

# How certification operates an introduction

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## Certification is market driven



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## Certification: assurance and traceability



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## The need for certification

### Irish timber production potential

- 3.95 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2016 → 7.9 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2035
- Almost all of this increase from the private sector

### 80% of Irish timber is exported

- International customers demand certification
- Irish mills can absorb 20-30% uncertified material

### Certification required

- If Irish private timber is to be exported
- Move from pulp to box / sawlog
- (Irish) energy markets?

***Certification is less about higher timber prices, additional paperwork and more about being able to sell your timber widely***



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## Who's who <sup>1</sup>

International certification standards, schemes

- FSC and PEFC – they do not certify
- Representation In Ireland:
  - PEFC Ireland and FSC International



National, multi-stakeholder Standard Development Groups

- Irish (incl. DAFM forestry) regulations
- FSC International Generic Indicators (IGIs)
- PEFC International Sustainability Benchmarks



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## Who's who <sup>2</sup>

Certification body (CB)

- Private company of accredited 'external auditors'
  - Audits the group manager & audits a sample of owners
- CB owns the certificate
- Contract is between forest owner/group and CB
- Control Union, Soil Association, SGS (FSC) & NSAI (PEFC)

Forest owners → group

- Forest owner
  - Formally joins group and agrees to group rules
  - Complies with forest management requirements
- Group manager
  - Responsible for procedures / keeps records / administration
  - Monitors owners' management ensuring compliance
  - Contact point for / assists CB



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## Two types of certification

Certification of:

- Forest Management (and not the forest) – FM
- Forest Products – CoC

Means of verification

- Tracking of material from forest to end product

Forest Management (FM) certification

- Coillte holds a FSC FM cert and a PEFC FM cert

Chain of Custody (CoC) certification

- All major Irish board/sawmills have FSC CoC certs
- No major Irish board/sawmills have PEFC CoC certs (yet)



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## Steps towards FM certification:

1. Owner/consultant/manager carries out certification 'audit'
  1. Identify corrective actions
2. FSC or PEFC? Contact certification bodies
  1. Provide 'basic' information to CB (CB will provide guidance)
  2. Obtain quotations
3. Carefully review *different* quotes, sign contract
4. CB carries out detailed audit
  1. Field visits, documents review, interviews
5. Decision of certification body
  1. Incomplete compliance: implement changes, apply for new audit
  2. Full compliance: certificate, logo issued

FSC / PEFC Certificates

- valid for five years, annual (sample) audits: minor / major CARs



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## FM certification requirements

### Main requirements

- Awareness of FSC / PEFC Standard requirements
- Implementation & monitoring of management plan / operations
- Health & Safety, first aid, manual handling, safety statements
- Adequate training (and accreditation)
  - Training and accreditation of machine and chainsaw operators
  - Environmental training and awareness
  - Emergency and pollution awareness

### Consultation with stakeholders and organisations

- Including complaints procedures

### Biodiversity protection

- Protect biodiversity areas and features
- High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs)
- Rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) habitats and species

### Proof required!



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## Costs – overview

(Group) certification is expensive, dependent on

- Acreage, number of forest owners, current management practices, external assistance required, certification body, etc.

Certification costs are made up of

- Group manager
  - Administrator, internal auditor
- Certification Body
  - External auditor
- FSC / PEFC membership costs
- Forest owner's additional costs
  - E.g.: management plans, surveys, safety statements, etc.



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## Costs – examples

### PEFC group certificate, south Belgium

- Regional government acts as group manager
- Cost to private grower:
  - €5 for first five ha, €0.50 per additional ha
  - Maximum cost of €250 and valid for three years

### FSC group certificate – CB cost

- 21,000+ ha, 100+ members (0.2 – 2,500 ha)
- Certification Body charges:
  - Main audit: €48,000, sample audits: €28,000 pa, extra: €1/ha
  - Total for a 5-year period: €160,000 or €1.50/ha/yr

### Figures quoted in Ireland???

- €30-40/ha?
- €1-2/t?



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## Summary

Timber production increase will come from the private sector

Most (international) markets demand FM & CoC certification

Certification allows access to more markets

- Provides competitive advantage
- Will not result in higher timber prices

Certification will gradually become a necessity

- As we move from pulp to sawlog

Certification is all about traceability

- Prove / document what you claim

Certification is expensive

- Only large group certificates will work
- Various group certification models should be considered

Go for the scheme that suits your needs/markets best

- Different countries, different preferences
- No Irish mills yet with PEFC CoC

EUTR and other regulations?



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