



## Comparative database of forest certification schemes

# Australian Forest Certification Scheme

Type of scheme	Forest certification scheme
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## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Objectives

1.1	Primary mission of the scheme	<p>The objective of the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), as the forest management Standard of the scheme, is to provide forest managers and owners with economic, social, environmental and cultural criteria and requirements that support the sustainable management of forests for wood production.</p>
1.2	When and how the scheme came into existence	<p>The partnership (see 1.3 below) commenced in late 1999 and guided the development of the elements of the scheme including completion of the AFS in late 2002 until it was replaced by Australian Forestry Standard Limited in July 2003. The company has guided the development of the Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard in late 2003, the reviews of the AFS and CoC Standard from Interim Australian Standard to full Australian Standard status and a labelling scheme and continues with the schemes implementation for uptake by the forest managers and owners as well as timber and wood processing industries in Australia.</p>
1.3	Organizations and interests that were instrumental in bringing the scheme into existence	<p>The Australian Forestry Standard Steering Committee, was a partnership of the Australian and State and Territory Governments, National Association of Forest Industries, Plantation Timber Association of Australia (now Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council), Australian Forest Growers and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.</p>
1.4	Legal status of the scheme	<p>The standards developed by the company are recognised and published as an Australian Standard (AS) with the designation as an AS accorded by Standards Australia.</p>
1.5	Is the scheme an independent organization or a subsidiary or scheme within another organization?	<p>The Australian Forest Certification Scheme is owned and managed by Australian Forestry Standard Limited which is an Australian not-for-profit public company.</p>
1.6	How the scheme is funded	<p>The company is funded by membership fees from four classes of membership, funding contributions from major sponsors of the scheme and specific grants for projects undertaken by the scheme. A label/mark is available to certified organisations based on a licence agreement. Licence fees are payable for use of the label/mark. There are two label/marks - and AFS logo as an approved Certification Trademark - and the PEFC logo.</p>
1.7	Current level of funding	<p>The company is operating on a budget of AUD \$ 0.3-0.4M with its primary funding from funding contributions and membership and licence fees for the label/marks.</p>

The company currently has a 10 person Board which is made up of Directors from each of the four membership classes as well as an Independent Additional Director, who is the Chair. The two main funding membership classes - Government and Forestry & Wood Products Sector - have up to 7 Directors.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Organisation

2.1	Brief description of the overall structure of the scheme.
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The components of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) are owned by Australian Forestry Standard Limited, a not-for-profit public company. The company is directed by a Board currently comprised of up to ten Directors from the four membership classes - Government; Forestry and Wood Products Sector; Employee Representative Organisations and General as well as an Independent Additional Director who is the Chair of the company. Its day to day activities are managed by an Executive Officer/Company Secretary based in Canberra, ACT. Company membership is open to individuals or entities in the four membership classes who support the objects of the company.

Australian Forestry Standard Limited has developed and will maintain the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and Chain of Custody Standard (CoCS) as the main standards of the AFCS with labelling (logo use) rules applying to an on/off product label. The AFS was drafted between 2000 and 2002 by the AFS Technical Reference Committee and the CoCS was drafted in 2003 by the AFS Technical Committee, both of whom are duly constituted committees of the company. The company is a Standards Development Organisation under accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisation to develop standards to the point of recognition as an Australian Standard (AS).

The AFS is a full Standards Australia recognised AS (August 2007). So too is the CoCS which was fully recognised in November 2006.

The AFS is a nationally developed forest management standard which maybe used by itself or in conjunction with an EMS. It is derived from elements of an EMS, the Montreal Process criteria and the requirements of like standardisation initiatives. To ensure continual improvement towards sustainable forest management, it provides for comprehensive forest management system requirements, effective public participation requirements and strong management performance requirements. The CoCS is also a nationally developed standard to track wood or forest products from a certified forest and is derived from the essential elements of a CoC system and like standardisation criteria but adapted for Australian conditions.

The national accreditation body - JAS-ANZ - recognises Australian Standards as a basis for certification programs and when requested by relevant organisations will provide an accreditation program for certification bodies to be accredited to certify to such standards. JAS-ANZ has developed an AFS Certification program based on ISO/IEC 62 (to migrate to ISO 17021 by 2008) for the AFS. It also has a Product Certification program based on ISO/IEC 65 which has been supplemented by AFS Limiteds CoC Scheme Rules specific for CoCS.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - scope and content

3.1	International forestry principles that form the basis of the forest certification standard(s). - Montreal
3.2	Steps taken (or required) to ensure the forest certification standard is in accordance with international forestry principles.  The seven Montreal Process (MP) criteria have been used as the basis for seven of the performance criteria in the AFS either as drafted for the Montreal Process or modified for use in a Standard. With the seven MP criteria as the first performance outcome sought, the forty requirements which satisfy those criteria were drafted for normative application.
3.3	Country(ies) or region(s) to which the forest certification standard(s) may be applied. Australia
3.4	The forest type(s) to which the forest certification standard(s) may be applied (e.g. "natural tropical forest", "plantation").  It is applicable to all forests managed for wood production, regardless of type and scale of ownership, or forest type, whether natural or planted forest ie native forests and native and exotic plantations.
3.5	The forest ownership categories to which the forest certification standard(s) may be applied (e.g. "state forests", "private industrial", "private non-industrial", "community forests").  It is applicable to all forests managed for wood production, regardless of type and scale of ownership, or forest type, whether natural or planted forest ie public and private forest.
3.6	Forest units that may be certified to the forest certification standard(s). - A single forest management unit - A group of forest management units - An organisation or company - An individual forest manager Also, a group of forest owners.  The AFS has three Supplements which provide guidance and cater for the forest type and scale issues in regards to forest units commonly encountered in Australia.
3.7.1	Conformance with all relevant international and national laws is included as a core principle of the scheme Yes
3.8	Structure of forest certification standards or international forestry principles.

The AFS has nine criteria which are derived from certain elements of ISO 14001 environmental management system (EMS), the Montreal Process C&I and like standardisation initiatives.

The nine criteria have a varying number of system or performance requirements (between 1 to 7) under each criterion to provide for forty requirements in total.

Criteria 3 to 9 reflect the seven Montreal Process criteria and provide the outcomes sought for the management performance requirements under each criterion. Criterion 1 reflects the desire to have the environmental, economic, social and cultural performance requirements within a management system framework. Criterion 2 places an emphasis placed on public participation which is reflected in like standardisation initiatives.

3.9	Division of the international forestry principles or forest certification standards into mandatory and optional elements.
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The normative elements of the standard comprise the nine criteria and 40 performance requirements.

Each of the nine criteria and 40 requirements is stand alone or has supporting informative material in the form of a Note to assist in clarifying intent.

