



VIETNAM FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME
VFCS/PEFC GD 1001:2026

HỆ THỐNG CHỨNG CHỈ RỪNG QUỐC GIA:
MÔ TẢ HỆ THỐNG VÀ VẬN HÀNH

*Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme:
Scheme Description and Operation*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BoA	National Accreditation Bureau
FC	Forest Certification
CB	Certification Body
CoC	Chain of Custody
FM	Forest Management
GD	Guideline
Global ACI	Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
NGB	National Governing Body
NNMT	Agriculture and Environment
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MAE	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
PEFC	The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
SFM	Sustainable forest management
ST	Standard
VAFS	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences
VFCC	Vietnam Forest Certification Center
VFCS	Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable forest management and forest certification (SFM&FC) has been implemented in Vietnam since the 2000s based on the implementation of the Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy for the period 2006-2020 and most recently in the period of 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050. Besides, SFM&FC has been codified in Articles 27 and 28 of the Law on Forestry.

The Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS) was established according to Decision No. 1288/QĐ-TTg dated October 1, 2018, of the Prime Minister approving the Scheme on SFM and FC. During the period 2019-2021, the Vietnam Administration of Forestry acted as the National Governing Body (NGB) and the Vietnam Forest Certification Office (VFCO) was under the Vietnam Administration of Forestry. On May 30, 2019, Vietnam became the 51st member of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), and the VFCS was officially recognized by PEFC on October 29, 2020. In October 2021, the role of NGB was assigned to the Vietnam Academy of Forestry Sciences (VAFS), and VFCO was transferred to the direct control of VAFS according to Decisions No. 3924/QĐ-BNN-TCCB and No. 3925/QĐ-BNN-TCCB dated October 4, 2021, of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment. From January 1, 2026, VFCO officially changed its name to the Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC) according to Decision No. 5929/QĐ-BNNMT dated December 31, 2025, of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment, which stipulates the functions, tasks, responsibilities, and organizational structure of the Vietnam Academy of Forestry Sciences.

VFCS is established and operates based on the principles of independence, impartiality, and independent decision-making among participating entities, ensuring compliance with PEFC requirements and Vietnamese legislation on conformity assessment. VFCS aims to promote the sustainable management of forest resources, ensure legal and transparent supply chains for timber and forest products, and contribute to socio-economic development as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

This document provides the operational organizational structure of the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme and replaces document coded VFCS/PEFC GD 1001:2022, *Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme: Scheme description and operation*. This document is updated in accordance with PEFC regulations regarding changes to the organizational structure of NGB and the functions and responsibilities of VFCC.

Forest Certification Office, specifically as follows:

To reorganize the organizational structure, on December 31, 2025, the Minister of Agriculture and Environment issued Decision No. 5929/QĐ-BNNMT stipulating the functions, tasks, responsibilities, and organizational structure of the Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS). Accordingly, VAFS is tasked with providing and implementing public products and services in the fields of forestry, rural development, natural resources and environment, plant protection, forestry mechanization, exploitation, processing, and preservation of forest products in accordance with the law, including implementing the tasks of the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS)".

b) Steering Committee for the Implementation of SFM and FC

The Steering Committee was established pursuant to Decision No. 4061/QĐ-BNN-TCCB dated October 5, 2016, issued by the MARD regarding the establishment of the Steering Committee for the implementation of SFM and FC for the 2016–2020 period, and was subsequently consolidated under Decision No. 4227/QĐ-BNN-TCCB dated October 29, 2021, issued by the MARD. The Steering Committee comprises a Head, who is a Deputy Minister of MARD, a Deputy Head (the Director General of the Vietnam Administration of Forestry), the Director of the VAFS, and leaders from various departments and agencies under the MARD, alongside representatives from several associations serving as members. The Steering Committee assists the MARD in directing, managing, guiding, and inspecting the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Scheme as set forth in the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1288/QĐ-TTg dated October 1, 2018, and ensuring compliance with legal regulations.

