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**CLOSING DATE FOR STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS IS: 29th August 2021**

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**RESPONDENT’S DETAILS:**

**Name:**

**Organisation / status:**

**Contact details:**

**PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard**

**(Consultation Template)**

**(Third edition) – version 3.0**

**Revision draft June 2021**

Deletions are shown thus:~~Word~~

Additions / edits are shown thus: Word

**Introduction**

**MAKE ANY GENERAL COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Forest Certification**

The international forest products market is increasingly seeking assurance about the quality, environmental and social impacts of forest management. One way to provide this assurance is through independent verification against a published standard which defines appropriate and effective forest management. Forest products from forests which meet these standards can then be identified as such when offered for sale in the market place. Consumers then have the option of buying forest products which they can be sure come from responsibly managed forests. Forest certification is a voluntary process whereby forest owners decide whether or not to submit their forests for an audit carried out by an accredited certification body against an agreed forest management standard. While there are a number of different forest certification schemes in operation, internationally there are two schemes of consequence, of which the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is the larger, accounting for over 60% of the global certified forest area This document is the third forest management standard for Ireland for PEFC Certification and was endorsed by PEFC International in XXX. The Flow chart on the following page outlines in general terms the steps involved in forest certification.

**Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC)**

PEFC is a leading global alliance of national forest certification systems. As an international non-profit, non-governmental organization, it is dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. Founded in 1999, there are now over 50 international members who together provide an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they have been sourced from sustainably managed forests.

PEFC (Ireland) CLG (hereafter referred to as PEFC Ireland) is the National Governing Body of the PEFC in Ireland. The company was registered in August 2008 and became a full member of the PEFC Council at the General Assembly held in Canberra in October 2008. Sponsored by the Irish Timber Growers Association, and with members drawn from economic, environmental and social stakeholders, PEFC Ireland administers the PEFC Council’s schemes and initiatives in Ireland, and promotes sustainable forest management and the use of credibly certified timber and wood-based products.

**Flow Chart Outlining the Forest Certification Process**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Forest owner decides to seek certification** | ↔ | *The owner may seek to do this on his/her own but in general, small forest owners will join a group scheme and seek certification jointly with other forest owners.* |
|  |  | ↓ |  |  |
|  |  | **Forest owner prepares their forest and documentation for certification** | ↔ | *The owner will need to prepare for certification by ensuring (s)he is compliant with the relevant forest management standard (e.g. PEFC or FSC) and that their forest is sustainably managed with all the necessary records, plans and procedures in place.* |
|  |  | ↓ |  |  |
| *The Audit Report may recommend remedial actions required to comply with the forest management standard. Forest owner may set about changing his / her plans and practice in this regard and re-apply* | → | **Forest owner applies for certification** | ↔ | *The owner makes contact with a Certifying Body accredited against the relevant certification scheme ~~(eg PEFC or FSC)~~ to set in motion the audit process.* |
|  | ↓ |  |  |
|  | **Forest is audited by a Certifying Body** | ↔ | *The Certifying Body will visit the forest owner and his / her forest to check compliance with the relevant forest management standard. They will also consult with other stakeholders as part of this audit process.* |
| ↑ |  | ↓ |  |  |
| **Forest does not achieve certification** | ← | **Certifying Body issues its Audit Report** | ↔ | *The Certifying Body produces a report and subsequently a certification decision. The Audit Report will identify areas of the forest management standard where there is compliance or otherwise. If non-compliance is significant then certification may not be granted.* |
|  |  | ↓ |  |  |
|  |  | **Forest becomes certified as Sustainably Managed** | ↔ | *The owner can now sell produce from his / her forest with a claim that provides independent assurance to customers that the produce comes from a sustainably managed forest.* |
|  |  | ↓ |  |  |
|  |  | **Maintenance of Forest Certification by forest owner** | ↔ | *Thereafter the forest is audited annually (termed a surveillance audit) by the certifying body. . The certification cycle typically lasts for five years, necessitating a full recertification audit at the commencement of Year six. The forest owner must therefore continually maintain forest management standards in order to retain Forest Certification.* |

**Preparation of the PEFC Ireland Forest Certification Standard (IFCS)**

This document is the third edition of the forest management standard for forests in Ireland being considered for certification under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). The standard has been revised following an inclusive and transparent process which has involved a balanced representation from economic, social and environmental interests with knowledge of the Irish forestry sector. It has also been designed to comply with existing Irish and European forest management guidelines and legislation, including the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management agreed at the third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Lisbon in 1998, and other relevant international agreements. The standard was revised in accordance with PEFC International Standard 1001:2017 *Standard-setting - Requirements*, and to ensure compliance with PEFC International Standard 1003:2018 *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.*

This third edition was approved on DD/MM/YY by the Standard Revision Working Group (WG) which is structured to have equal representation from those with environmental, social and economic interests in forest management. The revisions were prepared by a Technical Working Group (TWG) appointed by the larger WG. The TWG is also structured to have equal representation from those with environmental, social and economic interests in forest management. The Chairman of both the WG and the TWG is independent.

The revised standard was submitted for public consultation on XXX. To encourage participation in the public consultation exercise, key stakeholders were notified directly and invited to respond, the process announced to the relevant media, and the standard was posted on the internet, together with a response form. The public consultation process lasted for a period of XX days, closing on XXX, after which all responses were considered by the WG for analysis, discussion of the findings and agreement on further amendments.

~~During the public consultation period, pilot testing of the standard was conducted in two State (Coillte) and one private forest by an accredited forest auditor. The results from the pilot testing were considered by the Forum and the agreed improvements and recommendations incorporated into the standard prior to submission to the PEFC Council for endorsement and mutual recognition by the national members organisations.~~

**Certification Options for Forest Owners**

There are currently two different options open to forest owners seeking to attain PEFC Certification for their forests in Ireland. These are as follows:

**Group Certification**

Group Certification is where a number of (usually small) forest owners group their forests together and make a single Forest Certification application. The group is co-ordinated by a single entity who ensures that all members of the group are compliant with the relevant forest management standard. Forest Certification auditors then evaluate a sample of forest properties. All forest properties are evaluated over time / subsequent audits.

**Individual Certification**

Individual Certification is where forests belonging to a single forest owner (whether an individual, company or other entity) are assessed under a single process with a single certificate issuing to successful forest owners.

**Non-conformity and Corrective Action**

As with any programme or activity, there may be issues of non-conformity or non-compliance from time to time. Where a non-conformity or non-compliance occurs, the forest owner / manager shall implement a system to demonstrate that action has been taken to control and correct it, and that the consequences are adequately dealt with. Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the non-conformity, and records of the actions taken and their results shall be retained. All corrective actions must be undertaken within a timespan determined by the certification body and are subject to being verified by the certification body no later than at the next surveillance audit, or sooner where there is a major infringement.

**Minor** non-conformities are defined as infringements that do not seriously impede sustainable forest management.

**Major** non-conformities are defined as infringements that have a serious risk and can seriously impede achieving the goal of sustainable forest management.

**The Structure & Content of the Standard**

The structure of the certification standard relates to the way in which forest management is implemented, addressing specific aspects of management or types of operations in turn. The sections of the standard are as follows:

*Section 1: Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard*

*Section 2: Management planning*

*Section 3:*  *Forest design: creation, felling and replanting*

*Section 4: Operations*

*Section 5: Protection and Maintenance*

*Section 6: Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity*

*Section 7: The community*

*Section 8: The Forestry Workforce*

Each section is broken down into sub-sections and within each sub-section are specific requirements. Each requirement is set out as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirement**  A requirement is a compulsory element of the standard. Forest management must meet all relevant requirements and auditors will check that requirements are being met. Requirements are stated as “shall” implying that they are compulsory elements of the standard. | **Guidance**  Guidance is provided to assist both the forest owner / manager and the certification body to understand how requirements should be applied in practice. Guidance may also suggest other sources of information which will help both parties understand a particular issue in more detail. Guidance may also elaborate on some requirements and explain the meaning of certain terms or phrases used in the requirements. |
| **Means of Verification**  These suggest the type of objective evidence, in the form of documents, actions, site conditions or discussions, that certification bodies may consider in order to verify that the requirement is being met. The verifiers suggested are not exclusive or exhaustive – certification bodies will not always use all the verifiers suggested, and may seek verification in other ways. |

**Procedures for Use of the Standard**

The standard is used equally by both forest owners / managers seeking certification and independent accredited auditors or certification bodies when assessing compliance. The following sections seek to provide clarity for all parties with regard to how the standard should be used and interpreted.

**Accreditation**

Accreditation is the process used to ensure that those who undertake the certification audit are truly independent and professionally competent. Certification bodies conducting audits against the standard must be accredited to undertake forest management certification by a national or international accreditation body. Accreditation bodies must be members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or a member of IAF’s special recognition regional groups and implement procedures described in ISO/IEC 17011:2004 and other documents recognised by the above organisations.

**Area Specificity**

The areas to be certified under the PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard shall be individually identified and delineated Forest Management Units (FMUs). A FMU is a forest property or properties covered under a single forest management plan and within a landscape unit¹. A FMU may be owned

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¹A Landscape Unit is an area of homogenous landscape character

by an individual, a group of individuals (sharing the one property), a company, a charity or any other

legal entity. FMUs may contain smaller units e.g. compartments and sub-compartments but they should not be split for certification purposes. There is no obligation for a forest owner seeking certification of a FMU in one landscape unit, who may own a separate FMU in a separate landscape unit to seek certification for such a separate FMU. The owner / manager of each FMU shall have made a formal commitment to meet the requirements of this standard².

**Scale of Application of the Requirements**

All requirements of this standard must be satisfied at Forest Management Unit (FMU) level. This means that where, for example, there is a requirement for a percentage of the forest area to be managed with biodiversity as a priority, this must be the case within each individual FMU. A FMU may be made up of a series of fragmented forests (e.g. on a farm or an estate) and in such cases requirements must be satisfied at FMU level and not necessarily within each fragmented parcel of forest. However, in such cases:

* Plans for implementing a requirement unevenly in different parcels are based on good practice which aims to meet the purpose of the requirement.
* Wherever appropriate, management is based on a design plan

**Application to Different Scales of Forest**

All forest owners seeking to obtain certification, regardless of size of holding, must comply with the requirements of this standard. However, in some instances, specific thresholds for specific requirements are stated (e.g. Requirement 3.2.3 and 5.1.2).

**Flexibility in Meeting Requirements**

It is recognised that a forest owner or manager may feel that certain requirements of this standard are either inappropriate for or irrelevant to a particular forest. In such circumstances, the professional judgement of the independent certification body will be called upon to assess whether flexibility should be shown in this regard. In making this assessment, the independent certification body may seek the opinion of an appropriate specialist and in all cases shall ensure that there is compliance with the spirit of the standard.

**Timing for Full Implementation of the Requirements Relating to Forest Structure & Layout**

A special feature of forest management is its long term nature. Decisions made in the past have a strong influence on the forests of today. Therefore, when assessing conformance with the certification standard, independent certification bodies will not evaluate forests solely on the present structure and layout, but will consider the plans for management in the short, medium and long term.

Where present structure and layout fail to meet the requirements, due to historic reasons, forest owners / managers will need to demonstrate through management planning documentation, design plans and on-going activities in the forest that they are taking active measures to achieve conformance with the requirements. They will also need to demonstrate that there is a time frame for achieving full conformance based on sound management principles.

**Stakeholder Consultation**

Certification to the PEFC Irish Standard shall provide an opportunity for, and take account of, inputs from stakeholders. Responsibility for undertaking consultation lies with the applicant in accordance with the requirements of this standard³. The applicant shall invite consultees, through direct communication and public notification, to copy their responses direct to the certification body. Where this is undertaken as an integral part of a wider consultation, such as by a government department, there should be no requirement to present a copy to the certification authority, provided that the information is available to the public. As part of the evaluation process, each time a certificate is issued or renewed, it shall be the responsibility of certification bodies to assess and verify stakeholder comments using appropriate sampling, independent of the applicant’s own procedure. Feedback shall be provided by the certification body, on request, to respondents on how their comments have been addressed.

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²This is detailed in requirement 1.1.4 of the standard

³Requirements with regard to consultation are detailed in Section 7.1 of the standard

**Peer Review**

The certification body carrying out forest certification shall have technical competence in forest management, on its economic, environmental and social impacts, and on the forest certification criteria. Audit reports shall be subject to a separate independent review by competent experts. Peer reviewers shall have access to all comments from the stakeholder consultations, the applicant and the certification body, together with an assessment of how they have been addressed.

**Transparency**

The process of certification to the PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard is transparent and includes the production of an informative, publicly available summary for each certificate. The summary shall provide information on how and why the certification decision was made, to allow stakeholders to see for themselves what happened. This should include an explanation of how any areas of non-conformity with the requirements of the standard have been addressed to the satisfaction of the certification body, and a clear statement of any outstanding conditions which need to be addressed.

