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**PEFC Declaration of Participation for Forest Owners
and Forest Cooperatives**



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INDEX

1	PART A – DECLARATION OF PARTICIPATION – FOREST OWNERS.....	2
2	PART B – DECLARATION OF PARTICIPATION – FOREST COOPERATIVES.....	4

1 PART A – Declaration of participation – Forest Owners

This voluntary declaration of obligation offers you as a forest owner the opportunity to participate in the PEFC forest management certification. You may accept this offer by signing the voluntary declaration of participation.

Forest Owner's Voluntary Declaration of Participation in the PEFC forest management certification “Group certification in natural growth regions”

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____ Tel: _____
Political district(s) [number plate] / forest areas [ha]: Distr. ___ / ___ ha,
Distr./ ___ ha, Distr. ___ / ___ ha, Distr. ___ / ___ ha, Distr. ___ / ___ ha

Please note:

The declaration must be filled completely and readable. This includes information about the telephone number for queries and for agreeing on dates for audits. Also the e-mail address is generally necessary for receiving information from PEFC and for the issuance of certificates of participation.

After your data are recorded, you will receive the login data via e-mail for the PEFC Austria website, where you can download your certificate of participation for the current certification period. The certificate of participation remains valid until the end of the certification period. When the certification period expires you will receive a note and you will be able to download a new certificate of participation from your account.

In case no e-mail address is given, a copy of an official photo ID (driving license, passport, ID card) must be submitted with the declaration of participation. In this case no online access can be created. After the validity of the certificate of participation is expired, a new declaration must be filed independently for the participation in the PEFC forest management certification in the next certification period.

Content of the agreement:

With my signature, I as forest owner or responsible representative declare that I will participate in the PEFC forest management certification based on the rights and obligations given in the technical documents of PEFC Austria and the documents of the regional committee. This means:

1. I commit myself to immediately give notice of any changes in my above data and all information relevant for the certification to the authorized PEFC representative.
2. I commit myself to comply with the requirements given in the PEFC-Standard for Sustainable Forest Management in Austria and other technical documents of PEFC Austria, in the latest version, on the whole forest area. In particular, I acknowledge the goals defined in the leaflet for the region(s) and will implement them in accordance with the capacity of the enterprise. All documents are available in the latest version on the website: www.pefc.at
3. I will grant persons from the certification body, as well as the authorized PEFC representatives, access to my forest and forest roads and other facilities for the purpose of on-site audits of the PEFC and RED (Renewable Energy Directive) certification criteria.

4. I agree to accept audits and any other control measures and will provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests for relevant data, documentation and other information.
5. Only Austrian wood that originates from utilization of own forest area(s) specified in the declaration of participation may be declared as PEFC-certified.
6. The participation can be suspended or terminated after prior warning, if there is a substantiated reason to believe that the participant infringes this contract or PEFC-requirements. In case of severe violations, the suspension or termination can take place without prior notice. I am aware that after expulsion from the PEFC forest management certification, I am no longer entitled to declare my timber as "certified." I will be informed about this in written form. Renewed participation in the PEFC system is only possible after the non-conformities have been rectified and a period of at least 12 months has passed.
7. If an audit conducted by the certification body or the regional committee determines non-conformities with the certification requirements, I will implement relevant corrective or preventive actions. In case of non-conformities that have seriously threatened sustainable forest management, I will cover the costs of special inspections.
8. In the case of termination of the participation, which is possible any time, or the loss of the right to participate in the PEFC forest management certification I will return the issued certificate of participation to an authorized PEFC representative or rendered unusable.
9. The participation in the PEFC forest management certification also aims at providing potential buyers of timber with PEFC-certified deliveries. Therefore, I agree that PEFC Austria is entitled and obligated to store the data in an electronic register for participating forest owners including name, address, birth date and the information required regarding forest area and audits. This register is only accessible to PEFC representatives and potential buyers with a PEFC chain-of-custody certification. These buyers only have access to data which are relevant to verify the certification status.
10. The participation in the PEFC forest management certification requires the endorsement of the technical documents of PEFC Austria by the PEFC Council and a valid certificate of the group certification in natural growth regions. No payment claims or claims for compensation can be made towards the regional committee as the operator of the PEFC forest management certification or towards PEFC Austria or the PEFC Council, if the PEFC forest management certification is not available or the participant is suspended or excluded from the PEFC forest management certification.
11. The forest owner's participation is generally limited to a period of 10 years after signing the PEFC declaration of participation. Further participation is possible at any time by updating data or by submitting a new declaration of participation. Each data update is equivalent to the submission of a new declaration of participation and results in an extension of participation by 10 years.
12. In all disputes arising both parties will, with the exclusion of recourse to regular legal proceedings, comply with the Rules of Arbitration established by the PEFC regional committee.
13. I agree to be informed about changes of PEFC documents and conditions of use through electronic media.
14. I agree to receive the PEFC newsletter.

Signature of forest owner:

Date:

Signature of the Chairperson of the PEFC regional committee for the Chamber of Agriculture
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2 PART B – Declaration of participation – Forest Cooperatives

This voluntary declaration of obligation, offers a forestry cooperative and its participating members the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the PEFC forest management certification.

Voluntary declaration of participation by a forestry cooperative in the PEFC forest management certification

“Group certification in natural growth regions”

Name of the Forestry Cooperative: _____

Contact person _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel: _____

Please note:

The declaration must be filled completely and readable. This includes information about the telephone number for queries and for agreeing on dates for audits. Also the e-mail address is necessary for receiving information from PEFC and for the issuance of certificates of participation.

