

**Certification Report**

**Forestry certification**  
(Audit to the Skal Forestry Standards)

Forest Management Unit(s)



**Gemeinde- und Städtebund  
Rheinland-Pfalz  
Germany  
Skal 008560  
11 September – 12 September 2000**

Certification report 008560 2000-1 WH (04. January 2001)

## **15 Summary-sheet(s) per audit**

### 15.1 Summary sheet of first Audit

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### 15.2 Summary sheet of second Audit

#### **1. Introduction**

After the first audit in November 1999 five new communities applied for membership within the FSC-group. The group entity awarded the membership-confirmation after proving the application according the manual of the GStB.

After getting this confirmation the communities can sell their timber with the FSC-logo.

The reasons for applying for membership are the same as laid down in the summary sheet of the first audit.

Four communities are located within Forstämtern not visited in the past, the forest of the community Bitburg are located in the Forstamt Bitburg already visited last year.

Compared with the last year summary sheet this one will be not so extend in fact of most basic data is similar. Also the last year summary sheet was more detailed because there were no group-members before and many issues normally belonging to the evaluation had to be taken into consideration and laid down.

During the audit the Skal-inspector was accompanied by Mr. Amariei and Mr. Walter from FSC-international as part of the normal monitoring visit of FSC monitoring program. FSC-international is inspecting the work of the certification body and in this case also wanted to compare the work of the three certification-bodies involved in the GStB-group-certification.

#### Soil, topography, climate and forest types

Comparable to first summary sheet.

New are the comparatively warm sites along the river Mosel.

#### Land use history

The most forests exist since a long time. Many of the younger stands at Forstamt Wittlich and Traben-Trarbach are new afforestations after World War II on steep slopes and dry or poor sites, partly used for raising wine before.

Around Bitburg there are a lot of new established stands on former farmland. This forest are established for recreation, protection of water supply and improving the landscape.

#### Environmental aspects

Places with very sensitive soils, endangered plant-communities, very steep slopes and belts along creeks normally are managed in a very extensive way or no harvesting takes place.

Monitoring and inventory of dead trees shall be implemented in the next regular forest inventory. Anyway the rangers/members are requested to document their deadwood-policy and activities according the document "Merkblatt zum Biotopholz-Konzept nach den FSC-Richtlinien". For the community of Bitburg there is an inventory of trees with wholes.

### Social aspects

In the forests of the visited communities mainly municipal employees are working. Beside a pretty small amount of work is done by local contractors. The municipal employees are educated in the same way as state-employees. Beside official courses of the education-centers for example in forest office (Forstamt) Bitburg local courses are conducted.

The forest offices shall use standard-contracts according the AGB-U of state forest Rhineland-Palatinate and explicit items laid down under No. 3 "Besondere Hinweise zur Umsetzung der FSC-Richtlinien". That means, that contractors have to guarantee an adequate education of the employees and have to meet the security standards and the standards to prevent accidents.

In some cases the community can earn some money with the management of their forests. In other cases e.g. community of Wittlich and community of Bitburg, the forests mainly have social targets or contribute to water protection, improving local climate etc.

### Products produced

The main products of the visited FMUs are logs of spruce, beech, and Douglas fir. In smaller scale oak and Scots pine. In future the amount of other species as beech and mountain ash will rise.

Beside timber also Christmas trees sold in small scale. Niederscheidweiler and Reil have Abies-procera-stands with intensive management and raising of high-value decorative-green. Producing decoration-material means good gaining for the community, but also conflict with FSC-requirements are possible.

Timber for burning is only a little financial aspect. The people of the communities can buy fuel-wood or can make it themselves in the forest, after buying a permission.

Wildlife is producing only a small contribution for nourishment of the local population, but a big contribution to damage the forests, especially small trees.

## **2. Process**

Before the assessment, GSStB and the Forstämter supplied the certification body with the main information about each of the 5 new group-members in August 2000.

This documents contend information about size, tree-species, annual increment and planned harvesting amounts. Also included are the application-form with information

about game-situation, general information about the FMU and the community, silvicultural treatment and targets. Also the document confirming the membership in the group was available for the inspector.