The mandate of the Steering Committee is to provide strategic direction for SFM and FC in Vietnam, and to oversee the operations of the Vietnam Forest Certification Center.

c) Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC)

Vietnam Forest Certification Office (VFCO) is the organization implementing the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme, established under Decision 191/QĐ-BNN-TCCB dated January 11, 2019, by the Minister of MARD, amended and supplemented by Decision No. 3925/QĐ-BNN-TCCB dated October 4, 2021, of the MARD. Accordingly, VFCO has been transferred from the Vietnam Administration of Forestry to the management of VAFS; VFCO is a legal entity responsible for implementing the Vietnam forest certification scheme.

In implementation of regulations regarding the reorganization of Government, the Minister of Agriculture and Environment issued Decision No. 5929/QĐ-BNNMT dated December 31, 2025, defining the functions, tasks, responsibilities, and organizational structure of the VAFS. Under this Decision, VFCO was renamed the Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC). The functions, tasks, responsibilities, and organizational structure of VFCC are stipulated in Decision No. 3182/QĐ-BNNMT dated August 11, 2026 by the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE).

2.1.2. Accreditation Body (AB)

Accreditation bodies participating in the VFCS are responsible for independently evaluating certification bodies (organizations that assess and issue certificates for forest management, CoC and other certifications) against applicable standards within the VFCS and in accordance with legal regulations. Accreditation bodies participating in the VFCS include National Accreditation Bureau (BoA) and organizations that are members of International Accreditation Forum (IAF/Global AIC), specifically as follows:

a) National Accreditation Bureau (BoA)

National Accreditation Bureau (BoA) is a public service unit in the field of science and technology under Commission for the Standards, Metrology and Quality of Vietnam (STAMEQ). STAMEQ carries out accreditation activities to support the State management of standards, metrology,

quality, and conformity assessment. BoA has established a Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA) with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF/Global AIC).

Within the national forest certification system, BoA is the organization responsible for evaluating, accrediting, and monitoring the activities of SFM certification bodies under VFCS/PEFC and PEFC CoC certification bodies.

b) International Accreditation Forum (IAF) / Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global AIC)

International Accreditation Forum (IAF) is an international association of organizations that have agreed to work together worldwide to develop principles and practices for conformity assessment. Members of the IAF sign Mutual Recognition Agreements (MLAs) and recognize the accreditations of other members as equivalent to their own. The IAF has two main missions:

- Ensure that organizations recognized as members of the forum operate in accordance with the forum's regulations.
- Establishing Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) between member accreditation bodies helps businesses and customers requiring accreditation to receive quality services on a global scale.

Eligible IAF members assess the competence of certification bodies providing VFCS/PEFC SFM certification and PEFC CoC certification.

January 1, 2026, IAF officially merged with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to form a unified organization called the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI). The IAF MLA and ILAC MRA mutual recognition agreements have been combined into a single agreement, the Global ACI MRA. During the transition period, the terms IAF MLA, Global ACI MRA, and the logo and terminology IAF and Global ACI may be used concurrently.

2.1.3. Certification Body (CB)

Certification Body (CB) is an organization that assesses and issues certificates for sustainable forest management, chain of custody, and other certifications in accordance with the relevant VFCS/PEFC standards.

2.1.4. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

PEFC is a non-government organization established by member countries to implement SFM and FC based on the principle of independent third-party certification. PEFC's forest certification scope includes:

- SFM certification for forest owners and managers of trees outside forest according to PEFC standards or in accordance with the standards of national forest certification systems endorsed by PEFC.
- The PEFC-CoC certification for the chain of custody (PEFC-CoC) is granted to organizations and individuals involved in the production and processing of wood and forest products, according to PEFC standards or the standards of national forest certification systems endorsed by PEFC.
- The PEFC certification for the implementation of the PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS) regarding the EU Deforestation Regulation (PEFC EUDR DDS).
- RED certification is in accordance with European Union regulations.

2.2. Relationship between organizations within VFCS

2.2.1. The relationship between VFCC, NGB, and the Steering Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.

VFCC is a public service entity with legal entity, operating under VAFS. As the National Governing Body (NGB), VAFS manages and oversees VFCC's operations in accordance with regulations.

VFCC operates under the direction and supervision of the Steering Committee for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification of the MARD (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment) and in compliance with the law.

