

United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

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UKWAS Revision 2013-16: Consultation on Pre-approval Draft

1. Pre-approval draft

The Pre-approval Draft of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is the culmination of more than two years' work by the UKWAS Steering Group.

There have already been two public consultation opportunities to make input. Based on all the feedback received an amended draft of the certification standard, known as a Pre-approval Draft, has been developed.

Before we finalise this draft, we need to know what you think so this is the third and final opportunity to have your say.

The full version of the Pre-approval Draft includes guidance and example verifiers plus the introduction, using the standard, glossary and appendix (references) sections:

- UKWAS certification standard Pre-approval Draft (Full version)
<http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-4-Pre-approval-Consultation-Draft-15.02.16.doc>
- UKWAS Appendix – References
<http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-4-Appendix-References-15.02.16-DRAFT.pdf>

It is also available in a short easier-to-digest requirements-only version which lets you see just the basic requirements:

- UKWAS certification standard Pre-approval Draft (Requirements-only)
<http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-4-Pre-approval-Consultation-Draft-requirements-only-15.02.16.pdf>

2. How we developed the pre-approval draft

Our review of the certification standard began in 2013 with an evidence-gathering phase which included a 30-day Initial Stakeholder Consultation in February 2014. The findings were published as an Issues Paper in September 2014.

Working from the Issues Paper, the UKWAS Steering Group developed proposed changes to the certification standard. These were set out in a Consultation Draft issued in September 2015 for 60 days' consultation.

The Steering Group has carefully considered all the feedback and prepared an amended draft of the certification standard known as a Pre-approval Draft.

We have sets out how the responses have been considered in this document:

- UKWAS Consultation Report (including Steering Group Responses) <http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-Consultation-Report-15.02.16.pdf>

If you wish to see all the responses received, they are available in these documents:

- UKWAS Consultation Report Annex 1: Consolidated Feedback <http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-Consultation-Report-Annex-1-Consolidated-Feedback-15.02.16.pdf>
- UKWAS Consultation Report Annex 2: Unedited General Comments <http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-Consultation-Report-Annex-2-Unedited-general-comments-15.02.16.pdf>

These documents are all available on www.ukwas.org.uk/standard/documents

3. How to provide your comments

So that the Steering Group can conclude its work, we are asking stakeholders and other interested parties to take this final opportunity to provide feedback on the changes made. Stakeholders are reminded that this is the third opportunity to make input and we are seeking comments primarily on the changes made since the previous Consultation Draft was issued in September.

- Please provide your feedback using the text boxes in the in MS Word format Pre-approval Consultation Draft <http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UKWAS-4-Pre-approval-Consultation-Draft-15.02.16.doc>
- Please send your feedback to ukwas@confor.org.uk

This is a 30-day consultation and your feedback is required by 16th March 2016.

Once the Steering Group has analysed your feedback it will consider whether further changes should be made to the standard before a final version of the 4th edition of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is agreed.

The finalised certification standard will then be made available to FSC UK and PEFC UK for submission to their international parent bodies for approval. It is hoped that the necessary approvals will be received so that the 4th edition of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard can be published on schedule in before the end of 2016.

Any further will be provided on www.ukwas.org.uk/standard/revision

UKWAS Steering Group
15th February 2016