

This table provides a ready reference or overview to the consensus changes in The Australian Forestry Standard with the 2007 version in the left column and the previous 2003 (Interim) version in the right column.

The consensus changes are indicated in **blue bolded** text.

Minor style and grammar editorials have not been highlighted in this document nor the changes to Appendices A and B which are informative in relation to The Australian Forestry Standard.

PREFACE

AS 4708—2007	AS 4708(Int)—2003
This Standard was prepared by the Australian Forestry Standard Technical Reference Committee. This committee is a technical committee under the accredited Standards Development Organisation—Australian Forestry Standard Limited .	This Interim Standard was prepared by the Australian Forestry Standard Technical Reference Committee. This committee is a technical committee under the Standards Development Organisation – The Australian Forestry Standard Steering Committee.
The objective of the Australian Forestry Standard 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.	The objective of the Australian Forestry Standard 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.
Independent , third-party certification against the Australian Forestry Standard provides a clear and unambiguous statement that wood production in a particular defined forest area was managed in accordance with a set of predetermined and clearly defined	Third-party certification against the Australian Forestry Standard provides a clear and unambiguous statement that wood production in a particular defined forest area was managed in accordance with a set of predetermined and clearly defined environmental, economic, social and cultural performance requirements that

environmental, economic, social and cultural performance requirements that support sustainable management of forests.	support sustainable management of forests.
The Australian Forestry Standard may be used either by itself or in conjunction with AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004 <i>Environmental Management Systems - Requirements with guidance for use</i> .	The Australian Forestry Standard may be used either by itself or in conjunction with AS/NZS ISO 14001:1996 <i>Environmental Management Systems - Specification with guidance for use</i> .
The supplements 1, 2 and 3 to the Australian Forestry Standard, available separately, have been prepared to give guidance for— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medium and large native forest ownerships. 2. Medium and large plantation ownerships. 3. Small native forest and plantation ownerships. 	The supplements 1, 2 and 3 to the Australian Forestry Standard, available separately, have been prepared to give advice on- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidance for medium and large native forest ownerships. 2. Guidance for medium and large plantation ownerships. 3. Guidance for small native forest and plantation ownerships.
An <i>informative</i> appendix or supplement is for information and guidance only .	An <i>informative</i> appendix or supplement is only for information and guidance.
In this Standard, unless the contrary intention appears the singular includes the plural and vice versa.	No equivalent text
<i>Text deleted.</i>	The date of expiry for comment is two years after publication, at which time this Interim Standard will be confirmed, withdrawn or revised in the light of public comment, or published as an Australian Standard. During the life of this document, the committee will monitor all comment as it is received. There was wider representation earlier in the development process than those organisations listed on the inside front cover of this Interim Standard. The review of this Interim Standard will secure the participation of a wider representation of those interests concerned with sustainable forest management.
Introduction	
The Australian Forestry Standard seeks to distil from community values and the science of forest management those economic, social, environmental and indigenous criteria that are considered to be most important for ensuring that a forest is well-managed. It is intended that the AFS be used by accredited and independent third-party certification bodies and that it embodies forest management performance criteria that support continual improvement toward	The Australian Forestry Standard seeks to distil from community values and the science of forest management those economic, social, environmental and indigenous criteria that are considered to be most important for ensuring that a forest is well-managed. It is intended that the AFS be used by accredited and independent third party certification bodies and that it embodies forest management performance criteria which support continual improvement toward sustainable wood production in Australia. The Standard is based on

sustainable wood production in Australia. The Standard is based on internationally agreed criteria and reflects broad multi-stakeholder support. It is intended for voluntary application and will assist to promote access to both domestic and international markets for timber from certified 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.	internationally agreed criteria and reflects broad multi-stakeholder support. It is intended for voluntary application and will assist to promote access to both domestic and international markets for timber from certified 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.
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What is a Standard

Standards are accepted specifications that define materials, methods, processes and practices that, when effectively implemented, ensure consistent and acceptable levels of quality, performance, safety and reliability are achieved. Certification of forest management provides an assurance that the quality of the forest management practised conforms to a specified standard. Standards are voluntary compliance documents that only become mandatory if called up through legislation or contractual obligation.	Standards are accepted specifications that define materials, methods, processes and practices that, when effectively implemented, ensure that consistent and acceptable levels of quality, performance, safety and reliability are achieved. Certification of forest management provides an assurance that the quality of the forest management practised conforms to a specified standard. Standards are voluntary compliance documents that only become mandatory if called up through legislation or contractual obligation.
The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) is a nationally endorsed Australian Standard developed within the recognised international frameworks of the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (1995) and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 14000 series of international, voluntary environmental management Standards, but which takes account of local operating conditions.	The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) is a nationally endorsed Australian Standard developed within the recognised international frameworks of the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (1995) and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 14000 series of international, voluntary environmental management standards, but which takes account of local operating conditions.