2.2.2. Relationship between VFCC and PEFC

Acting as NGB, VAFS has signed agreements with PEFC regarding the use of the logo and label, as well as the contract for the administration of the forest certification scheme (contract for administration of the PEFC scheme) with PEFC to manage PEFC certification activities in Vietnam. Accordingly, VFCC is authorized to act as the point of contact with PEFC and to carry out activities delegated by PEFC, including:

- (i) Management of PEFC trademark usage in Vietnam;
- (ii) Notify certification bodies and resolve disputes and complaints related to PEFC in Vietnam.;
- (iii) Collect and remit forest certification fees in accordance with regulations;
- (iv) Cooperate with PEFC in promoting the implementation of SFM at the national, regional and international levels.
- (v) Other related issues in accordance with PEFC requirements.

2.2.3. Relationship between VFCC, BoA and other accreditation organizations

VFCC collaborates with BoA and relevant accreditation bodies in exchanging and providing information to support the accreditation and designation of certification bodies operating within VFCS/PEFC system in Vietnam. BoA and other accreditation bodies provide VFCC with necessary information and documents regarding the accreditation status of CB for VFCC to consider designating, maintaining, suspending, or terminating designation in accordance with regulations.

In addition, VFCC collaborates with and supports BoA in training and capacity building for assessors from BoA and other accreditation bodies regarding SFM standards, PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC) standard, and other standards.

VFCC closely works with BoA and other accreditation organizations in assessing and monitoring the activities of certification bodies to provide information for improving VFCS and certification quality according to the standards applied in VFCS/PEFC.

2.2.4. Relationship between VFCC and certification body (CB)

VFCC collaborates with certification bodies in the following areas:

- (i) Manage and support registration and notification procedures for the CBs who provide VFCS/PEFC SFM certification, PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification services, and other certifications within the scope of management in Vietnam. The process for notification and signing contracts with the CB, as well as the contract template, shall be executed in accordance with VFCS/PEFC GD 1007, Procedures for notification of certification bodies operating under the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme and any superseding documents (if applicable).
- (ii) Training and capacity building for experts and auditors of certification bodies.
- (iii) Sharing information and proposals for improving standards and certification assessments.
- (iv) Monitor the implementation of requirements under the notification agreement signed between VFCC and CB.

2.2.5. Relationship between BoA, accreditation body and CB

BoA and accreditation bodies that are members of IAF (now Global ACI) conduct assessments and accreditation of the competence of certification bodies (CBs) providing certification services within the Vietnam Forest Certification scheme. The scope of accreditation includes SFM certification (VFCS/PEFC), chain of custody certification (PEFC CoC), and other PEFC certifications (if any).

The CB assessment and accreditation activities are carried out in accordance with Vietnamese law, the requirements of VFCS and PEFC, including: VFCS/PEFC ST 1006:2026, PEFC ST 2003:2020 and any replacement or related documents (if any).

Following accreditation, BoA and accreditation bodies conduct annual surveillance assessments of the CB in accordance with regulations to ensure the CB maintains its competence and continues to meet accreditation requirements within its accredited scope.

2.2.6. Relationship between CBs and forest owners, organizations and individuals manufacturing and processing wood and forest products

CB provides assessment and certification services for SFM, CoC, and other certifications through agreements or contracts with forest owners, managers of trees outside forests, and individuals or organizations involved in the production, processing, and trade of raw materials and products derived from wood and forest resources.

During the provision of assessment and certification services, Certification Bodies (CBs) are responsible for assessing conformity with the requirements for sustainable forest management (SFM), including trees outside forests, Chain of Custody (CoC) for timber and forest products, and other applicable certification schemes in accordance with the relevant VFCS/PEFC standards.

In addition, CB is responsible for providing guidance on the use of the VFCS logo and PEFC label; conducting annual surveillance assessments of individuals and organizations certified under VFCS/PEFC.

3. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF VIETNAM FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME

VFCS develops and issues regulations, requirements, and operational procedures governing the interactions between agencies and entities within the system to facilitate the operation of the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme. These regulations clearly define the roles and operational conditions of the organizations and agencies involved, specify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and establish the regulations, procedures, and related documentation for the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme.