Further informative material in the form of guidance for verification and a guidance for implementation are provided in Supplements to the Standard for the three major forest type/ownership situations i.e. medium and large native forest ownerships, medium and large plantation ownerships and small native forest and plantation ownerships.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - management planning

3.10.1	Principles/standards established for forest management planning.  The AFS addresses forest management planning (FMP) within the forest management framework which is undertaken in a systematic manner to address the range of forest values. FMP is the 2nd requirement of Criterion 1 - Management System - of the AFS and requires the forest manager to develop a forest management plan or equivalent instrument. The requirement provides an indication of the main elements for the plan. Public participation is recognised in FMP as the 2nd requirement of the 2nd criterion and requires facilitate and encourage meaningful participation of stakeholders in the development of the forest management plans or equivalent instruments ....
3.10.2	Principles/standards established for forest monitoring  As with FMP above, monitoring is part of the forest management framework which is undertaken in a systematic manner to address the range of forest values and is the 4th requirement of Criterion 1 - Management System. This provides a comprehensive basis for the necessary monitoring of the main forest management performance requirements based on the seven Montreal Process criteria ie Criteria 3 to 9. See also 3.10.6 below.
3.10.3	Principles/standards established for training of forestry workers  Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - addresses social and economic values of forest management with the 3rd requirement directly catering for training and is expressed in terms of identify opportunities and implement appropriate actions to support employment and skills development of forest workers. Forest workers cover employee/staff, workers, contractors and seasonal staff.
3.10.4	Principles/standards established for consultation during forest operations  Criterion 2 - Public Participation - has three requirements with the 1st (Identify stakeholders) and the 3rd (Good neighbour) being directly applicable to provision of information on forest operations. See also 3.10.5 below.
3.10.5	Principles/standards established for provision of information to increase public awareness of forest management planning, forest operations, and/or forest outcomes  With a forest management framework which is undertaken in a systematic manner to address the range of forest values identified as Criterion 1 - Management System, , the Criterion 2 - Public Participation - of the AFS address public input and relationships with respect to forest management. The three requirements of the criterion (Identify stakeholders, Public input and Good neighbour) combine to provide for public participation at the forest management plan level and to foster on-going relationships to be a good neighbour.
3.10.6	Principles/standards established for implementation of formal environmental management systems such as ISO14001.

The AFS has been designed to be used by itself ie a stand alone Standard or to be used in conjunction with AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems - Requirements with guidance for use. If used by itself, especially for medium and small forest managers or owners, the Criterion 1 - Management System - has the main elements of ISO 14001 EMS to set up a systematic approach to forest management ie policy, planning, operations, monitoring/evaluation and review/modification. It was recognised that many larger forest managers and owners were implementing ISO 14001 EMSs in their organisations which would complement the forest management performance requirements of the AFS. This approach was translated into the first criterion of the AFS (Management system) to set the framework for all other criteria and requirements.



## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - land tenure

3.11.1	Principles/standards established for clear land tenure and long term use rights to the land.
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Land tenure and long term use rights are seen as intrinsic to requirements in the AFS for forest managers and owners so as to demonstrate compliance with current law which is a minimum requirement of the Standard.

The AFS requires the forest manager to specify or define a Defined Forest Area (DFA) to which the requirements of the AFS are applied. The forest manager is required to demonstrate management control over the DFA which allows them to affect achievement of the requirements of the AFS.

3.11.2	Principles/standards established for recognition and respect for the customary and traditional rights of indigenous/local people
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Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values - of the AFS addresses ... protect and maintain, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, religious and spiritual heritage values.

The 1st requirement deals with Indigenous peoples rights especially ... recognise the rights and responsibilities of Australias Indigenous peoples ... and identifies five components within this requirement on decision making, knowledge and management, education, economic aspirations and cultural and traditional customs.

The 2nd requirement deals with heritage values, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and promotes protection of values as well as consultation with relevant Indigenous people(s).

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - extent and health

3.11.3	Principles/standards established for maintenance of forest cover and area.
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The Defined Forest Area definition is the basis for the forest estate which is being considered for forest certification under the AFS.

Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - addresses issues dealing with maintenance of forest cover through the 2nd requirement (Permanent forest estate) and 4th requirement (Spatial configuration). Complementary practices in Criterion 4 - Forest productive capacity - and Criteria 5 - Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality - assist in the maintenance of forest cover.

The 2nd requirement of Criterion 3 seeks to minimise any reduction in the forest estate (see 3.11.5 below) whilst the 4th requirement seeks to ... progressively establish and maintain a spatial configuration of forest cover, stand structure elements and growth stages that is intended to support the protection and maintenance of significant biological diversity values.

Both the 5th requirement of Criterion 3 and 4th requirement of Criterion 4 seek to ensure effective regeneration of native forest with the 4th requirement of criterion 4 also addressing plantation establishment and stocking rates.

3.11.4	Principles/standards established for forest regeneration following harvesting
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The primary consideration of regeneration (native forests) and establishment (plantations) is within Criterion 4 - Forest Productive Capacity - with complementary practices in Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - and Criterion 5 - Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality.

The 3rd requirement (Silviculture) of Criterion 4 will establish the correct silvicultural system that is ... appropriate for the forest type, the specific stand and site conditions, forest management objectives and market/product requirements. This will be based on the harvesting and regeneration regime.

Following on, the 4th requirement (Regeneration/establishment) seeks to ... ensure that the regeneration of native forests and establishment of plantations is effective and timely.

It also considers species composition and density in native forests and stocking rate for plantations with a requirement for remedial action ... to ensure effective regeneration and establishment.

The 5th requirement of Criterion 5 seeks to ... regenerate native forest with species and provenances native to the area, or from an equivalent locality, .....

The 3rd requirement (Fire and disturbance regimes) of Criterion 5 is a complementary activity as fire is integral to regeneration to certain Australian forest types especially Eucalypts. Planned fire or other disturbance mechanisms may be required following harvesting as appropriate to the forest type or scale.

3.11.5	Principles/standards established for prevention of conversion to other land uses
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Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - addresses in a comprehensive manner through the 2nd requirement (Permanent forest estate) and Notes of intent, the issues dealing with conversion to other land uses including plantation.

The 2nd requirement addresses the broadscale conversion of native vegetation to plantation or non-forest cover seeking to prevent any such actions at a broad scale and limiting any conversion to limited circumstances related to infrastructure development required by legislation, ancillary conversion based on an approved forest management plan or small scale clearing (within defined limits) which has appropriate environmental offsets.

The requirement also addresses the maintenance and protection of Significant Biological Diversity Values and that no vegetation community or ecosystem becomes threatened or endangered.

3.11.6	Principles/standards established for protection of forest against pests
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Pests are considered under Criterion 5 - Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality - through the 1st requirement (Identify damage agents), 2nd requirement (Maintain health) and 4th requirement (Rehabilitate degraded forest).

