



16th October 2001

Swiss Quality endorsed by PEFC - the world's leading forest certification scheme.

“Swiss Q Label”, the Swiss national forest certification scheme has just become the latest independent forest certification scheme to be endorsed by the PEFC Council – the world's leading forest certification scheme - following a rigorous assessment process. This brings to nine the number of schemes, which have been endorsed under the PEFC mutual recognition umbrella and which already account for over 38 million hectares of independently certified forests.

Mr Gunneberg, Secretary General of PEFC Council, said, “We are delighted that Swiss Q Label Holz is now part of the PEFC mutual recognition umbrella, having met its stringent requirements for endorsement. This means that the products from the 45 000 ha., already certified can have access to the PEFC logo (see above). This logo provides customers and the general public with the assurance that they are promoting sustainable forest management.”

Ends

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Notes to Editor

The Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) Council, an international, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, promotes the independent third party certification, of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests.

This is achieved through nationally or regionally multi stakeholder developed, independent third party forest certification schemes, based on the criteria, indicators and operational level guidelines developed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, an ongoing process.

In addition PEFC provides a framework and umbrella for the mutual recognition of national, independent forest certification schemes so developed. PEFC is the world's largest certification system with more than 38 million hectares and this area is increasing rapidly. It provides a logo for timber products from such schemes, allowing customers and the general public to make a positive choice for sustainable forest management.

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Schemes already endorsed:

SUMMARY OF SCHEMES ENDORSED BY PEFC COUNCIL	
<i>Schemes</i>	<i>Hectares Certified (millions)</i>
Austrian Forest Certification Scheme	0.55
Czech Forest Certification Scheme	0.00
Finnish Forest Certification Scheme	21.90
French Forest Certification Scheme	0.00
German Forest Certification Scheme	4.92
Latvian Forest Certification Scheme	0.00
Norwegian living Forest Standards and Certification Scheme	9.10
Swedish Forest Certification Scheme	1.67
Swiss Q Label	0.04
TOTAL	38.18

Schemes currently undergoing assessment process:

- Belgian Forest Certification Scheme
- Spanish Certification System for SFM
- UK Certification Scheme for SFM

Scheme submitted

- Portuguese Forest Certification Scheme

Other PEFC Members which have not yet submitted their schemes include:

CSA (Canada), PEFC Denmark, PEFC Italia, PEFC Ireland, Sustainable Forestry Initiative and American Tree Farm System (USA)

For more information, please see our WebPages: www.pefc.org