

UK Forestry Standard: update on review cycle

From: UK Forestry Governance Group

The current 5th edition of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), endorsed by the four governments of the UK, was published in October 2023, with a one-year transition period before being fully implemented in October 2024. The comprehensive review process that led to the 5th edition was informed by over 70 experts, a stakeholder Reference Group and two stakeholder consultations in order to identify and assess any developments in scientific evidence, legislation and the latest forestry good practice that should be reflected in a new edition.

In recent years, the expectation has been that the UKFS would be automatically reviewed every five years. However, given the time needed for these reviews, this cycle would create a near-continuous process of review. Therefore, in future full UKFS reviews will not be launched automatically.

Instead, five years after implementation of the existing Standard the governments of the UK will engage with key stakeholders and take stock of how the Standard is being implemented and monitored and any significant developments in scientific evidence, legislation or forestry practice to assess whether the 5th edition remains fit for purpose. If that exercise identifies significant changes are needed to the content of the UKFS, then a full review will be initiated.

It is important that the relevance of the UKFS content is assessed periodically to ensure the requirements of the Standard remain credible and so support the continued delivery of sustainable forestry across the UK and uphold the governments' commitment to the international principles and criteria of sustainable forest management.

Note: information about the UKFS is available at [Scottish Forestry - UK Forestry Standard](#)

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