

spanish standard

UNE 162003

June 2001

TITLE

Sustainable Forest Management

Criteria for Qualification of Forest Auditors

NORMATIVE

REMARKS

FOREWORD

This standard has been prepared by the Technical Committee AEN/CTN 162 *Sustainable Forest Management* the Secretariat of which is held by AENOR.

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0 INTRODUCTION

The UNE 162000 series Standards on sustainable forestry management makes up a logical and organised set of requirements and conditions needed to create sustainable forestry management.

This UNE Standards series comprises the following: UNE 162001 on definitions used in the process; UNE 162002 which contains the Paneuropean criteria and indicators approved at the H1 and H2 meetings (Helsinki 1993) and L1 and L2 (Lisbon 1998) on Sustainable Forestry Management, with the specifications required for its application in existing forest types in Spain; and the UNE 162003 and UNE 162004 Standards which respectively establish the criteria for qualification of forestry auditors and the certification bodies.

In addition, these Standards assist forestry managers to achieve productive, ecological and socially balanced development and allow the use of the certificate and the PEFC mark, the Paneuropean forestry certification system, which is obtained once the forest area managed according to the certification has been audited.

The use of the PEFC mark is completed by the content of the document on the PEFC-España Association's sustainable forestry management system, the introduction of the system, registration of the certifications and the system of appeals to the Arbitration Commission, all according to that use of the PEFC European mark made available through certification.

This standard defines the qualification requirements which must be met by forestry auditors dealing with the conformity of a given form of forest management, with the corresponding UNE 162000 Standards on sustainable forest management.

1 SCOPE

This standard is designed to define the general requirements which shall be met by forestry auditors if they wish their skills to be recognised for the performance of Sustainable Forest Management audits.

2 NORMATIVE REFERENCES

UNE 162001 – *Sustainable Forest Management. Vocabulary, terminology and definitions.*

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Standard, the definitions in PNE 162001 are applied, along with the following:

3.1 forestry auditor: A person qualified to run Sustainable Forest Management audits under the direction of a lead forestry auditor.

3.2 lead forestry auditor: A person qualified to direct and run Sustainable Forest Management audits.

3.3 qualification: University studies included in the national qualifications catalogue and so valid throughout the country, and foreign University qualifications recognised in Spain.

4 CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION OF FORESTRY AUDITORS

The qualification criteria for auditors employed in Sustainable Forest Management audits are based on those for auditors of quality and environmental systems, enhanced with the know-how acquired and the experience in the forestry field.

Audits are done by an audit team of one or more auditors, with one appointed as lead forestry auditor, provided that the appointee is qualified.

4.1 Education

Auditors must hold a qualification which enables them to attain the skills necessary to act as a sustainable forest management system auditor.

4.2 Professional Experience

Auditors must have at least two years' professional experience in the forestry sector in any or all of the following fields:

- a) the Sustainable Forest Management Systems and Standards which may be audited;
- b) audit procedures, processes and techniques;
- c) relevant requirements on environmental legal normative and regulations in the forestry field, and other documentation connected with forest management;
- d) forest management and techniques.

4.3 Training

Forestry auditor candidates must have received theoretical and practical training in sustainable forest management audits which will guarantee their aptitude in the fields of knowledge required to run and manage forestry audits.

This theoretical training can be provided by the entity to which the auditor belongs or by an outside organisation, and must be recognised by the Spanish body administering the pan-European forestry certification system. The organisation providing the training will accredit the candidate's suitability as a forestry auditor in terms of the training received.

Before taking on audit responsibilities as a qualified auditor, a candidate must have practical experience in complete audit procedures.

Such practical experience must have been acquired by participation in a minimum of four audits, with at least 20 days assigned for review of the documentation, the audit activities as such, and the report on it. It is recommended that this practical training take place over a period of less than two consecutive years.

4.4 Competence

Forest management auditors shall be competent in the following fields:

- a) audit procedures, methods and techniques – with capacity to apply them to the audit process to ensure that these audits are consistent and systematic;
- b) management systems and reference documents – to allow the auditor to grasp the scope of the audit and apply its criteria;
- c) organisational situations – to allow the auditor to understand the entity's operational environment, for example the size, structure and functions of the organisation, business processes and the related terminology;
- d) legislation, regulations or other relevant requirements – enabling the auditor to operate in the right legal framework and to be aware of the legislative requirements applicable to the entity which is the subject of the audit;

- e) the principles of forest management based on techniques involving inventories, forest cropping, planning, protection and the management of Natural Systems – to enable the auditor to examine the forest management system and decide whether it is being adequately applied;
- f) natural environment science, environmental technology and the economic principles applicable to forest management – to give the auditor a grasp of the fundamental relations between human activities and sustainable forest management;
- g) technical aspects of forestry operations associated with exploitations, technology and derived uses – to allow the auditor to grasp the activities of the entity audited and their effects on the management itself and the territory.

4.5 Lead Forestry Auditor

The lead forestry auditor shall be a Technical Forestry Engineer or Forestry Engineer.

The lead forestry auditor shall be a qualified forestry auditor demonstrating thorough knowledge of forest management, and must as well have completed a minimum of three full audits in that capacity, at least one of them as lead auditor, under the supervision and guidance of a qualified lead auditor.

4.6 Maintenance of audit qualification

Forestry auditors and lead auditors must, periodically and at least once during a complete audit cycle, demonstrate their on-going professional development in the form of updating of their general and specific areas of competence taking account of changes to the organisation's needs, the nature of the audit, the standards, and the legal requirements.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

UNE 162002 – *Sustainable Forest Management. Management Unit Criteria and Indicators.*

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