The assessment was carried out September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>. Meeting point was the local forest office (Forstamt) where the documentation was checked and discussion and information took place. After this, the participants went into different forest sites. In case of Niederscheidweiler and Hasborn the living-place of the forester was the meeting point.

## 2.1 Schedule

September 11<sup>th</sup> 2000

**Forstamt Wittlich**  
Stadtwald Wittlich  
Gemeindewald Kröv  
Gemeindewald Reil

**Forstamt Manderscheid**  
Gemeindewald Hasborn

September 12<sup>th</sup> 2000

**Forstamt Bitburg**  
Stadtwald Bitburg

**Forstamt Traben-Trarbach**  
Gemeindewald Zeltingen-Rachtig

## 2.2 Audit Team

- Mr. Wolfgang Herzog, Forstassessor  
Curricula vitae is available from the Skal office.

## 2.3 Sampling and field visits

In the region Trier now 20 communities signed the participant agreement. Five of these are new members. In fact of this, the audit-team did try to visit all new members as well as having a look on the last year visited communities.

Beside visiting the communities also monitoring the work of the group entity was main part of the inspection.

After the first day field-visits the inspector discussed with FSC the way, how the yearly monitoring in case of a group certification should be conducted. During this discussion it became more obvious, that the inspector/certification body should prefer visiting less group-members but checking the whole range at each visited group member instead of checking the whole range for the group members of one Forstamt. It also became obvious, that for an effective monitoring it would be good to intensify the monitoring of the group entity before conducting field-visits.

September 11. 8.30 a.m. -10.30 a.m.: Local forest office (Forstamt) Wittlich. Inspection of forest-inventory, forest-management plan, documentation. Discussion about activities of forest service and communities concerning safety, education, PR-

activities and management targets. Discussing role of group-entity. Discussing plantations for decorative green and use of fertilizers.

10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. field-inspection municipal forest Wittlich. 1.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. field-inspection municipal forest Reil and Kröv.

5.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Meeting with forester in charge for communities Neiderscheidweiler, Oberscheidweiler and Hasborn. Discussing CARs of last year and field-visit.

September 12. 8.30 a.m.-10.00 a.m.: Local forest office (Forstamt) Bitburg. Inspection of forest inventory, forest-management plan, documentation, activities of forest service and communities concerning safety, PR-activities, annual planning of harvest and other activities, bookkeeping concerning use of chemicals. Discussing management targets and use of pesticides for protecting afforestations on former farmland

11.30 a.m. –12.00 a.m. field-inspection of the municipal forests of Bitburg

1.30p.m.-2.30 p.m.: Local forest office (Forstamt) Traben-Trarbach  
Inspection of forest-inventory, forest-management plan, documentation. Discussing activities of forest service and communities concerning safety, education, PR-activities, annual planning of harvest and game.

2.30p.m.-4.30 p.m.: field-inspection of the municipal forest of Zeltingen-Rachtig

4.30 p.m.-6 p.m.: discussion with Mr. Rätz, GStB concerning CARs set in 1999 and issues of the actual monitoring visit.

### **3. Results**

#### **3.1 Changes of management system and relevant normative documents**

Compared with last year GStB issued a new paper concerning tree-species and treatment of spruce and Douglas fir stands. With this new paper the general silvicultural guidelines of GStB were improved and a concept laid down how more close to nature stands can be developed out of spruce and Douglas fir stands. The GStB also issued a new paper called “Besondere Hinweise zur Umsetzung der FSC-Richtlinie” (special advices for realization of FSC-regulations). This paper is annexed to the confirmation of group-membership and deals with several crucial issues like pesticides, contractors, how to reach close to nature stands, wildlife and hunting and information of the public. It informs also, that this items will be controlled.

FA Schneifel (Prüm)

A document was set up how to reach a higher percentage of deciduous trees within spruce stands

FA Manderscheid

no changes of local documents.

#### FA Bitburg

No changes of local documents.

A documentation concerning the community forest of Bitburg was issued with a lot of information about FSC the inventory of trees with wholes (for bats and birds) targets of management according FSC-regulations etc.

