

THE STANDARD

Volume 1 2009



AUSTRALIAN FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARDS NEWSLETTER



Lab tested

Showing its support for environmental responsibility and sustainably managed forests, Kimberly-Clark Australia (KCA) may well be the first organisation to run a TV advertising campaign showing the PEFC logo.

A KCA spokesman said the company takes environmental sustainability very seriously, and works across all aspects of the business to ensure all products are produced in an environmentally responsible manner.

AFSL CEO Kayt Watts recently visited the Kimberly-Clark Millicent Mill and Tantanolua Mill in South Australia, to see how the Australian Forestry Standard AS 4707 Chain of Custody certification is working in practice.

The Trees to Tissues story for KCA commences with Woodyard operations, followed by a bisulphite pulping process that takes chips to pulp. Next in line are the pulp users – tissue machines and the pulp dryer, producing tissue products (bath, facial and towel) and fluff pulp (for making nappies).

Tantanolua Mill Manager, Bill Beumer gave Ms Watts a tour.

“Programs are in place with formal and active procedures to manage key environmental aspects of running the operation, including energy and water use, and in lowering environmental loads in terms of waste water, air and solid wastes.”

Tantanolua's global Environmental Management System (EMS) has a foundation in the world-recognised ISO 14000 standard, with more than

Photo: Aerial photo of KCAs two Mills – Tantanolua Mill (left) and Millicent Mill (right)

90 per cent of the mill's wood supplies certified to Australian Forestry Standard AS 4708.

Ms Watts then inspected the Millicent Mill, literally across the road, guided by Mill manager Scott Whicker.

“Scott could pick up any packaged product from a conveyor belt and tell me exactly which raw source was used”

Millicent also receives pulp fibre from North and South America: KCA's global policy is that all wood and fibre supplied be sourced from forests accredited to a recognised forest management scheme.

“The mill was immaculate in cleanliness and safety; also the process from the entry of pulp fibre through to packaging and loading on transport was transparent and could be seen at every point from overhead walkways and designated pathways through the mill.

“To demonstrate sustainability, they ensure that the fibre used in their products is independently and credibly certified, with the small amounts which have not been independently certified generally from small holdings where certification is not practical,” Ms Watts said.

“These small holdings are, however, audited for sound practices by KCA personnel.”

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Standards Review

Australian Forestry Standard Limited (AFSL) is a standards development organisation, and has the ownership and management of the Australian Forest Management AS 4708 and Forest Chain of Custody AS 4707 Standards. As a public (not-for-profit) organisation, it works closely with and on behalf of the industry, the two major priorities to ensure the credibility and rigour of the Standards and Standards development process, and to provide open consultation with all stakeholders when reviewing the Standards.

The organisation undergoes two major audits – first by Standards Australia, subsidiary ABSDO, to ensure the process for development and management of the Standards adheres to a best practice framework and criteria.

AFSL has just completed audit surveillance in February, and will undergo a further full audit in July 2009. **Continued on page 3**

*This issue of the AFSL Newsletter
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Boral Timber is a member of AFSL, and is a certified organisation under the AS 4707-2006 Chain of Custody Standard. Boral Timber sources the bulk of its hardwoods from Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) certified forests – the only forestry certification scheme in Australia to have an Australian Standard (AS 4708-2007). Specifically designed for Australian conditions, more than 95 per cent of Australian certified forestry is AFS-certified.

What this means for architects, specifiers and designers is that by using Boral Timber hardwood and plywood products, they are supporting sustainably managed timber harvesting and timber processing, which is vital for the long-term future of Australia's forestry and wood product resources.

Boral Timber actively participates in the consultative process for continued improvement and development of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme and its elements.

Message from the CEO



Welcome to our newsletter, part of our commitment to effective communication with our members and stakeholders.

We are engaging with industry through media involvement, regularly updated web content and new marketing and information brochures and actively meeting with many stakeholders and industry associations to hear and learn about their needs.

