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Dear Kevin

Thank you for sharing the response from DIN and ABNT to our original statement. PEFC recognizes the value that ISO provides as a global best practice standards organisation and is referencing a variety of existing ISO standards in its current documentation. PEFC is committed in exploring opportunities to make Chain of Custody certification as accessible, affordable and pragmatic as possible, while at the same time ensuring the rigor and robustness of the mechanism. Such Chain of Custodies support the ultimate goal of promoting sustainable forest management through forest certification, and PEFC supports the notion that the more companies obtain PEFC Chain of Custody certification, the easier and more cost-effective it will be for business to deliver PEFC-certified material to the market place and provide evidence for responsible sourcing.

PEFC is committed to working with all stakeholders, including the ISO Central Secretariat, DIN and ABNT, to identify and explore opportunities to streamline chain of custody certification without risking sub-optimal results. While PEFC acknowledges that ISO can play a potential role in mainstreaming Chain of Custody certification, PEFC re-confirms its view that the added value of the New work item proposal Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements as currently written is questionable.

It is necessary to clarify the scope and the intent of any potential future activities. A way forward could involve meetings between the interested parties to assess possible options to allow for any planned or anticipated chain of custody related ISO work to have the buy-in of the parties concerned. If you have any queries concerning the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ben Gunneberg
PEFC Council Secretary General