

# A Comparison of Four Certification System Assessment Frameworks

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## Annex 1: Comparative analysis matrix of assessment frameworks

### 1.1.1 Standard

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
Standard development process			
1. Publicly available procedures setting out the standard development process	IFIR	2.1	There are clear procedures to ensure all interested stakeholders are invited to participate in developing and reviewing SFM standards.
		2.2	There are clear rules and procedures to ensure all interested stakeholders are able to influence decisions during the development and review of SFM standards, and to ensure that no single interest dominates the decision making process.
		6.1	The SFM standard and certification procedures are clearly and concisely described and based on objective definitions.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	QACC	3.8	Existence of transparent procedures accessible to stakeholders for accrediting, writing standards and certifying as well as for the use of the label.
2. Mechanisms for regular revision of the standard	CEPI	10.1	(National forest certification schemes and standards-setting bodies only)the existence of procedures to ensure the periodic review and revision of certification standards.
	IFIR	4.1	The SFM standard is regularly assessed and revised to incorporate new knowledge and changed public values and provisions to improve attainment of SFM objectives.
		4.4	The SFM Standard includes a philosophy of continual improvement.
3. The draft standard publicly available for comment	QACC	2.7	Provision of draft standards to interested parties, nationally and internationally, and taking of comments into account.
4. Support for the standard from a range of stakeholders	IFIR	2.6	A diverse group of stakeholders, such as representatives of forest owners, industry, regulators and social and environmental interests, support the SFM standard and certification process
	QACC	3.5	The international standard is widely recognized and provides equitable principles and criteria [see 1.1]
5. Procedures for dispute resolution	IFIR	7.8	There are open procedures for dispute resolution.
	QACC	3.9	Existence of clear and workable appeal mechanisms.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
Who is involved			
6. Standard developed through a process which:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is open to all interested parties</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.2	the presence of procedures to ensure all relevant interests are given opportunities to participate and influence decisions. These procedures will usually include formal committee structures, and procedures to ensure all interest groups are given the opportunity to attend and influence general meetings
	IFIR	1.1	A national (or regional/sub national) standards setting body is/was established
		2.1	There are clear procedures to ensure all interested stakeholders are invited to participate in developing and reviewing SFM standards
	FERN	2	Does the scheme require balanced participation in standard-setting process?
	QACC	3.1.1	Are there mechanisms for participation of all stakeholder groups in the organization of the certification scheme/system...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>actively encourages balanced participation</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.3	all relevant interests have been invited to participate in the decision-making process, and concerted efforts have been made to encourage broad stakeholder participation. Relevant interests include the major associations representing all relevant forest ownership, forest users, industrial sectors, environmental and social groups

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requires balanced participation</li> </ul>	IFIR	2.5	Standards development bodies can demonstrate a documented system designed to ensure balanced participation of stakeholders in standards setting.
	FERN	2	Does the scheme require balanced participation in standard-setting process?
	QACC	3.2.2	Do decision making mechanisms ensure that a decision cannot be taken in the absence of agreement of a stakeholder group?
7. Involvement in the standard-setting process from:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government</li> </ul>	CEPI	6.2	the relevant regulatory authorities were consulted in the standards-setting process
	IFIR	1.5	Government officials, as regulators, participate or are consulted, during the development of the SFM standard
	QACC	3.1.3.1	Have each of the following stakeholder groups participated in the development of the system (accreditation and/or standard setting) a) as a consultative body?  The Government?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest owners</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.3	all relevant interests have been invited to participate in the decision-making process, and concerted efforts have been made to encourage broad stakeholder participation. Relevant interests include the major associations representing all relevant forest ownership, forest users, industrial sectors, environmental and social groups