Sustainable forest management

Whilst there are a number of definitions of sustainable forest management, the following was based on concepts enunciated in the Forestry Working Group on Ecologically Sustainable Development (1991) and the National Forest Policy Statement (1992):	Whilst there are a number of definitions of sustainable forest management, the following was provided by the Forestry Working Group on Ecologically Sustainable Development (1991) and adopted by the National Forest Policy Statement (1992):
This entails maintaining the ecological processes within forest ecosystems—the formation of soil, energy flows, and carbon, nutrient and water cycles—and the biological diversity of forests	This entails maintaining the ecological processes within forest ecosystem (the formation of soil, energy flows, and carbon, nutrient and water cycles) and the biological diversity of forests so as to maintain viability and functional ecosystem

so as to maintain viable and functional ecosystems. The ecosystem needs to support healthy organisms, whilst maintaining its productivity, adaptability and capability for self renewal. Forest management needs to respect, and build, on these natural ecological components and processes.	processes. The ecosystem needs to support healthy organisms, whilst maintaining its productivity, adaptability and capability for renewal. Forest management needs to respect, and build on these natural components and processes.
Mutual recognition of Forest Certification Schemes	
Two principal international initiatives are the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes and the Forest Stewardship Council.	Two principal international initiatives are the Pan European Forest Certification Scheme and the Forest Stewardship Council.
<p>The AFS was developed cognisant of the emerging criteria for international recognition, including those criteria of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being independent and impartial, including a clear separation between development of standards and accreditation of certification bodies; • involving competent accreditation bodies and independent, accredited third party certification bodies. 	<p>The AFS was developed cognisant of the emerging criteria for international recognition, including those criteria of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being independent and impartial, including a clear separation between setting of standards and accreditation of certification bodies; • involving competent accreditation bodies and third party certification bodies.
Use of the Standard	
The AFS may be used either by itself or in conjunction with AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004 <i>Environmental Management System—Requirements with guidance for use</i> .	The Australian Forestry Standard may be used either by itself or in conjunction with AS/NZS ISO 14001:1996 Environmental Management Systems - Specification with guidance for use.
These are addressed under external legal requirements such as Commonwealth, State and Territory planning, management and operational control processes, including regional and local planning approvals, regulations, licences, codes of practice, prescriptions and operational guidelines .	These are addressed under external legal requirements such as Commonwealth, State and Territory planning, management and operational control processes, including regional and local planning approvals, regulations, licences, codes of practice and prescriptions.
Mechanisms to ensure that forest management performance and public participation requirements have been met are built into Criteria 2 to 9, and in the management system (Criterion 1) through requirements for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of forest management in relation to the forest management performance and	Mechanisms to ensure that forest management performance and public participation requirements are met are built into Criteria 2 to 9, and in the management system (Criterion 1) through requirements for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of forest management in relation to the forest management performance and public participation requirements, and review