The 1st requirement (Identify damage agents) of Criterion 5 seeks to ... identify, assess and prioritise the potential damage agents (such as weeds, insect and vertebrate pests and diseases and pathogens) ..... It covers both native (indigenous) and feral (introduced) damage agents.

The 2nd requirement (Maintain health) of Criterion 5 considers ... practices to support the maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality and ensure damage stays within tolerable levels. ....

The 4th requirement (Rehabilitate degraded forest) of Criterion 5 considers management of forests ... that have been degraded by damage agents to facilitate their rehabilitation.

3.11.7	Principles/standards established for protection of forest against fire
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The AFS considers both the use of planned fire and protection from unplanned fires in a number of criteria - Criteria 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity, Criterion 4 - Forest Productive Capacity and Criterion 5 - Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality. The 7th requirement (Disturbance regimes) of Criterion 3 considers the planned use of fire in native forests which may be suited ... to forest types or communities to support the protection and maintenance of biological diversity values.

The 6th requirement (Unplanned fire) of criterion 4 seeks to ... implement effective measures to reduce the extent and impact of unplanned fires.

The 3rd requirement (Fire and disturbance regimes) of criterion 5 considers the planned use of fire in native forests ... to maintain or enhance forest ecosystem health where appropriate to the forest type or scale.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - ecological functions

3.11.8	Principles/standards established for maintenance of biological diversity.
<p>Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - of the AFS provides the primary delivery of maintenance of biological diversity values. The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to protect and maintain the ecosystem, species, and genetic diversity elements of the biological diversity of forests.</p> <p>Using the shortened descriptors of the criteria requirements, the seven requirements are 1 - Identify biological diversity; 2 - Permanent forest estate; 3 - Significant biological diversity; 4 - Spatial configuration; 5 - Regeneration/establishment; 6 - Spread of introduced species and 7 - Disturbance regimes.</p> <p>There are elements in the requirements of Criterion 4 - Forest productive capacity, Criterion 5 - Forest ecosystem health and vitality - and Criterion 6 - Protect soil and water resources - which contribute to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity values.</p>	
3.11.9	Principles/standards established for maintenance or enhancement of endangered species populations
<p>The AFS consolidates these values in the term Significant Biological Diversity Values (SBDV) to cover a wide range of values one of which is endangered species. In Australia, threatened is a more common term when referring to forest types, ecosystems, species or communities and includes vulnerable, rare, or endangered.</p> <p>Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - has two requirements which specifically address this issue with requirement 1 (Identify biological diversity) to identify and assess the significance of biological values and structural elements ... to support the maintenance and protection of identified SBDV and requirement 3 (Significant biological diversity) to provide the operational delivery platform to implement practices to support the protection and maintenance of SBDV likely to be affected by forest operations.</p> <p>Requirement 4 (Spatial configuration) also assists by providing for the forest cover, stand structure elements and growth stages to support the protection and maintenance of SBDV.</p>	
3.11.10	Principles/standards established for restrictions or controls on the use of exotic tree species
<p>Requirement 6 (Spread of introduced species) of Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - addresses the introduction of non-native species but does not use the terminology of exotic tree species. It is basically applicable to forest managers managing plantations.</p> <p>The requirement looks to constrain the spread of introduced species, provenances and populations used in plantations, into adjacent native vegetation in order to protect its integrity.</p> <p>Certain exotic species provide the main species utilised for plantations in Australia and this requirement is aimed to restrict their spread into adjacent native vegetation as a means of ensuring the integrity of the adjoining native vegetation.</p>	
3.11.11	Principles/standards established for restriction or controls on the use of genetically modified organisms

Requirement 6 (Spread of introduced species) of Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - deals with the issue of GMOs within an Australian context. It is basically applicable to forest managers managing plantations. The elements in requirement 6 (Spread of introduced species) provide that any dealings with GMOs must comply with the laws and regulations currently in force and if contemplating licensed release, must have a publicly available ecological risk management strategy. Prior to any release, authorised field trials must have demonstrated the practicality of the ecological risk management strategy.

3.11.12	Principles/standards established for protection of areas of high ecological value
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The comments provided in 3.11.9 above essentially covers areas of high ecological value as it is one of the values encompassed by SBDV with requirements 1 and 3 of Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - providing the identification /assessment and protection/maintenance functions respectively. As examples of high ecological value, SBDV covers threatened forest types or ecosystems and old growth as defined by nationally agreed forest reserve criteria and known or likely occurrences of threatened species and communities and relevant habitat.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - productive functions

3.11.13	Principles/standards established for maintenance of sustained yield of timber.
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The AFS addresses the productive capacity of forests under Criterion 4 - Forest Productive Capacity. Whilst the six requirements on the whole provide the framework for ensuring the productive capacity of the forest, requirements 1 [Identify productive uses]; 2 [Plan operations] and 3 [Silviculture] provide the basis for yield regulation. The 1st requirement (Identify productive uses) requires identification of the ... productive uses of the defined forest area to support the maintenance of the lands long term productive capacity and ensure it is not compromised by wood production. The 2nd requirement (Plan operations) deals with the elements of planning which ensure that ... the productive capacity, relating to productive uses identifies at requirement 4.4.1, is not compromised. In terms of this requirement, it includes amongst others forest growth and forest products yield estimates, rotation/cutting cycle program, scale, intensity and timing of operations and expected markets. The guidance material discusses the interaction between maintenance of productive capacity and sustained yield. The 3rd requirement (Silviculture) looks at the silviculture to be used for forest management so that it is appropriate to ensure maintenance of productive capacity.

3.11.14	Principles/standards established for maintenance of flow of non-wood products
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Non-wood products are considered within Criterion 4 - Forest Productive Capacity - at the 1st and 2nd requirements which seek to identify ... existing productive uses of the defined forest area ... and ... plan forest operations to ensure that the productive capacity of the land ... is not compromised. The guidance material also clarifies both wood and non-wood products with examples of each category. Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values - also deals, under the 3rd requirement (Traditional uses), with ... allow exercise of existing legal and traditional uses of the forest to continue ... which does incorporate non-wood products and services from the forest. Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - deals, under the 2nd requirement (Optimal use), with ... efficient and optimal use of harvested forest products to encourage the best use of the defined forest area ....

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - protective functions

3.11.15	Principles/standards established for protection of the soil and prevention of erosion.
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The AFSs Criterion 6 - Protect Soil and Water Resources - provides the requirements but it is also linked to Criterion 1 - Management System - which describes a forest management system to ensure management is undertaken in a systematic manner especially for planning and operational aspects.

Criterion 6 - Protect Soil and Water Resources - which deals with soil and water has five requirements which cover - Identify soil and water values (1); Water quality (2); Water flows (3); Soil properties (4) and Pollution and contamination (5).

