Online, 28 July 2026

New Requirements for Intact Forest Landscapes in Canada, Peru, and Republic of Congo (Brazil, soon)

FSC International

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Welcome to Today's Webinar

Participants are muted during the webinar

Submit questions at any time using the Q&A box

Today’s presentation is being shared during this webinar and later will be available in the process page

AGENDA

	Topic	Time
1	Welcome	*5 mins*
2	Introduction	*5 mins*
3	Motion 45/2025: moving from fixed thresholds to outcome-based conservation	*5 mins*
4	From Motion to Requirements: Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02	10 mins
5	The Advice Note in detail and its connection to M23 standards	*20 mins*
6	Q&A session	*30 mins*
7	Further implementation: opt-in countries and PCI revision	*5 mins*

2. Introduction

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New Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) requirements for 4 countries: bridging M23 and M45

New IFL requirements for Canada, Peru, and the Republic of the Congo **effective on 1 July**.
Also for Brazil soon!

1. **Revised IFL indicators in the national standards (FSS)**

   (resulting from **Motion 23/2020** pilots on IFL landscape approaches)

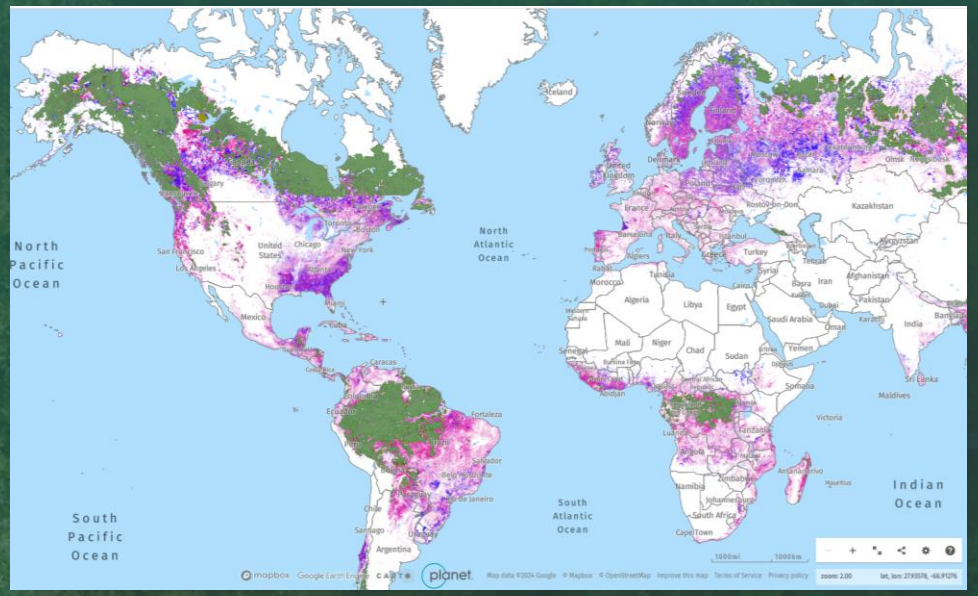
2. **ADV-STD-60-004_02 V1-0 on enhanced requirements for IFLs and High Conservation Values 2 (HCV 2)**

   (A first step toward implementing **Motion 45/2025**)

Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) have been a longstanding priority for FSC

IFLs constitute a High Conservation Value (HCV 2) having an outstanding ecological significance. Ensuring their maintenance and/or enhancement is one of the **principles that orientate our standards**.

FSC-certified areas overlap with approximately 0.6% of the areas considered as IFLs globally (Zwerts et al., 2024).



Intact Forest Landscapes mapped in green by Global Forest Watch

Members have driven an evolution in the approach to IFL via Motions

GA 2014

MOTIONS 7 + 65 passed

M7: IFL became part of HCV2

M65: Protection of 'the vast majority' of IFLs required in FSC certified operations

2017

ADVICE-20-007-18
Default in normative framework is 80% protection of IFL in manage-ment unit as per M65

GA 2017

MOTION 34 passed
Assessment of environmental, economic and social impact of the implementation of Motion 65/2014

2017-2022

M34 Reports
Impact reports from Brazil, Congo Basin, Russia, Canada: 0,6% - 7% of IFL area is in certified MUs

2020-2022

Guidance GUI-60-004
Standard development groups raised concerns, GUI clarified >50% to be the very min. threshold

GA 2022

MOTION 23 passed
Mandates SDGs to draft IFL indicators based on landscape-level IFL pro-tection status.