3.1. National Governing Body (NGB)

Vietnam Academy of Forestry Sciences (VAFS) is the agency managing the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (NGB). Accordingly, Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC) is authorized to manage and operate the VFCS. The functions, tasks, and responsibilities of the VFCC are stipulated in Decision No. 3182/QD-BNNMT. Specifically:

3.1.1. Position and Function

Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC) is a public service organization under the Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. VFCC was established through the reorganization of the Vietnam Forest Certification Office, pursuant to Point n, Clause 2, Article 4 of Decision No. 5929/QD-BNNMT dated December 31, 2025, issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Environment.

The Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC) is responsible for providing public services in support of state management, international cooperation, consultancy, and technical services in the fields of sustainable forest management (SFM) certification, chain of custody (CoC) for timber and forest products, forest carbon credits, and other ecosystem services. These services are implemented in accordance with the Vietnam Forest Certification System (VFCS), the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), and other international forest certification schemes, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

VFCC has legal personality, its own seal, and is authorized to open accounts at the State Treasury and banks to operate in accordance with the law.

VFCC's operating budget is governed by Vietnam laws and regulations.

Headquarters: No. 46, Duc Thang Street, Dong Ngac Ward, Hanoi City.

English name: Vietnam Forest Certification Center (abbreviated as VFCC).

3.1.2. Missions and responsibilities

(1) Develop and submit to the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences the Center's development strategy; plans for operating the VFCS and for research and technology development regarding SFM certification, carbon credits, and ecosystem services within the Center's functions and mandates; organize implementation following approval.

(2) Participate in developing standards, technical regulations, economic and technical norms, processes, technical instructions and professional expertise within the scope of the Center's management according to the provisions of law.

(3) Implement the tasks of the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS), including:

a) Cooperating with the National accreditation body (BoA) and other accreditation organizations; PEFC and its member organizations; and certification bodies carrying out certification activities related to forests and trees outside forests, in accordance with national and international regulations;

b) Organize the implementation of certification activities for SFM, legal timber, and the chain of custody for timber and forest products, biodiversity and other ecosystem services related to forests and trees outside forests, in accordance with standards and regulations applicable under the VFCS and relevant legal provisions;

c) Organize the implementation of carbon credit certification activities in the forestry and land-use sectors in accordance with legal and international regulations;

d) Provide guidance on the implementation of certification activities regarding SFM, chain of custody for wood and forest products, legal timber, carbon credits, biodiversity, and other ecosystem services derived from forests and trees outside forests, in accordance with the law;

đ) Organize training and capacity-building for organizations and individuals involved in certification activities; develop the capacity of forest owners, enterprises, and stakeholders within the scope of management;

e) Organize conferences, seminars, and communication activities regarding the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme and certification activities under the organization's management; disseminate and raise awareness of the standards, regulations, and guidelines applicable within the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme;

g) Licensing and managing the use of PEFC and VFCS labels regarding certification for SFM and the chain of custody for wood and forest products; labels for carbon, biodiversity, and other ecosystem services, in accordance with the law and PEFC regulations;

h) Monitor and resolve disputes and complaints related to certification activities and standard development, manage the use of PEFC, VFCS, and carbon labels in accordance with VFCS regulations, applicable laws, and PEFC requirements.

i) Develop, maintain, and update the certification database; monitor and oversee certification activities.

(4) Scientific research and technology development regarding:

a) SFM and CoC for wood and forest products derived from forests and trees outside forests;

b) Solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing carbon credits in the forestry, land-use, and environmental sectors;

c) Ecosystem services, including forest environment, biodiversity and other ecosystem services;

d) Mechanisms and policies regarding the SFM and trees outside forests, legal timber and forest products, carbon credits, biodiversity, and other ecosystem services.

