

**United Kingdom Woodland
Assurance Standard**

UKWAS

**CONCORDAT BETWEEN THE
UKWAS STEERING GROUP AND PEFC UK**

September 2013

CONCORDAT BETWEEN THE UKWAS STEERING GROUP AND PEFC UK

PREAMBLE

The 'UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)' partnership independently owns and manages a certification standard which can be used to verify whether a woodland in the United Kingdom is managed sustainably. The partnership is made up of economic, environmental and social stakeholders who work together in an inclusive and transparent way.

PEFC UK is part of the global network for the assessment and mutual recognition of national forest certification schemes developed by the PEFC Council (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification). PEFC UK's 'Certification Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management' incorporates the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as the certification standard to be used for assessing whether a woodland is managed sustainably.

UNDERTAKINGS

Development and management of the UKWAS standard

Both parties being desirous to develop a forest certification standard for UK woodlands that reflects the requirements of the UK Government's UK Forestry Standard (and through this the guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993 and Lisbon in 1998), the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification's Sustainable Forest Management Requirements hereby agree that:

- On the one hand, the UKWAS Steering Group undertakes to fulfil those elements of the PEFC Council requirement for a national 'Standardising Body' set out in the UKWAS Standard Setting Process document which has been designed, and shall be maintained, to ensure alignment with the requirements of the PEFC Council.
- On the other hand, PEFC UK as the PEFC Council National Governing Body for the United Kingdom undertakes to fulfil those elements of the UKWAS Standard Setting Process assigned to it and all the other functions of a PEFC National Governing Body necessary for the development, review and revision of a UK national certification standard and its endorsement by the PEFC Council unless specifically agreed that these will be undertaken by the UKWAS Steering Group.

CONCORDAT BETWEEN THE UKWAS STEERING GROUP AND PEFC UK

Standing committees and task groups

From time to time the UKWAS Steering Group will establish standing committees and task groups to undertake specific work.

The UKWAS Steering Group undertakes to invite PEFC UK to participate in the work of these groups and PEFC UK undertakes to support their work by advising on alignment and other relevant issues.

Use of the UKWAS standard

PEFC UK undertakes:

- To use the UKWAS standard only in accordance with the procedures set out in the standard by the UKWAS Steering Group.

RELATIONSHIP

PEFC UK undertakes:

- To maintain full membership of the UKWAS company.

The UKWAS Steering Group undertakes:

- To accord PEFC UK participation in the UKWAS Steering Group in the 'Forestry Standard Setting and Labelling Bodies' category in accordance with the UKWAS Steering Group Rules.

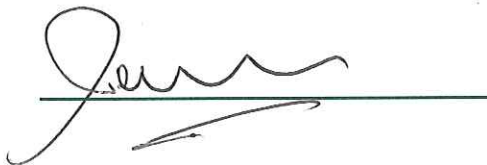
And notes that:

- In accordance with the requirements of the PEFC Council, PEFC UK will remain independent from the standard-setting process and will not exercise its voting rights but will contribute to the standard setting process as required.

Furthermore, each party will use its best endeavours to maintain the necessary competence and capacity to fulfil its obligations under this Concordat.



for PEFC UK



for UKWAS Steering Group

KEY DOCUMENTS

- UKWAS - Memorandum of Association (Amended 25 November 2002)
- UKWAS - Articles of Association (Adopted 25 November 2002)
- UKWAS - Standard Setting Process (Version 2.0) (Adopted (12.03.13)
- UKWAS – Steering Group Rules
- Forestry Commission: The UK Forestry Standard (3rd edition 2011)
- FSC International Standard - Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship (FSC-STD-01-001) (V5-0) (February 2012)
- PEFC International Standard – Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements (PEFC ST 1003:2010)
- PEFC International Standard – Standard Setting – Requirements (PEFC ST 1001:2010)

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