**Dispute Procedures**

Certification bodies must have formal procedures for dealing with disputes. This must be open to all parties at any time to deal with non-conformance and challenges (ISO/IEC Guide 62:2.1.4; Guide 65:4.5 and the specific rules of the accreditation authority). This procedure shall be implemented when it has not been possible to resolve challenges regarding a decision made by the certification body in an assessment against this standard. Information on how a decision was made must be made available by the certification body on request in a way which does not breach commercial confidentiality,

PEFC Ireland has documented procedures for the establishment of an independent body for the settlement of disputes that may arise over the interpretation or implementation of the standard and that cannot be addressed in the dispute settlement procedures of the certification body, or the accreditation authority. If PEFC Ireland is concerned with the way in which a certification body is using the standard it shall raise a dispute through the certification body’s own procedures. If this fails to resolve the matter then PEFC Ireland shall pursue it through the disputes procedure of the accreditation authority. If this fails to resolve the matter it shall be taken up through the disputes procedure of the International Accreditation Forum.

**Periodic Monitoring**

The standard and its implementation shall be periodically monitored and reviewed in the light of new scientific knowledge and practical experience. A full review of the standard will be undertaken at least every five years and the revision procedures shall be in accordance with the PEFC Council *Rules for Standard Setting.*

**Interpretation and Revision of the Standard**

As the National Governing Body, PEFC Ireland coordinated the development and revision of this standard. PEFC Ireland is a company limited by guarantee (Company Registration Number 461250) and is managed by a Board of Directors appointed by its members. Its objectives are “*to establish mechanisms for the recognition of schemes in Ireland for forest certification*, *for the certification of wood processing, manufacturing and associated activities, and for the certification of custody of materials used in the wood chain, which meet the criteria laid down by the Council of the PEFC”*

When interpretation and revision of the standard is required, the members of PEFC Ireland will appoint a broadly based Working Group (WG) which will have responsibility for interpreting the standard and ensuring its periodic revision, taking account of experience from its application and new information that arises. The WG will provide advice to users of the standard on its interpretation.

Periodic revisions of the standard will be communicated by PEFC Ireland to the PEFC Council and the revisions will be dealt with by the PEFC Council in accordance with the rules relating to the *Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Schemes and their Revision”* (PEFC International Guide 1007).

**Supporting Templates**

Over time, PEFC Ireland may provide, by way of the website [www.pefc.ie](http://www.pefc.ie/), sample templates of documentation that may assist forest owners / managers in preparing for certification. Such templates may include management plans, site monitoring forms, hazard identification and risk assessment forms, and any other relevant documents. It may also assist other stakeholders in understanding the nature of information required and procedures followed by forest owners / managers in preparing for certification.

**MAKE COMMENTS / NOTES ON THE INTRODUCTION HERE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 1**  **Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard** | | | |  |
|  | | | |  |
|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 1.1 | **Compliance and conformance** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 1.1.1 | There shall be compliance with the law. There shall be no substantiated outstanding claims of legal non-compliance related to forest management. | * No evidence of non-compliance from audit.   . | Certification is not a legal compliance audit. Certification authorities will be checking that there is no evidence of non-compliance with relevant legal requirements including:   * Management and employees understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their responsibilities. * All documentation including procedures, work instructions and contracts meet legal requirements.   No issues of legal non-compliance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties. |  |
| 1.1.2 | There shall be compliance with all relevant codes of practice, guidelines and agreements.  . | * No evidence of non-compliance from audit   . | Appendix A lists relevant current guidelines and codes of practice. Appendix C lists Irish laws, international agreements and protocols. Certification authorities will be checking that there is no evidence of non-compliance with relevant codes of practice, guidelines or agreements and that:   * Management and employees understand and comply with all requirements relevant to their responsibilities. * All documentation including procedures, work instructions and contracts are in compliance.   No issues of non-compliance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties. |  |
| 1.1.3 | Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. | * Copy of folio documents or other legally accepted proof of ownership or tenure **OR** * A signed declaration from a solicitor detailing nature and status of tenure documentation. | The forest owner must be able to prove legal ownership or tenure of the land for which certification is sought, if required. (See also Section 7.2) |  |
| 1.1.4 | The forest owner, manager or occupier shall be committed to conformance to this certification standard and has declared an intention to protect and maintain the ecological integrity of the forest in the long term. | * Signed declaration of commitment. * Evidence of authority to act on behalf of the owner (where the commitment is signed by the manager / agent) | In cases where there has been a previous substantial failure of compliance with this standard, resulting in the withdrawal of forest certification, then changes in ownership, control and management regime shall have been implemented, or a two year track record of conformance established before certification can be re-considered. |  |
| 1.1.5 | The forest owner / manager shall ensure that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights | * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Discussion with contractors and employees | The Declaration was approved by the UN General Assembly in 1948 and is recognized as the common standard that protects all persons’ fundamental rights. |  |
| 1.2 | **Protection from illegal activities** | | |  |
| 1.2.1 | The forest owner / manager shall take all reasonable measures to stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the forest which could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management. | * The forest owner / manager is aware of potential and actual problems * Evidence of pro-active response to actual current problems | Illegal and unauthorised uses of forest may include activities such as:   * Dumping * Trespass of livestock * Anti-social behaviour |  |
| **2. Management planning** | | | |  |
| Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase the area of forest or forest, and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of available expertise in areas such as land-use planning and nature conservation. The forest management planning process shall incorporate:   * Inventory and mapping of the resource * Setting of forest management objectives * Stakeholder consultation * Operational planning (for a defined planning period) * Securing the productive potential of the forest * Provision for revision of the plan | | | |  |
|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 2.1 | **Documentation** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 2.1.1 | Identification, inventory and mapping of the forest resources shall be established and maintained. These shall include:   * An inventory of the timber and non-timber resources * Identification and mapping of   + designated areas (see also 3.1.1)   + special areas, features, characteristics and sensitivities of the forest   + management units | * Management plan * Maps and records * Field inspection | Inventory and mapping of the forest resource should include appropriate aspects of physical, silvicultural, ecological, archaeological, social and landscape issues and any special characteristics or designations.  The documentation and level of detail associated with the forest management planning process should be appropriate to:   * The size of the forest * Its environmental and social sensitivity * The intensity of management * The likely impact of the planned operations * Context in the landscape |  |
| 2.1.2 | The forest management plan shall incorporate a long term policy for the forest in which forest management objectives are set and prioritised.  A silvicultural system(s) best suited to achieve these objectives shall be nominated and a rationale provided for this selection.  The silvicultural system shall use appropriate measures and techniques that minimize adverse impacts on the forest ecosystem. | * Management plan | The management objectives and priorities, in tandem with the multi-resource inventory will form the basis of decision making in the management plan. |  |
| 2.1.3 | There shall be an operational plan listing all the planned forest operations for a ten year period. This shall include specific measures based on the appropriate assessment for any designated areas. It shall also include specific measures relating to any special areas, features, characteristics and sensitivities of the forest as identified in the inventory.  A rationale for prescribed management and operational techniques shall be provided.  An outline felling and regeneration plan for a 20 year period shall also be provided.  The ten year operational plan shall be reviewed and updated on expiration. | * Management plan * Field inspection * Budget forecast and financial records | The documentation and level of detail associated with the management plan should be appropriate to:   * The size of the forest * The intensity of management planned * The ecological and social sensitivity of the forest * The context of the forest in the landscape * The likely impact of planned operations * The silvicultural system   The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the requirement but may also refer to other documents as appropriate, including surveys or permissions from statutory or regulatory bodies. |  |
| 2.1.4 | While respecting the confidentiality of commercially and/or environmentally sensitive information, forest managers, upon reasonable request, shall make publicly available management planning documentation, or a summary of its primary elements, including those listed in 2.1.1, 2.1.2 & 2.1.3.  See also 7.1.1 | * Evidence that the forest owner / manager has recorded and responded to any reasonable requests for copies of this documentation * Discussion with owner / manager | The public provision of management planning documentation is an important element in the fulfilment of sustainable forest management, particularly in relation to social responsibility.  Reasonable requests should be restricted to local and/or affected stakeholders, and in matters of doubt/dispute a stakeholder should be able to prove genuine interest or concern. While the forest owner / manager should make every effort to accommodate requests for information, they should not be expected to accede to demands from stakeholders who clearly are not local, are not adversely affected by management decisions, or who cannot give plausible reasons for the request.  There is no requirement to make available financial information.  The publicly available summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by client confidentiality, by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features. |  |
| 2.2 | **Productive potential** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 2.2.1 | Forest management systems and operations shall be planned and carried out in a way that maintains or enhances the health, vitality and productive capacity of the site, and avoids degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.  Where the inventory (2.1.1) has identified degraded forest ecosystems there shall be a plan to rehabilitate these, where possible and appropriate, by silvicultural means, and by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventative biological control measures. | * Management plan * Operational plans * Field inspection   . | The productive capacity of the site refers to the ecological, social and economic functions of the forest. This means that forest operations should adopt techniques that avoid direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.  Degraded forest ecosystems may include:   * Overgrazed forests * Forests where there has been considerable soil compaction * Forests that have been over-run with invasive species such as rhododendron or laurel |  |
| 2.2.2 | Harvesting and regeneration plans shall not jeopardise the long-term productive potential of the forest and are consistent with management objectives and the principle of sustained yield.  The average annual allowable cut shall be quantified and justified and timber shall normally be harvested from the FMU at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.  Selective harvesting shall not be to the long-term detriment of the quality and value of stands. | * Inventory records * Management plan * Growth and yield estimates * Production records * Demonstrated control of thinning intensity * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Field inspection | Examples of growth and yield estimates include :   * Average growth rates or Yield Class for major species on different site types. * Forecasted harvest areas and yields (thinning and felling) for different crop types in future years.   Accuracy of growth and yield estimates should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation.  There may be some circumstances (e.g. during restructuring), where harvest levels will exceed the increment.  There may be some circumstances (e.g. replacing exotic species with native species), where management intervention may legitimately reduce the productive potential of the forest. |  |
| 2.2.3 | Authorised harvesting of non-timber forest products shall not permanently exceed, or diminish, the long term productive potential of the forest, and the annual allowable harvest of such products shall be included in the management plan. | * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Field inspection * Records of sales of non-timber forest products * Management plan | Non-timber forest products include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seed, venison and other game products.  The management plan should encompass the sustainable management of the non-timber resource where forest management includes commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability |  |
| 2.2.4 | Harvesting and timber sales documentation shall enable all timber sold to be traced back to the forest of origin. | * Harvest records (contracts / output records / contractor invoices) * Timber invoices * Dispatch dockets   Chain of custody codes on all invoices and delivery documents | This is to ensure that timber can be traced back to the point of sale from the forest (standing, at roadside or delivered). The forest owner / manager is responsible for ensuring that, at this point of sale, sufficient documentation is provided to prove that timber is from his / her forest. This is then used by other entities along the supply chain (known as the chain of custody) to identify and trace timber back to the forest of origin. |  |
| 2.3 | **Implementation and revision of the plan** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 2.3.1 | The implementation of operations shall be in close agreement with the details included in the management planning documentation. In cases where there is a material deviation from the planned rate of progress or methods used, this shall:   * be justified by the forest owner / manager * be consistent with the overall forest management objectives   not compromise the ecological integrity of the forest. | * Cross correlation between management planning documentation and operations on the ground * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Field inspections | Changes in planned timing of operations may be justified on ecological, social or economic grounds if overall management practices continue to comply with the other requirements of this standard. |  |
| 2.3.2 | The forest owner / manager shall implement an annual monitoring programme appropriate to the scale and intensity of management and designed to measure progress in the achievement of the forest management objectives (2.1.2) and maintain records to provide evidence of compliance with this certification standard.  Monitoring procedures shall be consistent and replicable over time to allow useful comparison of results and assessment of change. To this end, the monitoring records shall be kept in a consistent format and shall be made publicly available, upon reasonable request.  Monitoring records shall be retained for the duration of the management plan  The parameters monitored shall include as appropriate:   * Harvesting yield * Forest composition and structure * Plant health, and the presence of any pests and diseases * Fauna and flora, in particular key species * Other ecological, social and economic aspects * Where relevant, the results of new scientific research and technological innovation shall be implemented * Where relevant, the incidence of any non-conformities, the associated consequences, and corrective actions taken.   The monitoring programme shall provide information on whether the management system conforms to the forest owner’s / manager’s requirements, the requirements of this standard, and is effectively implemented and maintained. | **All Forests**   * Monitoring records and / or field notes   **Forests larger than 100 ha.**   * A documented monitoring plan * Baseline information from studies in similar woods * An analysis of data collected * Summary of results | See also Guidance in 2.1.4  Monitoring should consist of :   * Supervision during forest operations to ensure compliance with the management plan * Regular management visits and systematic collection of information * Long term studies, where appropriate, particularly on changes to the forest ecosystem. Information from studies (particularly research programmes) carried out on one site can be extrapolated and the results used to assist management of other similar sites. For more complex long term studies it is often more important for the forest owner / manager to be aware of the results and conclusions of such studies than to try and replicate them in their own forest.   Key species are regarded as those listed in Annex 2, 4 and 5 of the EU Habitats Directive and those listed in Irish Red Data Books and Lists (Appendix D)  Detail of information collected should reflect the:   * Size of the enterprise * Intensity of operations * Management objectives * Sensitivity of the site   Monitoring should include means to identify any significant changes, i.e. those likely to have sufficient impact to alter existing ecosystems or endanger the flora and fauna present, in particular any rare species.  Sensitive data may be withheld where justified in the interest of protecting any special species or feature. |  |
| 2.3.3 | The implications of the results of monitoring (2.3.2) shall be taken into account by the forest owner / manager, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation. | * Monitoring records * Management planning documentation * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Field inspections | The monitoring results, similar to the multi-resource inventory, are important in informing management decisions. The management plan will be reviewed every 5 years and at this stage monitoring results should be formally incorporated into the revised plan. |  |

