



# NEWSLETTER

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## PEFC™

## Austria

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PEFC Austria – Pan-European Forest Certification Austria – is a cooperative initiative of family-owned forestry enterprises, wood processors, environmental groups and trade unions for the certification of timber from sustainably and carefully managed forests. The PEFC certification system had its origin at the Environmental Conference in Rio de Janeiro, and is based upon the resolutions passed at the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki 1993; Lisbon 1998), which were adopted by 37 nations in the course of the Pan-European Process. Independent and well-established certification organizations ensure that forests are managed in an ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable manner in accordance with high PEFC standards. To date around 42.7 million hectares of forests have been certified according to PEFC, 3.9 million of which are located in Austria. PEFC is therefore the largest forest certification system worldwide operating transparently and credibly upon the basis of democratic principles.

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### Certification in Austria

#### PEFC Chain of Custody Certification Being Implemented Fast

Following the successfully completed PEFC certification of our domestic forests, PEFC Austria has also assumed a leading role in certifying the chain of custody (CoC) which traces the origin of certified timber from the forest all the way to the final product. Forty of the approximately 120 European enterprises with a CoC certificate entitled to use the PEFC logo are from Austria. HolzCert Austria is the independent certification body. Applicants from all sectors of the processing industry are being evaluated, i.e. sawmills, pulp and paper factories, board manufacturers and retailers. The realization of CoC is almost entirely completed for large sawmills. The group certification of medium-scale sawmills is in full progress, and the first certificates have already been issued. This sector of the industry includes operations with an annual consumption of 10,000 to 250,000 m<sup>3</sup> of timber.

In the coming months, certification should be completed for a further 80 enterprises. The commencement of certification for small-scale sawmills (consumption below 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>) and the timber trade took place in the scope of informative events held on March 6<sup>th</sup> in Knittelfeld and March 7<sup>th</sup> in Kuchl, Salzburg.

#### CoC: Whoever Can Get Certified Should

It is becoming increasingly important for a growing number of companies to be able to prove to their customers that the timber they use has originated in a responsibly managed forest. It has already become evident that the demand for certified timber, especially by the paper and board manufacturing industries, is continually on the increase. Selling timber without certification will predictably become more difficult in the future. By means of CoC certification, timber can be transparently and accountably traced from the certified forest, through all processing steps in certified enter-

prises, right up to the final consumer. All the operations - able to supply evidence that the timber they process has originated in PEFC-certified forests can apply for CoC certification. In Austria, certification is being conducted by the independent certification body HolzCert Austria.

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## Evidence for Use of Certified Timber

In order to obtain a PEFC CoC certificate, enterprises have to provide evidence that they process wood from PEFC-certified forests, and this has to be properly documented. In Austria, all forested regions have been PEFC certified. It is now possible for the wood processing industry to cover the demand for certified timber. The forest owner's declaration of obligation together with the corresponding certification clause on the contract provide evidence that the timber can be traced back to a certified forest. If the timber supplier is also processing or retailing timber, he requires a valid CoC certificate as proof. It is essential that purchased, processed and sold certified wood (timber, chopped wood or cellulose, etc.) is clearly documented according to volume. The documents supplying this evidence are kept on file for five years, and they also form the basis for the annual inspection conducted by the certification body.

## The CoC System Provides for Individual and Group Certification

The individual certification of companies in the pulp and paper industry, as well as large sawmills, has already been completed for the most part. Small and medium-scale enterprises may also be given a CoC certificate in the scope of cost-efficient group certification, in addition to individual certification. Groups are supervised by coordinators who take over preparatory administrative and coordination tasks for the certification body. Among others, this includes dissemination of information, as well as distribution, collection and reviewing of forms, in order to keep down the costs. In the scope of certification, all the companies belonging to the group have to supply the required documents for review. In addition, individual companies are subjected to random on-site inspection. If the evidence provided has been deemed to constitute sufficient proof, the companies are issued a CoC certificate. Companies have grouped themselves together in the branch of medium-scale sawmills. And just lately, groups have formed of small-scale sawmills (below 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> annual consumption) and retailers. With the efficient model of group certification, the limit of 100 Chain of Custody certificates should be surpassed by midyear.

