

# PEFC Canada - Forest Management Standard

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*Endorsement Update  
November 2024*

[www.pefccanada.org](http://www.pefccanada.org)

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Chair, PEFC Canada*



# Agenda

- PEFC Canada: Who Are We?
- Introduction to PEFC International
- CSA Z809 Background and History
- A New SFM Standard for Canada
  - Highlights of Proposed Changes
  - What Won't be Changing
  - Timelines to Implementation

Questions at any time

# Who are we?

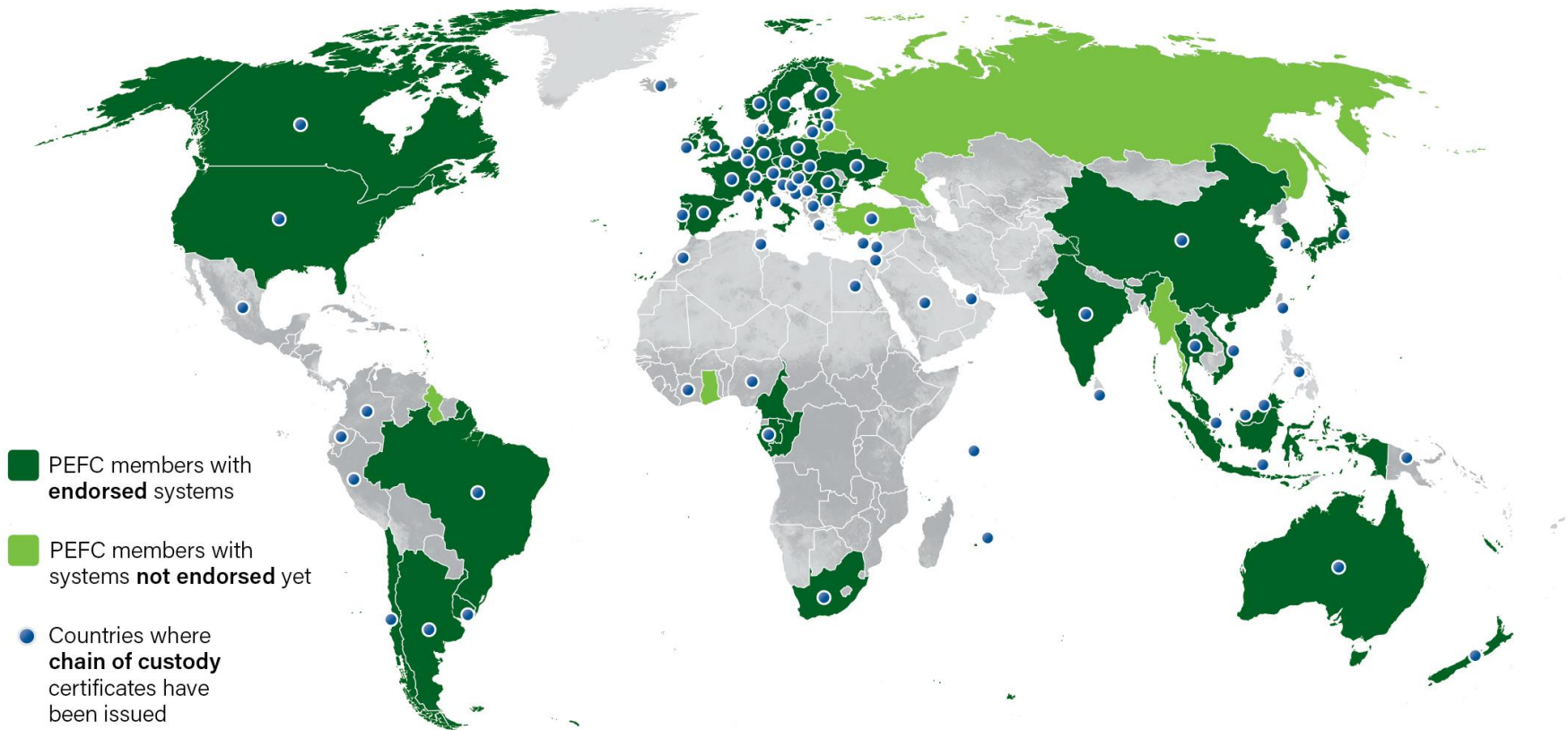
- PEFC Canada is the national body of the international PEFC, an alliance of national forest certification systems, NGOs, associations, companies and individuals, working together towards a vision of a world that values the contribution of sustainable forests to our planet and our lives
- PEFC Canada manages the Canadian aspects of the PEFC chain of custody and labels, and now the Canadian forest management standard