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| **Section 3**  **Forest design: creation, felling and replanting** | | | |  |
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|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 3.1 | **Assessment of environmental impacts** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 3.1.1 | The potential environmental impact of new planting and other forestry projects on European sites (SACs and SPAs) shall be assessed before operations are implemented and shall be subject to DAFM Appropriate Assessment Procedures.  Afforestation of ecologically important areas shall not occur unless in justified circumstances and subject to the appropriate assessment procedure and other ecological evaluation. | * Grant and Felling Licence applications and approval documentation provided for and by the DAFM * Environmental assessment documents (where relevant) * Discussions with forest owner / manager | Environmental assessments are separate to the monitoring programme (see 2.3.2 and 2.3.3) as they are carried out in advance of any approval for operations.  These assessments include the checks listed below (as per DAFM Standards, Requirements, Guidelines and Protocols). In many cases proximity or overlap with various environmental sensitivities will often trigger referral by DAFM to a statutory referral body as part of its evaluation of any associated licence application. Situations where this is the case are indicated with an R.   * In an acid sensitive area (R) * In an area sensitive for fisheries (R) * In a Local Authority designated water scheme area (R) * In or within 3 km of a designated area (pNHA, SAC, SPA or National Park) (R) * Identification of existing habitat areas or features of value * Identification of an aquatic zone and relevant watercourses * Identification of protected fauna and flora present on or frequenting the site * Presence or proximity of an archaeological site or feature (R) * In a designated prime scenic area or outstanding landscape (R) * Identification of areas of potentially high erosion risk * Adjoining dwellings   As required under the Habitats Directive, DAFM applies screening for appropriate assessment and, if required, appropriate assessment to protect European Sites (SACs and SPAs).  Thresholds for requirement of a full Environmental Impact Assessment are currently:  Afforestation: 50 ha. and greater (or < 50 ha. where the proposed development is deemed by the Minister as potentially having have a significant environmental impact)  New Forest Roads: 2000 metres and greater (or < 2,000 metres where the proposed development is deemed by the Minister as potentially having a significant environmental impact). |  |
| 3.1.2 | The results of the appropriate environmental assessments (as carried out in 3.1.1) shall be incorporated into planning and implementation in order to minimize adverse impacts and to secure and enhance environmental gains. This shall be done in full compliance with current DAFM Standards, Requirements, Guidelines, and Protocols. | * Management planning documentation * Field inspections * Discussions with forest owner / manager * Review of contract documents and instructions provided to contractors | It is essential that the results of environmental assessments are fully integrated into management planning and decisions.  . |  |
| 3.2 | **Location and design** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 3.2.1 | New forests shall be located and designed in ways that will maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the wider landscape. Particular attention shall be paid to using naturally occurring and locally appropriate species to create a diverse forest edge. Particular attention will also be paid to setbacks and treatment of the forest edge as viewed from adjoining dwellings | * Management planning documentation * Design plan * Maps * Field inspections * Point photographs. | Full guidance is given in the DAFM “*Environmental Requirements for Afforestation 2016*” and this includes consideration of:  At the Design stage:   * Water * Biodiversity * Archaeology and built heritage * Landscape * Setbacks * Future operational areas   At the Site Works stage:   * Site management * Oversight by other specialists * Contingency measures * Treatment of setbacks * Treatment of future operational areas * Safeguards * Archaeological finds * Burning   Ongoing management:   * Inputs * Drains and sediment traps * Treatment of setbacks |  |
| 3.2.2 | New planting shall be designed in such a way as to ensure the creation over time of a diverse forest. | * Management planning documentation * Discussions with the forest owner / manager * Maps * Field inspections. | A diverse forest may be achieved through one or more of the following:   * Use of diverse species and provenances * Planting mixed stands * Variation in site types and productivity * Phased planting * Retention of open ground * Design and creation of wind firm edges * Adoption of management systems that avoid the need for final felling over a short time period.   See also Requirement 3.3.2  The DAFM Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme (which includes commercial conifers, native forests, and agroforestry requires and provides incentives for the creation of diverse forest through both the rules of each Grant and Premium category and the requirement for compliance with the various DAFM Standards, Requirements, Guidelines and Protocols. |  |
| 3.2.3 | Even aged FMUs shall be gradually restructured to diversify ages and habitats using a design plan (See Requirement 3.2.4) which is reflected in the management plan.  This requirement does not apply to FMUs of < 15 hectares. | * Design plan * Management planning documentation * Maps * Discussions with the forest owner / manager * Field inspections | Restructuring should be planned and implemented following current best practice in forest design. Guidance on forest design and the landscape is provided in the DAFM “*Environmental Requirements for Afforestation*” 2016, the Interim “*Standards for Felling and Reforestation*” 2019 and the reforestation objectives within the “*Felling and Reforestation Policy”* document. ~~For detailed guidance on undertaking forest design planning the Forestry Commission Great Britain Forestry Practice Guide, “~~*~~Forest Design Planning – A Guide to Good Practice~~*~~” should be used.~~    The diversification of even aged forest of all sizes is also influenced by the requirements set out in 3.2.4, 3.3.2, 6.1.2 & 6.2.1. |  |
| 3.2.4 | Clearfelling, replanting or natural regeneration shall be in accordance with ~~the principles and guidelines set out in the Forestry Commission GB Forestry Practice Guide, “~~*~~Forest Design Planning – A Guide to Good Practice~~*~~”~~ the DAFM *Standards, Requirements, Guidelines, and Protocols* and shall be in accordance with a design plan appropriate to the scale (see 3.2.3) of the proposed felling and the sensitivity of the landscape.  ~~All felling and replanting shall be in accordance with a design plan appropriate to the scale of the proposed felling and the sensitivity of the landscape.~~  ~~The rate of felling shall be in accordance with the design plan and shall not exceed 25% of the woodland area in any five year period except in one of the following circumstances:~~   1. ~~The wind hazard classification is ≥ 4~~ 2. ~~There is a strong landscape reason for felling > 25% in a 5 year period~~ 3. ~~Where felling is being undertaken to enhance environmental values and satisfies Requirement 3.5.1~~   ~~Where the owner / manager can demonstrate that there is a substantial financial penalty in premature or delayed felling to achieve re-structuring.~~  The system of felling and extraction shall be suited to the site, taking into consideration such factors as stocking density, terrain, ecology and forest road density. | * Management plan * Design plan * Felling License conditions * Discussions with the forest owner / manager * Field inspection | The DAFM Interim *Standards for Felling and Reforestation* 2019 allow a maximum coupe size of 25 hectares, subject to certain restrictions (see Section 3 of the Standards). Felling is regulated by the DAFM under the Felling Licence system in which statutory bodies are consulted, and various other environmental checks including the appropriate assessment process are undertaken, before the issuing of a licence.  Guidance on forest design and the landscape is provided in the DAFM *Environmental Requirements for Afforestation*.  ~~Where a woodland area is made up of contiguous stands under different ownerships, this requirement should be applied to the total woodland area.~~ |  |
| 3.3 | **Species selection** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 3.3.1 | 1. The range of species selected for new forests, natural regeneration and restocking shall be suited to the site and matched to the objectives and take into consideration;  * Improvement of long-term forest resilience * Management objectives * Requirements for conservation and biodiversity and the restoration of habitats (see Section 6) * Landscape character  1. ~~Where broadleaves are being planted~~ Native and naturalised species shall be preferred to non-native. If non-native species are used it shall be shown that they will clearly outperform native or naturalised species in meeting the owner’s objectives and achieving long-term forest resilience.   C) New planting, natural regeneration and restocking shall improve and restore ecological connectivity, multi-storeyed mixed stands and the creation of wildlife corridors. | * Discussions with the forest owner / manager demonstrate that consideration has been given to a range of species, including native species, in meeting management objectives * Provenance certificates * Field inspection. | Results of research into site suitability of different species shall be used to assist in species selection. Because of the uncertain effects of climate change, selecting a range of reproductive material may be prudent.  Where appropriate and possible use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species) or region of provenance (non-native species).  As a general principle, management should maintain and where possible enhance species diversity. Larger FMUs will generally present more opportunities for species diversification.  Refer to Section 6.2.1 which gives the requirements relating to areas managed with biodiversity as a major objective.  Additional open space and / or native shrubs can be provided instead of native broadleaved trees if they are not suited to the site.  Open space with wildlife value contiguous with the forest can be counted towards the requirement if it is managed as part of the forest.  Where appropriate and possible, use natural regeneration or native planting stock.  EPA water catchment mapping and geo hive maps of old woodland and ancient woodlands are good sources to identify the most appropriate positioning of wildlife/ecological corridors to maximise connectivity in the landscape.  A list of naturalised species in Ireland is provided in Appendix E. |  |
| ~~3.3.2~~ | ~~The proportions of different species in new planting, or planned for the next rotation of an existing plantation, shall be as follows:~~  ~~<65% primary species~~  ~~>20% secondary species~~  ~~>10% open space~~  ~~>5% native or naturalised broadleaf~~  ~~The requirement in relation to open space does not apply to woodlands less than 10 hectares in size.~~ | * ~~Management planning documentation~~ * ~~Field inspections~~ | Refer to Section 6.2.1 which gives the requirements relating to areas managed with biodiversity as a major objective.  Additional open space and / or native shrubs can be provided instead of native broadleaved trees if they are not suited to the site.  Open space with wildlife value contiguous with the woodland can be counted towards the requirement if it is managed as part of the woodland.  Where appropriate and possible, use natural regeneration or planting stock of native provenance for native species. |  |
| 3.3.2 | 1. Non native plant (non-tree) and animal species shall only be introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits. 2. All introductions shall be carefully monitored by owner / manager | * Documented impact assessment of any introductions made after the first certification * Discussions with the forest owner / manager * Field inspections | The requirement includes the re-introduction of once native animals not currently present in Ireland.  Forest owners are not held responsible for introductions prior to entering into the certification process.  Appendix G provides a list of banned invasive species in Ireland. |  |
| 3.3.3 | Genetically modified trees shall not be used | * Plant documentation / certificates of provenance * Discussions with the forest owner / manager | The restriction on the usage of genetically modified trees has been adopted based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees improved by traditional methods, no genetically modified trees will be used. |  |
| 3.4 | **Silvicultural systems** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 3.4.1 | 1. A silvicultural system(s) best suited to achieve the forest management policy and objectives as set out in 2.1.2 shall be selected and a rationale provided for this. 2. For FMUs greater than 100 hectares in size, 10% of this area will be identified and plans made for the phased implementation of low impact silvicultural systems with a preference for use of natural regeneration where parent seed is suitable. 3. Where there are a range of silvicultural options on wind-firm sites, lower impact silvicultural systems shall be increasingly favoured where they are suited to the soil conditions and species. | * Management Plan * Rationale for selected silvicultural system(s) * Discussions with the forest owner / manager | Low impact silvicultural systems are ones other than clearfelling which use natural structures and processes to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests and in so doing the multiple products and services they provide. The choice of silvicultural system should take into account:   * Silvicultural characteristics of the species * Site limitations including potential growth rates and wind firmness * Intended stem size and quality * Current and future markets for timber products * Impacts on the landscape and wildlife * Age structure and felling plan of nearby forests * Ecological processes and natural disturbance regime for that forest type * Historical management practices * Views of local people * The presence of Old Woodland Sites (see 6.3.1 and 6.3.2).   The 10% of area in FMUs greater than 100 ha. where low impact silvicultural systems are required can be inclusive of:   * areas satisfying requirement 6.2.1 * areas retained as part of the restructuring requirements outlined in 3.2.3 and 3.4.2   areas being restored to semi-natural woodland or non-forest habitats as outlined in requirements 3.5.1, 6.3.1, and 6.3.2. |  |
| 3.4.2 | Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, shall be maintained and where appropriate, developed. | * Management Plan * Map showing any areas of traditional systems * Discussions with the forest owner / manager * Field inspection | Traditional management systems may, in addition to being associated with valuable ecosystems, play an important social or cultural function worthy of being supported and maintained.  These could form the basis of intimate planting within plantations and also planting beneath powerlines, for example hazel (owners and managers should check the “Permitted Purposes” within the legal agreement between landowner and power network entity).  Buffer broadleaved planting could also be managed via coppicing to increase biodiversity. |  |
| 3.5 | **Conversion to non-forested land** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 3.5.1 | Felling of part of a forest and restoration and/or transformation of that part to non forested land shall only be carried out:   * + 1. Where planning permission has been obtained for the change   Or   * + 1. Where all of the following conditions are met: * there is approval from relevant authorities * conversion entails a small proportion (max 5%) of forest type * conversion does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas * conversion makes a contribution to long term conservation, economic and social benefits * conversion does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock | * Management Plan * Records of consultations, felling licence and associated conditions * Consultation with interested parties * Ecological or other appropriate assessments * Field inspection | Tree felling in Ireland is regulated by the Forest Service under the terms of the 2014 Forestry Act. While it is normal for the Minister to attach a replanting obligation as a condition of felling permission, it can be waived at the Minister’s discretion.  In many cases, particularly on sensitive sites felling licence applications are referred by the DAFM and all applications undergo the appropriate assessment procedure.    This requirement does not apply in cases where the state has compulsorily purchased the area in question. Further details and the relevant statutory requirements are contained in *Felling and Reforestation Policy (2014), section 3.4.*  See Section 3.1.1 for guidance on threshold requirements of an EIA. |  |