2024

Motion 23 pilots
Pilot process initiated to facilitate implementation

IFL draft procedure and guidance

First pilot starts in November

2025 GA in October

Motion 45/2025
move from fixed thresholds towards upholding ecological and social-cultural values

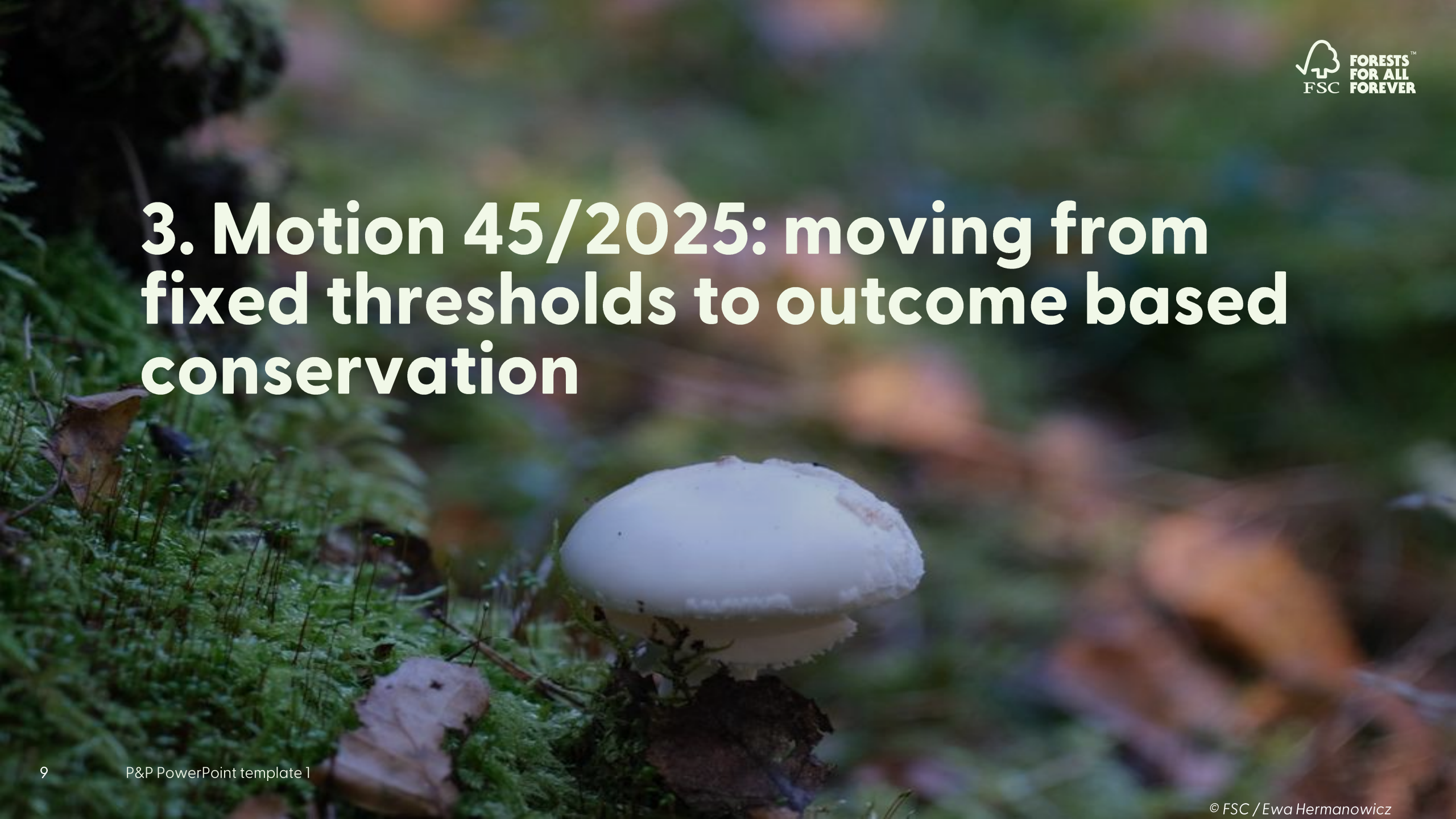
Revised indicators in Forest Stewardship Standards and Motion 23

Motion 23 /2020 - *Use landscape-wide approaches adapted to local conditions and strengthen Standard Development Groups (SDGs)* to improve protection of Intact Forest Landscapes, passed in October 2022.