#### FA Wittlich

No special management regulations within the forest district. Deadwood-policy is not available written.

#### FA Traben-Trarbach

No special management regulations within the forest district. Deadwood-policy is not available written.

### 3.2 Progress of national and regional FSC standard

The inspection is performed according to the Skal forestry standards version 7.1. Standards are available at Skal on request. The German FSC Standards "Richtlinien nachhaltiger Forstwirtschaft", (date August 08.1999, not yet approved by FSC in fact of some pre-conditions) were taken into account, but are not binding according the FSC-regulations. Also the FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies: Group Certification (Doc. 3.6.1, date July 31. 1998) and the Skal document "Group certification Version 1", (Dec 1998) were taken into account.

In the meantime the German FSC-standards were reviewed and the requirements of FSC-international implemented in the standards. But the version from October 2000 was not available during the inspection and anyway it is not binding until approved by FSC-international.

### 3.3 Harvest

The harvest is done by employees of the communities motor-manual (chain-saw). In case of steep slopes it is appropriate to work additional with cables (Seil-Linienvorfahren). Cabel-yarder are not used in the visited forest sites.

Before harvesting, the ranger (Revierleiter) sings the trees which shall be harvested. The ranger also sings the skidding-trails by marking trees.

Only small amount of work is done by contractors.

In some places private people make firewood out of remaining material or in young stands by felling marked trees.

Branches and crown-timber are normally left in the stands.

### 3.4 Outcome of monitoring procedures and inventories

Inventories take place every ten years.

The actual inventory results and medium term management plan of the new members is not sufficient in some points. This is no surprise, because forest-inventory in the past did not focus on aspects required by FSC-certification.

The role of mountain-ash and beech for getting mixed stands is not documented and probably also it was not seen as a target.

Therefore it is necessary to document the actual silvi-cultural treatment in written form.

The next medium-term inventory has to meet the requirements for an applicable inventory and management-plan according to the changed targets of the forest-management units. Also the inventory has to collect data for e.g. monitoring dead-wood, and has adopted the planning to the changed targets of the communities.

The yearly harvest is documented. All the time the comparison between scheduled harvest and realized harvest during the period is possible.

All activities are documented, including sale of timber and purchase of material. So the basic conditions are set for internal monitoring of the group entity and the audits of the accredited certification-bodies.

The work of the employees doing the harvest and other forest-work, as well as the work of the contractors is monitored by the local ranger.

The ranger is present in the forest. So he can see failings and has to enforce the people to changes in their activities.

Beside this, the people of the communities and the representatives of the communities do passive monitoring by walking through their forest.

Also the group entity will conduct internal audits according the manual of GStB and every year an audit of the certification body will take place.

The following table will show some key points of last forest-inventory and the percentage of the different tree species in the municipal forests.

Table 1: Main results of last forest inventory

Community	forest-land in ha	elevation	Average annual precipitation	extensive forest area <sup>1</sup> in ha	% spruce and other conifers	% Douglas fir	% Scots-pine, larch	% beech and other deciduous trees	% oak	average annual increment <sup>2</sup>	planned harvest <sup>3</sup>
FA Wittlich	<b>1010</b>										
Wittlich	1129	250-350	550-650	122	14	21	6	15	44	5,1	5,1
Reil	543	250-350	550-650	93	19	23	5	12	39	6,7	4,8
Kröv	658??	250-350	550-650	??	18	27	7	12	35	6,0	4,0
FA Traben-Trarbach	<b>738</b>										
Zeltingen-Rachtig	553	200-350	500-600	38	13	17	6	16	48	5,2	2,9
FA Bitburg	<b>867</b>										
Bitburg-Erholungswald	65	250-350	675-750	65	30	1	6	22	29	3,9	1,9
Bitburg	802	300	700	36	2	-	35	61	6	5,0	3,9

<sup>1</sup> this are forest areas, where timber production is not the main target. This areas normally are covered by oak or scots pine and represent pretty dry and/or rocky soils. In some cases this are also gley-soils.