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| **Section 4**  **Operations** | | | |  |
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|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 4.1 | **General** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 4.1.1 | The planning of forest operations shall involve:   1. An assessment of the potential impacts of that operation on the forest’s social, economic and ecological value. 2. Identifying suitable equipment and systems to avoid negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. 3. Giving special consideration and care to operations on soils which are particularly prone to erosion and compaction and where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. 4. Identifying areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on water quality and quantity, and ensuring no use of chemicals. 5. Obtaining relevant permission(s), consultation with directly affected local people and giving any formal notification required. 6. A full briefing with staff / contractors with regard to the proposed operations and where heavy machinery is to be used, a written operational plan and map shall be provided to staff / contractors.   Identifying climate positive practices and taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use resources efficiently | * Management Plan * Operational Plan * Documented permissions * Consultation records * Discussions with forest owner / manager * Documented environmental appraisal | All applications for forestry operations (with or without grant aid) are subject to the DAFM’s appropriate assessment procedure, commencing with screening, to ensure that the project, in common with other adjoining projects, will not adversely affect any European sites, and undergo screening at the pre-approval stage. The interim *Standards for Felling and Reforestation* and the *Environmental Requirements for Afforestation* both set out measures that directly relate to operations.  Good forest management operations take into account all of the functions of the forest (social, ecological and economic) and ensure that these functions are positively served. For example, this means that forest operations should have low or positive impacts on:   * Soil structure * Water quality * Biodiversity * Recreational values * Timber quality * Internal views * Landscape * Rate of water run-off * Growth rates * People * Carbon storage * Local economy |  |
| 4.1.2 | Implementation of operational plans shall be monitored by the forest owner / manager. | * Discussions with forest owner / manager * Monitoring records | Appropriate monitoring may range from regular supervision of active operations to internal audits of active and completed sites. The scale and intensity of monitoring operations will be determined by the scale of the forestry enterprise and the intensity of the operations being carried out. |  |
| 4.2 | **Harvesting operations** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 4.2.1 | Harvesting operations shall conform to best practice as detailed ~~in the relevant sections of the Forest Service “~~*~~Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines~~*~~” and “~~*~~Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines~~*~~”~~ by DAFM. | * Field Inspections * Discussions with forest owner / manager / employees / contractors * Completed harvesting site monitoring forms * Contract documents and instructions provided to contractors * Felling Licence and Conditions | Details are provided in the DAFM *Standards for Felling and Reforestation* and the *Forestry and Water Quality* Guidelines (2000) regarding harvesting and water, the latter in relation to forest roading. |  |
| 4.2.2 | Where harvesting operations which involve the removal of more than just the timber stem are planned and where there is a risk of significant negative effects on soil structure or productivity, an environmental appraisal shall be undertaken. | * Field Inspections * Management Plan * Documented environmental appraisal | This requirement refers to whole tree harvesting, residue bundling and any other form of harvesting involving more than just the timber stem.  Potential significant negative effects include:   * Leaching * Soil compaction * Nutrient loss * Loss of soil carbon * Run-off |  |
| 4.2.3 | There shall be no burning of lop and top on site. | * Field Inspections |  |  |
| 4.2.4 | Timber shall be harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage. | * Field Inspections | Harvesting should particularly seek to avoid:   * Damage to soil and water courses during felling and extraction * Damage to standing trees during felling and extraction * Timber degrade * The breakage or loss of merchantable timber   Damage to habitats / features identified in the inventory of resources (See 2.1.1) |  |
| 4.3 | **Forest roads** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 4.3.1 | All necessary consents shall be obtained for the construction, extension and upgrades of:   * Forest roads * Mineral extraction sites * Borrow pits * Other infrastructure. | * Record of consents * Field inspection | New roads that are 2 km in length or greater must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment. Lengths of road less that this are also subject to sub-threshold screening for EIA.  Forest road applications, either alone or in combination with other projects, must also undergo the DAFM appropriate assessment procedure to ensure no adverse effects on any European sites  Where new entrances are being made onto national public roads planning permission from the local authority is required. Under the Single Consent System, permission to construct a forest road entrance onto a secondary public road rests with DAM and is included in the grant of approval to construct a forest road. Further details are contained in the Technical Standard *Design of Forest Entrances from Public Roads* and the Circular *Forest Entrances – Requirements for Mandatory Consultation* (February 2020). |  |
| 4.3.2 | Roading operations shall conform to current best practice as detailed ~~in the COFORD Forest Road Manual and the relevant sections of the Forest Service “~~*~~Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines~~*~~” and the “~~*~~Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines~~*~~”~~ by DAFM.  Roads and timber extraction tracks and associated drainage shall be designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impact. | * Field Inspections * Discussions with the forest owner / manager * Completed forest road monitoring forms | The COFORD Forest Road Manual 2nd Edition (2006) and the relevant section of the DAFM “*Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines*” and the section titled Roading are the relevant docs..  The relevant section of the Forest Service “*Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines*” is the section titled Roads.  Photographic evidence could be used as a means to show compliance with the requirements.  The Key Construction and Operational Issues identified in the COFORD Forest Road Manual are:   * Tree clearance * Road drainage * Formation methods * Construction guidelines (reversal roads) * Completion * Construction problems * Construction materials * Quarries, pits and spoil disposal areas * Embankments * Access to the road from the forest * Streams and water crossings * Road curves, junctions, passing and turning places * Interaction with public roads * Loading bays along public roads |  |

