

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

What is PEFC?

PEFC is the world's largest umbrella organization for the assessment and mutual recognition of national forest certification schemes. Quite simply, PEFC promotes sustainable forest management through independent, third-party certification. PEFC certification assures customers they are purchasing products created with wood from sustainably managed forests. Currently the PEFC Council has endorsed more than 25 certification systems around the world.

Here is how PEFC defines...

Forest Certification

"An assessment from an independent, qualified and accredited expert who verifies in writing that the forest management practices comply with a series of collectively agreed performances standards for sustainability."

Chain of Custody

"An assessment from an independent, qualified and accredited expert who verifies in writing that the wood flow accounting system, applied by an enterprise to trace the flow of wood from certified forests through the enterprise, meets the exacting requirements of the certification scheme."

How are we certified?

As a wood product provider, our PEFC certification falls under the "Chain of Custody" category. As noted in the definition above, this means PEFC certifies our product flow to verify that we can trace our wood back to its sustainably managed forest of origin. We maintain 100 percent control of our wood sourcing via our own stave mills. This allows us to retrace our steps to determine the exact lineage from tree to barrel to customer.

Details:

Merrain International – PEFC certified since 2005, rough staves and headings

Tonnellerie de France – PEFC certified since 2009, finished sets

Our Traceability Process

With PEFC certification, our stave mill in France guarantees origin and sustainable sourcing. Once the wood is processed for barrel production, each lot is coded to record the date of production, age of the wood, grain type and wood origin. Even after the barrel is in use at the cellar, a discrete barcode attached to the barrel allows us to trace its entire history.