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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

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Replacing GB/T 28952-2018

Forest certification in China - Chain of custody

中国森林认证 产销监管链

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1 Scope

The document sets out the requirements for implementing a chain of custody for forest products.

It applies to conformity assessment in third-party certification of sustainable forest products.

3 Terms and definitions

3.1 Certified content: the percentage that CFCC/PEFC certified material accounts for in a certified product or product group. 3.2 Claim period: a period of time in which a product group has a given certified content; a note adds that the claim period also applies to a single product, a work order or a batch of products.

3.3 Conflict timber: timber traded at any point of the chain of custody by an armed group. Note 1 explains that the armed group may be rebels or regular soldiers, or a civil administration or its representatives involved in an armed conflict, whether the purpose of the trade is to prolong the conflict or to draw personal advantage from it. Note 2 states that conflict timber is not necessarily illegal timber.

3.4 Controversial sources: forest and tree based material or forest products whose acquisition involves any of the following disputed situations. a) Failure to comply with local, national or international law on forest management, including but not limited to forest management, nature and environmental protection, protected and endangered species, ethnic minorities, the property rights, land ownership and use rights of local communities or

other affected interested parties, health, labour and safety issues, anti-corruption, and payment of royalties and taxes. b) Failure to maintain the capacity of the forest to supply a range of timber and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis, or harvesting intensity above the level that can be sustained in the long term. c) Forest management that prevents biodiversity from being maintained, protected or enhanced at landscape, ecosystem, species or genetic level. d) Material from places that have failed to identify and protect ecologically important forest areas. e) Material from places where forest conversion has occurred, excluding conversion that at the same time complies with national and regional land use and forest management policy and legislation, has no negative effect on ecologically important forest areas, on areas of cultural and social importance or on other protected areas, does not destroy areas of significant high carbon stock, and contributes to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. f) Non-compliance with the spirit of the International Labour Organization conventions on fundamental principles and rights at work. g) Non-compliance with the spirit of the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. h) Conflict timber. i) Genetically modified trees.

Note 1 to 3.4 states that plantations established on agricultural land with a rotation of under thirty-five years are not regarded as a controversial source under items b), d) and e). Note 2 states that the restriction CFCC places on the use of genetically modified trees rests on the precautionary principle, and that such trees will not be used until sufficient scientific data show that their effect on human and animal health and on the environment is comparable to, or more positive than, that of trees improved by conventional methods.

3.5 Credit method: a chain of custody method by which the credit obtained from certified material is converted into controlled-source material inside the same product group. 3.6 Due diligence system (DDS): a framework of procedures and measures implemented by an organization, namely information collection, risk assessment and risk mitigation, that reduces the risk of wood-based material coming from controversial sources; a note allows organizations to cooperate with each other and to use external services to run the system, while the organization remains responsible for meeting the requirements of the document.

3.7 Ecologically important forest areas: forest areas with any of the following features. a) They contain protected, rare, fragile or representative forest ecosystems. b) They contain significant concentrations of endemic species on protection lists and habitats of threatened species. c) They contain endangered or protected gene pools of local resources. d) They are large landscapes of global, regional or national importance in which species show natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

3.8 Forest and tree based material: material originating from forests and trees, or material from other sources recognized by CFCC and used for CFCC certification, such as trees outside forests; it also includes recycled material derived from such material, and both wood and non-wood material. A note gives cork, mushrooms and berries as examples of

non-wood material, usually called non-wood products.

3.9 Material category: the classification of material according to its characteristics; a note lists certified material, other material, neutral material and controlled-source material. 3.10 Neutral material: material other than forest and tree based material, for instance metal or plastic; it is not taken into account when the certified content of a product group is calculated. 3.11 Other material: forest and tree based material for which the organization has not yet established through its due diligence system whether it carries a negligible risk of coming from controversial sources.

