



Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) and PEFC Council Endorsed Scheme Agreement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The **PEFC Council** is the scheme owner of the PEFC Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements (PEFC ST 2002:2020), which is operated worldwide. PEFC has sought and received endorsement of PEFC ST 2002:2020 (hereinafter referred to as “the Scheme”) as a sub-scope of the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this Agreement.
- 1.2 The Schemes require Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in PEFC ST 2002:2020 or later to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI MRA with a main scope of product certification.
- 1.3 The Scheme sets voluntary standards for the certification of the field of product certification. The Scheme outlines the requirements for the chain of custody associated forest and tree-based products. The Scheme is owned and managed by the PEFC Council, Route de Pré-Bois 20, Case Postale 1862, 1215 Geneva 15, Switzerland. Currently, there are around 12,000 certificates registered worldwide accessible on its website <http://www.pefc.org>.
- 1.4 The PEFC contracts at the time of this Agreement with over 164 CBs worldwide under the Scheme, the supervision of which is carried out by 47 ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 1.5 The PEFC requirements for the professional competence of personnel auditors are defined in the relevant scheme documents.
- 1.6 The PEFC delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it contracts with to the corresponding Global ACI ABs, noting that harmonisation of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.
- 1.7 The Schemes provide the standard and framework for independent, recognised third-party product certification to ISO/IEC 17065.
- 1.8 **Global ACI** is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification; testing (including medical testing/examination), calibration, provision of proficiency testing, production of reference materials, and biobanking; inspection activities and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

- 1.9 Global ACI is responsible for the harmonisation and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CABs; Certification Bodies (CBs), Verification and Validation Bodies (V&VBs), laboratories, and inspection bodies, and to support its Global ACI MRA.
- 1.10 The Global ACI MRA is established and maintained on the basis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which Global ACI contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of conformity assessment attestations issued by accredited CABs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

- 2.1 Both Global ACI and the PEFC by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organisations to ensure harmonisation in the accreditation practices performed by Global ACI members for the Scheme and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the Schemes with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Scheme's accredited CABs.
- 2.2 Global ACI and the PEFC shall comply with the respective requirements of *Global ACI MRA-003 Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CABs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.
- 2.3 PEFC ST 2002:2020 or later will be open to all CABs that are accredited by signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The ABs will be signatory members of the Global ACI MRA for product certification to ISO/IEC 17065.
- 2.4 The PEFC will only work with ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The PEFC will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA for product certification.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and the PEFC shall appoint a liaison person of each organisation to act as contact persons.

3. Information Exchange

To achieve such goals both organisations have agreed upon the following:

- 3.1 The PEFC shall inform the Global ACI of the following:
 - a) Changes to any of the Schemes listed in Schedule 1, that may impact compliance with Global ACI MRA-003.
 - b) Any revision/extension to the Scheme's standards/documents.
 - c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by the PEFC on one or more of the Schemes.
 - d) Feedback the PEFC may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.
 - e) Change in the status as recognised scheme(s).

3.2 Global ACI shall inform the PEFC of the following:

- a) When a Global ACI MRA signatory with a sub-scope of the Scheme has been suspended or had their Global ACI MRA signatory status withdrawn.
- b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the Scheme's standards/documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have impact on the Global ACI MRA and the Scheme's sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

4.1 The Schemes' documents shall be prepared using the PEFC Procedure for the setting and revision of Schemes' documentation.

This shall include a stakeholder consultation phase comprising of comment submissions by interested parties each lasting a specified timeframe with feedback being provided to organisations that made the comment.

4.2 The Global ACI will be included as a stakeholder and invited during any stakeholder consultation period of the Scheme's revision process.

4.3 The Scheme's documents shall be available at no cost on the PEFC website <http://www.pefc.org>.

4.4 The PEFC will provide new draft Scheme version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to Global ACI as soon as a technically sound new version is available in order to make sure, that the new scheme version continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI MRA-003. The PEFC accepts the process to be followed according to Global ACI MRA-003 for Global ACI MRA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the Schemes.

4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents shall be proposed by the Global ACI applicable Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI MRA-003.

4.6 The Schemes endorsed as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes are included in the relevant Global ACI MRA status lists. After the end of the transition period to a new scheme version the old version will not be published as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes anymore.

5. Implementation

5.1 Global ACI and the PEFC shall each bear their own costs.

5.2 The Schemes will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of Product Certification, ISO/IEC 17065.

Those ABs currently providing accreditations to the Scheme will automatically be able to apply for a Global ACI MRA scope extension for the scheme through provision of a signed self-declaration through their Regional Accreditation Group (RAG) once the Agreement is signed.

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- 5.3 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MRA peer evaluation to the Global ACI Product Certification MRA signatories working in one or more of the Schemes.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 Global ACI shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of the PEFC.

7. Term

- 7.1 This Agreement shall commence from the original Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

- 8.1 This Agreement between the PEFC and Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

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SCHEDULE 1

PEFC Schemes endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the Global ACI MRA:

1. PEFC Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products

Level 4 - PEFC ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements

PEFC ST 2003:2020 Requirements for Certification Bodies operating
Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody
Standard

Level 5 – PEFC ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements

PEFC ST 2002:2020 - Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based
Products – Requirements

PEFC ST 2002-1:2024 Requirements for the Implementation of PEFC
EUDR Due Diligence System (PEFC EUDR DDS)

Global ACI	PEFC Council
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	 Michael Berger CEO and Secretary General

Date of Agreement: 14 April 2026