<sup>2</sup> increment (Efm) for the area where measures take place.

<sup>3</sup> harvest (Efm) within the area where measures take place,

# Skal

*Forestry Certification*

											4,0
<b>Summe:</b>	<b>2615</b>										

There is a total yearly harvest up to 11.250 m<sup>3</sup> within the forests of the five new group members.

## 3.5 Environmental aspects

Places with very sensitive soils, endangered plant-communities, very steep slopes and belts along creeks normally are managed in an very extensive way or no harvesting takes place.

Monitoring and inventory of dead trees shall be implemented in the next inventory. Dead old trees are visible above normal amount in community forest Bitburg. In the other forests there are older trees, which are not planned to harvest until they die. So it will take some time, until big dead trees will be seen. In some cases (see above) the timber is left in the stands at all or the branches and crown-wood is left over in the stands.

For community forest of Bitburg also an inventory of old trees with caves exists.

There are also areas with pioneer and developing phases, created after storm in the municipal forest areas.

For community forest Zeltingen-Rachtig is planned to remove spruce along a creek (Bieberbach) and conduct some initial planting of alder and ash.

### Dead-wood

There is no written deadwood policy yet.

Abt. 29B community forest Wittlich should become a "Altholzinsel", that means a spot, where no harvest will take place. This stand is not good for a reference area because it's too small.

### Soil-protection

For protection of soils skidding trails are marked in general in the young stands, but sometimes missing in the older stands. Forester in charge explained, that the skidding-trails are marked before harvest takes place. that means in stands where harvest took place last year or the year before, skidding trails are existing and visible. At that former time, marking skidding trails was not as common as it is now. Therefore in older stands skidding trails were not marked in the past, but skidding trails will be marked before next harvest-activity.

Skidding on sensitive soils is only allowed in winter, when the soil is frozen or when forwarding is done by cable.

Extensive harvesting takes place at sensitive sites, that means Gley-soils or very steep and slopes with A-C soils.

In Bitburg private people making firewood have to use the skidding-trails. To ensure this, they have to pile the timber along the skidding-trails before transport with tractor.

## Game

Game-populations not only damage trees and select deciduous trees, but they also have negative impact on non forest-plants. High population, not adequate to the habitat, leads to loss of endangered species and to only small amount of herbal plants on ground. Heavy problems concerning damage by red-deer are visible in Zeltlingen-Rachtig. but also in the other forests the situation is not sufficient.

To improve the situation, the contract issued by GStB has to be used in the future for new contracts.

In the meantime the possibilities already existing should be used to force hunters to shoot the deer. At the inspection it became obvious again, that the communities have psychological problems to pressure the game-tenants to kill more deer or to threaten with fines.

## Social aspects

In the forests of all visited communities only municipal employees are working. Beside a small amount of work is done by local contractors. The municipal employees are educated in the same way as state-employees. Beside official courses of the education-centers for example in forest office (Forstamt) Bitburg local courses are conducted.

The management of the forests allows the rural communities to earn money. This money is spend within the community for buildings, improvement of recreation and other tasks. That means, the forest improves the financial situation of the rural communities and the life-quality of the inhabitants.

For the cities the forest has also an environmental and social function. The main target in this forests is not to create a financial benefit by managing the .

A social aspect are also the afforestations of the community of community Bitburg (recreation and protection of water-supply)as well as of community Reil (use of former farm-land). At Reil also belts of deciduous stands are established along Douglas stands to create a harmonious landscape.

## 3.6 Complaints received

There were no complaints received since last audit.

#### 4. Implementation of CAR's

In this chapter the CARs raised in the evaluation are laid down, if they are implemented yet. Not mentioned again are the CARs implemented before last audit.