M23 pilots in Brazil, Canada, Peru, and the Republic of the Congo were developed in 2024 and 2025. They...

- involved strong local engagement and high-level technical expertise
- resulted in a better understanding of the local status of IFLs
- but, the landscape approach resulted not sustainable operationally. Considering this and the new approach brought by M45, the M23 approach will not be further applied in other contexts

3. Motion 45/2025: moving from fixed thresholds to outcome based conservation



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Motion 45/2025 - Moving beyond fixed thresholds to outcome-based conservation for Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)

Centered in **maintaining ecological integrity and socio-cultural values** of the IFL area within the management unit supported by **robust monitoring**, rather than on avoiding logging activities in ‘core areas’

Main ideas and purpose of Motion 45/2025

1. Shifts **away** from the current **fixed thresholds** for protection of IFLs within certified areas.
2. Calls for maintaining **ecological integrity** and **socio-cultural values** of IFLs.
3. Challenges the binary approach to intactness.
4. Assumes that ecosystem integrity can be preserved and forests can recover.
5. Calls for **robust monitoring** systems.
6. Emphasizes the **role of Indigenous and traditional peoples** in identifying and managing socio-cultural values and Indigenous cultural landscapes.

4. From Motion to Requirements: Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02

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From Motion to Requirements:
Motion 45/2025 to Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02

Motion 45/2025 passed by members in October 2025 at the General Assembly

The Board (BM 104) gave the mandate to the Secretariat to develop interim measures, in collaboration with a TWG.

Constitution of a technical working group

Collaborative work with the Secretariat

Engagement and Consultation with Stakeholders

The Advice Note stipulates **enhanced requirements for managing and monitoring High Conservation Value 2/Intact Forest Landscapes** focusing on **maintaining ecological integrity and socio-cultural values**.

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 V1-0 revised following consultation

The **revision responds to concerns expressed from a diversity of stakeholders and the TWG** that the Advice Note and its new concepts would be too demanding for 'immediate' implementation.

Consequent changes:

1. A phased implementation approach (Phase 1 and Phase 2).
2. Reduced extent of the Advice Note and its Clauses (from 18) to 12 Clauses and language was revised for improving clarity.

The Advice Note is implemented in 2 phases to allow certificate holders to have an adaptation period

Phase 1 –Advice Note V1-0 , effective 1 Jul 2026

Only Clauses 1-4 related to Identification and planning came into effect to avoid burden for certificate holders

Phase 2 – Advice Note V2-0, effective 1 Jan 2027

Remaining requirements (clauses 5-12), including monitoring and more complex elements, will be introduced.

Builds on V1-0 to further refine and develop a regionalization of the requirements.

5. The Advice Note in detail and its connection to M23 standards

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The Advice Note is structured in 3 parts

Part I: Identifying and planning

Part II: Managing

Part III: Monitoring

The Advice Note is structured in 3 parts

Part I: Identifying and planning (Version 1- effective 1 July 2026)

Identification of:

1. **IFLs and Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** overlapping the certified areas
2. **Ecological integrity features** (species, habitats, ecological processes)
3. **Socio-cultural values**
4. **Risks and threats** associated to those features and values

The Advice Note is structured in 3 parts

Part II: Managing (Version 2, effective 1 January 2027)

Management provisions related to:

1. maintaining of ecological integrity features and socio-cultural values
2. ensuring natural regeneration,
3. avoiding cumulative impacts;
4. minimizing site-level disturbances
5. excluding forest operations in areas where features and values cannot tolerate disturbances.

The Advice Note is structured in 3 parts

Part III: Monitoring (Version 2, effective 1 January 2027)

Set out the basis for monitoring:

1. outlining what to monitor:
   * species or multi-species indices,
   * tree cover disturbances from forest operations and natural events,
   * changes affecting Indigenous Peoples

2. how activities must be conducted, data sources

3. provision for adaptive management

Fundamental concepts brought into Advice Note

Ecological Integrity Features*

Includes 3 categories: species, habitats, functions;

Species that are specific to old-growth forests, species that are important for forest recovery or ecological functional processes, keystone species, and forest-dependent species.

