careful Forest Management) that have been used for harvesting operations. The latest version can be found on <http://hetInvloket.nl/actueel/document/fileitem/2200126/gedragscode-bosbeheer-boschap>.
- **Natuurbeschermingswet 1998 (nature conservation act 1998)** applies to 4.6: the forest owner shall be able on the basis of a copy of the government decision to assign (part of) his forest the NB status for which forest management practices have to be executed in a way that differs from the requirements in this PEFC standard
- **Natuurschoonwet (1928) (scenic beauty 1928):** applies to 1.4 and 4.6: the forest owner shall be able to demonstrate on the basis of a copy of the government decision to assign (part) of his forest the NSW status for which forest management practices have to be executed in a way that is different from the requirements in this PEFC

standard.

- Wet gewasbeschermingsmiddelen en biociden (Act on pesticides and biocides): applies to 2.1 c, 2.1d and 2.1e: the forest owner shall be able to demonstrate that approved pesticides and biocides have been used according to usage prescriptions in case. The approval of the substance can be checked on the website of the approval authority (CTGB), but also using ErBo qualified contractors suffice as demonstration (crit 6.2) since it is already one of the ErBo requirements.
- Monumentenwet 1988 (Monument act): applies to cultural heritage (crit 6.9).The forest owner shall be able demonstrate which elements in the forest area covered by this PEFC standard are also covered by this act in such a way that forest management practices have to be executed in a way that differs from the requirements in this PEFC standard.
- ArBo wet (H&S act): applies to crit 6.2, 6.3. The forest owner shall be able to demonstrate that in case contractors are hired they fulfill ErBo requirements. (A list of ErBo contractors can be found on: <http://www.boschap.nl/erkenning/regeling/detail/>). Non listed contractors, own personal or volunteers have to comply to the Regulations which are further specified on: <http://www.agroarbo.nl/bos-en-natuur/>. The forest owner shall be able to demonstrate that he has given written instructions accordingly.
On top of this the use of general sales conditions and general contracting conditions as delivered by the Forest Authority safeguards that the forest owner complies with the criteria of this PEFC standard.
In: <http://www.boschap.nl/cmsAdmin/uploads/algemene-aannemingsvoorwaarden-2006.pdf> art 9.1 regulates the forest owner's role in case the contractor should not work according applicable H&S rules.
In <http://www.boschap.nl/cmsAdmin/uploads/algemene-voorwaarden-verkoop-rondhout.pdf> art 8.1 regulates forest owners role in case the buyer of (standing) timber should not work according applicable H&S rules.
Regarding ErBo requirements: the ErBo qualified contractor is inspected on site via this checklist : <http://www.boschap.nl/cmsAdmin/uploads/vragenlijst-bij-beoordeling-erbomatrix.pdf> in order to demonstrate that the ErBo qualification covers among others the whole range of H&S aspects.
- Wet milieubeheer (Environment act): applies to crit 5.2: In case there is a discharge into any water of the certified area a valid discharge license has to be demonstrated. Regarding other environmental risks art 7 of the Forest Authorities general sales conditions and art 8.1 and 8.2 general contracting conditions already regulate forest owners role. Contractors role in this respect is regulated via ErBo.
- Wet Ruimtelijke Ordening (rural planning act): applies to no specific criterion: Rural planning is on three levels: national, provincial and municipal. In fact it generally describes the forest as forest or nature and confirms the situation as it is which then is further regulated by the boswet/Forest Act.
- Wet op de archeologische monumentenzorg (act on archeology) applies to crit: 6.9 and can be found in the forest management plan as regulated in this standard via

guidance 4.1 in subject annexes of the management plan 5b)

- Provinciale verordeningen inzake waterwingebieden en grondwaterbeschermingsgebieden (provincial regulations on area's for the winning of drinking water and groundwater protection zones) applies to: crit 5.6 the forest owner can demonstrate compliance via ErBo, and the General conditions of the Forest authority (sales conditions art. 7 and contracting conditions art. 8.1 and 8.2)

3.3 Criterion 1.4

Forest area should be compensated according to the forest act and the compensation area should be identifiable.

3.4 Criterion 1.5

Standing stock is expressed in cubic meters.