# Introduction to PEFC

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# Members, endorsed systems and distribution of certificates (November 2022)



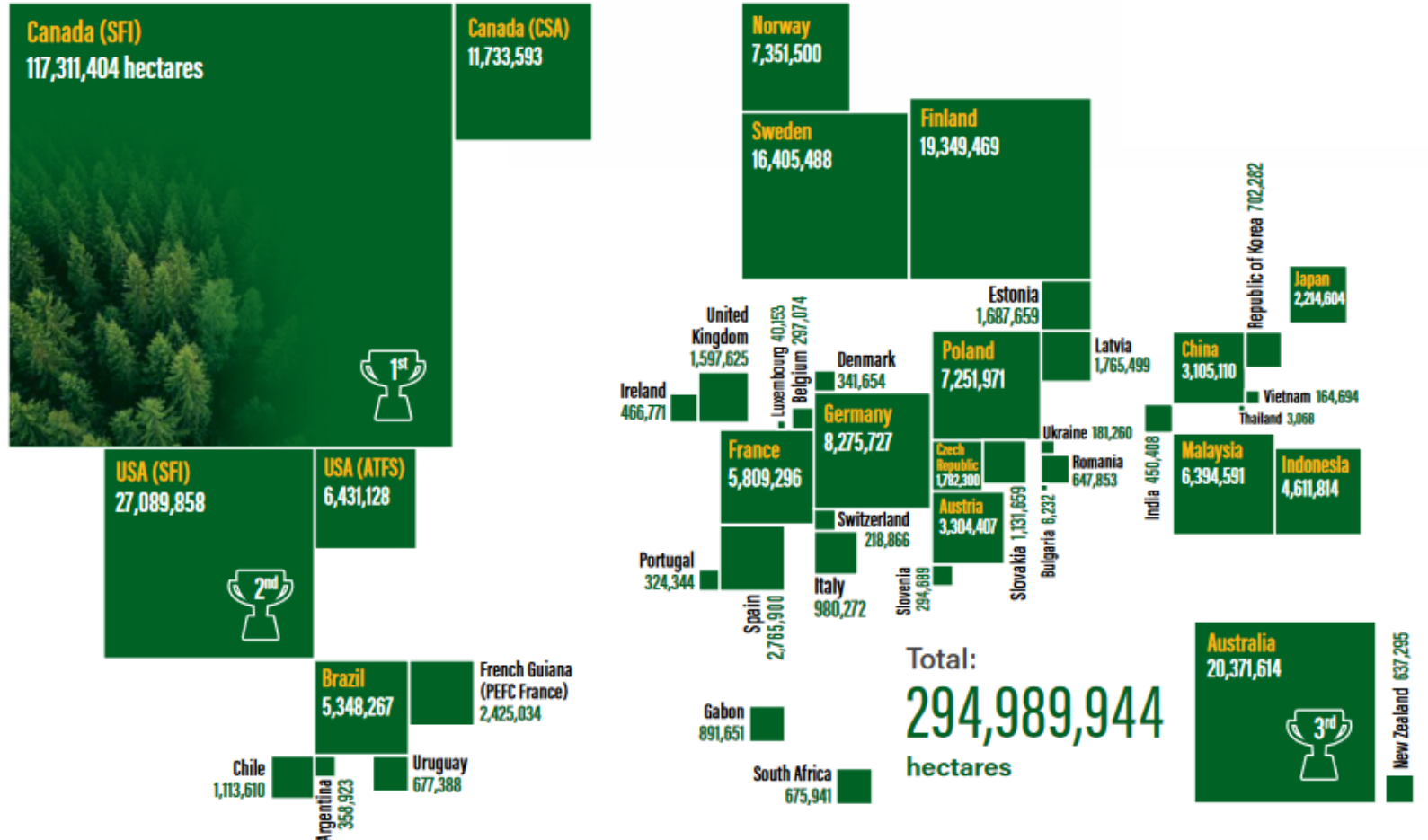
**PEFC**

PEFC/26-01-01

# Certified forest area per country



PEFC-certified forest area per country (as of 31 December 2023)