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	IFIR	2.3	Representatives of relevant forest owner sectors (private industrial, private non-industrial, community/indigenous people, and state) have been actively involved in the standard setting process
		5.2	SFM standards are designed to be applied to each forest type and all ownership and management structures.
	QACC	3.1.3.5	Players at the different stages of the processing/distribution chain of forest products, including forest owners and managers?
• ENGOs	CEPI	7.3	all relevant interests have been invited to participate in the decision-making process, and concerted efforts have been made to encourage broad stakeholder participation. Relevant interests include the major associations representing all relevant forest ownership, forest users, industrial sectors, environmental and social groups
	IFIR	2.6	A diverse group of stakeholders, such as representatives of forest owners, industry, regulators and social and environmental interests, support the SFM standard and certification process.
	QACC	3.1.3.3	Environmental NGOs?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social NGOs and interest groups</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.3	all relevant interests have been invited to participate in the decision-making process, and concerted efforts have been made to encourage broad stakeholder participation. Relevant interests include the major associations representing all relevant forest ownership, forest users, industrial sectors, environmental and social groups
	IFIR	2.6	A diverse group of stakeholders, such as representatives of forest owners, industry, regulators and social and environmental interests, support the SFM standard and certification process.
	QACC	3.1.3.4	Social NGOs, including community and indigenous people representatives, if relevant?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processors, retailers and traders</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.3	all relevant interests have been invited to participate in the decision-making process, and concerted efforts have been made to encourage broad stakeholder participation. Relevant interests include the major associations representing all relevant forest ownership, forest users, industrial sectors, environmental and social groups
	IFIR	2.6	A diverse group of stakeholders, such as representatives of forest owners, industry, regulators and social and environmental interests, support the SFM standard and certification process.
	QACC	3.1.3.5	Players at the different stages of the processing/distribution chain of forest products, including forest owners and managers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific community</li> </ul>	IFIR	3.1	The scientific community participates in the development of the SFM standard.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
Decision-making			
8. The standard developed through a process where:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no single interest dominates</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.1	The presence of clear rules to ensure that no single interest dominates the decision-making process
		7.2	the presence of procedures to ensure all relevant interests are given opportunities to participate and influence decisions. These procedures will usually include formal committee structures, and procedures to ensure all interest groups are given the opportunity to attend and influence general meetings
	IFIR	2.2	There are clear rules and procedures to ensure all interested stakeholders are able to influence decisions during the development and review of SFM standards, and to ensure that no single interest dominates the decision making process.
	FERN	3	Is the standard setting dominated by forestry sector?
	QACC	2.4.2	Do these provisions provide mechanisms that do not give veto right to any individual participant/organization thus avoiding the risk that the process be unduly blocked?
		3.2.3	Have all stakeholder groups the same decision weight in setting the thresholds (minimum requirements) in the standard?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all stakeholders can influence decisions</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.2	the presence of procedures to ensure all relevant interests are given opportunities to participate and influence decisions. These procedures will usually include formal committee structures, and procedures to ensure all interest groups are given the opportunity to attend and influence general meetings
	IFIR	2.2	There are clear rules and procedures to ensure all interested stakeholders are able to influence decisions during the development and review of SFM standards, and to ensure that no single interest dominates the decision making process.
	FERN	3	Is the standard setting dominated by forestry sector?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the aim is to work by consensus</li> </ul>	CEPI	7.4	the presence of a clear and well understood definition of what constitutes "consensus".
	IFIR	2.7	Consensus is the objective (but not a requirement) during the development and review of the SFM standard and certification procedures.
	QACC	2.4.1	Are there provisions related to consensus?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no decision is possible in absence of agreement from one stakeholder group</li> </ul>	QACC	3.2.2	Do decision making mechanisms ensure that a decision cannot be taken in the absence of agreement of a stakeholder group?



Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
		3.2.3	Have all stakeholder groups the same decision weight in setting the thresholds (minimum requirements) in the standard?
Transparency			
9. A standard which is publicly available	CEPI	8.3	(National forest certification schemes and standards-setting bodies only)the ready availability of published forest certification standards.
	IFIR	1.2	The Standards Setting Body has approved and published a standard for sustainable forest management.
		8.1	The SFM Standard is clear, concise and readily available to all interested parties at a reasonable cost.
	FERN	8	Is the scheme transparent (ie. are standards and summary reports freely available on websites)?
10. Membership, governance and financial support of all groups involved in standard-setting process transparent and publicly available.	IFIR	8.7	The membership, financial support, organisation and governance of all organisations participating in the standards setting process shall be transparent and available to the public.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
		8.6	Participants who set standards and develop accreditation and certification procedures are recorded.
Content			
11. Standard includes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>performance requirements</li> </ul>	CEPI	4	Certification should include assessment against performance standards which are compatible with internationally recognised principles and criteria of sustainable forest management
	IFIR	1.4	The SFM Standard includes performance guidelines, objectives and/or measures which accord with internationally agreed sets of SFM criteria and indicators (see Appendix 1).
	FERN	1	Is the scheme based on a set of clear minimum performance-based thresholds?
	QACC	4.2.1 4.1	Are there explicit performance requirements in the standard, including CoC if relevant? Existence of system and performance elements in the standards at national and/or sub-national levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>locally applicable indicators</li> </ul>	CEPI	4	Certification should include assessment against performance standards which are compatible with internationally recognised principles and criteria of sustainable forest management.
	IFIR	1.9	Quantitative / descriptive indicators have been established to monitor performance towards SFM objectives at the level the standard is applied