Structures: habitats and their attributes on which the species identified in point a. depend for breeding, nesting, foraging and dispersal

Functions: ecological processes including important and/or unique carbon pools and watersheds regulating climate and water respectively, and providing vital ecosystem services.

* See Advice Note 1 for the full definition.

Fundamental concepts brought into Advice Note

Critical Landscape Integrity Features

Socio-cultural values*

Sites, resources, species, ecosystem services, and landscape features that are fundamental to the identities, well-being, cultures, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and traditional peoples.

Includes **cultural keystone species***: Plant and animal species essential to the cultural identity, subsistence, and practices of Indigenous Peoples and traditional peoples.

* See Advice Note 1 for the full definition.

IFL protection thresholds in M23 Forest Stewardship Standards and Advice Note applicability

The Advice Note applies for organizations working with revised indicators, on the protection level of IFLs within the management unit.
Those organizations choosing to apply previous indicators, are NOT required to apply the Advice Note.

Brazil (soon)	Canada	Peru	Republic of Congo
9.2.5. 2) • **(a to c): 10-30% IFL protection depending on landscape classification** ➔ **Advice Note applies** • (d): +50% IFL protection outside legal Amazon.	• 9.2.4a : 80% IFL protection • **9.2.4b: 30–100% IFL protection defined through a collaborative engagement process.** ➔ **Advice Note applies**	**9.2.5** • (Option 1): **+50% IFL protection, when the organization does NOT apply (measures) the Sphere of Influence.** • (Option 2): **+20% IFL protection, when the organization do apply (measures in) the Sphere of Influence.** ➔ **Advice Note applies**	**9.2.8.** (1) +50% IFL protection, when the organization does NOT apply the Sphere of Influence. **(2, 3 and 4): 70% or more IFL protection in the [MU + Sphere of Influence] and 20% or more IFL protection inside the MU.** ➔ **Advice Note applies**

Timeline for the application of new requirements

1 July 2026

FSS Canada, FSS Peru, and FSS Republic of Congo become effective, including revised IFL protection thresholds.*

Regular **transition period of 18 months** to new FSS applies

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 V1-0 with only Clauses 1-4 becomes effective: Identification of IFLs, ICLs, as well as ecological integrity features, socio-cultural values and their associated risks and threats.

1 January 2027

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 V2-0 with all Clauses 1-12 becomes effective: region-specific enhanced management and monitoring requirements for HCV 2/IFL.

1 July 2027

Organizations within the scope of **ADV-STD-60-004_02 V2-0** are expected to **demonstrate conformance** with all requirements from this date and **no later than *31 December 2027*.**

1 January 2029

- **PCI revision concludes: IGI V3-0 becomes effective.**
- **Transition of Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) to the new IGI begins.**

PCI revision until 31 Dec 2028

Opportunity to consider the requirements of ADV-STD-60-004_02 during the revision of the International Generic Indicators (Principle 9)

*Soon in Brazil (FSS expected to be approved by end August/early September)

6. Q&A session

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7. Further implementation

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Broader implementation of enhanced HCV2/IFL requirements in 2027

PHASE 2: REGIONALIZATION → VERSION 2-0

- Will include regional adaptation of the requirements
- Is planned to replace V1-0 by 1 January 2027
- Conformity with all parts and clauses of the Advice Note required by 31 December 2027

ADVICE NOTE FOR OPT-IN COUNTRIES

- The opt-in approach for non-M23 pilot countries (Advice Note 2, ADV-STD-60-004_03) will become applicable only with the release of the Version 2-0 of Advice Note 1, effective 1 January 2027.

Full implementation of M45 and connection to the PCI revision

Full implementation will be achieved once FSS standards are updated based on the new version of IGIs

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 will also inform the ongoing PCI revision, particularly Principle 9 indicators. In this way, it will contribute to shaping future requirements for HCV 2 and IFLs within the International Generic Indicators framework.

The incorporation of requirements is subject to amendments based on stakeholder feedback during the revision period.

The PCI revision is ongoing and will continue through 2027 and 2028, with the revised PCI coming into effect in January 2029.

Keep tuned!

- Participate on the PCI Consultative Forum on IFL. See more information here
- Public Consultation and webinar in September (date tbc)

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Thank you

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