public participation requirements, and review and continual improvement of the management system.	and continual improvement of the management system.
<p>The Australian Forestry Standard project was an initiative sponsored by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (through the Forestry and Forest Products Committee of its Primary Industries Standing Committee), the National Association of Forest Industries, the Plantation Timber Association of Australia and the Australian Forest Growers during the developmental phase from 2000 to mid 2003. The development of the AFS was supported initially by a Steering Committee containing representatives of the above sponsors, together with representatives of the Natural Resources Management Ministerial Council's Natural Resources Management Standing Committee and the Australian Council of Trade Unions and from mid 2003 by Australian Forestry Standard Limited, a not-for-profit public company. The process for its development was undertaken in accordance with a set of recommended developmental stages as guided by Standards Australia's Standardization Guides 1, 3, 4, 11 and 14.1 (Standards Australia, 1995, 1996 & 1999). The Steering Committee and Australian Forestry Standard Limited have been accredited by the Standards Accreditation Board of Standards Australia as Standards Development Organisations to oversee the development of the AFS.</p> <p>A Technical Reference Committee comprised of cross-sectoral stakeholders invited and prepared to participate in the development process guided the development of and approved the technical content of the AFS.</p> <p>The 19 seat Technical Reference Committee (increased in 2004 to 20 seats) was comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent professional and scientific experts; • forest owners and processors; 	<p>The development of the Australian Forestry Standard is an initiative sponsored by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (through the Forestry and Forest Products Committee of its Primary Industries Standing Committee), the National Association of Forest Industries, the Plantation Timber Association of Australia and the Australian Forest Growers. The development of the AFS was supported by a Steering Committee containing representatives of the above sponsors, together with representatives of the Natural Resources Management Ministerial Council's Natural Resources Management Standing Committee and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. The process for its development was undertaken in accordance with a set of recommended developmental stages as guided by Standards Australia's Standardization Guides 1-4, 11 & 14.1 (Standards Australia, 1995, 1996 & 1999). The Steering Committee has been accredited by the Standards Accreditation Board of Standards Australia as a Standards Development Organisation to oversee the development of this Standard (See Figure 1 at www.forestrystandard.org.au).</p> <p>A Technical Reference Committee comprised of cross-sectoral stakeholders invited and prepared to participate in the development process guided the development of the technical content of the Australian Forestry Standard.</p> <p>The 19 seat Technical Reference Committee was comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent professional and scientific experts; • forest owners and processors; • community and consumer interests; and • regulatory or controlling bodies.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community and consumer interests; and • regulatory or controlling bodies. <p>Further information on the development and review of the AFS is available in the document “Procedure 1 – Standards Development within the Australian Forest Certification Scheme” available on the AFS web site (See www.forestrystandard.org.au).</p>	<p><i>No equivalent text</i></p>
Structure of the Standard	
<p>The Australian Forestry Standard consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction that describes the rationale for a forest certification Sstandard; the process for its development including its structure, content and use; and the process for certification; • The Certification Standard, which describes the normative elements of the Standard. The requirements set out at section 4 are the normative elements that a forest manager seeking independent, third-party certification will be audited for conformance. To be certified, forest management shall meet all these requirements. The requirements are grouped under nine criteria that are stated in a positive or outcome form. The criteria and requirements are illustrated in Figure 1 in an abbreviated form; and 	<p>The Australian Forestry Standard consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction which describes the rationale for a forest certification standard; the process for its development including its structure, content, and use; and the process for certification; • The Certification Standard that describes the normative elements of the Standard. The requirements set out at section 4 are the normative elements that a forest manager seeking independent, third-party certification will be audited for conformance. To be certified, forest management shall meet all these requirements. The requirements are grouped under nine criteria which are stated in a positive form. abbreviated form; and
<p>FIGURE 1 Criteria and Requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard</p>	<p>Diagram 1 Criteria and Requirements of the AFS</p>
<p>The AFS also provides informative guidance in three supplements on the use and auditing of the requirements under a modular approach to accommodate different forestry enterprises, including native forests, plantations and small-scale ownerships. This guidance does not create</p>	<p>The Australian Forestry Standard also provides informative guidance in three supplements on the use and auditing of the requirements under a modular approach to accommodate different forestry enterprises, including native forests, plantations and small-scale ownerships. This guidance does not create</p>

additional normative elements. Rather, they are intended to provide clarity through additional information and practical examples where appropriate.	additional normative elements. Rather, they are intended to add clarity through additional information and practical examples where appropriate.
Application of requirements	
The forest management and public participation performance requirements need to be applied at appropriate ecological temporal and spatial scales, recognising that different criteria apply at different scales which will affect the ability of the forest manager to control or influence their achievement. The requirements should also be interpreted and applied in the context of the relevant policy and legislative framework.	The forest management and public participation performance requirements need to be applied at appropriate ecological scales, recognising that different criteria apply at different scales that will affect the ability of the forest manager to control or influence their achievement. The requirements should also be interpreted and applied in the context of the relevant policy and legislative framework.
<i>Deleted text</i>	Sections on: defined forest area (page 10) group certification (page 10) Statistical monitoring to protect environmental, social and economic values (page 10) timeframe (page 11) size of ownerships (page 11) scale of requirements (page 12)
1 Introduction and Scope	1 Scope
The AFS can be applied to any defined forest area being managed for wood production, irrespective of scale or type of ownership, or whether native or planted forest. The requirements set out in section 4 are the normative elements that a forest manager seeking independent, third-party certification will be audited for conformance. To be certified, forest management shall meet all these requirements. The requirements are grouped under a series of criteria that are stated in a positive or outcome form.	The Australian Forestry Standard can be applied to any defined forest area being managed for wood production, irrespective of scale or type of ownership, or whether native or planted forest. The requirements set out at section 4 are the normative elements that a forest manager seeking independent, third-party certification will be audited for conformance. To be certified, forest management shall meet all these requirements. The requirements are grouped under a series of criteria which are stated in a positive form.
3 Definitions	3 Definitions
Biodiversity See Biological diversity	<i>New Text</i>

