

Exh 11 Brochure about CeFCo – English language

Output D4.3 Information material - Public document

Contractor Certification

- a service for forest owners and forest contractors



WHY CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION?

The number of forest owners who choose to certify their forest has been rapidly increasing during the last couple of years. In the beginning of 2010, 350 million ha of forest – the equivalent of 17 pct. of the global production forests area – was either FSC or PEFC certified. This is a 25 pct. increase in just three years. Forest certification offers some advantages, including:

1. The demand for certified wood is increasing and is more and more often demanded by buyers.
2. Certification offers an opportunity to evaluate the management and ensure optimal conditions for the environment, the company and the people working in and benefiting from the forest.
3. In some cases, price premiums are paid for certified wood.

However, mainly large publicly or company owned forest become certified, while relatively few small and medium sized private forest owners choose this solution. The reason for this is that small forest owners do not receive a regular income from the forest, as in some cases trees are only harvested every 5 or 10 years. This makes it difficult to cover the yearly certification costs. Furthermore, the forest owner may lack the technical knowledge to ensure that the contractor meets the certification requirements.

In other words, certification isn't easy for small forest owners. This is the case in Europe, where 55 pct. of the forest area is owned by 16 million private small forest owners.

To address this problem, NEPCon, ENFE, and the FSC are working to develop contractor certification. NEPCon is now offering certification of forest contractors, which will make it both easier and cheaper for private forest owners to become certified.

WHAT IS CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION?

The purpose of contractor certification is for the certification requirements to be shared between the forest owner and the forest contractor, enabling the forest owner to easily manage the overall responsibility of the forest and to ensure that the certification requirements are met. The contractor is certified according to the certification requirements related directly to the tasks he is implementing, enabling him to meet these requirements. By employing a certified forest contractor the forest owner can thus limit his own workload and reduce the costs of certification.

The advantages for the contractor are amongst others:

1. The contractor receives a quality stamp, which documents that the contractor is capable of performing his/her tasks in conformance with the requirements of FSC and PEFC, which will enable the contractor to excel in the marketplace towards customers wishing certification.
2. The certification will demonstrate that the contractor is performing well and undergoes continuous quality control. This is a competitive advantage.
3. The contractor gets an opportunity to optimize workflows, contribute to a better environment and to document good working conditions.

In Denmark the contractor shall meet requirements regarding:

- 1. Forest rejuvenation**, including planting, sowing, maintenance of a permanent forest cover, minimization of soil scarification and limited use of non-native tree species.
- 2. Forest structure**, including maintenance of the forest climate, promotion of natural succession and multi layered mixed forest stands, designation of tree for natural decay and establishment and conservation of forest edges.
- 3. Production and economy**, including processing and extraction of trees, honouring of contracts, use of harvest-, transport- and regeneration techniques designed to avoid damage, minimization of waster, management of slash, limited driving with heavy machinery, use of environmentally friendly machinery and technology, establishment of permanent skid/logging trails and prevention of erosion, sedimentation of streams as a consequence of forest operations.
- 4. Nature and environmental protection, wildlife, recreation and cultural history**, including protection of key habitats and rare and threatened species, evaluation of completed tasks, storage and disposal of chemicals and non-organic waste, maintenance of machinery and other technical equipment, limited use of pesticides, limited and monitored use of biological control agents, preparation of fire protection plans, respecting rules forbidding conversion of forest and maintaining of records over harvest activities.
- 5. Forest socioeconomic functions**, including dialogue with the local community, signposting and closing of roads and trails and posting of announcements in local papers prior to commencement of forest operations, resolution of conflicts with neighbours, following safety procedures, participation in compensation programs and respecting national legislation and international conventions on safe working environment and workers rights.
- 6. Planning and documentation**, including review of work description with the forest owner, considering the production of non-timber forest products, such as hunting, water, recreation and fishing, and development of a plan for health and safety of forest workers.
- 7. Requirements for qualifications**, including education of forest workers and machine operators.
- 8. Requirements for traceability**, including separation of certified and non-certified wood, correct classification of certification status of wood on sales and transport documents, labelling and identification of FSC certified material, correct issuance of harvest, sales and transport documents and compiling and maintenance of annual reports over sales of certified material.
- 9. National legislation**, including knowledge of and respect for national forest legislation and internationally binding agreements.

Read all the requirements of the standard at:

http://www.cefcoproject.org/fileadmin/cefc/pdf/EU_12_Analysis_DK_translated_English_19FEB10_ok.pdf

HOW DO I BECOME CERTIFIED?

If you are considering contractor certification, you are welcome to [NEPCon](#) for an informal conversation with Per Lynge Jensen (+45 8618 0866) about the opportunities for certification. You are also welcome to visit www.cefcoproject.org for further details.

Certification of both forest owner and contractor includes a yearly visit by NEPCon, who will review documents and workflows in the forest.

Nature, Ecology and People Consult (NEPCon)

NEPCon is a non-profit organization working to encourage and support sustainable use of natural resources worldwide. [Visit NEPCon.](#)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. [Visit FSC.](#)

The European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE)

ENFE is the European umbrella organisation of forestry contractors. Members are the National Contractors Associations. ENFE represents the entrepreneurial sector to policy makers in individual countries and on European level. [Visit ENFE.](#)

HOW IS CERTIFICATION VISIBLE?

All certificates for contractors and forest owners are confirmed on web pages where they are made publicly available. Forest owners can brand themselves in conformance with the requirements of FSC and PEFC. Contractors may use the Rainforest Alliance logo if audited by NEPCon against the SmartLogging standard (shown below). The logo appears on more and more products and services. Efforts are being made to develop a FSC standard for contractors. Rules for marketing are not yet known.

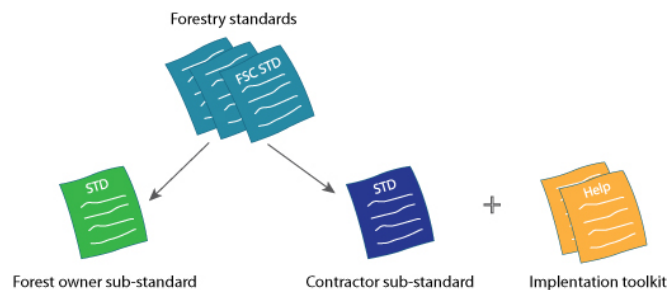


This information is part of the CeFCo project, with the purpose to develop a model for certification of forest contractors in Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Bulgaria and Portugal respectively. The project will be carried out in a cooperation between NEPCon, The European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and national organisations. The project is supported by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Fundación Biodiversidad and the European Union CIP Eco-Innovation initiative (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm) which is part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, CIP (<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>).



WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE PROJECT?

The first step in the project is an analysis of forest standards. Certification standards have been reviewed in each of the project countries, and the requirements have been grouped into requirements that must be met by the forest contractors and the forest owners respectively. As a result of this, two sub-standards have been developed.



In the winter of 2010 and in 2011, the sub-standards will be tested in cooperation with selected contractors and forest owners in each country. This will include both individuals and groups. When the requirements of the standard are met the forest owner and the contractor will receive a certificate. The experiences gained through the process will be used to make the certification process easier in the future.