The requirements seek to

- 1 ... identify and assess the inherent soil and water values ...;
- 2 ... manage forest operations to minimise adverse changes to water quality ...;
- 3 ... manage forest operations to ensure hydrological flows are in accordance with authorised regional catchment goals ...;
- 4 ... manage forest operations to protect and maintain soil physical, chemical and biological properties ...; and
- 5 ... manage forest operations to prevent or constrain water pollution and soil contamination ....

3.11.16	Principles/standards established for protection or enhancement of water quality
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As indicated in 3.11.15, water quality is under Criterion 6 - Protect Soil and Water Resources - with the 2nd requirement (Water quality) specifically addressing water quality and taking into consideration the physical, chemical and biological aspects. It deals with transport of soil towards waterways, riparian zones, buffer strips, and temporary and permanent roads and roadway crossings of waterways.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - social functions

3.11.17	Principles/standards established for provision of public access to the forest.
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In terms of land tenure in Australia, forests can be on Public (Government owned or leased from Government lands) or Private (owned by individuals, companies, etc). Public lands have free access for forest based activities as they are owned by the people through the relevant State or Territory Government. Private lands have ownership vested in the individual or company and have restrictions based on private property rights but public access can be negotiated for certain values with owners on a case by case basis. The majority of forest based recreational activities and facilities are on public land which enables unfettered access except in emergency or designated situations eg bushfires, storm damage or closed events like car rallies or military exercises.

The AFS does not have a specific requirement for provision of public access to the forest as it involves the Defined Forest Area (DFA) and the land tenure of the DFA as explained above. It is common knowledge within the general public of Australia as to the differences between Public (or Crown) lands and Private (Private Property) lands which establishes the differences for access to forests.

A Note to requirement 1 (Regional development) of Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - recognises ... adequate public access to forests for the purposes of recreation ... is and integral component of the requirement.

3.11.18	Principles/standards established for provision of recreational opportunities
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Both Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values - and Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - are relevant to recreational values of forests.

The 3rd requirement (Traditional uses) of the Criterion 8 deals with ... allow exercise of existing legal or traditional uses of the forest to continue.

The 1st requirement (Regional development) of the Criterion 9 deals with ... identify opportunities and implement actions appropriate to support regional industry and regional communities having due regard for the role of forestry in rural and regional development ....

In combination, they provide the framework for ongoing recreational activities and the promotion of new opportunities especially at a regional level.

See 3.11.17 for differentiation of land tenure and its impact on recreational opportunities.

3.11.19	Principles/standards established for protection of areas of particular historic, cultural or spiritual value
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Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values -is directly relevant to historic, cultural or spiritual values as it seeks to ... protect and maintain, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, recreational, religious and spiritual heritage values.

The 2nd requirement (Heritage values) directly addresses the protection of these identified values.

The Note with the Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values - also clarifies the intent of the criterion to cover sites of cultural heritage, ceremonial and spiritual affiliation, aesthetic and religious value ... ; and other natural values not covered in Criterion 3 (Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity) and Criterion 6 (Protect Soil and Water Resources) to provide a comprehensive coverage of these values.



3.11.20	Principles/standards established for enhancement of the landscape and aesthetic value of forest
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Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values -is directly relevant to the aesthetics as it addresses ... protect and maintain, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, religious and spiritual heritage values of which in the Note to Criterion 8 clarifies coverage of aesthetic and religious values.

There is no specific requirement for landscape as the totality of the criteria and requirements operate at a landscape or regional level with respect to the forested landscape.

Any emphasis in the AFS is on regional scales eg Criterion 3 -Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity - which takes into account short, medium and distant landscapes. In terms of immediate landscapes, the 3rd requirement (Good neighbour) of the Criterion 2 - Public Participation - provides for consideration of the impact of forest operations on neighbours and taking appropriate actions to minimise any adverse impacts.

3.11.21	Principles/standards established for limiting the visual impact of harvesting operations.
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Criterion 2 - Public Participation - addresses the operational issues involving harvesting operations as the 3rd requirement (Good neighbour) provides for consideration of the impact of forest operations on neighbours, notifying neighbours and authorities prior to operations commencing and taking appropriate actions to minimise any adverse impacts.

Certain requirements in the Criterion 3 - Protect and Maintain Biological Diversity, Criterion 6 - Protect Soil and Water Resources - and the Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Spiritual Values - will all contribute to amelioration of the impact and extent of harvesting operations as they address the protection and maintenance of specific values.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - economic functions

3.11.22	Principles/standards established for provision of employment opportunities in forestry.  The AFS addresses economic functions in the Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - dealing with ... maintain and enhance long-term social and economic benefits. The first three requirements deal with Regional development, Optimal use and Employment skills development which when combined provide the framework for employment opportunities in the forest management and timber industries. The Note accompanying Criterion 9 also indicates that employment opportunities can also be based on the other values of the forest eg recreation and tourism.
3.11.23	Principles/standards established for provision of employment for local people  As indicated in 3.11.22, the AFS at Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - focuses initially on regional industry and regional communities which is at a level of amalgamated local communities as timber and forest industries are usually distributed around an identified region with local communities providing the labour and staff input. The 3rd requirement (Employment skills development) specifically deals with ... identify opportunities and implement appropriate actions to support employment and skills development of forest workers. Forest workers live in rural and regional areas, be it cities, towns or villages, and local people are the main component of the forest and timber industry workforce.
3.11.24	Principles/standards established for maintenance or enhancement of the economic viability of forest operations  As indicated in 3.11.22, the AFS at the Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - looks initially at regional industry and regional communities as its 1st requirement and the role of forests in rural and regional development but in doing so it must consider the other social, environmental and cultural requirements of the AFS. The 2nd requirement (Optimal use) of Criterion 9 seeks to ... pursue the efficient and optimal use of harvested forest products to encourage the best use of the defined forest area ... but in doing so must take account of the other social, environmental and cultural requirements of the AFS.
3.11.25	Principles/standards established for ensuring efficient utilisation of forest products  This is specifically addressed in the 2nd requirement (Optimal use) of Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - which seeks to ... pursue the efficient and optimal use of harvested forest products to encourage the best use of the defined forest area ... but in doing so must take account of the other social, environmental and cultural requirements of the AFS. This requirement must be viewed in the light of the 1st requirement (Regional development) of Criterion 9 dealing with regional industry and regional communities which ensures that efficient utilisation of forest products is undertaken at a regional level.
3.11.26	Principles/standards established for game management

The AFS does not deal specifically with game management as the Eucalypt dominated forest environment and type of game (most native species are protected) is completely different to European or North American concepts of hunting for wild game within forests.