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## License for the PEFC Logo

The CoC certificate enables companies to provide evidence that they are processing certified timber. This is the condi-

tion for them to use the logo. It guarantees that only wood products from careful forest management can use the PEFC logo. The PEFC logo is issued with an individual company number by PEFC Austria. The administrative work is done by Proholz Austria.

*Further Information: PEFC Logoservice, Mr. Gründler,  
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## PEFC as a Marketing Instrument

The origin of timber and wood products with a PEFC certificate can be traced back without gaps. The customer has evidence that the timber originated in a sustainably managed forest monitored by an independent certification body. Certification constitutes a central issue in purchasing for an increasing number of international buyers and consumers. Worries voiced by the timber trade and wood processing industry, that this would result in increased business administration, have not manifested themselves in the experience of certified companies.

### Why Obtain CoC Certification?

- Promotion of sustainable forest management
- Demand for certified timber on the increase
- Enables sufficient supply of certified timber
- Secures jobs in domestic forestry
- Secures timber sales and markets
- Opens up new marketing opportunities
- Increases sales opportunities
- Marketing instrument for communicating the responsible use of resources
- Promotion of timber and wood (promotion of domestic timber)

## PEFC Austria Approved by „Nordic Swan“

The PEFC Austria timber certification scheme was also officially approved in Sweden by the corresponding SIS (Swedish Standards Institution) at the end of February. This now makes it possible, for example, to label Austrian paper products manufactured from PEFC-certified timber with the Nordic Swan Eco-label. This label indicates the most environmentally friendly products on the Scandinavian market. Thomas Stemberger, Chairman of PEFC Austria: „We are pleased with the recognition of the high quality of our certification scheme, and that the competitiveness of Austria's forestry will increase.“ The requirements set by SIS are high with regard to forest certification schemes, and they are evaluated in an independent assessment procedure. This involves evaluation of ecological, economic and social standards, and the scheme must also have been developed in a process of open participation. In addition to the Austrian PEFC scheme, those in Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Finland and Germany have already been recognized by the Nordic Swan.

## PEFC International

### Interactive PEFC Forest Certification Database

The holders of PEFC certificates and logo licenses are now registered with the PEFC Council and are listed under [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org). In addition to general statistical information, this database also gives answers to frequently asked questions (faqs). Listed according to country, information is available on the area of certified forests, the number of chain-of-custody certificates issued, and the number of PEFC logo licenses. This database enables the origin of timber and wood products with a PEFC logo to be easily traced by anyone.

*Further Information: [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)*

### Belgian Forest Certification Approved by PEFC

The Belgian forest certification scheme was officially recognized by PEFC on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2002 as a national scheme. This followed a ten-month evaluation process with public hearings and assessment by independent consultants. With a total of 42.7 million hectares of certified forests, PEFC is the most important certification scheme worldwide. Bertrand Auquier, speaker of PEFC Belgium: „Through independent certification, foresters will now be able to provide assurances to the Belgian public and people further afield, that the forest environment will be maintained and enhanced for current and future generations to enjoy and benefit from.“ Ben Gunneberg, General Secretary of PEFC adds: „Timber products from independently certified forests managed to the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme will in future be identifiable through the PEFC label, which is only available via a chain of traceability, and consumers and specifiers buying products with this label will be supporting and promoting sustainable forest management.“

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### UK Forest Certification System Internationally Approved

Following an 8-month preparatory period, the UK Certification Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management was officially approved by the PEFC Council. Len Yull, Chairman of PEFC UK: „The scheme which uses the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) as its base document, provides foresters and woodland owners with the opportunity of using independent certifiers, accredited by the UK Accreditation Service, to certify the sustainable management of UK forests.“ Yull sees a special advantage in the international PEFC network. In the framework of the ten currently approved national certification schemes, forested areas totaling 42.7 million hectares have been certified. This corresponds to the total area of the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, all together.