3.12 Certified material: material and recycled material that carries a CFCC certification claim, or another certification claim recognized by CFCC, at the moment of delivery. Note 1 divides it into two classes: forest and tree based material supplied by a supplier holding a CFCC chain of custody certificate and delivered with an "X % CFCC certified" claim, or delivered with the certification claim of another forest certification scheme mutually recognized with CFCC; and recycled material. Note 2 explains that the other mutually recognized schemes are national forest certification schemes such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of the United States (SFI), the Malaysian Timber Certification Council scheme (MTCC) and the Australian Forestry Standard scheme (AFS), all of them, like CFCC, endorsed by PEFC; material certified under those schemes is treated by CFCC as PEFC certified material and is equivalent to CFCC certified material.

3.13 Chain of custody: the process by which an organization handles forest products and the information relating to their material categories, and makes accurate and verifiable claims. 3.14 Claim: the declaration an organization makes about raw material or products in its sales and delivery documents; note 1 gives the two CFCC claims, "X % CFCC certified" and "CFCC controlled sources". Note 2 allows an organization applying physical separation to use the wording "100 % CFCC origin" instead of "100 % CFCC certified", to stress that CFCC certified material has never been mixed with CFCC controlled-source material; an organization receiving material with that claim and applying the percentage or credit method may consider using the wording "100 % CFCC certified" for its own claim.

3.15 Controlled sources: forest and tree based material that the organization has determined, through its due diligence system, to carry a negligible risk of coming from controversial sources. 3.16 Product group: a product or a group of products in the chain of custody of an organization that share the same input material and are distinguished by product name or type, product category, tree species, chain of custody method, material category and claim; the notes cover single products, batches and made-to-order products, allow one or several product groups to be set up for manufacturing or trading carried on at the same time or in succession, and note that a product group may cover several sites in the multi-site case defined in A.2.3 a).

3.17 Percentage method: a chain of custody method that calculates the certified content of a product group for a given claim period from the material put in. 3.18 Physical separation

method: a chain of custody method that establishes the claim of a given product group by clearly identifying or separating the different material categories throughout the activities of the organization. 3.20 Rolling percentage: a chain of custody method that calculates the certified content of a product group from the average of the material put into the group over a defined period preceding the claim period, for use in that claim period.

3.19 Recycled material: forest and tree based material from the following sources. a) Material recovered from waste during a production process. b) Material generated by households, by the commercial and industrial sector or by public institutions acting as end users of a product, which can no longer be used for its original purpose, including material recovered from the product distribution chain. Note 1 excludes reused material, for example material or waste reprocessed within the same production process and recoverable in the process that generated it, and excludes by-products of primary production such as sawmill by-products (sawdust, chips, bark) and harvesting residues (bark, branch and root fragments). Note 2 explains that "recoverable in the process that generated it" means material produced in the same production process at the same site and returned to that process for further use, and gives the residues generated on a flat-press wood-based panel line, which enter the same line continuously and therefore cannot be regarded as recycled material. Note 3 states that the definition is based on 7.8.1.1 of GB/T 24021-2001.

3.21 Trees outside forests (TOF): trees growing in areas outside forest land, such as agricultural land, urban land or construction land. Note 1 lists trees along railways and roads, farmland shelterbelt networks, trees in towns, trees on land retained by farmers, and trees beside villages, roads, water and houses. Note 2 divides them by management scale into intensive and extensive management. Note 3 defines intensively managed trees outside forests as trees outside forest land in a continuous area of more than 10 hectares or along a distribution line more than 50 km long, all other trees outside forests being extensively managed. The definition is taken from GB/T 28951-2021, 3.5.

4 Management system requirements

4.1 General. The organization shall implement a management system meeting the document, so that the chain of custody process is correctly implemented and maintained. The management system shall be commensurate with the type, scope and output of the organization and shall cover the outsourced activities and all sites of a multi-site organization referred to in Annex A. The organization shall define the scope of its chain of custody and the product groups to which the requirements are applied, and shall make correct CFCC claims and CFCC related statements only within that scope.

4.2 Documented procedures. The organization shall establish written procedures for the chain of custody. They shall cover at least the organizational structure, responsibilities and authorities of the chain of custody; a description of the flow of material through production or trading, including the definition of product groups; and procedures covering all