<p>Biological diversity</p> <p>Biological diversity (or biodiversity) is the diversity of plants, animals and other living organisms in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, as well as the evolutionary and functional processes that link them.</p>	<p>Biological diversity</p> <p>A concept encompassing the diversity of indigenous species and communities occurring in a given region. Also called 'biodiversity', it includes 'genetic diversity' which reflects the diversity within each species; 'species diversity' which is the variety of species; and 'ecosystem diversity' which is the diversity of different communities formed by living organisms and the relations between them. Biological diversity is the variety of all life forms - the plants, animals and micro-organisms - the genes they constitute, and the ecosystems they inhabit.</p>
<p>Carbon sink</p> <p>Components of the land and biomass where carbon is held in non-gaseous form for substantial periods of time.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Crown cover</p> <p>Area of ground covered by tree canopies, ignoring overlaps and gaps within individual canopies.</p> <p>NOTE: Crown cover percentage is the percentage of the sample site within the vertical projection of the periphery of crowns. In this case, crowns are treated as opaque.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Defined forest area</p> <p>An area of forest (including land and water) to which the requirements of this Standard are applied, and to which, the forest manager can demonstrate management control which allows them to achieve the requirements of this Standard.</p>	<p>Defined forest area</p> <p>An area of forest (including land and water) to which the requirements of this standard are applied, and to which the forest manager can demonstrate management control which allows them to affect achievement of the requirements of this standard.</p>
<p><i>Deleted text (See Perturbation)</i></p>	<p>Disturbance</p> <p>Any relatively discrete event (natural or human-induced) in time that disrupts ecosystem, community, or population structure and changes resources, substrate availability, or the physical environment.</p>
<p>Ecosystem diversity</p> <p>See Biological diversity</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Environment</p> <p>Surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interaction.</p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>Surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelation.</p>

<p>Establishment</p> <p>The creation of a tree crop arising from the seeding or the planting of a site with trees of either native or introduced species.</p> <p>NOTE: In this context, establishment refers to plantations.</p>	<p>Establishment</p> <p>The creation of a tree crop arising from the seeding or the planting of a site with trees of either native or introduced species.</p>
<p>Forest</p> <p>A land area, incorporating all living and non-living components, that is dominated by trees having usually a single stem and a mature or potentially mature stand height exceeding 2 m and crown cover or potential crown cover of overstorey strata about equal to or greater than 20%.</p>	<p>Forest</p> <p>An area, incorporating all living and non-living components, that is dominated by trees having usually a single stem and a mature or potentially mature stand height exceeding two meters and crown cover or potential crown cover of overstorey strata about equal to or greater than 20 per cent.</p>
<p>Forest products</p> <p>Includes wood and non-wood products</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Fragmentation</p> <p>A process of a combination of continual loss of native vegetation and its replacement with other land cover types leading to increasing isolation of the remnant patches of native vegetation.</p>	<p>Fragmentation</p> <p>In the context of forests, refers to process by which a landscape is broken into islands of forest within a mosaic of other forms of land use.</p>
<p>Greenhouse gases</p> <p>Gases that affect the temperature of the Earth's surface and climate. They include water vapour, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Indigenous</p> <p>People of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Intergenerational equity (in natural capital)</p> <p>Ensuring that future generations will have access to natural resources of the same health, diversity and productivity as those available to current generations.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Montreal Process</p> <p>The informal agreement by the Montreal Process Group of countries (currently 12) to work towards the implementation of a comprehensive set of criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of forests.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Objective</p>

Overall goal arising from forest management policy that an organisation sets itself to achieve and which is quantified where practicable .	Overall goal arising from forest management policy that an organisation sets itself to achieve and which is quantified where practical.
Perturbation Any relatively discrete event (natural or human-induced) in time that disrupts ecosystem, community, or population structure and changes resources, substrate availability, or the physical environment. The response to such an event is disturbance.	<i>Previously defined as 'Disturbance'</i>
Precautionary principle Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options. 	<i>New Text</i>
Regeneration The renewal of a tree crop by natural means (e.g., coppice, lignotubers or young plants already established on site, seed from retained or felled trees) or through human assistance (e.g., planting of seedlings, application of seed).	Regeneration The renewal of a tree crop arising from planting or from seed or the coppice or young plants on site.
Rotation The planned number of years between regeneration or planting and the final harvesting of a stand of trees. Rotation length is used in forest management planning to determine sustainable yield.	<i>New Text</i>
Significant Biological Diversity Values Significant Biological Diversity Values include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> threatened (including vulnerable, rare and endangered) forest types or ecosystems and old-growth forest that is depleted 	Significant Biological Diversity Values Significant Biological Diversity Values include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> threatened (including vulnerable, rare and endangered) forest types or ecosystems and old-growth forest which is depleted within a forest