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| **Section 5**  **Protection and Maintenance** | | | |  |
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|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 5.1 | **Planning** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 5.1.1 | Risks to the forest from wind, fire, pests and diseases shall be assessed, and measures to minimise these risks shall be incorporated in planting, design and management plans. | * Management planning documents * Discussions with forest owner / manager * Field inspection | Examples of risks and appropriate mitigation measures are provided in the DAFM “*Forest Protection Guidelines*” (2000) and *Prescribed Burning Code of Practice – Ireland* (2012). Also see the Woodlands of Ireland Information Note No. 7 – *The Management of Deer in Native Woodland* (2018), and the DAFM webpage on Forest Health, which includes information on biosecurity, pests, and details on reporting a quarantined tree and forest pests or disease (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a>8885-forest-health/#pests-and-diseases).  These risks include:   * Competing vegetation * Livestock, including trespassing livestock * Deer * Rabbit * Hare * Grey squirrel * Bank vole * Goat * Large pine weevil * “Fomes” butt rot * Fire * Wind * Spring frost |  |
| 5.1.2 | Tree health and grazing impacts shall be monitored and results shall be incorporated into management planning together with guidance arising from national monitoring on plant health. | * Discussions with forest owner / manager shows awareness of potential risks * Evidence of unhealthy trees is noted and appropriate action taken   **Forests over 100 ha. in size**   * Documented systems for assessing tree health * Notes or records of monitoring and responses to problems | The DAFM, through their Forest Protection Section, oversee a national tree / forest health monitoring programme. |  |
| 5.1.3 | Where appropriate, management of wild deer shall be based on a written Deer Management Plan which includes the management objectives.  Deer population control shall be carried out by competent deer hunters who have completed the HCAP or equivalent and shall where possible be in co-operation with adjoining landowners.  Where there is evidence of significant damage to trees or ground flora, action to control the population shall be taken to protect the forest. | * Written deer management plan * Awareness of potential problems and description of appropriate action * Evidence of liaison with adjoining landowners * Evidence of cull targets and achievements * Written agreement with deer hunter * Evidence of HCAP or equivalent training and certification. | The Hunter Competency Assessment Programme (HCAP) is an agreed deer hunting standard drawn up by a joint forum including Coillte, the Deer Alliance, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, The DAFM, An Garda Siochana, the Irish Farmers Association and the Irish Timber Growers Association. Deer hunters can be trained, assessed and certified against this standard.  See also Section 6.4.1.  Best Practice Guides dealing specifically with the general conditions and environment surrounding the safe, efficient and humane management of wild deer in Ireland have been especially developed by the Irish Deer Management Forum, a non-statutory stakeholder forum established by DAFM and NPWS to coordinate deer management policy development. The guides are available at [www.bestpracticeguides.ie](http://www.bestpracticeguides.ie)  The Woodlands of Ireland information note 7 *The Management of Deer in Native Woodlands* contains detailed information on deer management. |  |
| 5.1.4 | Management of damaging wild mammals (other than deer) shall where possible be in co-operation with adjoining landowners. | * Awareness of potential problems and description of appropriate action taken * Records of liaison with adjoining landowners   Records of contact with local NPWS Conservation Ranger in the case of protected pest species (eg hare) | Damaging wild animals are described in the DAFM “*Forest Protection Guidelines*”, and include:   * Rabbit * Hare * Grey squirrel * Bank vole * Goat   The owner / manager should consider preparing a written management plan where specific pest species are present, defining actions and metrics for verification. |  |
| 5.1.5 | On becoming aware of the presence or new arrival of invasive mammals in the FMU, the owner / manager shall report this to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. | * Records of contact with NPWS | The owner / manager should also consider reporting such incidences to the DAFM and other authorities as appropriate. |  |
| 5.1.6 | When, following an assessment (see 5.1.1), a significant risk of fire is identified, a fire plan shall be prepared. | * Fire plan   Discussions with forest owner / manager | A fire plan should include:   * A fire plan map – 6” scale or metric equivalent showing features such as   + Firebreaks   + Access routes (vehicular and pedestrian)   + Water sources   + Hazards   + Description of fuels   + Vehicle limitations – eg. Bridges or crossing points that may be impassable to heavy vehicles   + Escape routes and safe zones   + Details of tactical guidance, based on prevailing fire risk condition, as per DAFM Fire Risk Notices   + Description of previous known fire activity for the site in question * A location map – Ordnance Survey Discovery Series * Entrance co-ordinates * Details of any limiting factors. A document showing the location of necessary equipment, site features and contact details of the fire brigade and people who can be called upon to help if a fire occurs   DAFM publications on fire management can be found at these links: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/01773-fire-management/> and  https://assets.gov.ie/125854/0c5562eb-f017-4b99-99e4-d2a50a020842.pdf |  |
| 5.1.7 | Areas that fulfill specific and recognized protective functions, either ecologically or for society, shall be mapped and forest management plans shall take full account of these.  The identified protective functions shall be maintained or enhanced. | * Maps * Management plan * Field inspection | Such areas may include:   * Riparian and buffer areas * Sensitive catchments * Steep forested slopes above roads, houses or built up areas * Areas vulnerable to soil erosion * Other designated areas * Ancient and old woodland sites (see 6.3.2)   Mapping can be in conjunction with the EPA water catchment mapping, GeoHive system and 1830s maps  Guidance on the management of riparian areas and sensitive catchments is given in the DAFM “*Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, Standards for Felling and Reforestation, and also the Felling and Reforestation Policy* document which details a reforestation objective specifically for biodiversity and water protection. Reference can also be made to the DAFM *Woodlands for Water* and *Forests and Water: Achieving Objectives under Ireland’s River Basement Management Plan 2018-21*.  Guidance on the identification, design, establishment and management of native riparian woodland is provided in the Woodlands of Ireland Publication “*Native Riparian Woodlands – A Guide to Identification, Design, Establishment and Management*”. |  |
| 5.2 | Plant protection products, biological control agents and fertilisers | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 5.2.1 | Where an assessment (see 5.1.1) identifies a significant risk from pests or diseases, an integrated pest management strategy shall be prepared and implemented. | * Integrated pest management strategy * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Management plan * Field inspection | An integrated pest management strategy seeks to address the problem using a strategic approach based on the site conditions, the ecology of the pest and the status of the outbreak. It will use an appropriate combination of statutory, chemical, physical and biological control measures. |  |
| 5.2.2 | It shall be a forest management objective to minimize the use of chemical pesticides in the forest. | * Written forest management objective in management plan * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Field inspections * Evidence that alternative methods have been explored to replace chemical use as well as actual reduction of use year on year. | This requirement is associated with requirement 5.2.1 whereby pesticide use, where necessary, is only used as part of an integrated pest management plan and not as the only solution to a pest problem.  Priority should be given to biological control methods where proven to be effective and available and approved for use in forestry in Ireland. |  |
| 5.2.3 | Where pesticides and/or biological control agents are to be used:   1. The forest owner / manager shall justify the reasons for selecting the chosen method 2. The forest owner / manager, staff and contractors shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides in forestry. 3. The forest owner / manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation. 4. The forest owner / manager shall only use plant protection products/biological control agents approved for use in forestry in Ireland by the PRCD. 5. The forest owner / manager shall select the least harmful plant protection products/biological control agents suitable and shall apply the minimum amount of product required. | * Pesticide purchase and use records * Evidence that personal protective equipment is used * Discussion with forest owner / manager   Field inspections | ~~Guidelines for the use of pesticides in Irish forests are clearly laid out in the Forest Service “~~*~~Forest Protection Guidelines~~*~~” and the Guidelines for the Use of Herbicides in Forestry (Ward, 1998).~~  In Ireland, pesticides are regulated by the Pesticides, Registration and Control Divisions (PRCD) of DAFM; further guidelines are contained in section 3.7 of the DAFM “*Environmental Requirements for Afforestation”.*  Usage of pesticides should be recorded in a clear and consistent manner that facilitates year on year comparison. The record should include details of:   * The pesticide used * The amount used * The reasons for use * The date of use * The site and area it was used on * The soil type * The prevailing weather conditions   This will enable the recognition of any trends which will inform future planning and operations.  The EU framework for action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides is set out in EU Directive 2009/128/EC  The use of pesticides is governed by the European Communities Regulation 2012, *Sustainable Use of Pesticides.*  For further guidance see the Pesticide Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) and Irish National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. |  |
| 5.2.4 | Storage, handling, use and disposal of chemicals shall be in compliance with ~~Forest Service “~~*~~Forest Protection Guidelines~~*~~” and any other up to date published advice~~ the DAFM Standards, Requirements, Guidelines, and Protocols. | * Visit to chemical store * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Disposal records   Field inspections | In Ireland, pesticides are regulated by the Pesticides, Registration and Control Divisions (PRCD) of DAFM. Guidance is also given in the DAFM “*Environmental Requirements for Afforestation.*  Empty containers should be disposed of in accordance with the *EPA/DAFM Good Practice Guide for Empty Pesticide Containers, and their d*isposal should be in accordance with procedures as set out in 5.4.1. |  |
| 5.2.5 | Fertilisers:   1. Fertilisers shall only be used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies based on foliar or soil analysis 2. Where fertilisers are to be used the forest owner / manager, staff and contractors shall be aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidelines for their use in forestry. 3. As detailed in Section 3.1, the potential environmental impact of fertiliser use shall be assessed prior to use. This assessment shall determine whether or not the use is appropriate and if it is appropriate, how it should be carried out in order to minimise adverse impacts and to secure or enhance environmental gains.   Fertilisers shall be applied in a controlled manner, with due consideration for the environment, and their use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management. | * Discussion with forest owner / manager * Records of fertiliser use * Field inspections   Documented environmental appraisal | Unnecessary use of fertiliser may be avoided through the use of appropriate species or mixtures.  Appropriate fertiliser use is described in the DAFM “*Environmental Requirements for Afforestation*”, the *“Standards for Felling and Reforestation”* and the *“Aerial Fertilisation Requirements”*. Also, appendices 14 and 16 of the *Forestry Standards Manual* (Nov 2015) contain procedures for soil and foliar sampling. |  |
| 5.3 | **Fencing** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 5.3.1 | Where appropriate, wildlife management and control shall be used in preference to fencing. Where fences are used, opportunities shall be taken to minimise negative impacts on access, landscape, wildlife and sites of public interest. | * Discussion with forest owner / manager demonstrates and awareness of impacts of fence alignments and the alternatives * Field inspections. | Decisions to erect fences, their alignment and specification should take account of:   * Landscape * Public rights of way * Existing users of the forest * Wildlife * Archaeology |  |
| 5.4 | **Waste management** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 5.4.1 | Waste disposal shall be in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations. | * No evidence of impacts from waste disposal * Documented policy on waste disposal including segregation, recycling, return to manufacturer | Waste includes:   * Surplus or out of date chemicals * Chemical containers * Plastic waste * Fuels and lubricants * Planting bags   Plastic tree shelters should not be allowed to create a litter problem at the end of their effective life.  The relevant waste management legislation are the Waste Management Acts (1996 to 2011) and The Litter Pollution Acts (1997 to 2009).  EPA Statutory Requirements for Good Plant Protection Practice (GPPP) should be adhered to. |  |
| 5.4.2 | Contingency plans and equipment shall be in place to deal with spillages. | * Discussions with forest owner / manager, staff and contractors * Appropriate equipment available in the field * Reports of any accidental spillage to relevant authority * Contract documents and instructions provided to contractors   + Any post spillage event monitoring records | Guidance on this requirement is provided in the DAFM:   * *Environmental Requirements for Afforestation* (Dec 2016) * *Standards for Felling and Reforestation* (Oct 2019) * *Forest Protection Guidelines (2000)* |  |

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| **Section 6**  **Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity** | | | |  |
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|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 6.1 | **Protection of rare species and habitats** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 6.1.1 | National Parks and statutorily designated areas shall be identified and mapped. Management in the form of notifiable actions shall be agreed in consultation with the relevant statutory agency. | * Maps showing designated areas * Management Plans * Field Inspection * Documented evidence of consultation with statutory agencies | Statutorily designated areas include established and proposed   * Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) * Special Protection Areas (SPAs) * Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) * Nature Reserves   Notifiable Actions, which are also subject to the DAFM appropriate assessment procedure, are certain activities or operations In Designated Areas that might be damaging. Notifiable Actions can only be carried out with the permission of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These vary depending on the type of habitat that is present on the site. Such activities or operations are not prohibited but require the landowner/occupier to consult (in practice with the local Conservation Ranger) in advance. Notifiable Actions do not apply where a licence or permission is needed from a planning authority (e.g. planning permission) or another Minister (e.g. a felling licence or afforestation approval) |  |
| 6.1.2 | Features and small areas of high biodiversity value shall be identified, mapped and managed to maintain or enhance biodiversity as the primary management objective. | * Maps indicating presence of features / areas of high biodiversity value * Evidence of a pro-active approach to the identification of these features and areas * Field Inspection * Management Plans | Examples of such features and areas include veteran trees, hollow trees, ponds, old hedgerows, rocky outcrops etc. More comprehensive lists are provided in the DAFM *Environmental Requirements for Afforestation*, the *Standards for Felling and Reforestation,* and the *Forestry Standards Manual* (2015).  These features and areas may include other non forest semi-natural habitats e.g. moorland, heathland, wood pasture or grassland that is adjacent to or influenced by the forest.  Management of these features and areas should be in accordance with the DAFM *Environmental Requirements for Afforestation*, and with Local Biodiversity Plans prepared by the Local Authority.  Identification and mapping of these features may be carried out on an ongoing basis, provided that it has been completed prior to significant forest management operations taking place. |  |
| 6.1.3 | Where a rare or endangered species is known to be present in the forest, the relevant statutory authority shall be notified and appropriate management shall be agreed with them.  Rare or endangered species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes, and where necessary measures shall be taken to ensure their protection. | * Evidence of consultation and agreement with statutory authority | Rare and endangered species in Ireland are listed in Irish Red Data Books and Lists which are fully referenced in Appendix D.  For some rare and endangered species, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has prepared Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Threat Response Plans (TRPs). For these species, the SAP and TRP should be consulted and conformed with. |  |
| 6.2 | **Maintenance of biodiversity and ecological functions** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 6.2.1 | A minimum of 15% of the FMU area shall be managed with conservation and biodiversity as the primary objective. This shall include a minimum of 10% retained forest and/or scrub habitat.  Where restocking of this 15% area managed for biodiversity is to be carried out, a minimum one-third of this area will be planted with native species | * Maps showing areas where biodiversity is a primary objective * Field inspections * Management plan | Management in these areas should be in accordance with the DAFM *Environmental Requirements for Afforestation. Further guidance on management for conservation and biodiversity can be found in The Woodlands for Water* document*, and* the joint DAFM/NPWS *Management Guidelines for Ireland’s Native Woodlands.*  This area can be inclusive of:   * areas and features identified in 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 * areas retained as part of the restructuring requirements outlined in 3.2.3 and 3.4.2   areas being restored to semi-natural woodland or non-forest habitats as outlined in requirements 3.5.1, 6.3.1, and 6.3.2. |  |
| 6.2.2 | Standing and fallen deadwood habitats and some over-mature and veteran trees shall be retained throughout the forest where this does not compromise the safety of the public or forestry workers or the health of the forest.  Some deadwood shall be left in situ after thinning and final harvesting and the owner / manager shall take action to accumulate a diversity of standing and fallen deadwood over time in all wooded parts of the FMU, including felled areas. | * Harvesting contracts * Field inspections * Management plan   Discussions with forest owner / manager, staff and contractors | Guidance on the retention of standing and fallen deadwood and over-mature trees is provided in the DAFM *Standards for Felling and Reforestation Standard* and the *Management Guid*elines *for Ireland’s Native Woodlands. The Forest Biodiversity Guidelines* also contain guidance on over-mature trees and deadwood. |  |
| 6.3 | **Conservation of semi-natural woodlands and plantations on old woodland sites** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 6.3.1 | Forest areas identified as semi-natural woodland, whether or not it is classified as degraded, shall:   1. not be converted to plantations or non-forest land. 2. be managed using a low impact silvicultural system 3. follow the prescriptions of any plan agreed in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service   Adverse ecological impacts of non-native species shall be monitored in semi-natural woodlands. | * Maps showing any semi-natural woodlands * Field inspections * Management planning documentation agreed with the National parks and Wildlife Service * Monitoring records. | A National Survey of Native Woodlands was undertaken in 2009 on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.  Areas of semi-natural woodland not identified in the above survey may also exist and this survey should not be regarded as a definitive record.  The DAFM/NPWS *Management Guidelines for Ireland’s Native Woodlands* gives examples of different types of native woodland |  |
| 6.3.2 | Forest owners and managers shall:   * identify action which will progressively improve the biodiversity, environmental and cultural values of plantations on old woodland sites (POWS), considering the site, landscape context and management objectives. * maintain and enhance remnant features of old woodlands on all POWS. This process shall be achieved by:   + Undertaking field assessment and evaluation of the biodiversity, environmental and cultural value of POWS to identify threats, ongoing declines and potential gains   + Prioritising action taking account of the degree and immediacy of threats to remnant features and potential biodiversity gains at a site and landscape level * identify management prescriptions that   + maintain old woodland features by addressing threats and ongoing decline on all POWS   + secure potential gains identified as a priority   + adopt appropriate silvicultural systems that minimise negative impacts and have an emphasis on gradual change * implement management prescriptions that ensure that:   + field assessments are carried out prior to planned operations to ensure remnant features are safeguarded   + operations are implemented in a manner that does not adversely impact the sites’ values * implement a monitoring plan that includes:   + monitoring and reviewing the condition of old woodland features and the effect of forest management actions on them   + monitoring the status of threats   monitoring the condition of cultural heritage features | * Maps showing any POWS and highlighting remnant features * Assessment of current state of biodiversity and heritage value of POWS and associated features * Written management strategy for any POWS * Field inspections   Monitoring plan and completed records | For the purpose of this standard, plantations on old woodland sites (POWS) are considered to be plantations on sites that were recorded as woodland on the 1830’s Ordnance Survey Map Series.  A more detailed definition of POWS in Ireland may be agreed at a future date but in the meantime the above definition is agreed.  The overriding principle for POWS is that their current biodiversity and heritage values should be enhanced. This will probably be best achieved over a long period with a gradual process of change favoured over sudden changes.  It is essential that the forest owner / manager has a strategy to achieve this based on a good knowledge of the current state of the site and a precautionary approach to operations. The effect of all operations on the biodiversity and heritage values of the site are to be monitored. If, despite careful planning, the operations are adversely affecting these values then they should be halted and a new strategy adopted.  Remnant features of old woodland may include for example:   * Flora (including fungi and microbial flora) and/or fauna associated with a particular type of woodland * Old coppice or other stumps * Veteran trees retained in hedgerows, copses or inaccessible areas such as gullies, ravines and crags.   The joint DAFM/NPWS *Management Guidelines for Ireland’s Native Woodlands* is also a source of reference |  |
| 6.3.3 | Where appropriate and possible, forest owners / managers shall use natural regeneration or, in the case of native species, planting stock of native provenance.  In the case of semi-natural woodlands, natural regeneration and, subject to availability, seed / planting stock of native provenance shall be the only means of regeneration used.  In the case of POWS, where native species are being sown or planted, only seed and planting stock of native provenance shall be used. | * Provenance certificates * Field inspections | Forest nurseries trace the source of all seed used in their production of transplants and provide provenance certificates for all transplants sold.  The island of Ireland is considered a single provenance for all native species.  In the case of use of non-native species and provenances there should be clear justification on grounds such as tree vigour or timber quality.  A list of tree species native to Ireland is provided in Appendix E. |  |
| 6.4 | **Game management** | | |  |
| 6.4.1 | Hunting, game rearing and shooting and fishing shall be carried out in accordance with licence conditions and in a sustainable manner that does not threaten the viability of the local population of any particular species.  In the case of deer hunting, all hunters shall have successfully completed a Hunter Competency Assessment Programme (HCAP) or equivalent (see 5.1.3).. | Licences from National Parks & Wildlife Service and Gardaí   * Letting agreements * Records of hunters' qualifications * Field inspections * Hunting records (including dates, numbers, species, ages, sex and location) * Insurance records * Discussions with forest owner / manager. | Wildlife management is legislated for in the Wildlife Act (1976) and the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000).  Deer hunting licences are issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and require written permission from the landowner in question. |  |
| 6.4.2 | Game management shall not be so intense as to cause long-term or widespread negative impacts on the forest ecosystem. | * Management planning documentation and specific game management plans * Field inspections. | Feeding and rearing areas should be located in areas where there will be low impact on ground flora.  Some predator species are legally protected and predator control should only be carried out if:   * In compliance with the law * Carefully planned * Species specific * Only carried out when essential |  |