Group entity

CAR # 11 	<b>FSC awareness</b>
Unit(s)	GStB, Forest service
Deviation	FSC awareness among parts of the forest service staff.
Standard	1
Elucidation	For implementing a forest management system meeting the requirements of the international and the German FSC standards FSC awareness is necessary
 tus	Condition
 nstruction	GStB or state forest service or a commissioner (e.g. consulting) shall offer appropriate courses. At least head of lower forest office (FAL) and rangers (Revierleiter) managing group members have to document FSC-awareness by joining a appropriate course
Time frame	before next audit
Implementation	A training-course of GStB was offered, The GStB-news-letter also informs the group-members and the fore service staff. The discussion with the forests showed, that they are more informed than last year. Forest-districts now have the documents of apply for membership up to the confirmation of membership. This means more identification of the foresters with FSC.

Group-members

CAR # 13 	<b>No or only small and weak documents of site appropriate silvi-cultural treatment of even-aged spruce-stands</b>
Unit(s)	Wallenheim, Ormont, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	No document available or document not sufficient, how to improve deciduous trees in even-aged spruce stands and how to convert even-aged pure stands of spruce.
Standard	6.1, Leitfaden "FSC-Gruppenzertifizierung" für die Forstämter, No. 3
Elucidation	Even-aged spruce stand can be treated in different ways. The way how to enrich this stands with deciduous trees and how to reach more close to nature stands in the far future has to be described and documented, also if this is treatment is normal practice of the foresters
 tus	Condition
 nstruction	written document must be available at group entity. Ranger (Revierleiter) and community have to agree to this document.

Time frame	Before next audit
Implementation	An according document of forest district Schneifel (responsible for Ormont and Wallesheim) is available. No document available of forest district Manderscheid. The updated document of GStB concerning tree-species and silvicultural treatment of spruce and Douglas fir (date February 2000), binding for the management of the forests for the group-members, makes an additional document for each forest district of group-member not necessary. Exceptions will occur for special situations. This has to be documented in the internal and external monitoring..

CAR # 15 	<b>Game</b>
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	Population of game is to high, natural regeneration without fence is not possible or not sufficient
Standard	6.1
Elucidation	Population of roe-deer and red-deer pretty high. So regeneration of all trees of the natural forest association without using technical aid is not possible
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Hunting licensee has to be forced to fulfill planned shooting-rate. For prove he has to show the shot deer to the forester (körperlicher Nachweis)
Time frame	Next audit
Implementation	For Wallersheim this was implemented fully. The CAR was not formulates in a way, it can be implemented fully, because the hunting law. This allows only to require that each shoot deer must be shown if the browsing rate is endangering the regeneration. Therefore a new CAR concerning Game will be set, valid for all communities.

CAR # 18	<b>Soil-protection</b>
Unit(s)	All visited community FMUs
Deviation	soil-protection is not sufficient in some cases
Standard	6.5
Elucidation	In some older stands marked skidding-trails are missing
 tus	Condition
Instruction	marking skidding-trails before next harvest-actions
Time frame	before next harvest-action
Implementation	implemented in Hasborn, also in the visited stands of the new group-members. GStB will document implementation of other members during next internal audit.

CAR # 19	<b>Soil-protection</b>
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Unit(s)	All visited community FMUs
Deviation	soil-protection is not sufficient in some cases
Standard	6.5
Elucidation	in some cases people looking for fuel wood, drive through the stands
Condition	Condition
Instruction	a) explain the people, what driving through the stands will effect, a) no more permission for harvesting fuel wood in endangered stands
Time frame	a)...next audit b)...next evaluation
Implementation	a) during the monitoring no problems were visible. Activities of foresters are effective. b) part b) is canceled in fact of not being provable. Inspection in Sept. 2000 showed, that there are different ways to avoid driving in the stands. This should be documented within the internal monitoring (see CAR

CAR # 22	<b>Previously harvested material</b>
Unit(s)	All visited community FMUs
Deviation	advice concerning previously harvested timber is not correct (Handbuch 4.2 point 6) or missing (Handbuch, Anhang 1 und 8)
Standard	Guideline for Certification bodies part 2
Elucidation	The regulation existing in the past was not sufficient and clear. To avoid a misuse of the FSC logo and/or a negative image of the FSC logo the following aspects must be fulfilled to sell forest products harvested prior to the issuance of certificate:  Harvested forest products must be legally in the possession of and physically within the FMU at the time the certificate is issued  The forest products were not harvested while there were still outstanding pre-conditions  The amount of harvest should reflect that of a reasonable amount for the region, and not exceed the least of harvest from one harvest cycle or one year.
Condition	Condition
Instruction	a) add the above mentioned issues in the manual and the related documents and b) inform the communities before issuing "binding membership confirmation" (Verbindliche Teilnahmebestätigung)
Time frame	next inspection
Implementation	Management-System Manual of GSStB was updated and according regulation implemented (Page 15, Version 30. October 2000)