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>performance thresholds</li> </ul>	FERN	1	Is the scheme based on a set of clear minimum performance-based thresholds?
	QACC	4.2	Provision of objective and measurable criteria and performance standards
12. Standard includes management system requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for large organisations</li> </ul>	IFIR	1.7	For large industrial operations: The SFM standard includes a recommendation for certification applicants to comply with an EMS that is consistent with internationally recognised Environmental Management System standards such as ISO 14001 and EMAS (Eco-Management Audit Scheme). This recommendation is to be considered in the context of the management / infrastructural capacity of the country and the management abilities of the forest products company
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for all certified operations</li> </ul>	CEPI	5	Certification should include assessment against internationally recognised management system standards.
13. National standards based on an internationally recognised set of principles/criteria for RFM	CEPI	4	Certification should include assessment against performance standards which are compatible with internationally recognised principles and criteria of sustainable forest management.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	IFIR	1.3	The Standards Setting Body is committed to the development of standards in accordance with one or more internationally agreed sets of SFM criteria and indicators (including those identified in Appendix 1)
		1.4	The SFM Standard includes performance guidelines, objectives and/or measures which accord with internationally agreed sets of SFM criteria and indicators (see Appendix 1)
	QACC	2.5.2	Are international standards used (in a hierarchical manner) in the development of regional, national or sub-national standards?
14. A process for harmonising national standards within an international system	IFIR	1.3	The Standards Setting Body is committed to the development of standards in accordance with one or more internationally agreed sets of SFM criteria and indicators.
	QACC	2.3.2	Are there mechanisms and processes in place to facilitate the harmonization/equivalence of national standards and processes within the scheme/system?
		2.3.3	Are there mechanisms and processes in place to harmonize its standards with standards and processes other systems/schemes?
		2.5.1	If there are multiple bodies or groups setting forest management standards in the same area, do they cooperate?
		2.6	Participate in the work of relevant international standardizing bodies

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
15. Requirements scientifically supported	IFIR	3.2	All views shall be supported by knowledge or the weight of current scientific opinion.
	QACC	4.4.2	Does the standard represent the best available technical knowledge and scientific understanding?
16. The standard requires:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with all legal requirements</li> </ul>	CEPI	6.1	the standards-setting body is committed to developing certification standards which comply with national forestry policies and regulations
	IFIR	1.6	The SFM standard includes a requirement that forestry operations comply with all relevant forestry legislation.
	QACC	1.1.1	Does the scheme/system require that forest management respect all applicable laws in the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is signatory?
		2.1.1	Is compliance with national and international laws required from certification applicants, i.e. in the standards and the field assessment of certification?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A management plan</li> </ul>	IFIR	1.8	The SFM standard includes requirements for certification applicants to establish management plans consistent with the scale of the forestry enterprise.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	QACC	1.1.8	Does the scheme/system clearly require management systems to maintain a comprehensive and up to date management plan appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation concerned?
		1.1.9	Does the scheme/system clearly require these management plans to have clearly articulated goals and descriptions of the means for achieving these goals?
• Monitoring	IFIR	6.5	The SFM standard includes a requirement for audits of the management system and on-the-ground performance.
	QACC	1.1.10	Does the scheme/system clearly require the use of monitoring systems appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody (where relevant), management activities and their social and environmental impacts?
• Continuous improvement	IFIR	4.4	The SFM Standard includes a philosophy of continual improvement.
• Protection of soil and water	QACC	1.1.5	Does the scheme/system clearly require management systems that encourage the efficient use of the multiple products and services of the forest to enhance economic viability and foster a wide range of environmental and social services?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
		1.1.6	Does the scheme/system clearly require that management systems assess and manage environmental impacts in order to conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes and by so doing maintain the ecological functions and integrity of the forest?
• Conservation of biodiversity	QACC	1.1.6	Does the scheme/system clearly require that management systems assess and manage environmental impacts in order to conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes and by so doing maintain the ecological functions and integrity of the forest?
		3.3.2.1	Management of biodiversity in production forest?
• Protection of critical conservation areas	QACC	1.1.7	Does the scheme/system clearly require forest operations to be located in areas that do not threaten or have a significant impact on critical forest conservation areas?
		3.3.2.2	Management of high conservation value forests
• Responsible control and use of chemicals	QACC	3.3.2.6	The use of chemicals
• Prohibition of GMOs	FERN	11	Does the scheme prohibit use of Genetically Modified Organism trees?
	QACC	3.3.2.3	The use of GMOs

