



## PEFC forest management certification for woodland owners

The PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard (IFCS) was first endorsed by PEFC International in December 2011. The usual practice is to review, and if necessary revise, all standards every five years but in order to synchronise the review process with the PEFC International standards revision timetable, a number of national schemes, including PEFC Ireland's, were granted an extension until December 2019.

This will negate the requirement in future for occasional extraordinary mid-term revisions to national schemes resulting from changes to PEFC International standards, as was the case with PEFC Ireland's Scheme in 2014.

Since endorsement the IFCS has served the industry well – it is the standard against which Coillte Forest has been audited since 2014 for its PEFC certification with no reported problems, and more recently a number of organisations have been preparing to implement their own group schemes for the private sector. However, both the IFCS and the PEFC Ireland Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management will need to undergo review, and possibly some revision, during the course of 2019 in order to secure endorsement for the five-year period 2020-24.

This will be carried out by a multi-stakeholder process of consultation in accordance with the provisions of the UN's Agenda 21 Action Plan. A steering group comprising balanced representation of stakeholder organisations will be tasked with the actual review / revision of the IFCS, following which there will be a period of public consultation before the completed and revised documents are submitted to PEFC International for endorsement.



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For further details, visit the PEFC Ireland website [www.pefc.ie](http://www.pefc.ie), or contact the National Secretary William Merivale at [william@pefc.ie](mailto:william@pefc.ie)