## Recommendations

CAR # 23	<b>Information of the public</b>
Unit(s)	GStB and communities
Deviation	
Standard	4,8
Elucidation	Information of the public and the inhabitants of the communities will help to promote consciousness concerning sustainable forestry and forest in general. This also will help to force game-tenant to fulfill the requested shooting of deer.
Status	Recommendation
Instruction	communities and rangers (Revierleiter) may use newspapers and the Agenda 21 process for information of the public, also "forest walks" are appropriate
Time frame	open
Implementation	More and more the forest districts, the communities and also GStB is informing the public or the local public. The importance of this issue is seen by the involved parties.

## 5. New CARs or Cars not implemented yet

CAR # 12	<b>Use of fertilizers or chemical biocides</b>
Unit(s)	Niederscheidweiler
Deviation	Use of fertilizers in <i>Abies-nobilis</i> stand for gaining high-quality decoration green
Standard	6.6
Elucidation	Fertilizers are still used for getting well colored needles
Status	Precondition
Instruction	Written decision of the community, that no longer fertilizers will be applied. Written information to local ranger (Revierleiter) that fertilizers are no longer allowed.
Time frame	Before becoming member of the group.

CAR # 14	<b>Game / Hunting</b>
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	Population of game is too high, natural regeneration without fences is not possible or not sufficient
Standard	6.1
Elucidation	Population of roe-deer and red-deer pretty high. So regeneration of all trees of the natural forest association without using technical aid is not possible
Status	Condition
Instruction	for new lean-contracts the model-contract of GStB has to be used

Time frame	end of running contracts (2003)
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CAR # 16	<b>Game</b>
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim
Deviation	Population of red deer is too high, stable stands can not be developed, promotion of deciduous species endangered
Standard	6.1
Elucidation	Red deer is peeling the bark of spruce and also beech, mountain ash and young oak. Developing of stable stands with deciduous trees within the spruce stands is endangered
Status	Condition
Instruction	reducing red deer to a population, that no more peeling of beech and oak occurs
Time frame	next evaluation

CAR # 17	<b>Control of contractors</b>
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim
Deviation	requirements concerning "Selbstwerber" is not guaranteed
Standard	4.7 and 6.5
Elucidation	contractors with status "Selbstwerber" are not allowed to be controlled by the rangers. So there is no guarantee, that "Selbstwerber" meet standard 4.7 and 6.5
Status	Condition
Instruction	also in contracts with "Selbstwerbern" the requirements to meet FSC-Standards 4.7 and 6.5 must be implemented. Otherwise no more contracts with "Selbstwerber". (Supplement Nov. 2000: GStB announced a general solution during the next internal monitoring)
Time frame	next audit

CAR # 20	<b>Deadwood-policy</b>
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	no written form of deadwood policy available
Standard	6.3
Elucidation	for improving habitat-quality of forests, a certain number of old trees should be not harvested. The way how to reach this target and how to protect deadwood from harvest is necessary to be fixed in a document
Status	Condition
Instruction	establish a deadwood policy
Time frame	next audit (supplement Nov. 2000: GStB-informed Skal, that this documents are not available yet and that GStB asked in a sharp form for supply of this documents.)

