

EFESC Verification System

Why do we need a verification system?

(What do we want to achieve?)

Ensure quality: EFESC wants to ensure that decisions taken by its committees is reliably communicated to partners and implemented in Assessment Centres.

Enhance harmonization: EFESC wants to ensure that the promise that European Chainsaw Certificates are the same in every partner country is fulfilled to the highest degree possible.

What do we need to achieve our goals?

So far there is no guaranteed line of communication between EFESC Committees and National Agencies. In partner countries where there is a great number of Assessment Centres it is also a challenge to ensure that EFESC regulations are implemented “on the ground”.

EFESC seeks to install a system of verification that establishes institutionalised and regulated lines of communication. For this it needs clearly identifiable and qualified contact persons in charge of *communicating EFESC regulations and controlling their implementation in ECC assessments*. To this end the role of Verifiers and, where needed Lead Verifiers, is created.

Verifiers have a two-tiered role:

- ❖ communication (they inform, explain)
- ❖ control (they check, give feedback, report)

How do we achieve this?

- What does the line of communication look like?

- Verifiers need to be informed about EFESC regulations and developments and changes in regulation.
- Verifiers need to understand EFESC regulations and developments and changes well.
- Verifiers need to inform National Agencies and Assessment Centres about developments in EFESC regulations.
- Verifiers need to physically bring this information “on the ground”.

If the number of Assessors and Assessment Centres indicate that more than one Verifier is needed then a Lead Verifier is appointed. A Lead Verifier can also be a Verifier.

If there is a single Verifier (who also acts as Lead Verifier internationally) he or she is appointed by the National Agency.¹ If there is more than one Verifier, presided by a Lead Verifier, the Lead Verifier is appointed by the National Agency. Verifiers are then appointed by the Assessment Centres.

Tools:

Lead Verifiers at SC Meetings

- participate at SC meetings
- part of the meetings has workshop character:
 - role play of assessments or other aspects to do with ECC assessments with peer reviews
 - practice-based seminars on communication and feedback skills as well as on skills required for auditing
 - CPD: training on novel technical and industrial developments

Assessors Workshops

- organised by Verifier/ Lead Verifier
- take place minimum once a year
- are compulsory for assessors
- information from Committees is disseminated
- are practice-based and can take place in the field (enactment of mock assessments, role play,...)
- should take place at different Assessment Centres on rotation

- What does the line of control look like?

- Verifiers need to check if EFESC regulations are implemented in assessments.
- Verifiers need to give feedback to assessors regarding their performance in relation to EFESC regulations.
- Verifiers need to report to National Agencies (or Lead Verifier) on:
 - the results of their verification
 - the measures taken based on their observations and verifications
 - further, future measures to be taken by National Agencies and/ or Assessment Centres and/ or Assessors

¹ For the sake of clarity of wording: If there is only a single Verifier he or she is automatically Lead Verifier internationally in the sense that he or she takes part in Standard Committee meetings.

Tools

Technical Verification

- Assessors need to be verified every three years
- Verification takes place in form of an observation of an ECC assessment
- Feedback on performance
- Report is to be sent to National Agency (or Lead Verifier) and Assessment Centre

- What does “qualified” mean?

- Verifiers need a good technical and industrial understanding of tree harvesting and chainsaw work.
- Verifiers need good personal and communication skills.
- Lead Verifiers who participate in international meetings need to speak English.
- Lead Verifier must be members of the Standard Committee.
- Verifiers (and Lead Verifier) must be Assessors.

- How is qualification ensured?

- National Agencies are responsible for quality assurance
- Continuing Professional Development
 - for Lead Verifiers: Standard Committee Meetings
 - for Assessors: Assessors Workshops and Technical Verification