Hunting of feral or introduced species would be considered under the Criterion 8 - Natural, Cultural, Social, Recreational, Religious and Social Values - on protect and maintain various other values by allowing existing legal or traditional uses of the forest to continue or under Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits - on social and economic benefits of the forests as a recreational pursuit. Indigenous peoples rights in respect to native wildlife are considered in the 1st requirement (Indigenous peoples rights) of the Criterion 8 where ... recognition of Indigenous peoples cultural and traditional customs and promote their eco-cultural sustainability.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards/principles - chemicals and health

3.11.27	Principles/standards established for the use of chemicals.
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The AFS deals with chemicals under two criteria - Criterion 5 - Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality - and Criterion 6 - Protect Soil and Water Resources.

The 5th requirement (Chemical use) of Criterion 5 seeks to ... reduce reliance on chemicals (including pesticides and fertilisers) with potential for environmental harm and favour alternative cost-effective methods (including safe biological agents) and more benign chemicals that minimise adverse actual and potential impacts on the environment.

An accompanying Note provides clarification that whilst seeking reduction or minimisation of use it does not forego the achievement of critical forest management outcomes.

A further note clarifies in a general manner the intent of benign chemicals.

The 5th requirement (Pollution and contamination) of Criterion 6 - Protect Soil and Water Resources - requires ... manage forest operations to prevent or constrain water pollution or soil contamination with the objective that:

- \* chemicals from planned applications are not transported into waterways; and
- \* disposal of waste fuels, lubricants and chemicals is carried out in the prescribed manner.

3.11.28	Principles/standards established for protecting the health and safety of employees
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The issue of protecting the health and safety of employees is covered under a number of criteria - Criterion 1 - Management System - and Criterion 9 - Social and Economic Benefits.

The 1st requirement (Policy) of Criterion 1 requires compliance with relevant legislation which will include OH&S and the provision of adequate resources appropriate to the nature, scale and impact of the forest activities whilst the 3rd requirement (Implementation) ensures that roles and responsibilities are defined, there is a capacity to implement the system of management and staff and contractors have an adequate skills base and competencies.

The 4th requirement (Occupational health and safety) of Criterion 9 being concerned with social values specifically deals with a safe working environment, compliance with relevant OH&S legislation, a commitment to OH&S and development of reforms which facilitate improvement in workplace health and safety.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Standards setting requirements/process

4.1.1	Extent of standards setting process conformance with ISO Guide 59. Fully conforms
4.1.2	Justification for assessment of conformance with ISO Guide 59 AFS Limited is a Standards Development Organisation under accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations to develop standards to the point of recognition as an Australian Standard (AS). Information on the procedures of the standardizing body are available to interested parties at the <a href="http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/12about.asp">http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/12about.asp</a> - see Procedure 1 - Standards Development Within The Australian Forest Certification Scheme. Complaints were handled by the AFS Steering Committee which managed and resourced the development of the AFS from 200 to mid 2003. AFS Limited has developed a Complaints and Grievance Procedure which is available on the AFS website - <a href="http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/13Privacy.asp">http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/13Privacy.asp</a> - See Complaints and Grievance Procedure. Formal approval of standards was based on evidence of consensus using the ISO Guide 2 definition. During the development of the AFS, the AFS Steering Committee actively sought out participation from materially and directly interested persons and organizations within a national standard setting process.
4.2	International affiliations of forest certification standards setting body(ies), for example to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or the Pan European Forest Certification Council (PEFCC). Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a member of the PEFC Council and regarded as the Australian National Governing Body under the PEFC Council. The AFCS is an endorsed scheme current to 2009 under the PEFCs mutual recognition framework.
4.3	Forest certification standard (or the requirements for forest certification standards setting bodies) is currently published or in draft form. Published
4.4	Date of publication of the forest certification standard or standards-setting requirements. If the standard or requirements are currently in draft form, the target date for final publication. The Australian Forestry Standard AS 4708 - 2007 Published on 17 August 2007
4.5	Address of website where copies of forest certification standards or standards-setting requirements may be obtained. For hard and electronic copies. For electronic copies

4.6	<p>Summary description of participation during the development of the forest certification standard.</p> <p>Representative range of interests pro-actively sought and involved</p>
4.7	<p>Stakeholder groups which participated in the development of the forest certification standard as a consultative body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government</li> <li>- Wood processing/trading industry</li> <li>- Industrial forest owner</li> <li>- Non-industrial forest owner</li> <li>- Indigenous/local people</li> <li>- Professional forestry</li> <li>- Environmental NGO</li> <li>- Social NGO, Trade Union</li> <li>- Forest products consumer/end user</li> </ul> <p>Independent forest scientist and an independent environmental scientist.</p> <p>With the reconvening in 2004 of the AFS Technical Reference Committee to review the AFS, a further seat (recreation/commercial forest users) has been added to increase the AFS TRC to 20 seats noting that 2 seats are available for ENGOs.</p> <p>The representative range of stakeholders pro-actively sought and involved covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community and consumers</li> <li>- independent scientists and professional bodies</li> <li>- regulatory or controlling bodies</li> <li>- forest owners and processors.</li> </ul> <p>These stakeholders cover environmental, economic, social and cultural interests in forest management.</p> <p>Further information is available in AFS Limiteds Procedure 1.</p>
4.8	<p>Pro-active steps taken to ensure participation of stakeholders in the forest certification standards setting process</p> <p>At the commencement of the standards setting process in 1999, the AFS Steering Committee (AFS SC) recognised that there were various sectors which could contribute to the drafting of the AFS. It decided that the composition of the AFS TRC must represent a mix of organisations or individuals which would use the Standard or be influenced by the Standard and were assigned to the following broad stakeholder groupings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community and consumers;</li> <li>- Independent scientists and professional bodies;</li> <li>- Regulatory or controlling bodies; and</li> <li>- Forest owners and processors.</li> </ul> <p>The AFS SC actively sought out participants from these sectors to establish the 19 seats on the AFS Technical Reference Committee (see 4.7 above). This was achieved by either letter of invitation followed up by personal contact by members of the AFS SC with specific organisations or individuals. It should be noted that national level organisations were sought for participation which aligns with Standards Australias guidance on Technical Committee membership.</p>
4.9	<p>Summary description of the decision making process during the development of the forest certification standard</p> <p>Decisions made by consensus</p>