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| **Section 7**  **The community** | | | |  |
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|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 7.1 | **Consultation** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.1.1 | Affected stakeholders shall be made aware that:   * New or revised management planning documentation, as specified in Section 2.1, is being produced * High impact operations i.e. clearfelling and road construction, are planned * New or revised design plans are being produced * The forest is being evaluated for certification   The owner / manager shall identify affected stakeholders, consult adequately with them, determine their needs and expectations, and make a reasonable response to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement.  At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification. | * Consultation with the Forest Service and other statutory agencies * Evidence of communication with affected stakeholders | The forest owner / manager should be able to justify the level of consultation undertaken and the certification body will look for corroborating evidence.  Examples of methods for making people and relevant organisations aware include:   * Statutory consultations by the DAFM on the forest owner’s behalf * Voluntary consultation with relevant bodies * Letters to individuals or groups * Temporary or permanent signs in or near the affected forest * Information in local press / media (including internet) * Meetings   The certification body is also required to consult with relevant stakeholders as part of the certification audit |  |
| 7.1.2 | Best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices through consultation with affected stakeholders. | * Consultation records * Discussions with affected stakeholders | Records can be in the form of a log or diary but should clearly record the identity of the consultee, the matter discussed, the views of the consultee and any resulting actions from the meeting or reasons for non-acceptance of the consultees suggestions.  DAFM has implemented a national scheme for Forestry Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTGs). There is a number of approved KTGs, funded by DAFM, established by forestry consultants, companies and producer groups. |  |
| 7.1.3 | Records shall be kept of consultation undertaken, resulting actions and responses. | * Consultation records * Discussions with affected stakeholders | Records can be in the form of a log or diary but should clearly record the identity of the consultee, the matter discussed, the views of the consultee and any resulting actions from the meeting or reasons for non-acceptance of the consultees suggestions. |  |
| 7.2 | **Forest Access and Recreation Including Traditional and Use Rights** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.2.1 | Legal, customary and traditional use rights, whether written or implied, relating to forest access shall be clarified, recognized and respected. | * Documentation or maps of all existing and traditional uses of the forest * Evidence of discussions with interested parties * Field observations of public rights of way * Evidence presented to justify any restriction to traditional uses. | Records can be in the form of a log or diary but should clearly record the identity of the consultee, the matter discussed, the views of the consultee and any resulting actions from the meeting or reasons for non-acceptance of the consultees suggestions.  See also Section 1.1.3. |  |
| 7.2.2 | The forest owner / manager will positively consider any reasonable and formal request for access to the forest for recreational, educational or health and well-being purpose | * Evidence of discussions with interested parties * Field observations * Evidence presented to justify any refusal of access following a formal request * Discussions with the forest owner / manager | Records can be in the form of a log or diary but should clearly record the identity of the consultee, the matter discussed, the views of the consultee and any resulting actions from the meeting or reasons for non-acceptance of the consultees suggestions. |  |
| 7.3 | **Sites with Recognised Specific Historical, Cultural or Spiritual Significance** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.3.1 | Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance shall be mapped and protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site. | * Maps * Field inspections * Management Plans | Such sites may include archaeological sites, historic monuments, holy wells, mass paths, sacred sites/trees, etc.  Where such sites are not already identified and documented on national archaeology and monuments registers, the awareness and identification of the location of such sites could be obtained through consultation with affected stakeholders.  Procedures in relation to archaeology are contained in the *Forestry Standards Manual* |  |
| 7.4 | **Rural economy** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.4.1 | The forest owner / manager shall promote the integration of forests into the local economy and respond positively to local requests for forest products and services subject to compliance with the management plan, the principle of sustained yield and an economic return for these products and services. | * Evidence of attempts to engage with local contractors and suppliers * Evidence of promoting or encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy | Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved by:   * Making reasonable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies. * Allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist products * Promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the forest or local economy   An example of how the forest owner / manager might help to diversify the processing industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction. |  |
| 7.4.2 | Where wood and wood-based products are to be procured, the forest owner / manager shall attempt to purchase these from suppliers holding valid Chain of Custody certification. | * Evidence of attempts to engage with and promote certification to local suppliers * Discussions with forest owner / manager | In order to promote the circular economy efforts should be made to promote the benefits of forest certification to all suppliers of wood and wood-based materials.  Examples of materials in the supply chain that should ideally be certified include;   * Paper, printed material, stationery * Fencing stakes * Construction timber * Office furniture |  |
| 7.5 | **Minimising adverse impacts** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.5.1 | The forest owner / manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and the wider impacts of forest operations on local people. | * Evidence that complaints have been recorded and dealt with constructively * Discussions with interested parties * Risk assessment records * Tree safety inspection records * Evidence of actions taken in response to identified risks | Site specific risk assessments should identify relevant potential impacts  Examples of possible risks include:   * Unsafe trees * Excessive Noise * Presence of certain pests * Adverse water runoff * Landslide * Damage to roads * Chemical spillage |  |
| 7.6 | **Complaints** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.6.1 | The forest owner/manager shall respond constructively to complaints, seek to resolve grievances through engagement with complainants in the first instance, and follow established legal process should this become necessary. | * Discussion with interested parties * Evidence of documented procedures * A public contact point | Complaints and disputes should be formally acknowledged and appropriate action taken. Every effort should be made to resolve complaints and disputes at the local level.  PEFC Ireland has documented procedures for the resolution of complaints contained in the *PEFC Ireland Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management* |  |
| 7.7 | **Scientific research** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 7.7.1 | Where appropriate, the forest owner / manager shall respond positively to requests to contribute to research activities and data collection needed for the advancement of sustainable forest management, and being undertaken by accredited research organisations. | * Discussion with the owner / manager * Evidence of documented procedures * Evidence of response to any requests to support scientific research | Forestry research is conducted by a number of organisations, including Teagasc, third level institutes and other parties. |  |

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| **Section 8**  **The Forestry Workforce** | | | |  |
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|  | **REQUIREMENT** | **MEANS OF VERIFICATION** | **GUIDANCE** |  |
| 8.1 | **Health and safety** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 8.1.1 | There shall be:  a) Compliance with primary Irish Health and Safety Legislation  b) Compliance with the Irish HSA approved Codes Of Practices on Managing Safety and Health in Forestry Operations and the ILO approved Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work  c) Emergency Plans for fire and other plans appropriate to the safe management of forests, employees and contractors as set out in approved Codes of Practices  d) Health and safety training, information and consultation to any forestry employees in the necessary skills for the safe operation of tasks | * Field observations to ensure that health and safety practices and procedures set out in safety statement and method statements are being implemented. * Discussions with employees and contractors to determine that they have had sight of and are aware and understand the requirements of relevant safety statements and method statements for tasks being carried out in the forest. * Copies of the risk assessments and hazard identification are available to staff and contractors * Records of training and the provision of appropriate information provided to employees and contractors. Copies of all certification of competencies required in connection with the safe operation, use of equipment and control of forest operations * Record of contractors safety and methods statements * Records of insurance for Public and Employers liability | Guidance on the legal requirements relating to health and safety is provided in the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Code of Practice for Managing Safety and Heath in Forestry Operations.  The Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005, Part 3 details the following requirements   * S18. Protective and Preventative measures * S19. Hazard Identification and risk assessment. * S20. Provision of the Safety statement * S21. Duties of Employees to cooperate with employers   Relevant legislation and guidance also includes:   * The safety, health and welfare at work, General Applications Regulations 2007. * The safety, health and welfare at work, General Applications Regulations 1993 (S.I. No. 44/1993), Part X which covers regulation with regard to notification of accidents and dangerous occurrences. * The Safety toolkit and short guide to the general Application regulations 2007 (Small business edition) * HSA Guidelines on Risk Assessments and Safety Statements * HSA Guide to the Safety, Health and welfare at Work Act 2005, as amended * HSA Guide to workplace Safety and Health Management. * Various HSA Irish Forestry Safety Guides (IFSG) |  |
| 8.2 | **Training and continuing development** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 8.2.1 | Only those with relevant qualifications, training and / or experience shall be engaged to carry out any work unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training. | * Copies of appropriate certificates of competence * Discussions with staff and contractors * System to ensure that only contractors who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the forest * No evidence of personnel without relevant training, experience or qualifications working in the forest * Documented training programme for staff * Documented system to ensure that only contractors who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the forest * Training records for staff | There are a number of different organisations providing training in Irish forestry, including Teagasc, Farm Relief Services, tree surgeons and forest owner groups.  Contact details for organisations involved in training can be found at www.forestry.ie/directory |  |
| 8.2.2 | 1. The forest owner / manager shall actively participate in training or education in order to keep up to date in relation to sustainable forest management. 2. The forest owner / manager shall encourage and provide opportunities for employees to further develop their skills and knowledge in relation to sustainable forest management. | * Discussions with staff and contractors * Records of training courses / field days attended | In addition to formal training courses there are a number of different forestry organisations in Ireland that run informative field days and forest visits which provide opportunities for forest owners / managers to keep up to date with developments in sustainable forest management. These organisations include, but are not limited to   * The Society of Irish Foresters * The Irish Farmers Association * The Irish Timber Growers Association * Pro Silva Ireland * Teagasc * Green Economy Foundation * The Tree Council of Ireland * Crann – Trees for Ireland * Woodlands of Ireland (including courses run jointly with DAFM, especially regarding Native Woodland) * DAFM funded KTGs * Celt * The Woodland League * The Native Woodland Trust * Forest Owner Groups   Further information can be found at [www.forestry.ie/directory](http://www.forestry.ie/directory) and www.careersportal.ie |  |
| 8.3 | **Workers employment rights** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 8.3.1 | Forest Owners / managers, employers and contractors shall abide by all domestic and EU employment legislation, minimum wage requirements, regulations, codes of practice and guidelines  This includes the obligation that the wages of local and migrant workers, as well as of contractors and other operators, shall meet or exceed the legal minimum industry rates. | * No evidence of non-compliance * Discussions with workers * Contracts of employment * Other documented policies | Workers employment rights are enshrined in law, in a number of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions and EU Employment Directives as detailed in Appendix C.  Employers, in the discharge of their responsibilities to their employees, must take into consideration fair procedures and natural justice when implementing all fair practices and procedures.. |  |
| 8.4 | **Insurance** | | | **MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE** |
| 8.4.1 | Forest Owners / managers, employers and contractors shall hold adequate public liability and employer’s liability insurance, copies of which are available for inspection. | * Insurance documents |  |  |

**Glossary of terms**

**Accreditation:** Accreditation is the process used to ensure that those who undertake the certification audit are truly independent and professionally competent. Certification bodies conducting audits against the standard must be accredited to undertake forest management certification by a national or international accreditation body.