- (5) Application of digital technology and artificial intelligence in the organization and implementation of certification activities and scientific-technological research and development within scope of management; innovative solutions to enhance the Center's operational efficiency.
- (6) International integration and cooperation in the fields of SFM certification, chain of custody for wood and forest products, carbon credits, and ecosystem services; exchange of experts and participation in training with international organizations; and organizing or participating in international cooperation conferences, seminars, programs, plans, and forums within assigned functions and duties and in accordance with the law.
- (7) Consulting, services, and technology transfer regarding SFM, forestry and land-use carbon credits, and other ecosystem services.
- (8) Register, protect, and exercise ownership rights regarding the certification-related trademark in accordance with legal regulations and the authorization of PEFC.
- (9) Manage organizational structure, job positions, professional title ranks, and staffing levels in accordance with regulations; implement administrative reform; practice thrift; and prevent and combat corruption, waste, and misconduct as prescribed by law.
- (10) Manage assigned finances, assets, facilities, equipment, and other resources; and fulfill the responsibilities of a budget-using entity regarding the Institute's subordinate units, in accordance with the law.
- (11) Prepare statistics and periodic and ad-hoc reports on assigned tasks in accordance with regulations.
- (12) Perform other tasks and responsibilities assigned by the Director of the VAFS.

3.2. Governance of Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme

The governance of the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme follows standards, regulations, and legal provisions. The main regulations regarding VFCS governance include:

- VFCS/PEFC GD 1001:2026: Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme: Scheme description and operation
- VFCS/PEFC ST 1002:2024 Procedures for standard setting for the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme. Regulations on the organization of standard development, documented information, the handling of disputes and complaints, and the review of decisions; procedures for standard development, periodic review of standards, amendment of standards, and acceptance of the application of standards.
- VFCS/PEFC GD 1010:2026 Procedure for the Resolution of Complaints and Appeals. Includes key regulations regarding the responsibility for resolving disputes and complaints, and six-step resolution process: receiving files; classifying and processing files; resolving the dispute or complaint; notifying the outcome; archiving the files; and conducting inspection and supervision.
- VFCS/PEFC GD 1007:2026 Procedures for notification of certification bodies operating under the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme. Document covers regulations regarding initial notification, maintenance and modification of notification, suspension, reinstatement and revocation of notification, and personal data management.

3.3. Standards and guidance applied in VFCS

3.3.1. Sustainable forest management standard

The VFCS/PEFC ST 1003 SFM standard, first issued by VFCS in 2019 and endorsed by PEFC, comprises 7 principles, 34 criteria, and 122 indicators.

During the period 2024-2025, this standard was updated and approved as a National Standard (TCVN 14596): Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements. This updated standard is based on PEFC ST 1003:2024, EUDR regulations, and other requirements for forests and non-forest trees as stipulated by law. TCVN 14596 is applied in VFCS with the code: VFCS/PEFC 1003:2026.

Sustainable forest management standards by group (VFCS/PEFC ST 1004:2019) has been in effect since 2019. This standard specifies the requirements for establishing and forming household groups or associations in accordance with legal regulations and PEFC standards to ensure the implementation of SFM in compliance with the SFM standards applied in VFCS. Based on VFCS/PEFC **ST 1003:2026** standard, **VFCS/PEFC ST 1004:2019** standard has been updated to **VFCS/PEFC 1004:2026** version and is applied in the assessment and certification of group-based forest management.

3.3.2. Chain of custody standard (CoC)

VFCS utilizes the Chain of Custody standards issued by PEFC, including **PEFC ST 2002:2020** and the module **PEFC ST 2002-1:2024** (Requirements for the implementation of the PEFC Due Diligence System for the EU Deforestation Regulation – PEFC EUDR DDS). The effective application and any standards superseding these (if applicable) are implemented in accordance with PEFC regulations.

3.3.3. Forest carbon credit standard

National Standard **TCVN 14682: Forest Carbon Credits** – requirements was issued and applied by VFCS. This standard specifies the requirements for forest carbon credits generated from carbon projects in the forestry and land use sectors. Forest carbon credits are used for emission offsetting and trading in the domestic carbon market as regulated.

3.3.4. Other standards

VFCS adopts renewable energy standards (RED) including **PEFC ST 5004**, **PEFC ST 5003** and **PEFC ST 5002**. Additionally, based on management needs and market requirements, the development and implementation of other standards relevant to new certification scopes will be considered in accordance with the provisions of **VFCS/PEFC ST 1002:2024**.

