



forest certification matrix

Finding your way through Forest Certification Schemes

www.forestrycertification.info



How to use www.forestrycertification.info

On entering www.forestrycertification.info you will be presented with a menu giving access to information on the following areas:

- A definition of certification;
- A definition of the key requirements used for comparison in the Matrix. (This includes substantial information on ISO Guides applicable to forest certification, as well as international governmental and non-governmental forestry principles, associated criteria and indicators.);
- An explanation of the variable components used for comparison;
- Reference to existing comparison initiatives;
- Facts and figures on forest certification and its development; and
- The latest news about certification.

Background
Definition
Key requirements
Variable components
ISO Guidelines
Forestry principles
Referenced initiatives
Certified area worldwide
Certification news
Public access
On-line Matrix
Single scheme pdf
Restricted access
On-line Matrix
Single scheme pdf
Enter data

The "On-line Matrix" is the core element of the website. Providing the Matrix electronically allows the most complete and up to date information on 39 different certification schemes to be made available on a regular and ongoing basis.

The Matrix allows an on-screen comparison between up to three schemes at a time. This comparison can be of either key requirements or of variable components. Users can select which type of comparison they want and then select the schemes they would like to compare. The result of a query can be printed or downloaded as a separate file. The complete information available on a particular certification scheme can also be downloaded and printed separately.



The website also includes a glossary, that can be accessed directly (glossary hyperlink) or indirectly (hyperlink to glossary entries all along the website).

The on-line nature of the Matrix also means that users (if fully registered visitors) can interact with the Matrix provider and the independent consultant via the on-line commenting mechanism.

The methodology behind the Matrix

To ensure the objective and consistent treatment of all schemes covered by the Matrix, the data collection, analysis and development of the Matrix were carried out by an independent consultant not affiliated to any certification scheme.

The data collection was based on questionnaires completed by the certification schemes and independently cross-checked against the collation of data and information made publicly available by the schemes.

To facilitate comparison between the different schemes, the analysis distinguishes between key requirements based on factual criteria (e.g. compliance with law, compliance with ISO guides) and variable components relating to the more qualitative elements of the analysed schemes (e.g. the focus on environmental factors as compared to social factors). The former assures and defines the schemes' credibility and the latter is valuable in addressing specific customer needs.

The table presented allows the comparison of key requirement data for 39 certification schemes.

The forestrycertification.info website will deliver regularly updated information on certification and the schemes in operation. The maintenance and update of the website will be based on the most recent information drawn from a wide range of sources. It will draw on: information provided directly by the schemes themselves; information made publicly available by the schemes; and other verifiable sources of information and verifiable comments made online by visitors to www.forestrycertification.info.

Regular visits to www.forestrycertification.info will keep visitors informed about the most recent developments taking place in a constantly evolving field of activity.

CEPI Matrix

Summary of key requirements data for forest certification schemes reviewed at www.forestrycertification.info on 12 October 2004

Scheme title

Scheme fully operational	Scope		Standards
	Regions	Forests	International forestry principles

International forest certification frameworks

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Yes	Global	All forests	FSC
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Council (PEFCC)	Yes	Global	All forests	INTGOV

National forest certification schemes

American Tree Farm System (ATFS)	No	USA	All forests	MTR
Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFS)	Yes	Australia	All forests	MTR
CERTFOR Chile	Yes	Chile	Plantations	PE,MTR,FSC
Canadian Standards Association (CAS)	Yes	Canada	All forests	MTR
Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS)	Yes	Finland	All forests	PE
INMETRO/CERFLOR Brazil	No	Brazil	Plantations	ITTO,AMZ
Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia (LEI)	Yes	Indonesia	Natural	ITTO,FSC
Living Forest Norway/PEFC	Yes	Norway	All forests	PE
Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)	Yes	Malaysia	Natural	ITTO,FSC
PEFC Austria	Yes	Austria	All forests	PE
PEFC Czech Republic	Yes	Czech Rep.	All forests	PE,MTR
PEFC Spain	Yes	Spain	All forests	PE
PEFC France	Yes	France	All forests	PE
PEFC Germany	Yes	Germany	All forests	PE
PEFC Latvia	Yes	Latvia	All forests	PE
PEFC Portugal	Yes	Portugal	All forests	PE
PEFC United Kingdom	Yes	UK	All forests	PE
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program (SFI)	Yes	USA, Canada	All forests	MTR
RSFC Russia	No	Russia	All forests	-
Swedish PEFC Scheme	Yes	Sweden	All forests	PE
Woodnet/PEFC Belgium	Yes	Belgium	All forests	PE

Standards-setting bodies

Cameroon National Working Group	No	Cameroon	Natural	FSC
Forest Certification New Zealand Inc	No	New Zealand	Plantations	FSC
Forest Stewardship Council US	Yes	USA	Specific regions	FSC
FSC Bolivia	Yes	Bolivia	Natural lowland	FSC
FSC Brazil	Yes	Brazil	Amazon T.F.	FSC
FSC Canada British Columbia	Yes	BC	All forests	FSC
FSC Canada Maritimes	Yes	Can. Maritimes	All forests	FSC
FSC Canada Ontario	No	Ontario	All forests	FSC
FSC Estonia	No	Estonia	All forests	FSC
FSC Germany	Yes	Germany	All forests	FSC
FSC Poland	No	Poland	Excl. plantations	FSC
FSC Russia	No	Russia	All forests	FSC
FSC Sweden	Yes	Sweden	All forests	FSC
FSC UK	Yes	UK	All forests	FSC
Latvia Forest Certification Council	No	Latvia	All forests	FSC
UK Woodland Assurance Standard	Yes	UK	All forests	FSC, PE

