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Certification

Certification means that someone guarantees that their forest or forest products are managed in accordance with certain quality requirements, a standard. The way this works in the forest industry is that a voluntary choice is made to follow a certification scheme and its rules.

Certification is largely a matter of following rules on forest production, but also preserving biodiversity and safeguarding social and aesthetic amenities. It can be said that certification is acknowledgement of foresight.

Being certified is, in many ways, making a statement. There is a desire to show that one's forest products are developed and produced in a responsible and sustainable way. Certification becomes a strong competitive weapon for companies manufacturing the products and an important sales argument for consumers who buy them.

There are two certificates that are often talked about in Sweden, FSC* and PEFC. The two certification schemes have similar requirements regarding forestry standard, environmental standard and social standard. FSC and PEFC are both voluntary certification schemes and are not mutually exclusive, many forest owners today holding dual certification.

FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) is an independent, international member organisation whose task is to promote environmentally sound, socially responsible and economically viable use of the world's forests, through its certification scheme of the same name (FSC). They have a number of rules for forestry and traceability. Those who follow these rules are allowed to label their products with the FSC trademark. Consumers and companies can then choose products made from wood that comes from responsible forestry, that is to say forestry that pays due regard to people and the environment.

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) is the other major standard. Its objective is to develop sustainable forestry with a good balance between production, the environment and social and cultural interests. By being PEFC-certified and using the logo for their products, forest owners and companies can show their commitment to sustainable development, sustainable forestry and corporate social responsibility.

What does a forest owner who wants to be certified have to do? Well, in brief it is a matter of first adapting one's forestry to the rules and then contacting a certifier for inspection and approval, which more and more forest owners are choosing to do. Just over 50% of all woodland in Sweden is FSC-certified, and 39% is certified under PEFC.



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FSC IS AN INDEPENDENT international organisation for the certification of responsible forestry. Its goal is for the forests to be managed responsibly in terms of environmental, social and economic aspects. The FSC logo on products vouches for independent certification of forestry and product manufacturing under FSC rules.