



**PROPOSAL FOR
REVIEW OF
THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER
CERTIFICATION SCHEME
(MTCS) STANDARDS**

*MTCS ST 1002:2021: Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable
Forest Management*

*MTCS ST 1003:2021: Group Forest Management Certification –
Requirements*

**PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION SCHEME
STANDARDS – MTCS ST 1002 AND MTCS ST 1003**

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
Document Name and Title :	<p>1) MTCS ST 1002:2021: Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (Click for Document)</p> <p>2) MTCS ST 1003:2021: Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements (Click for Document)</p>
Objectives :	<p>The objectives of the standard review of MTCS ST 1002 and MTCS ST 1003 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the standards fully comply with the latest PEFC International Benchmarks (PEFC ST 1002 & PEFC ST 1003); • To ensure the standard remains relevant and updated with regards to national and international laws and policies as well as trends in sustainable forest management; and • To improve the clarity and verifiability of all criteria and indicators.
Scope :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This standard review covers all requirements of MTCS ST 1002 and MTCS ST 1003. • Alignment of MTCS forest classification with national and international forest classifications. • Alignment of MTCS with other Malaysian standards related to sustainability, forestry, and plantations. • Review of the standards will consider, among other matters, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alignment with PEFC Benchmarks ○ National and international legal requirements. ○ Malaysia's sustainability policies and international commitments. ○ Environmental sustainability and ecosystem management. ○ Aspirations of forest related communities, dependents, industries and public interest. ○ Economic viability and market access.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trade and compliance requirements. ○ Governance and institutional systems. ○ Technologies and innovations.
Justification for Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the standards stay relevant and updated to the evolving needs of its stakeholders. • Review of the standards every five year is required by MTCS ST 1001 – Standard Setting Procedures for Forest Management Certification Standards (Click for document) and the PEFC Benchmarks. • Required to ensure full legal compliance by incorporating new Malaysian laws and to strategically align the standard with emerging national ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) priorities. • Allowing MTCC to address evolving global trade demands, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), thereby safeguarding market access and the long-term competitiveness of Malaysian certified timber.
Intended outcome	<p>The revised MTCS ST 1002 and MTCS ST 1003 will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete the PEFC re-endorsement process, confirming full compliance with the latest PEFC International Benchmarks and securing uninterrupted international market recognition. • Demonstrably aligned with all current Malaysian laws, regulations and policies, and global demands (e.g., EUDR), making the MTCS a robust mechanism for certifying sustainable forest management and addressing deforestation risk. • Includes in a balanced manner the evolving needs of its stakeholders. • Consider trends in sustainable forest management such as ESG, carbon project, etc. • Enhance clarity and practicality for implementation.
Standard Review Committee (SRC)	<p>The SRC serves as the multi-stakeholder forum and its members should represent the different aspects of sustainable forest management covering social, economic, environmental interest groups and the relevant government agencies from all three regions, Sabah,</p>

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	<p>Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. The purpose of SRC is to develop, produce, review and finalise the various drafts and finals standards.</p> <p>The PEFC benchmark standard, upon which the MTCS standards are based on, derives the major stakeholders of sustainable forest management from Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Industry • Children and Youth • Forest Owners • Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities • Local Authorities • Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) • Scientific and Technological Community • Women • Workers and Trade Unions <p>The nomination process, requirement and core competencies of SRC can be access here.</p>
Standard Development : Stages and Their Expected Timeline	APPENDIX I

APPENDIX I

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR REVIEW OF MTCS ST 1002:2021 AND MTCS ST 1003:2021

Timeline	Activity
Month 1 (April 2025)	Public Announcement on Review of MTCS
Month 2 - 4 (May – July 2025)	Initial Feedback for Current Standards launched for 60-days for MTCS ST 1002:2021 and MTCS ST 1003:2021
Month 5 – 6 (August – September 2025)	Secretariat compiles/consolidates all comments/proposals received from the Initial Feedback for Current Standards for the consideration of the Standard Review Committee (SRC).
Month 5 (August 2025)	Public Announcement on the Formation on SRC
Month 6 - 8 (September – November 2025)	Public Announcement on the Nomination on SRC
Month 9 (December 2025)	The finalisation on the SRC
Month 10 (3 rd week of January 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Announcement on the Start of Revision • First Meeting of the SRC
Month 11 (4 th week of February 2026)	Second Meeting of the SRC
Month 12 (April 2026)	Regional Consultation in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak
Month 13 (April 2026)	Secretariat compiles/consolidates all comments/proposals received from the public consultation and prepares <i>Enquiry Draft</i> of the revised standard.
Month 14 – 15 (May – June 2026)	Public Consultation for 60 days
Month 15 - 16 (June – July 2026)	Secretariat compiles/consolidates all comments/proposals received from the public consultation and prepares <i>Final Draft</i> of the revised standard.
Month 16 (July 2026)	Final Meeting of the SRC to review, finalise and adopted the <i>Final Draft</i> of the revised standard.
Month 17 (August 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval and adoption of revised s by MTCC Board of Trustees. • Submission of the revised system to PEFC for re-endorsement
Month 17 – 23 (August 2026 – January 2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing any non-conformities and clarification • Re-submission to PEFC
Month 24 (February 2027)	Adoption of revised standard by MTCC Board of Trustees
Month 25 (March 2027)	Revised standard posted on the MTCC website and printed copies made available
April 2027 onward	<p style="text-align: center;">Transition Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing on the revised standard - Trainings