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## Norway's Biggest Sawmills Are CoC Certified

In December 2001, the sawmills of Moelven Timber received the PEFC CoC certificate. Moelven Timber is a company belonging to Moelven Industrier ASA and responsible for purchasing over 50 percent of Norwegian roundwood. The certification ensures that over 70 percent of the processed wood originates in PEFC-certified forests. As the reason for certification, Marketing Director Arthur Selvig names the tough competition in export markets: „Consumers are beginning to increasingly demand certification. With PEFC certification, we can achieve a market advantage. We consider it a benefit to be able to use the PEFC certificate as a marketing tool, instead of being bribed by customers for not having certification.“ With immediate effect, the PEFC logo will become a central element in the marketing strategy of Moelven Timber.

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## Use of Logo and CoC Certification in Finland

More than 30 Finish companies have already been given a license to use the PEFC logo. The licenses cover the majority of purchased timber (over 45 million m<sup>3</sup>) and sawn timber (9 million m<sup>3</sup>), around 2 million m<sup>3</sup> of boards manufactured from wood, 2 million tons of cellulose, as well as 2 million tons of cardboard. Large integrated companies have various CoC certificates for their different operations, from timber procurement over sawn timber production to cellulose manufacturing. In the case of small and medium-scale enterprises, one certificate covers all the production areas from procurement to sales.

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## Italy on Its Way to Success

A great deal of zest is going into the creation of a certification scheme by PEFC Italy. The 4<sup>th</sup> National Forum recently took place in Bolzano where the criteria for sustainable forest management were further developed. In a general meeting, pilot studies were agreed upon for the forest sector. These projects include group and regional certification, in addition to individual certification. The demand for chain-of-custody certification is growing in the processing sector. Large volumes of PEFC-certified wood products are being imported from Austria, Germany and Finland, in particular. PEFC Italy is therefore developing a group certification scheme modelled on Austrian group certification. On the 20<sup>th</sup> March, PEFC Italy was invited to a meeting in the scope of the Saiedue Trade Fair in Bologna. General Secretary Antonio Brunori presented the PEFC scheme at this meeting. Participants attended from the forestry sector and the wood processing industry, as well as final consumers.

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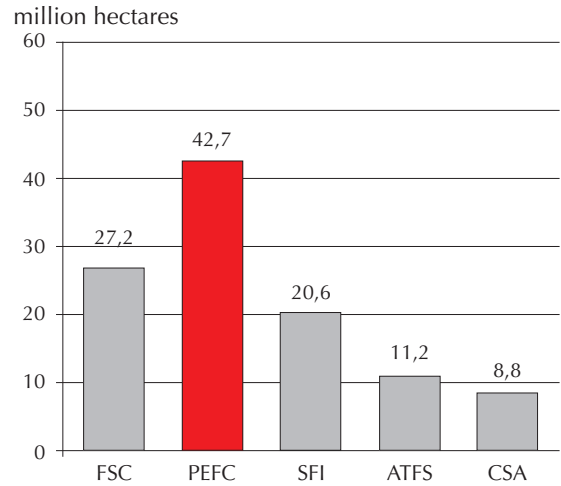
## Data and Facts

### PEFC International – A Dynamic Process of Development

- 18 countries are presently regular members of PEFC: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Canada, Latvia, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, the Czech Republic and the United States
- 8 organizations are associate members
- 11 certification schemes have been approved: Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Latvia, Norway, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic have been approved by PEFC
- around 42.7 million hectares of forests across Europe have already been certified according to the strict PEFC stipulations
- two more countries – Spain and Portugal – have already submitted their documents to PEFC for assessment and approval
- 120 Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certificates have been issued

## Certified Forest Areas in the World

### PEFC is the most widespread certification system



#### PEFC Pan European Forest Certification

FSC Forest Stewardship Council  
SFI Sustainable Forestry Initiative  
ATFS American Tree Farm System  
CSA Canadian Standards Association

Note: PEFC International is undergoing a process of mutual recognition with the Canadian and American certification systems (CSA, SFI and ATFS).

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