Utilising my Board's expertise and knowledge, and the expert reference panels we have from industries and institutions in the supply chain, I am raising awareness of the benefits of sustainable timber procurement, and on ensuring business capability in meeting these commitments, aligned with the Australian Standards for Forest Management and Chain of Custody.

The AFSL's alliance and mutual recognition with the world's largest certification program, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme (PEFC) is a huge commitment by Australia in battling illegal logging and climate change globally.

The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) and PEFC are voluntary. What impresses me is the commitment not only by our forest managers but also the number of CoC certifications, which are growing exponentially.

I look forward to steering the AFSL and its commitment to the AFCS and PEFC schemes, and all their stakeholders, into a future of growth through the Standards.

KAYT WATTS

The State Governments are sending a strong message

Queensland is leading the country's commitment to sustainable forest management, with Qbuild, the state government's construction and maintenance group, introducing a policy to only source timber from suppliers who can demonstrate that their products have been sourced from legal, sustainable sources.

"The only credible way to prove the source of timber is through an independently audited, internationally recognised chain of custody tracking scheme such as that offered through the Australian Forestry Certification Scheme," said NRW Forest Products general manager Stephen Walker.

AFSL strongly encourages all states to follow the Queensland directive, not only in procurement policy but also in supporting businesses through funding and workshops in attaining CoC Certification AS 4707.

Queensland is contributing funding towards a CoC Support Scheme that provides financial support for expenses incurred in achieving certification. The scheme is administered by the peak industry representative body, Timber Queensland.

Meanwhile in Victoria, the Brumby Government has stated in a public consultation draft of its Timber Industry Strategy that it will not fund or endorse non-government organisations which administer sustainability or procurement guides that discriminate against Victorian timber that meets third-party certification.

The draft highlights the importance of the Government's recognition of

international third-party certification "indisputably demonstrating sustainable forest management is reflected in its own business operations."

Some guides favour the use of timber certified by one certification scheme over another; commonly this equates to a preference for timber products certified to the Forest Stewardship Council scheme, the draft says.

"Other trends have been to apply additional criteria over and above third-party forest certification to assess environmental sustainability, or place sustainable forest products at an unfair disadvantage as compared to alternative products.

"This behaviour is anti-competitive and will be rectified."

The draft recognises the Government's own purchasing behaviour as a sender of market signals about sustainable products and services, reflecting the need for demonstrably sustainable practices.

"No Victorian Government department or agency will endorse any approach, including in procurement and sustainability guides and tools, that does not recognise that third-party certification unambiguously demonstrates sustainable forest management," the draft says.

For the full draft report see www.dpi.vic.gov.au/timberindustrystrategy.

Lab tested...

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"Scott could pick up any packaged product from a conveyor belt and tell me exactly which raw source was used to make it – whether the pulp came from Brazil, Canada or an Australian certified forest," Ms Watts said.

Ms Watts' tour of the KCA Mills started in the forests managed by ForestrySA, which she described as an "amazing education" on sustainable forest management.

ForestrySA CEO Brian Farmer, Manager: forest management systems Linda May and their colleagues presented animated commentary on their practices, of which they were demonstrably proud, Ms Watts said.



High pruning for fuel modified zone: High pruning is done at the age 7-8 years (2 years following low pruning) and is carried out in fuel modified zones along strategic roads and around townships to provide increased fire protection. A by-product of pruning is the production of a higher quality log.

This covered the level of research and development applied to best practice implementation and continuous improvement programs, which she said was readily apparent.

"Our States are our forest managers in the majority of Australian forests, and the benefits are easily recognised.

"Strategies and programs in place provide a holistic system of management for our forests and the environment. At ForestrySA from senior management down, the same message is spoken: that they're improving everything they can, constantly seeking better ways to do it."

ForestrySA is AS 4708 and ISO 14001 certified among other recognised certifications.



Greening our cities: sustainable building



Queensland Premier Anna Bligh announced a re-election promise of a mandated six-star energy efficiency rating for all homes, to be implemented by 2010.

Ms Bligh was speaking at the March 2009 Green Cities conference and exhibition, held at Brisbane Convention Centre by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA).