<p>within a forest type or ecosystem, as identified under the nationally agreed forest reserve criteria;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest types or ecosystems and old-growth forest that are under-represented in the regional conservation reserve system, as implemented through Regional Forest Agreements; • known and likely occurrences of threatened (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered) species and communities and relevant habitat; • habitat of migratory species listed under the Commonwealth's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>; • Ramsar wetlands; and • natural heritage places with regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biological diversity values (e.g., refugia and centres of endemism). 	<p>type or ecosystem as identified under the nationally agreed forest reserve criteria;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest types or ecosystems and old-growth forest which are under-represented in the regional conservation reserve system as implemented through Regional Forest Agreements; • known and likely occurrences of threatened (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered) species and communities and relevant habitat; • habitat of migratory species listed under the Commonwealth's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>; • Ramsar wetlands; and • natural heritage places with regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biological diversity values (e.g. refugia and centres of endemism).
<p>Stakeholder An individual or organisation, usually locally or regionally based, who has an interest in the forest management on the Defined Forest Area.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>Seral stages The stages of ecological succession of a plant community, for example, from young stage to old stage; the characteristic sequence of biotic communities that successively occupy and replace each other, altering in the process some components of the physical environment over time.</p>	<p><i>New Text</i></p>
<p>4 Forest management criteria and requirements</p>	
<p>The AFS defines sustainable forest management according to a set of nine criteria. Criterion 1 addresses the management system itself, Criterion 2 addresses public participation and governance, and the</p>	<p>Ensuring that forest management under the Australian Forestry Standard supports continual improvement towards sustainable forest management requires comprehensive systems requirements (requirements 4.1.1 – 4.1.5),</p>

<p>remaining criteria address management performance. For each criterion, the AFS imposes a number of requirements that must be met in order to achieve certification.</p>	<p>effective public participation requirements (requirements 4.2.1 – 4.2.3) and strong management performance requirements (requirements 4.3.1 – 4.9.5) so that all the forest values of concern to society may be protected and maintained.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria, the requirements for maintenance of 'High Conservation Value Forests' are consolidated under its ninth principle—under the AFS, criteria 3 (biological diversity), 4 (productive capacity), 6 (soil and water), and 8 (cultural heritage) set out requirements that protect and maintain the identified Significant Biological Diversity Values, ecosystem services and cultural heritage attributes of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under the Forest Stewardship Council principles, the requirements for maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests are consolidated under its ninth principle – under the AFS, criteria 3 (biological diversity), 4 (productive capacity), 6 (soil and water), and 8 (cultural heritage) set out requirements that protect and maintain the identified Significant Biological Diversity Values, ecosystem services and cultural heritage attributes of concern.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes framework, there is a criterion for maintenance and enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle—under the AFS, criteria 4 (productive capacity) and 7 (carbon cycle) set out requirements that protect and maintain productive capacity of the land and the contribution of forests to the carbon cycle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under the Pan-European Forest Certification Council framework, there is a criterion for maintenance and enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle – under the AFS, criteria 4 (productive capacity) and 5 (carbon cycle) set out requirements that protect and maintain productive capacity of the land and the contribution of forests to the carbon cycle.
<p>4.1 Criterion 1—Forest management shall be undertaken in a systematic manner that addresses the range of forest values</p>	<p>4.1 Criterion 1 – Forest management shall be undertaken in a systematic manner that addresses the range of forest values</p>
<p>NOTE: The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to ensure that forest management is carried out within a framework that enables the forest manager to address the organisation's management activities relevant to the forest management performance requirements, and is commensurate with the nature and scale of its business. It is designed to be compatible with the ISO International series of AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004 EMS standard. The management system framework is to be flexible and adaptable for forestry enterprises at all scales, and to provide for continual</p>	<p>Note – The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to ensure that forest management is carried out within a framework that enables the forest manager to address the organisation's management activities relevant to the forest management performance requirements, and is commensurate with the nature and scale of its business. It is designed to be compatible with the ISO International series of AS/NZS ISO 14001:1996 EMS standard. The management system framework is to be flexible and adaptable for forestry enterprises at all scales, and to provide for continual improvement in management.</p>

