

ALL YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO KNOW  
CONCERNING FOREST CERTIFICATION

# WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

IT IS A PROCEDURE THROUGH WHICH A RECOGNIZED AND INDEPENDENT AGENCY  
GUARANTEES THAT YOUR PRODUCTS FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF A STANDARD.

## WE CAN CERTIFY

### ...THE LEGALITY OF FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

An independent audit office, on the basis of their own benchmarks, control compliance with the forestry code, the environmental code, the labor code... The audit office can also control compliance with the requirements of European legislation, American legislation, etc. (Due Diligence)



Control Union [www.control-union.fr](http://www.control-union.fr)  
Legal Source [www.nepcon.org](http://www.nepcon.org)  
OLB <https://group.bureauveritas.com>

### ...THE RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

Standards are elaborated by independent agencies (FSC™, PAFC/PEFC™), applied by the company and audited by the Certification Body (audit offices), independent third parties who receive specific accreditation.



Accreditation  
body of the  
audit office



Body in charge  
of preparing  
standards (FSC™,  
PAFC™...)

FSC [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)  
PAFC [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

### ...THE TRACEABILITY OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Certification of legality and responsible forest management are confirmed through the certification of traceability (Chain of Control: CoC), aiming to guarantee the follow-up of certified products from their origin to the final client.



Prepared by **TEREA**



# WHY GO TOWARDS CERTIFICATION?



- Secure access to very demanding markets in terms of environmental responsibility



- Facilitate access to external financing



- Better respond to the RBUE requirements, to the Lacey Act



- Guarantee a good image of the company on the national and international scene



- Optimize the management of forestry activities and improve efficiency and yield



- Control the social and environmental aspects of the company

- Improve social dialogue within the company and with the local populations

- Improve company management, set up an organization and rationalization of activities in order to optimize expenses

- Secure the company on a long-term basis

- Respond to a clientele demand, group policies and legal requirements

Certification must become a truly business culture. The commitment towards certification brings on a change of mentality at all hierarchical levels. The impetus must come from the highest levels of responsibility who must be convinced of the necessity of the procedure in order to convince his team to commit themselves to certification.



# WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF CERTIFICATION?



- Have an approved forest management plan that is being implemented



- Apply the laws of the country (Environmental Code, Forestry Code, Labor Code...)



- Manage forestry resources by optimizing practices (reduced-impact logging, planning of activities...)



- Favoring partnership relations and confidence with the local populations, set up a dialogue and contribute to local development



- Guarantee for employees secure working conditions (protection equipment, application of high standards for operating machinery ...)



- Guarantee for employees and their dependents decent living conditions (quality housing, access to drinking water, access to education and healthcare ...)

- Control environmental impacts (avoid polluting, manage waste products ...), protect sensitive ecological zones ...

- Fight against poaching, protect the wild fauna

- Set up management rules allowing the company to follow-through, evaluate and control its activities, its impacts, and be part of continuous improvement in socio-environmental performance



# HOW MUCH DOES CERTIFICATION COST?

The cost of certification depends on the practices of your company at the time that you decide to commit yourselves. You must consider the following costs:

- Upgrading of infrastructure (good quality housing, access to drinking water, upgrading of workshops ...)
- Standardization of the safety equipment
- Competent internal team in charge of certification
- External support (training, expertise, advice ...)
- Audits (from 2 to 4 auditors for a 3 to 5-day period each year)
- Certification fees (varies according to the standards applied)



# HOW DOES CERTIFICATION WORK?

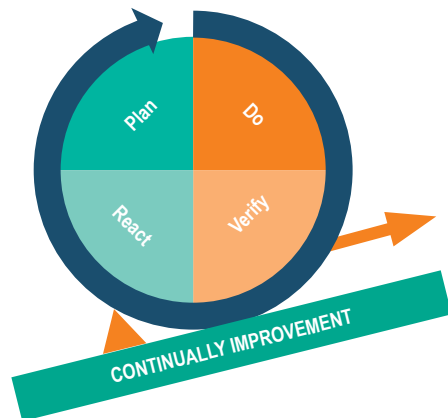
## TO BE CERTIFIED YOU MUST...

### ... PREPARE YOURSELF:

Write up an action plan based on a diagnosis (or assessment) of the company:

- Responsibilities (Who?)
- Actions to be carried out with priorities to be determined (What?)
- Implementation timeline (When?)
- Means to be implemented (How?)
- Secured budget (How much?)

The action plan must be progressive, define priorities as well as eventual intermediary stages (for example, begin by certifying the legality before certifying the forestry management).



The action plan must be followed, evaluated and revised. The discrepancies must be corrected until the level required for certification is reached. Procedures must then be continued in order to maintain the certificate.

### ... HAVE A STRONG TEAM, GET HELP...

All employees of the company are concerned and must get involved in order to obtain and maintain the certification. You must designate a team that is responsible for the certification. The size of the team will depend upon the size of the company. Their level of competency must allow for the follow-up of the activities in the various domains covered by the certification (forest management, the environment, work safety, social management, cartography ...). A team in charge of social aspects is usually required. The company can call upon external competency (experts, consultancy firm, NGO...) in order to help prepare itself, offer training, carry out specific technical expertise (HVC studies, CLIP, writing up of procedures ...).

### ... GET AUDITED