After the data are recorded, you will receive the login data via e-mail for the PEFC Austria website, where you can download the certificate for the forest cooperative and the participating members for the current certification period. The certificates of participation remain valid until the end of the certification period. When the certification period expires, you will receive a note and you will be able to download new certificates of participation from your account.

Content of the agreement:

With my signature, I declare as representative of the Forest Cooperative that this Forestry Cooperative and the participating members will participate in the PEFC forest management certification based on the rights and obligations given in the technical documents of PEFC Austria and the documents of the regional committee. This means:

- 1) I have been authorized by the members of the forest cooperative to represent them in the application to participate in the PEFC forest management certification, this includes the recording and administration of data and certificates of participation and conducting auditing and controlling activities of the participating members Those members of the forest cooperative, who participate in the PEFC forest management certification, are hereafter called ‘participating members.
- 2) The forestry cooperative commits itself to submit a valid declaration of participation in the PEFC forest management certification to the authorised PEFC representative. If a decision was made according the statutes of the organisation, that all members of the forest cooperative take part in the PEFC forest management certification, alternatively a document confirming this decision together with a list of the members can be submitted to the authorised PEFC representative. However, this does not release the forest cooperative from the obligation to submit the required data of every participant, given in the declaration of participation for forest owners, to the authorised PEFC representative.

- 3) The forest cooperative and the participating members commit themselves to comply with the requirements given in the PEFC-Standard for Sustainable Forest Management in Austria and other technical documents of PEFC Austria, in their latest version, on the whole forest area. In particular, they acknowledge the goals defined in the leaflet for the region(s) and will implement them in accordance with the capacity of the particular enterprises. All documents are available in the latest version on the website: www.pefc.at
- 4) The forest cooperative commits itself to immediately give notice of any changes of the data of the forest cooperative and the particular participating members to the authorized PEFC representative. This includes all data given in the declarations for participation for forest owners and forest cooperatives and all information relevant for the certification.
- 5) The forest cooperative and the participating members commit themselves to grant persons from the certification body, as well as authorized PEFC representatives, access to forests and forest roads and other facilities for the purpose of on-site audits of the PEFC and RED (Renewable Energy Directive) certification criteria.
- 6) The forest cooperative and the participating members agree to accept audits and any other control measures and will provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests for relevant data, documentation and other information.
- 7) The forest cooperative may only declare that Austrian timber as PEFC-certified coming from forests of members who participate in the PEFC forest management certification ('participating members'). Timber, coming from members of the forest cooperative, who do not take part in the PEFC forest management certification, must not be declared as PEFC-certified. For the trade with PEFC-certified timber, coming from suppliers, who are not member of the forest cooperative, a CoC-certificate is compulsory required.
- 8) The participation of the forest cooperative and/or the participating members can be suspended or terminated after prior warning, if there is a substantiated reason to believe that the participant(s) infringe(s) this contract or PEFC-requirements. In case of severe violations, the suspension or termination of participation can take place without prior notice. The forest cooperative and the participating members are aware that after expulsion from the PEFC forest management certification, they are no longer entitled to declare timber as "certified." They will be informed about this in written form. Renewed participation in the PEFC system is only possible after the non-conformities have been rectified and a period of at least 12 months has passed.
- 9) If an audit conducted by the certification body or the regional committee determines a non-conformity with the certification requirements, the forest cooperative and the participating forest owners will implement relevant corrective or preventive actions. In case of non-conformities seriously threaten sustainable forest management, the forest cooperative and the participating members will cover the costs of special inspections.
- 10) In the case of termination of the participation, which is possible any time, or the loss of the right to participate in the PEFC forest management certification, the forest cooperative will return the certificate(s) of participation issued to the forest cooperative and/or the participating members to an authorized PEFC representative or render them unusable.
- 11) The participation of the forest cooperative and the participating members in the PEFC forest management certification also aims at providing potential buyers of timber with PEFC-certified deliveries. Therefore, the forest cooperative and the participating members agree that PEFC Austria is entitled and obligated to store the data in an electronic register for participating forest owners including name, address, birth date and the information required regarding forest area and audits. This register is only accessible to PEFC representatives and potential buyers with a PEFC chain-of-custody certification. These buyers only have access to data which are relevant to verify the certification status.

- 12) The participation in the PEFC forest management certification requires the endorsement of the technical documents of PEFC Austria by the PEFC Council and a valid certificate of the group certification in natural growth regions. No payment claims or claims for compensation can be made towards the regional committee, as the operator of the PEFC forest management certification, or towards PEFC Austria or the PEFC Council, if the PEFC forest management certification is not available or the participant(s) is/are suspended or excluded from the PEFC forest management certification.
- 13) Members participation is limited to a period of 10 years after signing the PEFC declaration of participation. Further participation is possible at any time by updating data or by submitting a new declaration of participation. Each data update is equivalent to the submission of a new declaration of participation and results in an extension of participation by 10 years.
- 14) In all disputes arising both parties will, with the exclusion of recourse to regular legal proceedings, comply with the Rules of Arbitration established by the PEFC regional committee.
- 15) The forest cooperative and the participating members agree to be informed about changes of PEFC documents and conditions of use through electronic media.
- 16) The forest cooperative and the participating members agree to receive the PEFC newsletter.

Signature of the forest cooperative representative:

Date:

Signature of the Chairperson of the PEFC regional committee for the Chamber of Agriculture
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