3.4. Certification body

Certification body must be a domestic or international organization or a consortium that possesses the necessary competence and operates independently, without financial or personnel dependence on any state management agency or specialized body responsible for SFM and FC. Certification bodies are required to comply with **VFCS/PEFC ST 1006:2026** standard and any superseding documents (if applicable).

PEFC CoC certification bodies must meet the requirements set out in **PEFC ST 2003:2020** Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC CoC standard.

For other types of certification assessments such as EUDR, RED, carbon, etc. Certification body has to meet the requirements of the applicable standard.

In addition, Certification body must meet the requirements for conducting conformity assessment services in accordance with **ISO/IEC 17021:2015**, **TCVN ISO/IEC 17021:2015**, or any replacing standards (if applicable and relevant Vietnamese legal regulations. Certification bodies must be assessed and accredited by the Bureau of Accreditation (BoA) or by an organization that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Certification bodies signed contracted and designated by the VFCC are publicly listed on the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme website.

3.5. Accreditation and notification of certification body

The National Accreditation Bureau (BoA) assesses and accredits the competence of certification bodies providing VFCS/PEFC SFM certification services. BoA and accreditation bodies that are member of IAF and designated by PEFC assess and accredit the competence of certification bodies providing PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification services. Other types of conformity assessment activities must comply with legal regulations and applicable standards.

Certification body meeting the requirements specified in section 3.4 above will be considered by VFCC for a notification agreement to perform certification assessment services in accordance with the standards applicable under the VFCS. The Procedures for notification of certification bodies

operating under the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme is detailed in document VFCS/PEFC ST 1007:2026 and any superseding documents (if applicable).

3.6. Certification assessment

Forest owners, managers of trees outside forests, and enterprises seeking sustainable forest management (SFM) certification shall prepare a sustainable forest management plan and other relevant documentation in accordance with applicable regulations. They shall then contact a Certification Body (CB) listed on the website of the Vietnam Forest Certification Center (VFCC) to undergo an assessment and obtain certification upon demonstrating compliance with the applicable requirements.

Similarly, enterprises engaged in the supply, processing, and trading of timber and forest products seeking Chain of Custody (CoC) certifications shall prepare the required application dossier and relevant documentation and select a Certification Body (CB) listed on the VFCC website to carry out the certification assessment services.

The assessment and certification procedures shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements and procedures established by the Certification Body (CB). Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certificates, Group Forest Management certificates, and Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance. The Certification Body shall conduct annual surveillance assessments to ensure continued compliance and maintain the validity of the certificates.

Other types of certifications shall be implemented in accordance with the applicable VFCS/PEFC standards and within the scope of certification for which the Certification Body (CB) has been recognized by VFCS/PEFC.

3.7. Certification fee

VFCC collects fees for forest certification services, including SFM and CoC certification. The fee schedule is publicly available on the VFCC website. Certification bodies are required to remit these forest certification service fees to VFCC in accordance with the regulations.

3.8. Use of the VFCS Logo and PEFC Trademark

VFCC licenses and manages the use of the VFCS and PEFC labels throughout Vietnam. VFCC grants the right to use the VFCS and PEFC labels to individuals and organizations certified for SFM and CoC in accordance with VFCS and PEFC regulations.

Individuals and organizations licensed to use the VFCS label must comply with the requirements set out in **VFCS/PEFC ST 1008** standard and **VFCS/PEFC GD 1009** guidelines, as well as any superseding documents (if applicable).

Individuals and organizations licensed to use the PEFC label must comply with requirement set out in standard **PEFC ST 2001: 2020** Principles for the Use of the PEFC Label – Requirements

3.9. Resolution of Complaints and Appeals

Forest owners, enterprises, certification body, and relevant agencies or entities encountering difficulties, obstacles, or irregularities during implementation may submit representations to the Vietnam Forest Certification Center. The procedure for resolving disputes and complaints shall be conducted in accordance with document **VFCS/PEFC GD 1010:2026** and any superseding documents (if applicable).

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