CAR # 21	<b>Reference areas</b>
Unit(s)	all visited municipal forests
Deviation	no reference areas available yet
Standard	6.4
Elucidation	These areas should be identified within the communities property first and subsequently outside their property (but still in the growth district), even if the forest area of the member is less than 1000 ha.
Findings	Condition
Instruction	establish reference areas and adequate documentation
Time frame	within two years supplement 2000: GStB informed Skal, that no the 1999 visited communities are not obliged to establish reference areas. Skal sees on the other hand, that GStB is a group and also good reference areas could be found within the forests of smaller group-members. The CAR was set to ensure, that reference areas will be established and to allow more flexibility. In 2000 there is now a community with more than 1000 ha and will be obliged to create a reference area after the German FS-standards are approved. Independent from the German FSC-standards the Skal standards require reference-areas.

CAR # 24	<b>Documentation of internal monitoring</b>
Unit(s)	GStB
Deviation	No or only small information of internal monitoring and the outcome of internal monitoring available.
Standard	Skal Group certification 2.2.4, GStB- management-system manual 6.4
Elucidation	During the inspection in September 2000 it became obvious, that the implementation of CARs set by the certification-body can not be controlled in the field by the certification body. Therefore this has to be done during the internal monitoring and has to be documented.
Findings	Condition
Instruction	During internal monitoring implementation of CARs set by the certification body has to be checked.
Time frame	Next internal audit

CAR # 25	<b>Amount of sold FSC-Timber</b>
Unit(s)	GStB
Deviation	Amount of FSC-sold timber should be available all time. Not all forests districts notify from which group member the sold timber is coming
Standard	Skal Group certification 2.2.4, GStB- management-system manual 6.4, Skal COC 3.6
Elucidation	For tracing the amount of traded FSC-timber and for internal

	control, that only FSC-timber is sold by group-members the according list of contracts/amounts of FSC-timber should be available all time. Forest districts have to notify which group-member did sell the timber.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Ensure availability of the list of contracts with FSC-timber all time Advice forests districts to notify the name of the group-member, that it can be written in the above mentioned list
Time frame	Next audit

CAR # 26 	<b>Information of certification body</b>
Unit(s)	GStB
Deviation	GStB did not inform Skal about confirmation of new group members
Standard	Skal Group certification 2.2.1, GStB- management-system manual 6.4
Elucidation	The certification –body has to be informed about the number and names of group members
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Inform Skal within one month after confirmation of new group-members
Time frame	with confirmation of next new group member

CAR # 27 	<b>Game and game-leasing</b>
Unit(s)	GStB, group-members
Deviation	Population of game is to high, natural regeneration without fence is not possible or not sufficient in all forests
Standard	6.1, Skal 6.0
Elucidation	Population of roe-deer and red-deer in same areas are pretty high or causing damage on young trees. So regeneration of the trees of the natural forest association without using technical aid is not possible in most cases.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Hunting licensee has to be forced to fulfill planned shooting-rate. In case of permanent high browsing rates /for three years), it must be required, that the game-tenant shows each killed deer. This is possible according the hunting-law.</li> <li>b) For all new game leasing contracts the model-contract of GStB has to be used.</li> <li>c) GStB has to document the efforts of the communities and also to control the implementation</li> </ul>
Time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a immediately after browsing-expertise is available and the outcome is endangered (gefährdet) or heavily endangered (erheblich gefährdet).</li> <li>b end of old contracts</li> <li>c until next external monitoring</li> </ul>

CAR # 28 	<b>Use of fertilizers in plantations for decorative green</b>
Unit(s)	Reil , GStB
Deviation	In the past fertilizers were used for raising high quality decorative green. At the moment the use of fertilizers is not planned, but for the future (2002)
Standard	6.6
Elucidation	Taking the draft of the German FSC-standards into consideration, no use of fertilizers is allowed to rise the amount or quality of harvest in forests. According to this, community of Reil has to continue without fertilizers. For plantations of Abies nobilis and other species for producing decorative green seeking for a reasonable solution still is necessary, e.g. calling this areas "plantations" in the German FSC-standards with special conditions
 tus	Condition
Instruction	a Community of Reil: Don't use fertilizers b GStB: Make suggestions how to change German FSC-standards to come in line with the reality
Time frame	a don't use fertilizers as long as not allowed according actual German FSC-standards b Until next external monitoring-visit