improvement in management.	
<p>4.1.2 The forest manager shall develop a forest management plan, or equivalent instruments, that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies applicable legal requirements and other external requirements to which the forest manager subscribes; identifies and assesses the significance of specific aspects and impacts of activities relevant to the full range of forest management performance requirements of this Standard; sets management objectives and targets and establishes a monitoring process for identified significant impacts relevant to the forest management performance requirements of this Standard; and respects stakeholder input provided in accordance with requirement 4.2.2. <p>NOTE: The forest management performance requirements given in requirements 4.3.1 to 4.9.5 and provide for protection and maintenance of environmental, economic, social and cultural values.</p>	<p>4.1.2 The forest manager shall develop a forest management plan or equivalent instruments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies applicable legal requirements and other external requirements to which the forest manager subscribes; identifies and assesses the significance of specific aspects and impacts of activities relevant to the full range of forest management performance requirements of this Standard; sets management objectives and targets and establishes a monitoring process for identified significant impacts relevant to the forest management performance requirements of this Standard; and respects stakeholder input provided under requirement 4.2.2 <p>Note – The forest management performance requirements are at 4.3.1 – 4.9.5 and provide for protection and maintenance of environmental, economic, social and cultural values.</p>
<p>4.1.4 The forest manager shall monitor and evaluate forest management activities and their outcomes to ensure that forest management performance requirements are met and that deficiencies are corrected where identified to support continual improvement in forest management.</p> <p>The forest manager shall ensure procedures are in place for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> routine monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of forest management using a sufficiently powerful approach that allows timely remedial actions to be applied when forest management performance requirements are not met. 	<p>4.1.4 The forest manager shall monitor and evaluate forest management activities and their outcomes to ensure that forest management performance requirements are met and that deficiencies are corrected where identified to support continual improvement in forest management.</p> <p>The forest manager shall ensure procedures are in place for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring and auditing of forest operations for conformance with planned arrangements and to ensure that the forest management performance requirements are met;

4.2 Criterion 2—Forest management shall provide for public participation and foster on-going relationships to be a good neighbour	4.2 Criterion 2 – Forest management shall provide for public participation and foster on-going relationships to be a good neighbour
NOTE: The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to facilitate effective and cooperative participation to support the implementation of this Standard by a local , informed and active stakeholder base.	Note – The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to facilitate effective and cooperative participation to support the implementation of the AFS by an informed and active stakeholder base.
4.2.1 The forest manager shall identify and establish contact with relevant stakeholders, including groups and individuals who have environmental, economic, social or indigenous interests that are directly affected by or with an interest on the management of the defined forest area. Note – This requirement has potential links to the requirements of 4.8.1 to 4.8.3.	4.2.1 The forest manager shall identify and establish contact with relevant stakeholders, including groups and individuals, directly affected by or with an interest in management of the defined forest area. Note – This requirement has potential links to requirements 4.8.1– 4.8.3
4.2.2 The forest manager shall facilitate and encourage meaningful participation of stakeholders (see requirement 4.2.1) in the development of the forest management plans or equivalent instruments at (see requirement 4.1.2) which shall include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> making a summary of the plan or equivalent instrument, reports on its implementation and the results of independent certification and surveillance audit reports publicly available to stakeholders. NOTE: This requirement has potential links to the requirements of 4.8.1 to 4.8.3.	4.2.2 The forest manager shall facilitate and encourage meaningful participation of stakeholders in the development of the forest management plans or equivalent instruments at requirement 4.1.2 of the AFS. This shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> making a summary of the plan and reports on its implementation available to stakeholders. Note – This requirement has potential links to requirements 4.8.1– 4.8.3
4.2.3 The forest manager shall foster appropriate relationships in order to be a good neighbour. Good neighbour considerations shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considering of the impact of forest operations on 	4.2.3 The forest manager shall foster appropriate relationships in order to be a good neighbour. Good neighbour considerations shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consideration of the impact of forest operations on neighbours;