3.5 Criterion 2.3

During forest operations, damage to remaining trees, shrubs and soil shall be prevented. Criteria 2.4, 4.10, 5.5 and 6.2 describe the means that a forest owner will use to prevent damage to remaining trees, shrubs and soil during forest operations.

All contractors are according to criterion 6.2. required to work according the 'Algemene Voorwaarden voor Aanneming van Boswerk' and the 'Algemene Voorwaarden voor de Verkoop van Rondhout' of the Forest Authority (through ErBo certification a contractor is obliged to apply these general terms as well). A forest owner shall apply these general terms in its contracts with contractors.

Biomass below the surface shall not be harvested (criterion 3.3) as this could negatively affect (damage) the soil.

3.6 Criterion 2.4

On soils that are sensitive to compression an adequate system of skid tracks and roads shall be present. A system of skid tracks and roads is adequate when it is effective.

3.7 Criterion 4.1-4.4

These criteria can be demonstrated with the description of the forest entity (that is included in the management plan) in combination with a field inspection.

3.8 Criterion 4.9

In case there are problems with the regeneration of forest due to game animals, the forest owner shall contact those who have the legal right to hunt about reducing the level of game stock or if the forest owner himself has the legal right to hunt he can make efforts himself.

3.9 Criterion 5.2 and 5.3

Restoration of watercourses, wells, brooks and fens and groundwater system should be in line with the management objectives of the management plan.

3.10 Criterion 5.5

Biodegradable fuels, oils and lubricants shall be used, within technical limitations. Within technical limitations refers to the formulation within the ErBO requirements which require that a contractor performs his activities according to the state of the art and with commitment of the best knowledge and skills of the profession.

3.11 Criterion 6.1

All personnel of the forest owner/manager working in the forest is familiar with the contents of the standard and work accordingly. They shall be sufficiently qualified and shall have possibilities for appropriate further education. The forest owner shall ensure that this personnel has the knowledge corresponding to at least a secondary education that includes or is supplemented with courses related to forest management. The specific education relating to forest management can be substituted by working experience in the forestry sector if the forest owner/manager can demonstrate it is equivalent to the required education. Personnel that plans the forest management needs to know the forest management plan for the area of concern and needs to have competence with forest ecology, forestry or forest exploitation. Personnel that executes forestry work needs to have competence in using the equipment he/she handles with forestry work.

3.12 Criterion 6.2 and 6.3

Contractors and sub-contractors can demonstrate with an accountants statement that their turnover does not exceed €30.000,-.

Registration at the Forest Authority can be demonstrated via portal.boschap.nl.

It can be demonstrated that contractors work according to the 'Arbocatalogus Bos en Natuur', the 'Algemene Voorwaarden voor Aanneming van Boswerk' and the 'Algemene Voorwaarden voor de Verkoop van Rondhout' of the Forest Authority by showing that the written agreement between forest owner and contractor contains these terms.

3.13 Criterion 6.4

A labor agreement between the forest owner and his/her own personnel can demonstrate that a relevant collective labor agreement (CAO)is applied. Demonstrating that the contractor is ErBo certified would suffice. For contractors that are not ErBo certified a forest owner can demonstrate that the contract between the forest owner and contractor includes the 'Algemene Voorwaarden voor de Verkoop van Rondhout' (art 6.2 of that document states that the contractor works according to a relevant CAO).

3.14 Criterion 6.9

The management plan describes whether locations and elements of special archeological, historical, cultural or spiritual value shall be restored

3.15 Guideline 2 Expert Opinion

The external expert has relevant education or experience in the field of forest management. A degree from a college of higher vocational education or university for a study program related to forest management, is considered relevant education. Working experience is

considered relevant when it involved setting up forest management plans for forest management units larger than 200ha.

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Clause 4.1.4.4 states that if all members in a category provide the group manager annually with additional information on the forest management via a year evaluation with corresponding second or third party audit forms, the size of the sample could be reduced by a factor 0.6, i.e. sample size will be $0.6\sqrt{x}$, rounded to the upper whole number.

The forest owner might perform year evaluations on forest management and with regard to its forest management, take part in an auditing program for the [Dutch Subsidy System Nature and Landscape \(SNL\)](#).