"This is a real opportunity for us to influence the energy efficiency and quality of the 33,000 new homes that are built in Queensland each year," she said.

Also speaking at the conference, Federal Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull warned about "green tape", concerned that regulation of building policy needed to be "very focused and very effective".

"Simply because a regulation is put in place for a good, green objective doesn't mean that it is going to be effective or that it needs to be there forever. We've got to be looking at the effectiveness of regulation all the time. We don't want the 'green tape' to take over from 'red tape'."

AFSL also attended the conference. CEO Kayt Watts (pictured, above) presented, in a POD session, on sustainable forest management and the importance of (CoC) certification to support it.

"Sustainability does not stop with the forests; every step in the supply chain has a responsibility to ensure total commitment to the environment and our forests," she said.

More wood is greener policy

"One of the best ways to address climate change is to use more wood, not less. Wood is simply the most abundant, biodegradable and renewable material on the planet." Those are the words of Dr Patrick Moore, founding member of Greenpeace.

According to AFSL CEO Kayt Watts, the Green Star Mat-8 "Sustainable Timber" credit review needs to take Dr Moore's words into account, and examine ways to increase the amount of wood used in new buildings.

The review, commenced last year as part of the GBCA's ongoing process of ensuring the Green Star suite of environmental rating building tools reflect best practice in industry, should recognise that the more timber used, the greener the building, she said.

"It's just common sense – the words of Dr Moore are just as relevant and important now, when green buildings are becoming the leading topic in discussions on the built environment, climate control and environmental responsibilities."

She cited the example of the Stadthaus building in Hackney, East London, which was the 2008 winner of the Wood Award, Structural category. The Wood Awards are the UK's premier award for wood in buildings and furniture.

The nine-story Stadthaus is the tallest timber residential building in the world. Its creators claim it will store more than 181 tonnes of carbon, and that it has prevented a further 125 tonnes of carbon from entering the atmosphere because a reinforced concrete frame was not used. This is the equivalent of 21 years' carbon emissions from a building this size.

Ms Watts said that the next stage of the "Sustainable Timber" review needs to examine ways in which to encourage the use of more timber because of its environmental benefits.

Australian Forestry Standard Limited

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Kayt Watts

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THE STANDARD

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Standards Review... Continued from page 1

Second, the Australia Forest Certification Scheme, which contains the two elements AS 4708 and AS 4707, goes through an international audit to ensure its compliance to the world-class forest certification

scheme, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme (PEFC). The 2008 audit has been completed and is in its final stages of re-endorsement by the 35 National Governing Bodies (countries), which are members of the PEFC Council.





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CERTIFICATION NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



Photo: PEFC General Assembly held in Canberra, October 2008. (L-R): PEFC Vice Chairperson Antti Sahi, Chairperson Mike Clark, PEFC CEO Ben Gunneberg, Vice Chairperson Bob Simpson and PEFC Board Member Hans Köpp.

PEFC Executive update

By Ben Gunneberg, PEFC Secretary General

Demand for certified forest products is increasing, despite the global credit crunch. Accordingly, it is essential that supply can meet increasing consumer demand. We are pleased therefore to announce the endorsement of the national forest certification system for Russia. The greatest potential for area growth for all certification schemes is now in Russia, and we estimate that within the next 10 years, about 100 million hectares will become certified to both PEFC and FSC forest certification systems, significantly contributing to the globally traded certified wood fibre basket. You should note that the Gabonese and Malaysian schemes have nearly completed their endorsement process, and will, subject to endorsement, be the first national PEFC schemes in Africa and Asia supplying into the global as well as local marketplace.

On the supply side, PEFC International has also been active in giving development advice and input into both the developing Chinese and the Indian forest certification schemes. Furthermore, both the Chilean and Australian schemes have nearly completed their re-endorsement process (held every five years) against PEFC's sustainability benchmark requirements. In addition, training courses for certifiers, auditors, and companies have been provided in China and Japan.

