



PEFC 05-22-53



## **Forest and Environment**

### **A summary of the Swedish PEFC standard for contractors**

**PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an International system for national forest certification. PEFC guarantees that forest products comes from substantially and profitable manage forests combine with environmental and social consideration.**

The Swedish PEFC standard was originally adjusted for the Swedish private forestry. Nature conservation has traditionally been natural on most private manages forests in Sweden, many private forest properties have been owned by the same families for generations. Certifying forestry management, contractors and processing industries is an assurance that forest products comes from substantially mange forest. By documentation of nature conservation and chain of custody gives credibility towards buyers of forest products.

On following pages gives a brief presentation of the Swedish standard for contractors. The entire is available at [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se).

#### **Procedures for certifications of contractures**

ECSkog is an umbrella organization certifying contractors working for certified forest owner and forestry organizations. It is voluntary for contractor to be certified, but for certified forest owner and forestry organizations, are required to hire certified contractors.

#### **ECSkog:s routine for certification of contractors.**

At the first meeting, a pre-certification is completed. The standard is reviewed as well as a list of all steps that need to be taken to complete the certification. The contractor carries out all the listed items before the following meeting. When the pre-certification has been reviewed and the certification has been approved, a contract can be signed. The contractor agrees to follow the standard and approve to undergo inspections.

#### **A certificated contractor responds to the following demands:**

1. Competent personal, corresponding to "Green licence" (Grönt Körkort)
2. Follow current laws according to contractures working in the forestry sector
3. Forestry machines shall use diesel fuel standard MK1 (Miljöklass 1) or better.
4. Forestry machines shall use hydraulic oil according to Swedish standard SS 15 54 34 (environmental adapted)
5. Vegetable chain saw oil, or other environment-approved chain saw oil, shall be used in harvesting machines. For manual chain saws is the requirement more the 400 hour production time annually
6. Waste is returned to supplier or approved refuse dump
7. During service and repair, apply routines to prevent oil leakage into nature. If use of insecticides appropriate routines shall be applied, documentation shall be available in the employee's native language
8. Emergency plans shall be documented and available in the employee's native language. Equipment for oil decontamination shall be available
9. Insurance companies regulations for fire preparedness fulfilled
10. When purchasing equipment or other material; environmental labelled products shall be bought if possible.
11. When working in the forest all related part of the PEFC standard shall be complied.
12. When hiring a subcontractor a certified subcontractor shall be chosen first. If this is not possible it is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the PEFC standard is fulfilled and a control programme shall be used.
13. Accepts and undergoes controls by ECSkog, or accredited certifying company. Annually report the compliance to the PEFC standard through ECSkog's internal audit.

## Swedish PEFC Standard

### **The following text is a short summary of the standard regarding contractors.**

The aim of the Swedish PEFC Standard is to promote sustainable forestry in which a suitable balance is struck between production, conservation and social interests.

### **Forestry standard**

Defines the fundamental guidelines for profitable and sustainable site-specific forest production.

### **Social standard**

Defines the fundamental guidelines for employment conditions, working environment, work organization, qualifications and skills, relations with the Sami people (Lapps), reindeer herding, the common-law Right to roam, and rural development.

### **Environmental standard**

Defines the requirements for nature and heritage conservation in forestry.



### **Forestry standard**

The objective is to pursue a high level of profitable and sustainable forest production in which biodiversity, heritage conservation, and social and aesthetic values are safeguarded. The contractor will be connected with by regulations regarding use of chemical, water and soil protection.

- **Chemicals** shall be minimized and only be used when other methods suitable methods not are economical defendable. The demand to protect water shall particular be respected. The methods shall be carried out so damage on the environment and people can be avoided. Security information shall be available at the workplace at any time as for suitable skill and education together with proper protection.
- **Protect water** and organisms living in water shall be improved by special

measures and plans to prevent oil and

fuel leakage

- **Methods to protect the ground.** Plans shall be made to prevent damage from logging and transporting timber. Use suitable methods and techniques to avoid damage special crossing streams. All significant damage shall be repaired.



### **Social standard**

The holder of a Swedish PEFC Forestry certificate or Proof of certification is responsible for ensuring that the criteria are met in her/his forestry activities.

- The PEFC certified contractor must observe and follow the relevant laws, collective agreements and accepted practice in the labour market. Employment agreements shall be documented.
- Contractors shall paid their statutory contributions and taxes. If so required by employees, a collective agreement shall be instituted.
- Swedish PEFC-certified enterprises shall promote organizational development at work.
- Swedish PEFC-certified enterprises shall recruit personnel possessing a sound basic competence and who are therefore suitable for further training in forestry work. For temporary employees with gaps regarding competence, special measures shall be taken by implement special training, leadership and supervision. Suitable basic education is 3 year forestry school or similar. For temporary employees the requirements are Green license (Grönt Kort) or similar.
- The systematic development of the skills of permanent employees shall constitute an important element in the personnel policy of Swedish PEFC-certified enterprises.

## Environmental standard:

The woodland owner has the ultimate responsibility for observance of the Environmental standard. This standard is part of a wide-ranging strategy for conservation, which includes all forest land, nature reserves, key habitats, conservation agreements, etc. How those considerations are taken in the daily work will be taught at the course Green licence (Grönt körkort). The knowledge is confirmed with practical planning-exercises. A certified forest owner or forest organization who hires a contractor shall provide with significant information how the PEFC standard shall be fulfilled. Instructions and overall planning and measures for the specific logging area regarding forest and environment are presented for the contractor. These instructions shall include what areas that are set aside because of nature and historical or heritage conservation and what production goals at the specific measure.

- **Edges and buffer zones** are important to biodiversity, soil protection, the protection of lakes and watercourses and as a transition to agriculture land.
- **Small biotopes** of special conservation value, if necessary, buffer zones adjacent to biotopes of special conservation value
- **Heritage care** should be taken in forestry activities to ensure that ancient monuments situated in heritage sites are not damaged, and that damage to other known-valuable historical remains is minimized.

**Environmental trees** and potential Environmental trees should be retained in all forestry operations and should be left to grow, die, break up and rot. The aim is to create or retain at least 10 environmental trees per hectare. Special stands should be chosen that includes:

- Deviant, special old and thick trees
- Thick trees with significant thick branches and flat crown.
- Thick spruces, free grown in former grazing land/enclosed pasture-land.
- Thick aspen and alder where those trees don't occur frequent.
- Tree shaped mountain ash, maple, lime/linden, bird cherry
- Precious species of trees
- Thick species of juniper.
- Bird trees with holes and with bird nests
- Trees with clearly evidence of cultures heritages

## Dead Wood

Apart from small-size logging residue, all deadwoods should be left untouched unless there is a documented risk of a mass propagation of insect pests.

In regeneration cutting or large-diameter thinning (with the exception of oak and beech stands), a suitable number of high stumps or ring-barked trees should be created per unit area logged.

A number of down trees per hectare that are representative of those on the site should be retained actively or passively during the regeneration phase.

When planning accessible and security shall be taking into consideration



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