# International stakeholder members (2023)



## *International Stakeholder members:*

- APP Timber
- Arauco
- Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. (APRIL Group)
- Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT)
- Bioenergy Europe
- Building and Wood Worker's International (BWI)
- Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)
- Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)
- Double A
- European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR)
- European Panel Federation (EPF)
- European Pulp Industry Sector Association AISBL (EPIS)
- European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF)
- European Tissue Symposium (ETS)
- HS Timber Group
- International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA)
- International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)
- Mayr-Melnhof Holz
- Mercer International
- Metsä Group
- Mondi
- Olam International
- Precious Woods
- Purinusa Ekapersada (APP)
- Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)
- Sappi
- Smurfit Kappa
- Stora Enso
- Suzano Pulp and Paper
- Union of Silviculturists of Southern Europe (USSE)
- UPM-Kymmene Corporation
- WestRock Company
- Weyerhaeuser Company

## *Extraordinary members:*

- European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois)
- European Landowners' Organization (ELO)
- Fédération Européenne des Communes Forestières (FECOF)
- Manufacturers of Educational & Commercial Stationery European Association (MECSEA)
- Union of European Foresters (UEF)



# CSA Z809 Background

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*History of CSA Z809 and its  
development*

# A Timeline



- 1992:
  - Rio Conference on Environment and Development
- 1993:
  - TC207 established to develop the ISO 14001 EMS Standard
  - FSC founded
- 1994:
  - CSA establishes a Technical Committee (TC) to develop a sustainable forest management standard
  - Work on what would become CSA Z809 is started, designing it as a management system standard like ISO 14001
  - The Montréal Process Working Group was formed

# A Timeline (continued)



- 1995:
  - Canada's Forestry Ministers developed and published the first set of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
  - The TC decides to build performance requirements into the management system standard and to base the requirements on these National Criteria and Indicators
  - To address the issues of transparency and inclusiveness, the public participation section is also enshrined as a critical section of the standard
  - SFI launched
- 1996: First version of Z809 published late in the year
- 1998: SFM Essentials – An Introduction to CAN/CSA Z809 (Plus 1136) published, the “green book”

# A Timeline (continued)



- 1999:
  - Pan European Forestry Certification (PEFC) formed
  - First revision of Z809 started
  - 2000: Will does his first audit
- 2001:
  - PEFC changes name to Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (still PEFC)
  - Canada joins PEFC
- 2002: Revised Z809 issued
- 2020: PEFC issues revised “meta standard” requirements that all PEFC endorsed SFM standards must meet
- 2021: Z809 TC begins revision process for updating to revised PEFC requirements and the mandated 5 year review

# A Timeline (continued)



- 2022:
  - CSA withdraws their support of Z809 and hands the copyright for the 2018 version to PEFC Canada
  - PEFC Canada creates a new Technical Committee (TC) and begins the review and update process for a revised forest management standard, based on the CSA Z809 TC 2021/2022 work
- History of Z809 Revisions:
  - 2002
  - 2008. Introduction of core indicators
  - 2016
  - Reaffirmation 2021
  - Plus 1136 – revised in 2005 but no revisions to later versions of Z809

# A New Forest Management Standard for Canada

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# A New Standard



- With CSA no longer endorsing or supporting the Z809 SFM standard, a new one had to be developed
- Made In Canada, for Canada
- Managed by PEFC Canada
- Endorsed by PEFC International
- Based on Z809, so essentially a revision rather than all new
- Key to note:
  - Existing CSA Z809 certifications are valid and will be until 2026, supporting PEFC chain of custodies
  - Existing Public Advisory processes remain
  - New certifications to Z809 can still be issued by qualified certifying bodies (PwC and KPMG)

# What is Next



- New standard meets PEFC requirements
- Needed to find a way to refine and simplify the public participation requirements to reduce the burden on the company's seeking certification without losing the transparency.
- Ensure performance requirements line up with the latest revision of the PEFC International Sustainability benchmarks (meta standard) and can stand up to scientific scrutiny.
- Where possible, address the public comments on the standard.
- Revised standard submitted to PEFC International for review and endorsement.