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibition on conversion of forest to other uses</li> </ul>	FERN	10	Does the scheme prohibit the conversion of forests to plantations of other land uses?
	QACC	3.3.2.7	Conversion of natural forest and other natural habitats (e.g. wetlands, grass lands, peat bogs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear land tenure/use rights</li> </ul>	QACC	1.1.2	Does the scheme/system clearly require the definition, documentation and legal establishment of long term tenure and use rights to land and forest resources?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect for the legal and customary rights of indigenous people</li> </ul>	QACC	1.1.3	Does the scheme/system clearly require the recognition of and respect for the legal and customary rights of indigenous people to own, use and manage their lands, territories and resources?
		3.4	Recognition of indigenous people, local communities and worker's rights [see 1.1]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for the well being of local communities</li> </ul>	QACC	1.1.4	Does the scheme/system clearly require the maintenance and enhancement of the long term social and economic well-being of forest workers and communities?
		3.4	Recognition of indigenous people, local communities and worker's rights [see 1.1]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the precautionary principle</li> </ul>	QACC	3.3.4	Is there a reference to the Precautionary Principle (PP) in the standard and/or procedures?
		3.3.5	Are there mechanisms for PP implementation in practice?



## 1.1.2 Certification

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
Certification bodies' organisation and staff			
1. Certification bodies operate in compliance with ISO Guide 62, 65, 66 or equivalent	CEPI	<p>1.6</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>10.2</p>	<p>(International and national forest certification schemes only)certification/registration bodies are required to conform with Section 4.1.1 of ISO/IEC Guide 66 (General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of environmental management systems)or with Section 2.1.1 of ISO/IEC Guide 62 (General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems). Sections 4.1.1 and 2.1.1 of the respective standards establish the requirement that certification/registration bodies should be administered in a non-discriminatory manner.</p> <p>conformance of certification/registration bodies with ISO/IEC Guide 62 (sections 2.1.4 Quality system, and 3 Requirements for certification/registration) or ISO/IEC Guide 66 (sections 4.1.4 Quality system and 5 Requirements for registration).Conformance should ensure consistent application of certification/registration procedures.</p> <p>(International and national forest certification schemes only) the existence of procedures for the regular monitoring and re-assessment of certifiers.</p>

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	IFIR	6.3	Certification bodies operate according to recognised quality management systems (for example as described in ISO 9001 or ISO Guide 62).
		7.2	Certification bodies operate according to ISO Guide 62 (or equivalent) procedures.
	QACC	4.5.4	Does the accreditation body's requirements for accreditation meet ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 65?
2. Certification bodies accredited	CEPI	3	Certification bodies should be accredited at national level, through internationally accepted methods of assessment and selection.
	IFIR	7.11	Certification bodies are accredited and can demonstrate a documented structure designed to avoid conflict of interest and ensure competency in their fields of activity.
		4.2	The certification system includes procedures for the periodic reassessment of certification bodies.
	QACC	4.5.1	Does the system require systematically an independent accreditation for certification bodies?
3. Certification bodies independent, impartial and free of conflict of interest	CEPI	2	Certification bodies should be independent and impartial with no commercial interests in the object to be certified, and be adequately staffed with qualified and experienced personnel.
	IFIR	7.7	Accreditation and certification bodies can demonstrate that they have formal rules and procedures for operation of relevant committees to ensure these are free from any commercial or financial pressures that might influence decisions.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
		7.10	Certification bodies can demonstrate that they do not offer or provide consulting services to obtain or maintain certification.
		7.11	Certification bodies are accredited and can demonstrate a documented structure designed to avoid conflict of interest and ensure competency in their fields of activity.
	QACC	4.8.1	Are the certification, standardization, accreditation and/or other services of the different bodies composing the certification system clearly differentiated and independent, in a way that ensures potential conflicts of interest are avoided?
		4.8.2	Do certification bodies provide consultation services to organizations seeking their certification?
		4.8.4	Are certification bodies allowed to enter into contractual agreements with accreditation bodies (other than accreditation agreements), that might create conflicts of interest? (above the accreditation requirements)?
4. Certification procedures clearly defined	IFIR	7.6	Accreditation and certification bodies have a documented structure designed to safeguard impartiality
		6.1	The SFM standard and certification procedures are clearly and concisely described and based on objective definitions.
5. Certification auditors			