**Appropriate Assessment:** An appropriate assessment is an assessment carried out under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive of the implications of a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, on a European Site site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.

**Auditor:** A competent professional engaged by a Certification Body (CB) (qv),to conduct the assessment on which the outcome of an application for forest management certification will be determined.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species.

**Biological Control Agents:** Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

**Broadleaves:** Broadleaved trees are characterized by their broad leaves and most are deciduous. They produce hardwood timber.

**Certification Body** (CB) or **Conformity Assessment Body** (CAB)**:** An organisation that is accredited by an accreditation authority to certify (by giving written assurance) that forest management conforms to the specific requirements of a forest management standard.

**Clearfelling:** Cutting down of all or the vast majority of trees in an area of forest.

**Conifers:** Coniferous trees are characterised by their needle or scale like leaves and most are evergreen. They produce softwood timber.

**Designated Areas:** Designated areas are areas statutorily designated for conservation or protection and include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), National Parks and Nature Reserves.

**Environmental Impact Assessment:** Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Environmental Assessment Directive.

**Forest:** Land under trees with a minimum area of 0.10 hectare, and tree crown cover of more than 20 per cent of the total area, or the potential to achieve this cover at maturity. A forest may consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground, or open forest. Young natural stands and all plantations which have yet to reach a crown density of 20 per cent or tree height of 2-5 metres are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention such as harvesting or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.

Forests which are created principally from the human activities of planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatment, but lack most of the principal characteristics and key elements of semi-natural woodland, are generally referred to as **plantations.** They can include a proportion of naturally regenerated trees and can be managed to become more like semi-natural woodlands over time.

While the term ‘woodland’ is generally synonymous with ‘forest’, for the purposes of clarity and consistency, the term ‘forest’ is used throughout this standard, except in the following circumstances:

Forests which are comprised mainly of native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland, are referred to as **semi-natural woodland.**

Woodland is referred to as **ancient woodland** when it has been in continuous existence since before 1600.

The term **old woodland site** refers to the site of an ancient woodland irrespective of its current tree cover. Where the native tree cover has been felled and replaced with tree species not native to the site it is referred to as a **plantation on an old woodland site** **(POWS)**

**Forest Management Unit (FMU):** A FMU is a clearly defined forest property or properties covered under a single forest management plan, managed to a set of explicit long-term objectives, and within a Landscape Unit (qv). A FMU may be owned by an individual, a group of individuals (sharing the one property), a company, a charity or any other legal entity. FMUs may contain smaller units e.g. compartments and sub-compartments but they should not be split for certification purposes. If the owner of a FMU owns other FMUs in different landscape units they need not necessarily be obliged to submit these for certification.

**Forestry Division:** The ForestryDivision of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, also sometimes referred to as the Forest Service is the regulatory authority with regard to forestry practice in Ireland.

**Game:** Animals, either wild or reared, managed for hunting or shot for food.

**IAF:** International Accreditation Forum. The IAF is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment. Its primary function is to develop a single worldwide programme of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon. Accreditation assures users of the competence and impartiality of the body accredited. IAF members accredit certification or registration bodies that issue certificates attesting that an organisation's management, products or personnel comply with a specified standard (called conformity assessment).

**ILO:** International Labour Organisation. The ILO is the specialised agency of the United Nations which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards for basic labour rights.

**ISO:** International Organisation for Standardisation. ISO is the world’s largest developer and publisher of International Standards. It is a network of the national standards institutes of 158 countries with a central secretariat based in Geneva that coordinates the system.

**Invasive Species:** Introduced, non-native species which spread readily and dominate native species.

**Landscape Unit:** An area of broadly homogenous landscape character.

**Lop and Top:** Woody debris from felling operations, mainly consisting of branches and tree tops.

**Low Impact Silvicultural Systems:** Forest Management Systems that do not involve clearfelling and that use relatively unintensive management interventions, if any.

**National Parks and Wildlife Service** (NPWS): The State Agency responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The NPWS works with farmers, other landowners and users, and national and local authorities, trying to achieve the best balance possible between farming and land-use on the one hand, and requirements for conserving nature in these selected areas, on the other.

**Notifiable Actions:** Notifiable Actions are certain activities or operations In Designated Areas that might be damaging. Notifiable Actions can only be carried out with the permission of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These vary depending on the type of habitat that is present on the site. Such activities or operations are not prohibited but require the landowner/occupier to consult (in practice with the local Conservation Ranger) in advance.  In the case of NHAs, 3 months written prior notice is required to be given to the Minister before undertaking any notifiable activities. Notifiable Actions do not apply where a licence or permission is needed from a planning authority (e.g. planning permission) or another Minister (e.g. a felling licence or afforestation approval).

**Pesticides:** Any substance used to protect plants or other plant products from harmful organisms, to regulate the growth of plants, to give protection against harmful creatures, or to render such creatures harmless.

**Plantations on Old Woodland Sites (POWS):** Plantations on old woodland sites (POWS) are plantations on sites that were recorded as woodland on the 1830’s Ordnance Survey Map Series.

**Provenance:** Location of trees from which seed or cuttings are collected. Designation of Regions of Provenance under the Forest Reproductive Materials regulations is used to help nurseries and growers select suitable material.

**Regeneration:** Regeneration refers to the establishment of new young trees on a site whether using planting of nursery raised stock, sowing of seed or using seed dispersed naturally from trees already present on the site.

**Stakeholder** (in the context of PEFC Ireland Standard): A person, group, community or organisation with an interest in the subject of the standard.

**Affected stakeholder**: A stakeholder who might experience a direct impact caused by implementation of a standard, or a stakeholder who might be a user of a standard and therefore is subject to the requirements of the standard. Affected stakeholders may include neighbouring communities, local sports clubs, indigenous peoples, workers, etc. However, having an interest in the subject matter of the standard (e.g. NGOs, scientific community, civil society) is not equal to being affected.

**Thinning:** Tree removal, which results in a temporary reduction in basal area, made after canopy closure to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.

**Windthrow:** Uprooting of trees by the wind.

**Wind Hazard Classification:** A classification system used for determining the risk of windthrow on any particular site.

**Woodland:** Synonymous with forest (see **Forest**)

**GLOSSARY - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Appendix A**

**Forest Service Guidelines, Other Industry Codes of Practice and Rules and Selected Bibliography**

The following are the current Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Standards and Other Industry Codes of Practice and Rules relevant to this standard. The list is presented under different subject categories although many of these codes and guidelines are relevant across a number of categories. The list is not definitive and is subject to change.

**Afforestation**

Land Types for Afforestation (October 2017). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (December 2016). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Forestry Standards Manual (2015). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**Forest Roads**

COFORD Forest Road Manual (2004). Published by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines (2000). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Technical Standard: design of Forest Entrances onto Public Roads (2019). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Appendix 21 of the Forestry Standards Manual – Appropriate Assessment Procedures and Hen Harrier (2015). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**Thinning**

Standards for Felling and Reforestation (October 2019). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Appendix 21 of the Forestry Standards Manual (as above).

Felling and Reforestation Policy (May 2017). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**Clearfelling and Reforestation**

Standards for Felling and Reforestation (as above).

Appendix 21 of the Forestry Standards Manual (as above).

Felling and Reforestation Policy (as above).

Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (as above).

Forestry standards manual (as above).

**Aerial Fertilisation**

Aerial fertilization Requirements (June 2015). Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Code of Practice for Managing Safety & Health in Forestry Operations (2009). Published by the Health and Safety Authority.

Forest Service (2006). Forest Recreation in Ireland; A Guide for Forest Owners and Managers. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.

Forest Service (2008). Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements. Site Assessment and Mitigation Measures. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.

Forest Service (2008). Forestry and Kerry Slug Guidelines. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.

Forest Service (2009). Forestry and Otter Guidelines. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.

Forest Service and NPWS (2017, revised 2020) Management Guidelines for Ireland’s Native Woodlands.

**Forest Planning**

Forest Service (2000). Forestry & the Landscape Guidelines. Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Marine & Natural Resources.

**Haulage**

Round Timber Transport – Guidelines for Hauliers and Drivers (July 2017). Published by the Forest Industry Transport Group.

**Plant Protection Products**

Irish National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Plant Protection Products) 2019

**General Forestry Practice and Management**

Some of the Forest Service Guidelines published in 2000 and later are still relied upon and are available on the PEFC Ireland website [www.pefc.ie](http://www.pefc.ie) These include:

Forest Harvesting and the Environment (2000); Forestry and the Landscape (2000); Forest Biodiversity (2000); Forest Protection (2002); Forestry and Archaeology (2000); Forestry and Water Quality (2000).

**APPENDIX A - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Appendix B:**

**Selected Bibliography**

Bell, S. (1998). Forest Design Planning – A Guide to Good Practice. Published by the Forestry Commission GB and the Northern Ireland Forest Service.

COFORD. COFORD Connects. A series of information notes relating to Forest Reproductive Material, Silviculture / Management, Timber Harvesting / Transport, Wood Processing / Products, Socio Economic Aspects of Forestry and Environmental Aspects of Forestry. Published by COFORD, Dublin.

Forest Service (2005). Native Woodland Manual. Published by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture & Food.

Fossitt, J. A. (2000). A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. Published by The Heritage Council.

Giller, P.S., Johnson, M. and O’Halloran, J. (2002). Managing the Impacts of Forest Clearfelling on Stream Environments. Published by COFORD, Dublin.

Hamilton, G.J., and Christie, J.M. (1971). Forest Management Tables (Metric). Forestry Commission Booklet 34, HMSO, London.

Hendrick, E. and MacLennan, L. A. (Eds) (2002). Forests and Water. Proceedings of a COFORD Seminar, 15th November 2000, Cork. COFORD, Dublin.

Horgan, T., Keane M., Mccarthy, R., Lally, M., and Thompson, D. (Ed. O’Carroll, J.) (2004). A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture in Ireland. Published by COFORD, Dublin.

Maguire, B. (2001). A Review of Legislation that Impacts on Irish Forestry. Published by COFORD, Dublin.

McHugh, D and G. Gallagher. (2004). Trees, Forests and the Law in Ireland. COFORD, Dublin.

McLennan, L. (Ed.) (2004). Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement in Plantation Forests. Published by COFORD, Dublin.

Purser, P., F. Wilson and R. Carden (2010). Deer and Forestry in Ireland: A review of current status and Management Requirements. Report commissioned by Woodlands of Ireland.

Rooney, S. and Hayden, T. (2002). Forest Mammals – Management and Control. Published by COFORD, Dublin.

Society of Irish Foresters. (2000). Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Published for Members of the Society of Irish Foresters.

Woodlands of Ireland. Native Woodland Information Notes – In support of the Native Woodland Scheme. A series of Information Notes relating to the management of native woodlands. Woodlands of Ireland, Dublin.

**APPENDIX B - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Appendix C:**

**Irish Laws and International Agreements and Protocols Pertinent to Forest Management in Ireland**

The following is a list of current Irish national laws pertinent to forest management.