4.10	<p>Stakeholder groups which participated in the development of the forest certification standard as a decision-making body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government</li> <li>- Wood processing/trading industry</li> <li>- Industrial forest owner</li> <li>- Non-industrial forest owner</li> <li>- Indigenous/local people</li> <li>- Professional forestry</li> <li>- Social NGO, Trade Union</li> <li>- Forest products consumer/end user</li> </ul> <p>Independent forest scientist and an independent environmental scientist.</p> <p>With the reconvening in 2004 of the AFS Technical Reference Committee to review the AFS, a further seat (recreation/commercial forest users) has been added to increase the AFS TRC to 20 seats noting that 2 seats are available for ENGOs.</p>
4.11	<p>Description of the decision making process during the development of the forest certification standard</p> <p>The AFS Technical Reference Committee was the drafting body for the development and maintenance of the AFS. Decisions of the committee are based on a consensus position adopted as a result of within committee discussions.</p> <p>The definition of consensus in this process is:  general agreement, characterised by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. Note: Consensus need not imply unanimity. [ISO Guide 2]</p> <p>In the process to approve the current version of the AFS which was published as AS 4708- 2007, consensus was achieved using a postal balloting system of AFS Technical Reference Committee members in which each member had a single vote to either agree or not agree with reasons for non-agreement to allow for a resolution through consultation.</p>
4.12.1	<p>A stakeholder group has purposefully and publicly excluded itself from the forest certification standards setting process</p> <p>Yes</p>
4.12.2	<p>Stakeholder that has purposefully and publicly excluded itself</p> <p>The Environmental NGOs, who had accepted the invitation to sit on the AFS TRC in 2000/1 and participated in many meetings, withdrew in the period following the conclusion of public comment on the draft Standard which resulted in the Interim AS in 2003.</p> <p>A Consumer NGO, recommended for Technical Committee participation by Standards Australia, did not wish to participate after mail, e-mail and phone invitations.</p> <p>With the re-convening of the AFS Technical Reference Committee in August 2004, two organisations representing environmental interests had accepted AFS Limiteds invitation to take up seats on the Committee to ensure an environmental stakeholder view during the AFS review. One of these organisations subsequently withdrew voluntarily from the review process but supports the intent of the AFS.</p> <p>The Environmental NGO sector having been invited (as above) did not take up a number of offers in regards to the two seats on the AFS TRC for the review of the AFS.</p>

4.13	Procedures established for handling of procedural complaints during the setting of the forest certification standard
	<p>Any such issues were referred to the AFS Steering Committee, who managed and resourced the development of the AFS, for its consideration and decision to any complainant during the drafting of the AFS (2000 to mid 2003)</p> <p>AFS Limited has been responsible from mid 2003 onwards and has formalised the process in its Complaints and Grievance Procedure.</p>
4.14	Procedures for periodic review and revision of the forest certification standard
	<p>The Australian Forestry Standard was recognised by the national standards setting body - Standards Australia International - as an Interim Standard which expired on 19 February 2005.</p> <p>The expiry date was extended on 23 March 2005 to 19 February 2007 by Amendment 1 to allow for an extended review of the AFS.</p> <p>The expiry date was further extended on 19 February 2007 to 19 August 2007 by Amendment 2 to allow for the finalisation of the review of the AFS.</p> <p>The AFS as a full AS was published on 17 August 2007.</p> <p>From its date of publication (Interim AS on 19/02/03), it was available for public comment over the two year period up to the 2005 expiry date. All public comment was considered by the AFS Technical Reference Committee (TRC) in finalising the standard to be a full Australian Standard. The review of the AFS commenced in August 2004 and was completed in March 2007. The changes to the AFS have been based on public comments on the AFS and the sectorial comments from the stakeholders on the AFS TRC.</p>
4.15	How often the forest certification standard is reviewed
	<p>Once it is a full AS, it will be revised on a regular basis as applicable to all of Standards Australia's Australian Standards and it is envisaged but not confirmed that this will be at five yearly intervals.</p>
4.16	Steps taken to ensure continuing participation of interested parties when reviewing the forest certification standard
	<p>Members of the AFS Technical Reference Committee were made aware that they would be reviewing the AFS during 2004. Technical committee work commenced in July 2004 with a confirmation of representatives on the AFS Technical Reference Committee.</p> <p>Australian Forestry Standard Limited sought the engagement of national ENGOs or environmental interests and consumer NGOs through either requesting for their comments on the AFS or by active participation as a member of the AFS Technical Reference Committee (two ENGO seats and one consumer seat on the Technical committee). It also looked at other relevant sectors which may contribute to the AFS and sought their engagement through either commenting on the AFS or participation in the AFS Technical Reference Committee.</p>
4.17	Steps taken to ensure all certification applicants are made aware of any changes to the forest certification standard



Having been confirmed as a full AS in 2007, any forest manager certified under the Interim AS has been advised that it is a full AS and provided with the significant changes made to the AFS which may necessitate the forest managers review of its forest management certification.

The AFS Technical Reference Committee considered the extent of changes made under the review process and recommended a suitable timeframe for compliance with the confirmed AFS , being twelve months, which will be accommodated through a transition policy administered through JAS-ANZ.

4.18	Procedures for field testing of new or revised forest certification standards
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As an Interim AS, the AFS was available for immediate use as a forest management standard which allows for field implementation of the AFS in operational conditions. Feedback from forest managers undergoing or having completed certification against the AFS has been utilised in the review process outlined at 4.14 above.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Accreditation principles/system

5.1	Institutional arrangements made for the accreditation of certification bodies
	Yes
5.2	Name and contact details of the accreditation body (or bodies)
	<p>Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)  Level 1, Law Society Building  11 London Circuit  Canberra City ACT 2600  Australia  Ph: +61 2 6232 2000  Fax: +61 2 6262 7980  E-mail: admin@jas-anz.com.au  Web site</p>
5.3.1	Extent to which accreditation system conforms with ISO Guide 61?
	Fully conforms
5.3.2	Justification for assessment of conformance with ISO Guide 61
	JAS-ANZ is the recognised national accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand and is a member of the International Accreditation Forum which requires conformance with ISO Guide 61.
5.4.1	Accreditation body(ies) is(are) affiliated to the International Accreditation Forum?
	Yes
5.5	Scope of the accreditation with respect to forest certification
	Accreditation is for independent, third-party certification bodies providing assessment and certification of forest management systems to the Australian Forestry Standard.
5.6	Minimum professional criteria established for auditors and technical consultants involved in the accreditation of certification bodies
	These are set out in JAS-ANZ Procedure 26 General Requirements for Bodies Operating Assessment and Certification of Forest Management Systems [Issues 1 & 2], under sections 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3. As these sections are several pages in length, these may be accessed from the JAS-ANZ web site in Management Systems Certification page under the Accreditation section.
5.7	List of all certification bodies accredited under the scheme

Four certification bodies are currently accredited under the AFS Certification Program. Four certification bodies are currently accredited under the Product Certification Program and CoC Scheme Rules for CoC certification to AS 4707. Other certification bodies are considering accreditation.

All certification bodies accredited under JAS-ANZ are listed in the JAS-ANZ register under the appropriate accreditation programme, once they have been accredited. The JAS-ANZ Register can be viewed from the JAS-ANZ website home page.