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequately qualified and experienced</li> </ul>	CEPI	2.1	independent certification bodies operating under the scheme are required to comply with Sections 4.1.2 (Structure) and 4.2 (Personnel) of ISO/IEC Guide 66 or with Sections 2.1.2 (Organisation) and 2.2 (Personnel) of ISO/IEC Guide 62. These sections of the respective Guides establish detailed requirements for the organisational structure and staffing of independent certification/registration bodies designed to ensure their impartiality and professionalism.
		10.3	(International and national forest certification schemes only) the existence of on-going training programmes for accreditation body and certification body personnel.
	IFIR	6.4	Auditors comply with internationally accepted auditing standards and qualification criteria.
		7.3	Third party auditors comply with internationally accepted auditing standards and qualification criteria [references required].
	QACC	4.6.1	Does the system specify minimum credentials and skills for auditors?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knowledgeable in forest management</li> </ul>	IFIR	5.4	The certification body must have competence in forest management to enable assessment of different forest types and ownership structures.
		5.5	Auditors have competence in forest management and the standard to enable competent audits of different forest types and ownership structures.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
		7.1	Accreditation bodies are affiliated with, or conform with, all requirements of the International Accreditation Forum or European Co-operation on Accreditation (EA) and operate according to ISO Guide 61 (or equivalent) procedures.
		7.4	Third party auditing teams have a full understanding of the SFM standard and forestry practices and shall include members with experience in the country and forest types where auditing services are performed.
Certification process			
6. Certification carried out at the level of			
• an individual FMU	IFIR	5.1	Promote cost-effective delivery of certification of different forest types, sizes and ownerships, forest owners have an option for group / regional certification.
	FERN	4	Does the certification scheme certify at Forest Management Unit or regional level?
	QACC	4.5.6	Does the accreditation body's requirement require that certification happen in principle at the Forest Management Unit level?
• a group	IFIR	5.1	Promote cost-effective delivery of certification of different forest types, sizes and ownerships, forest owners have an option for group / regional certification.
	FERN	4	Does the certification scheme certify at Forest Management Unit or regional level?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	QACC	4.5.6	Does the accreditation body's requirement require that certification happen in principle at the Forest Management Unit level?
• a region	IFIR	5.1	Promote cost-effective delivery of certification of different forest types, sizes and ownerships, forest owners have an option for group / regional certification.
7. Participation is voluntary.	QACC	4.10	Voluntary in participation Cross reference Test 3 (Stakeholder Credibility)
8. Information on compliance collected through:			
• assessment of the management system and documentation	IFIR	6.5	The SFM standard includes a requirement for audits of the management system and on-the-ground performance.
• field visits	IFIR	6.5	The SFM standard includes a requirement for audits of the management system and on-the-ground performance
	FERN	5	Are field visits required?
	QACC	4.5.7	Do the accreditation requirements require that a meaningful proportion of the audits occur in the field?
		4.8.5	Can the certification body choose the sampling sites and intensity (above the accreditation requirements)?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sufficient field visits to confirm compliance with the standard</li> </ul>	QACC	3.3.3	Are there procedures to assess <i>field implementation</i> against special provisions in the standard?
		3.4.3	Is the implementation of these standards assessed?
		4.5.5	Do the accreditation body's requirements for accreditation go beyond ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 65 (e.g. peer review, consultation, sampling)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultation with interested parties</li> </ul>	FERN	6	Is consultation of stakeholders in certification process required?
	QACC	3.1.1.3	Are there mechanisms for participation of all stakeholder groups in the organization of the certification scheme/system, at the level of:  Assessment?
		4.5.5	Do the accreditation body's requirements for accreditation go beyond ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 65 (e.g. peer review, consultation, sampling)?
9. Assessment reports peer reviewed.	QACC	4.5.5	Do the accreditation body's requirements for accreditation go beyond ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 65 (e.g. peer review, consultation, sampling)?
10. Periodic surveillance of certified operations	FERN	7	Is annual monitoring of certified areas required?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	QACC	4.7	Existence of a system to carry out periodic independent surveillance after initial certification or accreditation.
Dispute resolution and transparency			
11. Procedures for dispute resolution	CEPI	2.2	the certification scheme has developed a complaints procedure, a measure which should guard against incompetence, or arbitrary and dictatorial decision-making.
	IFIR	7.8	There are open procedures for dispute resolution.
	QACC	3.9	Existence of clear and workable appeal mechanisms
12. Information on certification body processes and procedures, fees, handling complaints and financial support available.	CEPI	8.1	(International and national forest certification schemes only)the presence of clear rules governing the provision of public information relating to certification bodies and other institutions. This may be indicated by the accreditation body 's conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 61 and certification bodies 'conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 62 or ISO/IEC Guide 66.Section 2.1.7 of ISO/IEC Guides 61 and 62 and Section 4.1.7 of ISO/IEC Guide 66 set out rules for the maintenance and provision of public information by accreditation and certification/registration bodies.



Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
		8.2	(International and national forest certification schemes only)the presence of procedures to ensure ready public access to information on the certification process. This may also be indicated by accreditation and registration/certification bodies' compliance with ISO/IEC Guides 61 and 62 (Section 2.1.7)or ISO/IEC Guide 66 (Section 4.1.7). The presence of procedures may also be demonstrated by well-publicised contact points, the ready availability of public information on the certification scheme through publications and/or a comprehensive internet site.
	IFIR	8.5	<p>Certification bodies are required to and able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a full certification report following the audit, which is available to the applicant</li> <li>• make available to the public on request information about the certification process and procedures; the fees charged to certification applicants; their sources of financial support; and information on procedures for handling complaints</li> <li>• make available to the public information pertaining to their accreditation as certifiers</li> </ul>
	QACC	3.8	Existence of transparent procedures accessible to stakeholders for accrediting, writing standards and certifying as well as for the use of the label.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
13. Information on certified organisations publicly available comprising:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the organisation name, location, date of certification and certifier</li> </ul>	IFIR	8.3	A full list of certifications clearly identifying name, location, the date of certification and responsible certification body, is readily available to the public.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a report summarising the findings of the assessment.</li> </ul>	FERN	8	Is the scheme transparent (ie. are standards and summary reports freely available on websites)?
	QACC	3.7	Existence of clear reporting mechanisms to stakeholders.
14. Support for the certification process from a range of stakeholders	IFIR	2.6	A diverse group of stakeholders, such as representatives of forest owners, industry, regulators and social and environmental interests, support the SFM standard and certification process.

### 1.1.3 Accreditation

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
Accreditation bodies' organisation and staff			
1. Accreditation bodies operate in conformance with ISO Guide 61 or equivalent to ensure certification is consistent and repeatable	CEPI	1.5	(International and national forest certification schemes only) accreditation bodies conform with Section 2.1.1 of ISO/IEC Guide 61 (General requirements for assessment and accreditation of certification/registration bodies). Section 2.1.1 establishes the requirement that accreditation bodies should be administered in a non-discriminatory manner.
		3.2	full conformance of the accreditation body with ISO/IEC Guide 61, which sets out internationally recognised principles or the assessment and accreditation of certification bodies.
		9.1	conformance of accreditation bodies with ISO/IEC Guide 61 sections 2.1.4, 2.1.5 and 3. These sections respectively set out detailed procedures for accreditation bodies' Quality system, Conditions for granting and suspending accreditation, and Requirements for assessment. Conformance should ensure consistent application of accreditation procedures.
	IFIR	6.2	Accreditation bodies operate according to recognised quality management systems (for example as described in ISO 9001 or ISO Guide 61).