As PEFC is the only international scheme that re-assesses its endorsement scheme every five years, it is fitting that at international level our requirements

too are reviewed and revised to ensure that they reflect the latest scientific developments, best practices and stakeholder expectations. We have therefore just announced a two-year review process focusing on our sustainability benchmarks and welcome all stakeholder input. In addition, we are now in the second and final year of the revision of the international chain of custody standard.

The redesigned website will be launched later this year. For members we have already greatly expanded the intranet and included new features such as a photo library, an events calendar and discussion fora on various topics and activities to ensure better information and knowledge exchange.

An action plan for the implementation of the Governance Review recommendations over a two-year period has been approved by the Board and invitations have been issued for one of the key recommendations, the Stakeholder Forum, which will enable PEFC to engage with a range of stakeholders with whom it has not effectively engaged to date.

For more information on PEFC activities go to www.pefc.org

Certified organisations

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED

Gunns Limited
Forestry Tasmania
WA Plantation Resources Pty Ltd
Forestry SA
Midway Pty Ltd
Forestry Plantations Queensland
NRW – Forest Products
Bunbury Treefarm Project
Portland Treefarm Project
South East Fibre Exporters Pty Ltd
Forests NSW
VicForests
Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd
Forest Enterprises Australia Limited
Green Triangle Forest Products Limited
FEA Plantations Ltd
Timberlands Pacific Pty Ltd

CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFIED

Gunns Limited
Hyne and Son Pty Limited (Imbil)
Moxon and Company
Sawmillers Exports Pty Ltd
South East Fibre Exports Pty Ltd
Briggs Veneer Pty Ltd
PaperlinX Merchants Australasia
Offset Alpine Printing
Midway Pty Ltd
Australian Paper Pty Ltd
Elof Hansson Australia Pty Ltd
Weatherflex Pty Ltd
Australian Solar Timbers
Artec Pty Ltd
Ta Ann Tasmania Pty Ltd
ITC Timber Pty Ltd
SmartFibre Pty Ltd
Big River Timbers Pty Ltd
McPherson's Printing Group
Ligare Pty Ltd
Kimberly-Clark Australia Pty Ltd
Boral Plywood
Bretts Pty Ltd
Yarraman Pine Pty Ltd
Hyne and Son Pty Ltd (Tuan)
Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd
CPI Group Limited
Gunnerson Pty Ltd
Griffin Press
PMP Print
Fineline Printing Pty Ltd
Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australasia) Ltd
Solaris Paper Pty Ltd
Paper Force (Oceania) Pty Ltd
Jackaroo Pty Ltd
Immij Pty Ltd
Austral Plywoods Pty Ltd
Rawson Graphics Pty Ltd
Colorpak Limited
The SOS Print and Media Group (Australia) Pty Ltd
Blue Ridge Hardwoods (Eden) Pty Ltd
Platypus Graphics Pty Ltd
Forest Enterprise Australia Limited
The Printing Office
CanPrint Communications Pty Ltd
Hannanprint Pty Ltd
Austwood Australia Pty Ltd
Gunnedah Timber Pty Ltd
Baradine Sawmilling Co. Ltd
Hyne and Son Pty Ltd (Tumbarumba)
Boral Timber
Spence Doors
AIW Printing Pty Ltd
Webstar Australia – a division of Blue Star Print Group
BPA Print Group Pty Ltd
N K Collins Industries Pty Ltd
WA Plantation Resources Pty Ltd t/as WAPRES
WA Chip & Pulp Co Pty Ltd t/as WAPRES
The Laminex Group
Geon Group
Newcastle Camera Print Manufacturing Pty Ltd
Norske Skog Australasia Ltd
Carter Holt Harvey Woodpanels Australia
Lindsay Yates & Partners
Woodstock Group Pty Ltd

There is only **one** Australian Forest Management Standard and only **one** Chain of Custody Standard recognised as Australian Standards®. The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) is the **only Australian independent** certification process that provides Australian Forest Management Certification (AS 4708) and Chain of Custody Certification (AS 4707).

Setting the standard for sustainable forest management in Australia

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