# Where Are We At Now



- PEFC Canada Technical Committee (TC) prepared a draft Canadian forest management standard, highlights coming up later in the presentation
- The draft was available for public review and comment in the spring of 2023
  - Very little response
- The TC has representation from:
  - PEFC Canada
  - Public
  - Standards Council of Canada
  - Government agencies
  - Forest Professionals
  - Industry
  - Certification bodies
  - Engaged with Indigenous subject matter experts

# Highlights of Changes



- PEFC Canada TC included the following changes:
  - All references to CSA removed
  - Updated definitions, including Indigenous rather than Aboriginal
  - Clarified that alternate processes can be used to meet the Public and Indigenous Participation Requirements
  - Split the Indigenous and Interested Parties into 2 separate sections in recognition of the evolving role of Indigenous communities in forest management
  - Reference to UNDRIP included in the Guidance
  - References to Aboriginal title and rights updated to be consistent with wording in the Constitution

# Highlights of Changes



- Continued:
  - Operating Rules (Terms of Reference) will be at the discretion of the public groups, with simplified mandatory requirements. The current requirements moved to the guidance section for reference
  - References to ‘advisory group’ revised to ‘advisory group or equivalent’ to emphasize the flexibility to utilize alternate processes
  - Emphasize that “local” issues relevant to the DFA are to be considered
  - Allows for the use of existing legislation for indicators that are of no interest to a PAG

# Highlights of Changes



- Continued:
  - External audit summaries are required to be prepared by the external auditors and posted on the PEFC Canada web site (aligns with current SFI practice)
  - Annual reporting requirements revised to reflect the interests of the PAGs and to reduce repetition
    - Any target not met will have to be reported on
    - All VOITs must be reported at least once per certification cycle
  - Mandatory Discussion Items required to be discussed at least once per certification cycle (currently 5 years), or as requested by the PAGs if they wish them sooner

# Highlights of Changes



- Continued:
  - Updates required by PEFC:
    - Added gender equality requirements into SFM Policy
    - Ensure communication requirements meet the standard
    - Improve requirements around non-conformances
    - Include PEFC internal audit requirements
    - Update Management Review requirements, including the requirement that management reviews be done annually rather than periodically
  - Included a Multi-Site certification process, replacing the Group Certification section
  - Updated the requirements for certification bodies

# What is not changing



- The TC did not make any substantial changes to the following:
  - Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs) except as noted above for definitions and mandatory discussion items
  - The Carbon Uptake and Storage indicator will remain as is for this revision, but it has been recognized it will need updating as better modeling and data becomes available
  - Conversion will also remain as is, but it is being reviewed against the expectations of PEFC
  - Section 4 Required Activities
  - Most of Section 7 Management System except to align with PEFC requirements as noted earlier

# Timelines



- The following are the timelines to get the revised standard endorsed by PEFC and in use:
  - January 2023: The TC completed the draft standard
  - March 2023: Draft standard posted on PEFC Canada web site for 60 day public review and comment
  - June 2023: TC reviewed comments and finalized the standard
  - July – August 2023: Editorial revisions, and the French version created
  - September 2023: Standard submitted to PEFC for their assessment and endorsement
    - It is expected that PEFC will take 12 – 18 months to assess and endorse
  - October – December 2023: PEFC completed their initial internal documentation review and the submission is considered ‘adequate’

# Timelines



- The following are the timelines to get the revised standard endorsed by PEFC and in use (continued):
  - January 29 2024:
    - PEFC held a webinar to introduce the standard
    - PEFC 60 day public review and comment period opened
  - February – March 2024: PEFC engages the assessor
  - March 28 2024:
    - Public review and comment period closes
    - Little response received
    - Assessment starts



# Timelines



- The following are the timelines to get the revised standard endorsed by PEFC and in use (continued):
  - May 2024: assessor provides a draft of his assessment report to PEFC Canada to allow for corrections and feedback
    - Assessment identified 60 areas needing clarification or action plans to address deficiencies
  - June – July 2024: PEFC Canada addresses issues from the assessment
  - October 2024: Final assessment submitted to PEFC for consideration
  - December 2024: PEFC endorsement
    - 12 - 18 month transition period for certification holders
  - July 2026: all current Z809 certifications are transitioned to the new PEFC Canada standard



Any questions,  
comments or  
feedback?  
Please, do not  
hesitate to send them  
to us at  
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