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	QACC	4.5.2	Does the accreditation system meet ISO/IEC guide 61?
2. Accreditation personnel adequately trained and experienced	CEPI	10.3	(International and national forest certification schemes only) the existence of on-going training programmes for accreditation body and certification body personnel.
	IFIR	6.4	Auditors comply with internationally accepted auditing standards and qualification criteria.
	QACC	4.6.1	Does the system specify minimum credentials and skills for auditors?
3. Accreditation bodies free of any conflict of interest	IFIR	7.7	Accreditation and certification bodies can demonstrate that they have formal rules and procedures for operation of relevant committees to ensure these are free from any commercial or financial pressures that might influence decisions.
		7.9	Accreditation bodies can demonstrate that their employees and directors are prohibited from carrying out any forest certification activities or from providing consulting services to obtain or maintain accreditation.
	QACC	4.8.3	Do the accreditation bodies provide certification services?
4. Accreditation developed and implemented at the national level	CEPI	3.1	the presence of accreditation procedures developed at national level.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
Dispute resolution and transparency			
5. An open and functioning procedure for dispute resolution	IFIR	7.8	There are open procedures for dispute resolution.
	QACC	3.9	Existence of clear and workable appeal mechanisms
6. Procedures for accreditation and dispute resolution and information on financial support publicly available.	CEPI	8.1	(International and national forest certification schemes only)the presence of clear rules governing the provision of public information relating to certification bodies and other institutions. This may be indicated by the accreditation body 's conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 61 and certification bodies 'conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 62 or ISO/IEC Guide 66.Section 2.1.7 of ISO/IEC Guides 61 and 62 and Section 4.1.7 of ISO/IEC Guide 66 set out rules for the maintenance and provision of public information by accreditation and certification/registration bodies.

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	IFIR	8.4	Accreditation bodies are required and able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a full report following assessment which is available to the certification body</li> <li>• Make available to the public on request information about the accreditation process and procedures; their sources of financial support; and information on procedures for handling complaints.</li> </ul>
	QACC	3.8	Existence of transparent procedures accessible to stakeholders for accrediting, writing standards and certifying as well as for the use of the label
7. Information on accredited certification bodies publicly available including:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a list of accredited CBs and organisations they have certified.</li> </ul>	IFIR	8.2	A full list of certification bodies is readily available to the public
		8.3	A full list of certifications clearly identifying name, location, the date of certification and responsible certification body, is readily available to the public

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a report summarising the findings of the accreditation audit.</li> </ul>	QACC	3.7	Existence of clear reporting mechanisms to stakeholders including (3.7.1 – 3.7.6) publicly available reports summarizing the results of the audit
8. Accreditation bodies should be affiliated to an appropriate body such as			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAF, EA</li> </ul>	CEPI	3.3	affiliation of the accreditation body to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).The Forum is an international membership organisation for national accreditation bodies established with the aim of ensuring the free flow of information on accreditation to improve practice and encourage harmonisation. Accreditation bodies are fully conformant with this indicator if they are members of the IAF or if they have adopted IAF guidance through participation in a regional accreditation forum such as EA (European co-operation for Accreditation).
	IFIR	7.1	Accreditation bodies are affiliated with, or conform with, all requirements of the International Accreditation Forum or European Co-operation on Accreditation (EA) and operate according to ISO Guide 61 (or equivalent) procedures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAF, ISEAL</li> </ul>	QACC	4.5.3	Is the accreditation body affiliated to an international accreditation organization (alliance/forum) such as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or the Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL)?

Attribute	Frame- work	Clause	Text
9. Accreditation bodies have a structure to allow participation in development of system	IFIR	2.4	Accreditation bodies can demonstrate they have a documented structure designed to enable the participation of all parties significantly concerned in the development of the accreditation system.