NB For guidance only. This list includes, but is not limited to, the laws and regulations pertinent to Irish forestry and is subject to change

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Legislation*** | ***Potential Impact*** |
| *Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 1999*  *Wildlife Amendment Act (2000)* | *Flora, fauna, environment and forest management* |
| *Forestry Acts, 1946, 1956 1988 to 2014* | *Forest management* |
| *Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999* | *Control of development and forest management* |
| *Planning and Development Act, 2000*  *Commencement (No. 3) Order, (2001) S.I. No. 599 of 2001.*  *Planning and Development Regulations (2001) S.I. No. 600 of 2001.* | *Control of development and forest management* |
| *National Monuments Acts, 1930 to 2004 (Including Approval of Consent (1) Order, 1995)* | *Forest management in relation to archaeology* |
| *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* | *Forest management in relation to archaeology* |
| *Occupiers Liability Act, 1995* | *Forest management* |
| *Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.*  *Safety Health and Welfare at Work - General Application Regulations (2007) and Construction Regulations (2001)* | *Forest management both in forest and in office* |
| *Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992* | *Forest management and environment* |
| *Heritage Act, 1995* | *Heritage protection* |
| *Environmental Impact Assessment – S.I. No. 100 of 1996* |  |
| *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 1996. S.I. No. 101 of 1996.* |  |
| *Fisheries Consolidation Act 1959 and all amendments, Fisheries Act 1980 and all subsequent amendments.*  *S.I. regulation for the Water Framework Directive: S.I. No. 722 of 2003* | *Forest management in relation to water and fisheries* |
| *Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 to 1990* | *Forest management and environment* |
| *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001. S.I. No. 538 of 2001.* |  |
| *Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2011* | *Forest management and environment* |
| *Local Government (Special Amenity and Conservation Orders) Act, 1976* |  |
| *Litter pollution Acts, 1997 to 2009* | *Forest management and environment* |
| *Occupiers Liability Act 1995* | *Forest Management* |
| *Roads Act, 1993* | *Haulage* |
| *Road Transport Acts, 1932 to 1999* | *Haulage* |
| *Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act, 2018* | *Corruption* |
| *The Employment Equality Act, 1998 to 2011* | *Equal employment opportunities* |
| *S.I. No. 155 of 2012 Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations 2012* | *Pesticide use* |

The following is a list of European (EU) laws pertinent to forest management in Ireland.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Legislation*** | ***Potential Impact*** |
| *Council Directive (92/43/EEC) and amending directives on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora* | *Flora and fauna and forest management* |
| *Council Directive (79/409/EEC) and amending directives on the conservation of wild birds* | *Wild birds and forest management* |
| *EU (Conservation of Wild Birds) (Amendment) Regulations 1999* |  |
| *European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997* |  |
| *European Communities (Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations, 1998* |  |
| *Council Directive (2000/60/EC) establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy* | *Forest management and the environment* |
| *Council Directive (2000/29/EC) on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community* | *Forest protection* |
| *Council Directive (1999/105/EC) on the marketing of forest reproductive material* | *Tree improvement and forest protection* |
| *Council Directive (85/337/EEC) and amending directives on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment* | *Control of development* |
| *Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC).* | *Preventing and Remedying Environmental Damage* |
| *EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)* | *Water* |
| *Council Regulation (EEC3528/86) on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution* | *Environment* |
| *EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC)* | *Environment* |

Information in the above tables was resourced from the following two publications which contain a more detailed analysis of these laws:

* Maguire, B. 2001. A Review of Legislation that Impacts on Irish Forestry. COFORD, Dublin.
* McHugh, D and G. Gallagher. 2004. Trees, Forests and the Law in Ireland. COFORD, Dublin.

The following is a list of international agreements and protocols pertinent to forest management in Ireland:

**a. International Labour Organisation - Conventions**

* Freedom of Organization

*Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, 1948*

*Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, 1949*

* Abolition of Forced Labour

*Convention 29 on Forced Labour, 1930*

*Convention 105 on Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957*

* Equal Rights / No Discrimination

*Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration, 1951*

*Convention 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958*

* Child Labour

*Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973*

* *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1988*
* Indigenous Peoples

*Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989*

**b. International Agreements**

Ireland has signed the following international agreements, among others:

* the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948, the common standard for the protection of fundamental human rights for all;
* the *Bern Convention* of 1979 for the preservation of Europe’s wild animals and native plants and their natural habitats;
* the *Convention on Biological Diversity* of Rio de Janeiro of June 5, 1992, concerning biological diversity;
* the *Bonn Convention* of June 23, 1979, for the preservation of migrating wild animal species;
* the Washington *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES) of March 3, 1973, concerning the international trade in endangered species of wild animals and plants.
* the *Ransar Convention on Wetlands*, 1971 - an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are 45 Ramsar sites in Ireland.
* the *Kyoto Protocol*, negotiated by more than 160 nations in December 1997, aims to reduce net emissions of certain greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide (CO2)).
* the *International Tropical Timber Agreement* of 1994 which seeks to improve the international market conditions for sustainably grown tropical timber.
* the *Helsinki Protocols* resulting from the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe, 1994.
* the *Lisbon Protocols* resulting from the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe, 1998.
* The Vienna Protocols resulting from the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe, 2002.
* The United Nations *Framework Convention on Climate Change* in 1992.
* *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, Paris, 1972
* *the Aarhus Convention*
* *The European Landscape Convention, 2000.*
* *The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage*
* *The EU Action Plan on Forest Law, Governance and Trade, 2003*

**APPENDIX C - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Appendix D**

**Irish Red Data Books and Lists**

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in the 1960's developed the first established approach in dealing with the presentation of information on rare and threatened species.

More formal IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria were developed in the early nineties to further objectively assess and prioritise species for conservation purposes at a global scale. A review of these categories and criteria was completed in 1998 and 1999 and the current version the IYCN Red list categories and criteria (Version 3.1) is now widely used around the world for species assessments.  The IUCN also produce regularly updated guidelines for using the categories and criteria, and have produced guidelines for applying the criteria at a regional level.

The following are the currently published Irish Red Data Books and Lists.

**Invertebrates**

Byrne, A., Moorkens, E.A., Anderson, R., Killeen, I.J. & Regan, E.C. (2009). Ireland Red List No. 2: Non-marine Molluscs, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

Foster, G. N., Nelson, B. H. & O Connor, Á. (2009). [Ireland Red List No. 1: Water beetles](http://www.npws.ie/en/media/NPWS/Publications/Redlists/Media,6698,en.pdf), National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

Fitzpatrick, U., Murray, T.E., Byrne, A., Paxton, R.J. & Brown, M.J.F. (2006). The [Regional Red List of Irish Bees 2006](http://www.npws.ie/en/media/NPWS/Publications/Redlists/Media,4860,en.pdf).

**Vertebrates**

Marnell, F., Kingston, N. & Looney, D. (2009). Ireland Red List No. 3: Terrestrial Mammals, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

Whilde, A. (1993) Irish Red Data Book 2: Vertebrates

**Vascular Plants**

Curtis, T. G. F & McGough, N. (1988) Irish Red Data Book 1: Vascular Plants (Out of Print, but the list can be downloaded from the website of the [National Botanic Gardens](http://www.botanicgardens.ie/).

**Birds**

BirdWatch Ireland and the RSPB NI have produced a list of [Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) in Ireland](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Ourwork/SurveysProjects/BirdsofConservationConcern/tabid/178/Default.aspx). This was updated by: Lynas, P., Newton, S.F. & Robinson, J.A. (2009) The status of birds in Ireland: an analysis of conservation concern 2008-2013. *Irish Birds*, 8(2): 149-166.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency are currently formulating All-Ireland red lists and books, which will include many more Irish species in need of conservation assessment. Red data lists and books are underway for the following groups; Fish, Moths, Butterflies, Dragonflies, Lichens, Bryophytes, and Seaweeds as well as an update of the Red list for Vascular Plants.

**APPENDIX D - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**~~Appendix E~~**

**~~Forest Service Referral and Notification System~~**

~~The Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food operate a referral and notification system for all applications received for grant aid (e.g. afforestation or forest roads) and for felling licences. This involves a consultation process which is summarized as follows:~~

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **~~Areas~~** | **~~Consultation Type~~** | **~~Consultation Period~~** |
| ~~Areas of all Sizes~~ | ~~If proposed afforestation is within 60m of a dwelling or associated building the applicant must consult with the owner occupier.~~ | ~~N/A~~ |
| ~~Areas >2.5 ha.~~ | ~~The Forest Service supplies details to the public through an appropriate provincial paper of County, District Electoral Division, Townland and area for all proposals > 2.5 hectares.~~ | ~~1 month from date~~  ~~advertisement appears~~  ~~in the paper.~~ |
| ~~Areas > 5 ha.~~ | ~~Areas > 5 ha. Where there is a fisheries consideration designated sensitive for water quality considerations are referred to the relevant Regional Fisheries Board.~~ | ~~Normally 1 month~~ |
| ~~Areas > 25 ha.~~ | ~~All sites > 25 ha. Are sent to the relevant local authority for their observations.~~ | ~~Normally 1 month~~ |
| ~~Areas > 40 ha.~~ | ~~Areas > 40 ha. Where there is a fisheries consideration designated non sensitive for water quality are referred to the relevant Regional Fisheries Board.~~ | ~~Normally 1 month~~ |
| ~~Areas > 50 ha.~~~~[4](" \l "sdfootnote4sym)~~ | ~~An EIA and planning permission is required for these areas.~~ | ~~Varies~~ |
| ~~Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) & Special Protection Areas (SPA) & Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)~~ | ~~Applications for operations in these areas received by the Forest Service are referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.~~ | ~~Normally 2 months~~ |
| ~~Outstanding Landscapes~~ | ~~The Forest Service refer these to the Local Authority.~~ | ~~Normally 1 month~~ |
| ~~Airport~~ | ~~The Forest Service refer these to the Aviation Authority.~~ | ~~Normally 1 month~~ |

~~More details of the types of situations where referral, notification and consultation is required by the Forest Service are provided in their Forestry Schemes Manual in the chapter entitled “Environmental Protection and Controls Consultation Process” That chapter sets out the environmental standards governing forestry and the consultative process undertaken when an application for approval is made to the Forest Service.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~⁴ In accordance with SI No. 538 of 2001, all applications for afforestation are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening process undertaken by the Minister. The screening determines whether an application~~ requires an EIA. An EIA must accompany applications for the afforestation of areas under 50 hectares where a proposed development is deemed by the Minister to have a significant environmental impact.

**APPENDIX E (DELETED) - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Appendix E**

**Native and Naturalised Tree Species in Ireland**

**Native Tree Species⁵ Naturalised Tree Species⁶**

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) Scottish laburnum (*Laburnum alpinum*)

Common birch (*Betula pendula*) Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)

Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)

Hazel (*Cotylus avellana*) Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) Devon whitebeam (*Sorbus devoniensis*)

Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) English whitebeam (*Sorbus anglica*)

Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) Wild pear (*Pyrus pyraster*)

Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*)

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)

Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

Irish whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*)

Common whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)

Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*)

Aspen (*Populus tremula*)

White willow (*Salix alba*)

Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*)

Bird cherry (*Prunus padus)*

⁵ Native tree species are as listed in E. Charles Nelson and Wendy F. Walsh (1993) *“Trees of Ireland Native and Naturalised”* and in *“Our trees – A Guide to Growing Ireland’s Native Trees in Celebration of a New Millennium”*, the people’s Millennium Forests Project, 2000.

⁶ Naturalised tree species are as listed in E. Charles Nelson and Wendy F. Walsh (1993) *“Trees of Ireland Native and Naturalised”*

**APPENDIX E – MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**

**Appendix F**

**Invasive Species of Threat in Ireland**

Under the Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2010, the species listed below are cited as invasive in Ireland. Further detail is available from:

<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/>

**Part 1: PLANTS**

Three Cornered leek *Allium triquetrum*

Cape pondweed *Aponogeton distachyos*

Water fern *Azolla filiculoides*

Hottentot-fig *Carpobrotus edulis*

Red valerian *Centranthus rubber*

New Zealand pigmyweed ; Australian swamp-stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*

Large-flowered waterweed *Egeria densa*

Waterweeds *Elodea* (all species)

Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

Giant knotweed *Fallopia sachalinensis*

A red algae *Grateloupia doryphora*

Brazilian giant-rhubarb *Gunnera manicata*

Giant-rhubarb *Gunnera tinctoria*

Giant hogweed*Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*

Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

Curly waterweed *Lagarosiphon major*

Water-primrose Ludwigia (all species)

Parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*

Fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*

Wild Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Wireweed *Sargassum muticum*

Wakame *Undaria pinnatifida*

Dwarf eel-grass *Zostera japonica*

Sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*

Cord-grasses *Spartina* (all species and hybrids)

**Part 2: ANIMALS**

Muntjac deer *Muntiacus reevesi*

Chinese Water deer *Hydropotes inermis*

Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Brown hare *Lepus europaeus*

Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

American mink *Neovison vison*

Wild boar *Sus scrofa*

Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Tawny owl *Strix aluco*

Common toad *Bufo bufo*

A colonial sea squirt *Didemnum spp.*

A colonial sea squirt *Perophora japonica*

Stalked sea squirt *Styela clava*

Asian oyster drill *Ceratostoma inornatum*

American oyster drill *Urosalpinx cinerea*

Asian river clam *Corbicula fluminea*

Slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata*

Asian rapa whelk *Rapana venosa*

Japanese skeleton shrimp *Caprella mutica*

Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*

Bay barnacle *Balanus improvisus*

Chub *Leuciscus cephalus*

All freshwater crayfish species except the whiteclawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

CanadaGoose *Branta Canadensis*

Dace *Leuciscus leuciscus*

Roach *Rutilus rutilus*

Carp *Cyprinus carpio*

**Part 3: VECTOR MATERIALS**

Blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis)* seed for aquaculture taken from places (including places outside the State) where there are established populations of the slipper limpet *(Crepidula fornicata)* or from places within 50 km. of such places

Soil or spoil taken from places infested with Japanese knotweed *(Fallopia japonica)* or giant knotweed *(Fallopia sachalinensis)*

**APPENDIX F - MAKE CONSULTATION COMMENTS / NOTES HERE**