The development of forest certification

Forest certification: "a method by which an independent, third party performs an evaluation to determine whether forest management satisfies pre-established ecological, economic, and social standards and verifies it through a written document." [Eric Hansen, Heikki Juslin, The status of forest certification in the ECE Region, 1998]

Since the Rio Summit and then the Helsinki Process, there has been an increasing need to provide assurance for market players that wood comes from sustainably managed sources. Certification has developed to meet this need. From the creation of the first international forest certification scheme in 1994, forest certification has spread rapidly, mainly across Europe and North America.

Aware of the increased number of schemes and the need for reliable information on these developments, CEPI launched a Comparative Matrix of Forest Certification Schemes in 2000. This 2000 Matrix and its subsequent updates attracted widespread interest and use. Today, CEPI recognises that forest owners, governments, customers and consumers increasingly need to

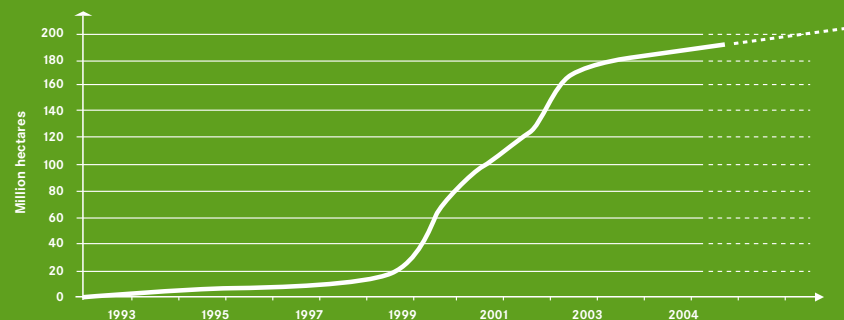
make sound decisions on issues relating to certification.

To respond to this need CEPI has undertaken to provide a transparent framework to enable forest, paper and wood product users and other interested parties to compare information on certification schemes, and the labels issued under them, against credible criteria and to draw their own informed conclusions.

The result is the forestrycertification.info website, a web-based Matrix covering 39 schemes, operating or under development in different parts of the world, and providing a dynamic comparative informational tool.

The website is found at **www.forestrycertification.info**

Increase in certified forest area



Conclusions from the analysis and comparison

The development of this web-based Comparative Matrix of Forest Certification Schemes has allowed a series of conclusions to be drawn.

Forest certifications schemes operate in different ways, illustrating the diversity of forest ecology, heritage, regulatory frameworks and ownership structures. However, the majority of certification schemes display important common characteristics that relate to the basic credibility criteria, as defined in the development of the comparative Matrix.

The leading schemes can be seen to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to conform with internationally recognised ISO guides for accreditation and independent third-party certification;

- Seek to involve as wide a variety of stakeholders as possible in a transparent standard-setting process;
- Require compliance with all applicable national and international laws;
- Recognise the importance of conformance with international governmental or non-governmental forestry principles;
- Build on the need to address environmental, economic and social objectives in a balanced way; and
- Include requirements in terms of forest management planning, consultation during forest operations, maintenance

of forest cover, biodiversity conservation, protection of soil and watercourses, and protection of forests' social and cultural values.

These common characteristics are fundamental to the credibility of the certification schemes.

Looking at the rate of increase in forest certification, it is very unlikely that any other industrial sector comes close to demonstrating the same level of commitment to sustainability.

List of certification schemes covered by the Matrix

International forest certification frameworks

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Council (PEFCC)

National forest certification schemes

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Australian Forest Certification Scheme
CERTFOR Chile
Canadian Standards Association
Finnish Forest Certification System
INMETRO/CERFLOR Brazil
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Malaysian Timber Certification Council
RSFC Russia
PEFC Austria
PEFC Czech Republic
PEFC Spain
PEFC France
PEFC Germany
PEFC Latvia
PEFC Portugal
PEFC United Kingdom
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program
Swedish PEFC Scheme
Woodnet/PEFC Belgium

Standards-setting bodies

Cameroon National Working Group
Forest Certification New Zealand Inc
Forest Stewardship Council US
FSC Bolivia
FSC Brazil
FSC Canada British Columbia
FSC Canada Maritimes
FSC Canada Ontario
FSC Estonia
FSC Germany
FSC Poland
FSC Russia
FSC Sweden
FSC UK
Latvia Forest Certification Council
UK Woodland Assurance Standard

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CEPI is the voice and public face of the pulp and paper industry in Europe, representing its interests towards the European Institutions.

It monitors and analyses EU legislation and initiatives in the areas of industry, forestry, environment, energy, recycling and fiscal policies. Through CEPI, the paper industry defines common positions and acts on emerging issues, making expert and constructive contributions to the official consultation process with industry.

Through its 19 member countries* CEPI represents almost 900 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1250 paper mills. Together they represent 28% of world production.

* (17 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland)

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