<p>neighbours;</p> <p>NOTE: This requirement has potential links to the requirements of 4.8.1 to 4.8.3.</p>	<p>Note – This requirement has potential links to requirements 4.8.1– 4.8.3</p>
<p>4.3 Criterion 3—Forest management shall protect and maintain the biological diversity of forests, including their seral stages, across the regional landscape</p>	<p>4.3 Criterion 3 – Forest management shall protect and maintain the biological diversity of forests, including their successional stages, across the regional landscape</p>
<p>4.3.2 The forest manager shall not convert native vegetation to plantation forest cover or non-forest cover except in the limited circumstances as follows:</p> <p>a) Infrastructure development either required by legislation or regulation, or ancillary to the approved forest management plan or equivalent instrument under requirement 4.1.2, or</p> <p>b) Small-scale clearing (less than 10%, up to a limit of 40 hectares on a single forest management unit) with appropriate offsets.</p> <p>In any of these circumstances, the forest manager shall ensure that the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning (identification and assessment) and practices (operations and monitoring) support the protection and maintenance of Significant Biological Diversity Values and that, as a minimum, conversion occurs only where it does not involve occurrences of— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) or regionally significant ecosystems or ecological communities; old-growth forest; and important habitat of threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) or regionally significant species No native vegetation community, ecological community or ecosystem becomes depleted, or qualifies as threatened (endangered, vulnerable or rare) in accordance with 	<p>4.3.2 The forest manager shall identify and assess the bioregional impact on identified Significant Biological Diversity Values of converting native vegetation to plantation or non-forest cover when planning the conversion of that vegetation and ensure that planning and practices support the protection and maintenance of Significant Biological Diversity Values likely to be affected by forest operations. The forest manager shall not undertake conversion, except in circumstances where conversion entails a limited portion of the forest type at the bioregional level and where it is reasonably certain that it does not involve viable examples of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems; – old-growth forest that is rare or depleted within a forest ecosystem; and – important habitat of threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) species. <p>In addition, the forest manager shall not carry out conversion of native vegetation which would result in that vegetation community or ecosystem becoming threatened or endangered in accordance with Commonwealth, State and Territory laws, regulations or species recovery plans. Any conversion for plantation establishment within the defined forest area should also make a significant contribution to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits at the regional level.</p> <p>Note – While this requirement is designed to discourage native vegetation clearance, it is not intended to prevent certification where some clearing for</p>

<p>Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation, regulation or species recovery plans.</p> <p>NOTE 1: The AFS Technical Reference Committee considered the strong concerns about native vegetation conversion in the context of public policy, practical forest management and regional economic and social development. Native vegetation conversion is no longer considered best practice and should cease. The AFS Technical Reference Committee recognises the importance of development opportunities for Indigenous peoples, and the role that plantation development could play. Subject to the development of formal AFS supplementary guidance, consistent with the general principles of requirements 4.3.2 and 4.8.1, plantation development on native vegetation land may be permissible, within the context of such guidance.</p> <p>NOTE 2: It is not intended to allow sequential small scale conversion of native vegetation, which when combined would result in broad scale conversion of native vegetation within the defined forest area.</p> <p>NOTE 3: It is not intended to limit plantation establishment undertaken on non-native vegetation sites. Plantation establishment is permitted on significantly altered or degraded land that: (i) supports degraded native vegetation, and (ii) has no Significant Biological Diversity Values.</p> <p>NOTE 4: Managers of plantations established after 31 December 2006 will be required to demonstrate conformance with this requirement as part of the certification process. Non conforming plantations may only be certified where the owner can demonstrate that they were not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion and they commit to and implement a plan to ameliorate adverse impacts associated with the conversion of native vegetation.</p> <p>NOTE 5: All forest managers must comply with requirement 4.3.2 as</p>	<p>infrastructure development within the defined forest area is required by law or regulation, such as for powerlines. It also allows for ancillary infrastructure development related to the objectives of forest management.</p> <p>Note – Managers of plantations established after the date of publication of the AFS will be required to demonstrate conformance with this requirement as part of the certification process. Non-conforming plantations may only be certified where the owner can demonstrate that they were not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion and they commit to and implement a plan to ameliorate adverse impacts associated with the conversion of native vegetation.</p> <p>Note – This requirement has some linkages to requirement 4.1.2 regarding development of a management plan or equivalent instruments, requirement 4.8.2 regarding protection of culturally significant sites and requirement 4.6.3 regarding consideration of possible impacts of plantation establishment on hydrological flows or values within catchments.</p>
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<p>at 31 December 2006, except in the circumstances where operations have commenced, or are the subject of third party landowner contracts on transition lands that were signed by all parties prior to 31 December 2006. A forest operation is defined as commenced when coupe roading is complete and harvesting or clearing has commenced prior to 31 December 2006. Completed coupe roading refers to coupe roading authorized under the relevant coupe harvest plan (or equivalent operational instrument or approval) that is fully constructed prior to 31 December 2006.</p>	
<p>4.3.3 The forest manager shall implement practices to support the protection and maintenance of Significant Biological Diversity Values likely to be affected by forest operations.</p> <p>Planning and implementation of forest operations shall be consistent with those specified in recovery/action plans or equivalent instruments and prescriptions for management and conservation of threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) species and ecological communities developed under Commonwealth, State and Territory legislative processes.</p> <p>Where management practices are being developed for new identifications and listings of threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) species and ecological communities, the forest manager shall minimise adverse impacts by ensuring the planning and implementation of forest operations follows recognised interim guidelines and takes account of known information and relevant specialist advice.</p>	<p>4.3.3 The forest manager shall implement practices to support the protection and maintenance of Significant Biological Diversity Values likely to be affected by forest operations.</p> <p>Planning and implementation of forest operations shall be consistent with those specified in recovery/action plans or equivalent instruments and prescriptions for management and conservation of threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) species and communities developed under Commonwealth and State and Territory legislative processes.</p> <p>Where management practices are being developed for new identifications and listings of threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) species and communities, the forest manager shall minimise adverse impacts by ensuring the planning and implementation of forest operations follows recognised interim guidelines and takes account of known information and relevant specialist advice.</p>
<p>4.3.6 Forest managers managing plantations shall evaluate the impact of introduced species, provenances or populations,</p>	<p>4.3.6 Forest managers managing plantations shall constrain the spread of introduced species, provenances or populations used in plantations, into</p>

