

Summary of the verification scheme

Name of the system	American Tree Farm System
Related Area	United States
General overview of verification	Party responsible for issuing verification
	American Tree Farm System 1111 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 780 Washington, DC 20036
	Outline of issuing process
	Certification process currently under review to meet PEFC requirements.
	The system shall verify legality only /or both sustainability The ATFS verifies legality and sustainability
Scheme to check for legality at the time of logging	Definition of legality
	Relevant laws
	Forest management complies with all relevant federal, state and local regulations and ordinances. Landowners must adhere to all national, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to forest management when conducting forest operations.
	Details of presumed illegal activities
	Procedures for retaining and verifying the evidence
	See attached 004 Form and auditor verification form.
	Scheme implemented by the third party and so on to ensure reliability ATFS currently in process of achieving third-party certification.
Scheme to check for sustainability	Definition of sustainability
	sustainability The capacity of forests, ranging from stands to ecoregions, to maintain their health, productivity, diversity, and overall integrity, in the long run, in the context of human activity
	Procedures for retaining and verifying the evidence
	See attached 004 Form and auditor verification form.
	Scheme implemented by the third party and so on to ensure reliability In progress
Scheme of separative custody management	Real picture of the dealings, from logging to export
	Not applicable. Certifying forest management of family forest owners.
	Procedure for ensuring separative custody management
	Chain of Custody option available (PEFC Annex 4).
	Scheme implemented by the third party and so on to ensure reliability Certification body accreditation in process.
Future Task and Perspectives	Criticisms against the system and recognition of problems
	To some degree the American Tree Farm System will be criticized by detractors who only recognize one system and want a monopoly in the marketplace.
	Remediation procedure
	The American Tree Farm System is seeking third-party certification system-wide. ATFS will continue with the rigorous internal monitoring system. The Standard will go under review in 2008. All stakeholders are encouraged to comment on the standards.
	Future perspectives ATFS will continue to grow in acres and number of Tree Farms as we intend to expand our reach to family forest owners in the U.S.
Reference Author	Web site
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