5.8	Website address where supporting documentation about the accreditation system may be obtained
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JAS-ANZ website

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Accreditation criteria

6.1	Does the scheme require third party certification or is first party assessment or second party assessment accepted
	The scheme requires independent, third-party certification bodies accredited by the national accreditation body to a specific accreditation programme under that national accreditation body or other documentation linked to an accreditation programme.
6.2.1	Extent of certification bodies conformance with one or more of ISO Guides 62, 65 and 66
	Fully conforms
6.2.2	Justification for assessment of extent of conformance with ISO Guides 62, 65 and/or 66.
	<p>Procedures for certification bodies are set out in detail in the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand Procedure 26 - General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification of forest management systems (for AFS) and Procedure 15 - General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems (for CoC).</p> <p>These Procedures are designed to be fully conformant with ISO Guide 62 and ISO Guide 65 respectively and can be downloaded from the JAS-ANZ web site.</p> <p>JAS-ANZ Procedure 26 has been reviewed in 2007/08 in order to conform with ISO 17021, being the replacement for ISO Guides 62/66, by September 2008.</p>
6.3	Requirements established for the forestry related competencies of audit teams
	<p>The basis is established in JAS-ANZ Procedure 26.</p> <p>In addition to generic requirements equivalent to those established in ISO Guide 62 (now ISO 17021), specific guidance is provided on forestry related competencies for audit teams by JAS-ANZ at 2.2. This states that all auditors shall possess the competencies identified in ISO 19011 for environmental or quality systems auditors ... a minimum of four years practical work experience in the forestry sector at a professional or semi-professional level ....</p> <p>The audit team shall collectively possess knowledge and understanding of the following subjects as they apply to the forestry sector.....a) soil and water conservation; b) silviculture practices; c) cultural, heritage, indigenous and social values; d) forest ecology; e) forest planning and management practices; f) accounting practices... ..competencies specified may be demonstrated through education, training and/or experience or a suitable combination... eg a degree or postgraduate diploma in forestry.</p>
6.4	Requirements established for collection of objective evidence in the field to assess whether forest operations and forest outcomes conform with the standard

The basis is established in JAS-ANZ Procedure 26.

This requires that the audit team shall assess the forest management system of the organization covered by the defined scope against all applicable certification requirements. This is done by collecting and analysing objective evidence of compliance against each requirement. Evidence can be collected through:

- 1) examination of documents, such as management plans, monitoring records or data from surveys;
- 2) observations of actual practice and conditions in the forest;
- 3) interviews with staff, contractors and interested parties;

b) information gathered from interviews should be verified by acquiring supporting information from independent sources. Non-verifiable statements should be identified as such.

6.5	Requirements established for sampling of forest area
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Detailed guidance on sampling is provided in the AFS and in a five page Annex 2 (Multisite Certification) to JAS-ANZ Procedure 2.

The AFS states that:

- a) some large forest managers may operate over a large number of forest management units. In some circumstances, the entire organization can be certified on the basis of a sample of sites. The basis for selection of sites for sampling is that:
  - 1) at least part of the sample shall be random;
  - 2) the full range of sites shall be formed into subgroups of like-forest management units on the basis of ecosystem, size of the forest, and tenure;
  - 3) a sample of sites shall be taken from each of the subgroups;
- b) the minimum number of sites audited shall be sufficient to provide an appropriate statistical level of significance.

6.6	Requirements established for local interpretation of the forest certification standard
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The basis is established in JAS-ANZ Procedure 26.

JAS-ANZ guidance in this document states that It is recognised that some requirements may be inappropriate for some enterprises in some situations. Some flexibility to allow local adaptation may therefore be acceptable. The certification body carrying out the audit will make a professional judgement as to the acceptability of the flexibility, and may consult appropriate specialists.

6.7	Requirements established for handling of non-conformance with the forest certification standard
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See The basis is established in JAS-ANZ Procedure 26.

This requires that the certification body shall have documented procedures for:

- a) the initial assessment of a organizations forest management system, in accordance with the provisions of ISO 19011 and other relevant documents;
- b) surveillance and reassessment of organizations forest management systems in accordance with ISO 19011 on a periodic basis for continuing conformity with relevant requirements and for verifying and recording that an organization takes corrective action on a timely basis to correct all nonconformities;
- c) identifying and recording nonconformities and the need for corrective action by organizations on a timely basis for such items as incorrect references to the certification or misleading use of certification information.

6.8	Requirements established for follow-up surveillance to ensure continuing conformance with the forest certification standard
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See response to 6.7. In addition, the AFS requires that after initial certification:

- a) surveillance audits of the certified forests and forest management system will be conducted at a frequency no less than once every twelve months. This is a partial audit of the requirements, and is planned to cover all requirements over a two-yearly cycle;
- b) some key requirements will be reviewed on an annual basis;
- c) after three years, the certified enterprise must be reassessed.

JAS-ANZ provides further detailed guidance on surveillance audits at 3.6, for example that they ... shall be subject to special provision if an organization with a certified forest management system makes major modifications to its system.....The reassessment sprocedure at 3.6 ... shall also provide for a review of past implementation and continuing maintenance of the system over the period of certification. amongst other requirements.

6.9	Requirements established for peer review of forest certification decisions
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Peer review is not specifically referenced. The certification criteria described in JAS-ANZ Procedure 26 are sufficiently detailed and comprehensive with respect to the qualifications required of audit teams and the bodies responsible for certification decisions that further peer review would seem unnecessary.

The certification approval is made by management of the certification body after review of the aufit teams report.

6.10	Requirements established for certification of small forest enterprises - for example specific requirements elaborated for group certification
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The AFS provides for group certification and requires that all group members commit themselves to complying with the requirements of the AFS. Group members must be organised under an entity/body that is capable of entering an agreement with a certification body on the groups behalf. The group must maintain a register of members with relevant data such as the area participating in the group certification. JAS-ANZ provide more detailed guidance in Procedure 26 [Issue 2] at G 3.2.3 to G 3.1.6.

AFS Limited has developed Guideline 1 - Group Certification Within The Australian Forest Certification Scheme - to assist in the implementation of group certification under the AFS.

6.11	Requirements for public availability of certification audit reports
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The review of the AFS considered the inclusion of publicly available certification or surveillance audit reports and Requirement 4.2 has been amended to include ... the results ofg independent certification and surveillance audit reports publicly available to stakeholders.

From December 2005, JAS-ANZs Procedure 26 at 3.1.1.2 required that the certification body ensures the certified organisation ... make the summary report provided at 3.4.1 e) publicly available. with 3.4.1 e) requiring ... a summary of the audit results that the forest manager will make publicly available to relevant stakehlders. to ensure that a certified organisation does provide a publicly available summary report.

## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: Environmental claims

7.1.1	Extent of conformance with relevant sections of ISO14020 "Environmental labels and declarations - General Principles"
	Fully conforms
7.1.2	Justification for assessment of conformance with relevant sections of ISO14020
	<p>Comprehensive rules and guidelines for labelling of certified products, both on-product and off-product, from organisations that are certified to the Chain of Custody Standard are set out in the Australian Forestry Standard Limiteds Logo Use Rules Manual initially published in December 2004 and updated in 2005, 2006 and 2007 with Issue 6 being the current Manual.</p> <p>These rules have been endorsed by the PEFC Council as compatible with the PEFCs labelling rules.</p>
7.2.1	Scheme uses a mark of conformity
	Yes
7.2.2	Legal status of the mark of conformity
	<p>AFS Limited uses its AFS logo as a registered Certification Trademark #984827 (Trade Marks Act 1995) and makes it available under licence to individuals or organisations who have been certified under the scheme.</p> <p>AFS Limited is also able to offer the PEFC logo under licence in Australia as a registered Trademark #953160 based on the mutual recognition framework of the PEFC Council.</p>
7.3	Summary of the rules governing off-product environmental claims
	<p>AFS Limited, as the governing body for AFCS is permitted to use the AFS Logo for educational purposes and is also able to issue licences for use of the logo in Australia. Issue of logo licences is subject to a an issuance fee and an annual fee. AFS certified forestry and wood supplying organisations may use the AFS logo both for on-product and off-product promotion.</p> <p>Other organisations and other bodies may be permitted by AFS Limited to use the logo for educational purposes within their relevant sector. All organisations must be a legal entity and be prepared to sign an agreement allowing public presentation of the organisations data. The AFS Logo may also be used in off-product applications to promote the usage of AFS labelled products. In all cases, the AFS logo must be used according to specifications detailed in the AFS Logo Reproduction tool kit and must include a logo licence registration number provided by AFS Limited. In off-product use, the claim used beneath the Logo will be - Promoting Sustainable Forest Management. A reference to the <a href="http://www.forestrystandard.org.au">www.forestrystandard.org.au</a> website may also be attached voluntarily.</p>
7.4	Website address for documentation about the scheme's approach to environmental claims
	Australian Forestry Standard website





## Australian Forest Certification Scheme: CoC and wood flow accounting

7.5	Scheme allows on-product labelling? Yes
7.6	<p>Product categories that may be labelled (e.g. solid wood, assembled products, chip and fibre products, paper products)</p> <p>AFS Limited has developed Logo Use Rules Manuals which allow for on-product and off-product labelling of the AFS logo and the PEFC logo and is available to certified organisations (see 7.1.2 above).</p> <p>An Australian Standard for chain of custody of certified wood and forest products - AS 4707-2006 was published in November 2006 and Amendment #1 to AS 4707 was published in December 2007. It is applicable to any wood and forest products available from a DFA or from other schemes recognised as substantively equivalent to the AFS. The basis for substantively equivalent is defined in the Logo Use Rules Manuals. These include but are not limited to wood products, timber products, wood by-products, timber products arising from remanufacturing or composition.</p>
7.7	<p>Procedure (s) allowed for chain of custody or wood flow accounting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical segregation</li> <li>- Percentage in = percentage out</li> <li>- Minimum average percentage</li> </ul>
7.8	<p>(Where relevant) rules governing percentage content calculations</p> <p>Percentage based systems allowed under the CoC standard are the input-output system and the rolling average % system.</p> <p>In the former, the assessment of the percentage of inputs and outputs is on an average basis over a period of up to 12 months.</p> <p>Under the latter, the percentage shall not be less than 70% for all wood or forest products. The documentation accompanying certified material shall specify the basis for certification.</p> <p>In both systems calculations of percentage may be based either on weights or volumes.</p> <p>An organisation using either system shall monitor batches in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a maximum monitoring period of up to 12 months;</li> <li>- the actual period to be calculated as a rolling average of the output;</li> <li>- the organisation determining the period;</li> <li>- any calculations for the period based on verifiable documentation.</li> </ul>
7.9	(Where relevant) rules governing the component of material inputs not certified by the scheme

The organisation shall ensure that no wood or forest products known to be from illegal operations or sources, under relevant domestic and/or international law, enters any stages within the organisation's link along the certification chain.

The organisation shall request a signed self declaration by suppliers of non certified raw materials that the supplied raw material does not originate from an illegal operation or source. Where contracts have been signed with suppliers, the organisation shall include such a declaration within the current contract.

Consistent with the requirements of the organisation's document control system, the organisation shall document risk assessment procedures for evaluating the potential risk of procuring raw material from illegal sources.

The potential risk evaluation carried out by an organisation shall be based at the regional/country level. Where a high risk level exists, the organisation shall establish a sampling based program of second- or third-party verification of the suppliers' self-declarations.

The organisation shall also demonstrate its compliance with Appendix G in conjunction with the above four requirements.

Appendix G - Avoidance of the Procurement of Raw Material from Controversial Sources - is six pages in length and can be accessed in AS 4707 on the Im a Processor page of the AFS web site.

As indicated in 7.6 above, the basis for substantively equivalent is defined in the Logo Use Rules Manuals.

7.10.1	Organisations supplying labelled products required to have their chain of custody or wood flow accounting systems assessed by a third party certification body
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Yes

7.11.1	Extent to which Chain of custody and wood flow accounting certification bodies conform with one or other of ISO Guides 62, 65 or 66
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Fully conforms

7.11.2	Justification for assessment of conformance with ISO Guides 62, 65 and/or 66
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A Chain of Custody (CoC) standard has been approved and addresses a system for the tracking of wood and forest products through the certification (supply) chain. The CoC standard has been recognised by Standards Australia as an Australian Standard - AS 4707-2006.

The JAS-ANZ Product Certification program (Procedure 15), which is based on ISO Guide 65 and IAF Guidance to ISO Guide 65, is augmented by AFS Limited CoC Scheme Rules (specific to AS 4707) and is available for certification bodies seeking to undertake certification using the CoC Standard.

7.12.1	Chain of custody or wood flow accounting certification bodies required to undergo accreditation
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Yes

7.12.2	Name of accreditation body (or bodies) for chain of custody or wood flow accounting certification bodies
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Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)  
Level 1, Law Society Building  
11 London Circuit  
Canberra City ACT 2600  
Australia  
Ph: +61 2 6232 2000  
Fax: +61 2 6262 7980  
E-mail: [admin@jas-anz.com.au](mailto:admin@jas-anz.com.au)  
Web site

7.12.3.1	Extent of accreditation body conformance with ISO Guide 61?
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Fully conforms

7.12.3.2	Justification for assessment of conformance with ISO Guide 61.
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JAS-ANZ is the recognised national accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand and a member of the International Accreditation Forum, requiring conformance with ISO Guide 61.