CAR # 29 	<b>Use of pesticides for fighting mice</b>
Unit(s)	Bitburg, GStB
Deviation	In the GStB-Manual and appendix 2 of the manual the regulation the use of pesticides for fighting mice in afforestations (Erstaufforstungen) is not clear describes as a exception, that requires the information of the certification-body
Standard	6.6, Skal Group certification 2.2.1, GStB- management-system manual 6.4,
Elucidation	The actual way that the forest research institute makes a recommendation on the basic of monitoring-results (catching mice with tracks) is a practical way and was accepted by the certification body in the past. For clarifying things it should be more clear that a...the certification body must be informed before fighting the mice b additional regulations in the German standards are necessary to take into account t he special situation on afforestations (Erstaufforstungen)
 tus	Condition
Instruction	a...Clarify the status of fighting mice as a exception that has to be announced to Skal before the action of fighting the mice starts b Make suggestions for additional regulations of the German FSC-standards
Time frame	a) before use of pesticides for fighting mice b) within half a year

CAR # 30 	<b>Use of certification # on invoices and fright papers</b>
Unit(s)	all group-members,
Deviation	On invoices and fright-papers (Holzzettel) no FSC-certification # is visible
Standard	Skal COC standards Version 1.0 item 3.2
Elucidation	For traceability it is necessary that on all documents the Skal-FMU/COC# is visible. Also FSC-should be mentioned on the documents
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Mention the Skal-FMU/COC-number on all documents for sold FSC-timber and mention on the documents, that the timber is FSC-certified
Time frame	issue of new fright-papers and invoices

CAR # 31 	<b>Confirmation of new group-members</b>
Unit(s)	GStB
Deviation	GStB did not inform Skal about the application of communities and did confirm group-membership without consultation of Skal
Standard	Skal group certification standards Version, item 2.2
Elucidation	Before GStB confirms the group-membership, the application should be send to Skal. Skal also should be informed, what additional documents (dead-wood policy, etc) are available. On this basis Skal can inform the GStB if pre-conditions may be possible or clear
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Inform Skal after each application of a community and send the application-form and a list of available documents
Time frame	before confirming new members

CAR # 32 	<b>Consultation of local stakeholders</b>
Unit(s)	GStB
Deviation	No consultation of local stakeholders took place prior confirmation of new group-members
Standard	Skal group certification standards Version1, item 2.2 and item 3.1
Elucidation	Before GStB confirms the group-membership, the application should be published in the local newspaper or administration sheet with an invitation to local stakeholders to send comments to the GStB
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Ensure publishing the application in an official way with the invitation for sending comments to GStB. Date of publishing the application must be at least four weeks before confirmation of becoming a group member.
Time frame	before confirming new members

CAR # 33 	<b>Status of membership</b>
Unit(s)	GStB
Deviation	GStB mentioned, that Niederscheidweiler is a member of the group but the membership is sleeping. This status is not mentioned in the Skal group certification standards and the manual of the GStB itself in case of preconditions set before becoming a group-member. T
Standard	Skal group certification standards Version1, item 2.2 and item 3.2
Elucidation	Before GStB confirms the group-membership, the applicant has to fulfill all pre-conditions. To say, the membership is sleeping until the pre-condition is fulfilled makes no sense. A sleeping-membership according Skal-standards and GStB manual is only foreseen in case of proceedings against members. . If pre-conditions are not fulfilled a community can't become a member of the group.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	a: Don't use the term "sleeping membership" in cases where pre-conditions were set but not fulfilled. b...Start a proceeding against Niederscheidweiler in case of not fulfilling the pre-condition.
Time frame	a immediately b within four weeks after asking for the relevant decision of the community

## 6. Certification decision

The first audit took place almost one years ago.

In the meantime most of the CARs with a time frame for implementation until this audit were realized or positive changes took place. CARs not implemented yet don't cause pre conditions because either the time frame set is longer than one year or activities for implementing the are visible but not sufficient/deviation is not severe.

There are some new conditions concerning GStB, because of not sufficient information of the certification body and because of requirements concerning the internal monitoring.

There are no new pre-conditions concerning the group entity. **So GStB is recommended for the award of the certificate.**