

Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (PEOLG)

International Certification Schemes' Requirements

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) & Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC)

Pan-European Level

The PEOLG, adopted jointly by European Ministers in 1998, form a common framework of recommendations to promote sustainable forest management at the field level in European forests.

Government Requirements in the UK

UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) & supporting guidelines

International Certification Schemes

FSC and PEFC have developed their own approaches to developing a voluntary national certification standard. PEFC uses the PEOLG as the basis for standard development and FSC uses its own global Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship.

UK Level

The UK Forestry Standard is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK adopted by the UK's governments. It reflects the PEOLG and relevant international agreements.

Certification Standard-setting Process

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The certification standard is developed through an inclusive and transparent process which involves a steering group with balanced representation of stakeholders from the UK forestry and environmental community.

United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

Certification Standard

Certification Standard

The UKWAS is an independent certification standard reflecting the requirements of the PEOLG, UKFS and international certification schemes. It sets out the requirements which woodland owners and managers and certification bodies can use voluntarily to verify sustainable woodland management in the UK.

Conformance Test by International Certification Schemes

For the UKWAS to be used to certify woodlands through the FSC and PEFC schemes it requires their approval/endorsement at international level.

Woodland Certification

Conformance to UKWAS is verified by an accredited certification body

Certified Woodland

Timber can be sold as FSC and/or PEFC certified

Accredited Certification Bodies

Certification bodies are accredited in accordance with the requirements of FSC and/or PEFC.

Key to Responsibilities

- Governmental
- UKWAS Steering Group
- Certification Schemes