The process stipulates an initial certification audit followed by regular external monitoring audits and, after 5 years, a re-certification. Requirements:

- Determination of the conformity of the customer’s CoC process with the requirements of the CoC standard and the relevant facilities, which cover the definition of the origin of the raw material, and their effective implementation.
- Determination of the conformity of the customer’s management system with the requirements of the CoC standard and their effective implementation.
- Determination of the conformity of the customer’s CoC process with the requirements concerning the avoidance of raw material from controversial sources and their effective implementation.
- Determination of the customer’s conformity with the requirements of the PEFC logo directive and their effective implementation (use of the PEFC logo).
- Identifying areas of the customer’s CoC which could be improved.

The internationally-known method is classified as process certification and serves the chain of custody for wood and wood products in accordance with the standard PEFC ST 2002:2013. The chain of custody (CoC) stipulates a unified process by means of which, for example, manufacturers of wood and wood-based materials can obtain an unambiguous determination of the origin of the wood which they use.

At an international level, the certification body of the WKI can now operate more flexibly and can offer manufacturers an enhanced service.

Fraunhofer Institute for Wood Research
Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut WKI
Bienroder Weg 54 E
38108 Braunschweig
Germany

Contact
Maik Matolin
Phone +49 531 2155-263
maik.matolin@wiki.fraunhofer.de

www.wiki.fraunhofer.de
Conditions in the production plant – the main requirements

- Documented quality manual and, if necessary, described procedures in accordance with valid PEFC standard
- Definition of products/product groups
- If necessary, already-identified suppliers
- If necessary, already-conducted trainings

Annual inspections

All audits (initial audit, monitoring and re-certification audit) are carried out as on-site audits. The monitoring audits should be carried out at least once a year. The interval between on-site monitoring audits should not exceed two years. The entire certification cycle lasts for 5 years and then starts again from the beginning. Following a successful initial audit, a certificate for the validity period of a maximum of 5 years is issued. Upon receipt of the certificate, the customer is entitled to mark his products “PEFC” in accordance with the logo license, provided that a valid contract with PEFC exists.

Certification sequence

1. Request by product provider
2. Annotation through WKI
3. Formal application
4. Clarification of open questions
5. Generation of the certification plan, cost calculation
6. Informal written placement of order
7. Conclusion of monitoring contract
8. Initial certification audit
9. Issuance of certificate if requirements have been fulfilled
10. Continuous annual external monitoring
11. Re-certification in the 5th year