### 1.1.4 Chain of Custody and Claims

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
1. An adequate CoC system in place including a requirement for independent auditing	CEPI	11.1	the existence of chain of custody auditing procedures
	IFIR	10.1	A rigorous, auditable and certifiable wood flow accounting systems is available to companies that wish to implement one.
		10.2	A certified wood flow accounting systems is required if a company is using product labelling that asserts the wood originates from s sustainable managed forest.
	FERN	9	Is there a label and well defined chain of custody available?
2. Procedures and systems publicly available	CEPI	8.1	(International and national forest certification schemes only) the presence of clear rules governing the provision of public information relating to certification bodies and other institutions. This may be indicated by the accreditation body 's conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 61 and certification bodies 'conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 62 or ISO/IEC Guide 66.Section 2.1.7 of ISO/IEC Guides 61 and 62 and Section 4.1.7 of ISO/IEC Guide 66 set out rules for the maintenance and provision of public information by accreditation and certification/registration bodies
	QACC	3.8	Existence of transparent procedures accessible to stakeholders for accrediting, writing

			standards and certifying as well as for the use of the label
3. Guidelines on claims and labelling developed and used which are consistent with laws, standards and existing guidelines.	CEPI	11.2	the existence of clear guidance regarding product claims.
	IFIR	9.1	A clear set of guidelines governing SFM claims has been agreed and is readily available
		9.2	The guidelines accord with relevant national and international laws, standards and guidelines regard claims and labels
	FERN	9	Is there a label and well defined chain of custody available?
	QACC	3.10	Credible use of ecolabelling (i.e. declarations that are precise and verifiable)
4. Procedures developed and implemented to monitor and control the use of claims and labels	IFIR	9.3	Procedures have been developed to monitor and handle complaints concerning SFM claims.
	QACC	3.11	Existence of procedures to handle non-compliance or misuse of reference to accredited/certified status, trademark or logo, including enforcement mechanisms
5. CoC based on wood flow accounting	IFIR	10.1	A rigorous, auditable and certifiable wood flow accounting systems is available to companies that wish to implement one.

		10.2	A certified wood flow accounting systems is required if a company is using product labelling that asserts the wood originates from s sustainable managed forest.
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### 1.1.5 Scheme

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
1. Scheme development and governance open to			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all forest owner groups</li> </ul>	CEPI	1.4	(National forest certification schemes and standards-setting bodies only) representatives of all relevant forest owner groups (private industrial, private non-industrial, community/indigenous people, state) have been actively involved in the standards-setting process
	IFIR	2.3	Representatives of relevant forest owner sectors (private industrial, private non-industrial, community/indigenous people, and state) have been actively involved in the standard setting process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all interested parties</li> </ul>	IFIR	2	The certification system shall be open and accessible to all interested stakeholders. The influence of all stakeholders shall be balanced and consensus outcomes shall be sought.
	QACC	3.1.1.2	Are there mechanisms for participation of all stakeholder groups in the organization of the certification scheme/system, at the level of  Decision making?
		3.1.2	Are all major groups represented at the body's meetings?

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
2. The scheme does not discriminate between forest types and ownerships	CEPI	1.1	(International and national forest certification schemes only) the scheme has developed procedures to allow certification of all forest types (plantations, natural forest, semi-natural forest) and ownership (private, state, community) relevant to its geographical area.
		1.2	(Standards-setting bodies only) the standard accommodates all relevant forest types within the geographical scope of the standard (plantations, natural forest, semi-natural forest) and all ownership (private, state, community) relevant to its geographical area.
	IFIR	5.1	Promote cost-effective delivery of certification of different forest types, sizes and ownerships, forest owners have an option for group / regional certification.
		5.3	SFM standards are designed to be applied to each forest type and all ownership and management structures.
	QACC	2.2.1	Are there mechanisms that allow equity of access to all participants, regardless of their size or location?
2.3.1	Does the certification scheme/system take measures to avoid discrimination between regions and countries where it applies?		
3. The scheme cost effective in minimising costs to forest owners	CEPI	1.3	(International and national forest certification schemes only) certification procedures have been developed to ensure that the cost of certifying small and large forest owners is more or less equivalent

Attribute	Frame-work	Clause	Text
	IFIR	5.1	Promote cost-effective delivery of certification of different forest types, sizes and ownerships, forest owners have an option for group / regional certification.
	QACC	2.2.2	Are there mechanisms to adapt costs of certification to small forest owners, communities and other groups that may have limited access?
4. Separation of standard-setting, certification, accreditation and dispute resolution	IFIR	7.5	A clear separation of process exists between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting of standards</li> <li>• Accreditation of certification bodies and auditors</li> <li>• Auditing and certification</li> <li>• Settlement of disputes</li> </ul>
	QACC	4.8.1	Are the certification, standardization, accreditation and/or other services of the different bodies composing the certification system clearly differentiated and independent, in a way that ensures potential conflicts of interest are avoided?