

GE Trees and Certification: GE trees may NOT be certified as sustainable.

FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) rules on use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs):

FSC Principles & Criteria (FSC-STD-01-001 v4-0)

FSC's Principles and Criteria are very clear on the issue of GMOs, excluding their use within the boundaries of FSC-certified forestry operations. The current version 4-0 states unequivocally that "use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited". Equal considerations apply to the approved version 5-0 which is supposed to take effect from 2016 onwards wherein criterion 10.4 states: "The Organization shall not use genetically modified organisms in the Management Unit."

FSC Policy for Association (FSC-POL-01-004)

FSC's Policy for Association states that, "FSC will only allow its association with organizations that are not directly or indirectly involved in.... e) Introduction of genetically modified organisms in forestry operations." Introduction is to be understood here as commercial deployment and is considered unacceptable not only by a certified organization but also by any majority ownership related parent or subsidiary company.

In summary, FSC certified organizations may only conduct research into GMOs but must not use them in any form commercially, whether within or outside the boundaries of their certified management units.

<https://ic.fsc.org/en/news/id/1121>

SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) Policy on Forest Tree Biotechnology:

"The overall SFI Standard package includes a new policy on GMOs that states that fiber from genetically modified trees is not approved for use in SFI labeled products."

The *SFI program* has strong existing measures in the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* and the *SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard* regarding research on genetically engineered trees via *forest tree biotechnology*.⁶

SFI Inc. is endorsed by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (www.pefc.org), which has restrictions on the use of genetically engineered trees: Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.⁷

Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically-modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically- modified trees will be used."

<http://www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/2015-2019-standardsandrules-web-lr-pdf/>

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification):

PEFC ST 1003:200x - Requirements for Sustainable Forest Management Standards -

Part 1: Temperate, boreal and plantation forests

4.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices

Genetically modified trees shall not be used.

Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically modified trees has been adopted based on the precautionary principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates or guarantee that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.

http://consultations.pefc.org/consult.ti/ST_1003_200x_p1/viewCompoundDoc?docid=489364&partid=491668&sessionid=&voteid=