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MORE CERTIFICATION GROWS SUPPLY CHAIN

Australian consumers can now have even greater confidence that their wood products are sourced from a sustainable forest, as two mills in Gympie, Queensland, have just achieved certification under the Australian Forest Certification Scheme Chain of Custody Standard – AS 4707.

Australian Forestry Standard Limited (AFSL) congratulates the Laminex Group and Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts Australia, both of Gympie, on having achieved certification.

The Chain of Custody standard provides a rigorous, credible traceability of wood products back to their source. Mills are the first step in the chain after the forests.

For a consumer to have confidence that their wood products are from a sustainable forest, there must be no break in the chain.

“Consumers are increasingly demanding that the timber and wood products they buy come from sustainably managed forests,” says CEO of AFSL Kayt Watts.

“Many global regions such as Europe, North America and Asia now will not import wood and wood products unless it can be traced back to the certified source: the forest. This is also becoming the demand domestically.”

Ms Watts says that with 13 Boral Timber Mills becoming certified, and now the certification of Laminex and Carter Holt Harvey, the Australian industry is well on the way to ensuring all Australian-produced timber is being processed in Australian mills.

The growth in certification of mills ensures a greater selection of product coming up the supply chain, she says.

“Both the Laminex Group and Carter Holt Harvey now have the huge benefit associated with being certified under the AFSC due to the recognition by the world’s largest forest certification scheme, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme (PEFC).

“Their products will be recognised worldwide as coming from certified sustainable forests, and through the Chain of Custody, this traceability is proof of that.”

Carter Holt Harvey is the first mill to be certified which processes particle board.

Laminex is the first mill to be certified which processes Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) and laminated board.

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The Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAA), a certification body accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) also congratulated the two mills.

“It is the vision of the EWPAA to promote the environmental benefits of Engineered Wood Products by all their producers, achieving Chain of Custody certification under a recognised scheme.

“Chain of Custody certification confirms that no illegal wood has entered the supply chain, and that production can be traced to a sustainable source, certified under a recognised Forest Certification Scheme,” says Simon Dorries, general manager of EWPAA.

According to peak industry body Timber Queensland, the trend for companies to gain certification across all product types improves the choice of truly “green” timber products available to architects, specifiers and designers.

Carter Holt Harvey market development and innovations manager Ron Green says the Gympie mill is now well positioned to supply certified Structaflor particle board flooring and Pyneboard (a raw and LPM-overlaid particle board) to the Queensland market.

“Certification is the way forward for Queensland’s timber industry as the simplest way for ensuring that timber and wood products come from sustainably and responsibly managed forests.

“Having CoC for these products will improve their marketability both domestically and internationally.”

“Chain of Custody certification of the remaining panel mills at Oberon, Tumut and Mt Gambier will progress rapidly over the coming months.

“Chain of Custody certification to the Australian Forestry standards is important for our representation to leading commercial and government projects and also for our export business.”

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NOTES

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a Standards Development Organisation and a not-for-profit public company registered in July 2003. The company owns the standard development functions and manages the elements of the **Australian Forest Certification Scheme**. The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) will:

- provide Australian and overseas consumers with an independent, internationally recognised third-party certification scheme for forest management in Australia
- promote a culture of 'continuous improvement' of the sustainable forest management practices in Australia
- support a market for forest products that are a result of sustainable forest management practices and value adding processes that maintain the integrity of the source forest certification and promote the broader environmental benefits of using wood-based
- products.

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) PEFC is a framework for the mutual recognition of credible national or regional forest certification schemes that have been developed based on internationally recognised requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999, PEFC has become the largest forest certification umbrella organisation covering national schemes from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tonnes of wood to the processing industry and then on to the market place from over 200 million hectares of certified forests. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.

Forest Certification Forest certification is a process, which provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that the wood used in the products comes from sustainably managed forests. Sustainably managed forests are those whose management implements performance standards based on internationally agreed environmental, social and economic requirements.

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