



PEFC - Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

PEFC Council

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5th June 2009
Geneva, Switzerland

PEFC Council invites to the public consultation on the revised PEFC international Chain of Custody standard

All parties interested in the revision of the International PEFC Chain of Custody Standard (members, stakeholders, individuals, and organizations) are hereby invited to submit comments and suggestions on the draft version of the revised PEFC international Chain of Custody (CoC) standard.

Jaroslav Tymrak, Head of PEFC Council's Technical Unit, explains, "This draft version is the result of one year of an ongoing revision process which aims to accommodate the experience gained to date as well as to respond to current and future market circumstances and customer expectations and needs." The public consultation is further supported by Chain of Custody workshops, two of which have already been held in Paris, France, and Hannover, Germany, and a further two are scheduled in July in both China and Japan.

Chain of Custody certification is an essential part of the PEFC scheme which ensures that credible and verifiable claims on the product origin in sustainably managed forests can be delivered to final consumers through the whole supply chain. The acquisition of a Chain of Custody also gives a commercial advantage by using the PEFC logo and reinforcing a business' environmental activities.

Recent data by PEFC International shows a growing interest by companies in chain of custody certification and their customers in procuring wood-based products responsibly. The latest figures, released in May 2009, notes a 30% increase in PEFC Chain of Custody certificates issued since May 2008.

PEFC Council considers "comments and feedback from its members, stakeholders and scheme users as an invaluable source of information, which is essential for the continuous improvement of its services" Mr. Tymrak continued. PEFC Council therefore encourages all interested parties to submit their comments on the draft Chain of Custody standard to the PEFC Council by **Friday, 7th August 2009**.

For details on the revision progress please visit the consultation section of the PEFC Council website
(http://www.pefc.org/internet/html/public_consultations/4_1137_1476.htm).

To submit your comments we kindly request that you use the comment form which is available on PEFC Council's website and send it by email to c.kaemmer@pefc.org.

press release

Editors Notes

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes)

PEFC is a framework for the assessment and endorsement of national forest certification systems that have been developed based on internationally recognised requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999, PEFC has become the largest forest certification umbrella organisation covering national systems from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tonnes of wood to the processing industry and then onto the market place from currently more than 200 million hectares of certified forests. This is an area which is larger than the combined forest area of all European Union member states. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.