<p>and constrain their spread where necessary to protect the ecological integrity of adjacent native vegetation.</p> <p>Forest managers managing plantations shall ensure that all dealings with live viable organisms that have been modified by gene technology comply with the law and that any licensed release within the defined forest area is in accordance with a publicly available ecological risk management strategy. Commercial use of such organisms shall be preceded by authorised field trials that demonstrate practicality of the risk management strategy.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Managers of plantations need to consider the origins of introduced species and provenances of trees to ensure that they are well adapted to site conditions. Any use of introduced species or provenances needs to be evaluated for potential impact on the ecological and genetic integrity of native vegetation.</p> <p>NOTE 2: This requirement recognises, but is not limited to, community concerns about use of genetically modified organisms particularly regarding environmental risk, such as from gene transfer to native populations, and also the potential environmental benefits, such as through reduced reliance on chemicals, and seeks to balance these interests.</p>	<p>adjacent native vegetation in order to protect its integrity.</p> <p>Forest managers managing plantations shall ensure that all dealings with live viable organisms that have been modified by gene technology comply with the law and that any licensed release within the defined forest area is in accordance with a publicly available ecological risk management strategy. Commercial use of such organisms shall be preceded by authorised field trials which demonstrate practicality of the risk management strategy.</p> <p>Note – This requirement recognises community concern about use of Genetically Modified Organisms particularly regarding environmental risk, such as from gene transfer to native populations, and also the potential environmental benefits, such as through reduced reliance on chemicals, and seeks to balance these interests.</p>
<p>4.4 Criterion 4—Forest management shall maintain the productive capacity of forests</p> <p>NOTE: The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to ensure that harvesting and utilisation of forest products is consistent with the objective of maintaining the long-term productive capacity of the land.</p>	<p>4.4 Criterion 4 – Forest management shall maintain the productive capacity of forests</p> <p>Note – The intent of the requirements under this criterion is to ensure that harvesting and utilisation of wood products is consistent with the objective of maintaining the long-term productive capacity of the land.</p>
<p>4.4.2 The forest manager shall plan forest operations to ensure</p>	<p>4.4.2 The forest manager shall plan forest operations to ensure the productive</p>

<p>the productive capacity of the land, (see requirement 4.4.1) is not compromised.</p> <p>Planning shall consider—</p> <p>a) forest growth and forest products yield estimates;</p>	<p>capacity of the land, relating to productive uses identified at requirement 4.4.1, is not compromised.</p> <p>Planning shall consider:</p> <p>a) forest growth and yield estimates;</p>
<p>4.4.3 The forest manager shall evaluate and use silvicultural systems that have been demonstrated to be appropriate for the forest type, the specific stand and site conditions, forest management objectives and market/product requirements.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Silviculture can also be particularly relevant to supporting achievement of the requirements at 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.3.5, 4.4.4, 4.5.2, 4.6.3, 4.8.2, 4.9.2 and 4.9.4.</p> <p>NOTE 2: The choice of an appropriate silvicultural system or systems (i.e. natural or assisted regeneration) for a given forest is an important decision in the pursuit of sustainable forest management. The choice of a silvicultural system is influenced by a number of factors, many of which are not mutually exclusive.</p> <p>The AFS Technical Reference Committee considered these issues and strong community concern about clearfelling in arriving at its position on silvicultural practices. Amongst other things, this position requires a full and transparent evaluation of all relevant factors, and does not preclude the introduction of new innovative systems in the future provided they are based on sound principles and help meet individual management objectives; however, it does not preclude the use of clearfelling where it is the most appropriate silvicultural system.</p>	<p>4.4.3 The forest manager shall evaluate and use silvicultural systems that have been demonstrated to be appropriate for the forest type, the specific stand and site conditions, forest management objectives and market/product requirements.</p> <p>Note – Silviculture can also be particularly relevant to supporting achievement of requirements 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.3.5, 4.4.4, 4.5.2, 4.6.3, 4.8.2, 4.9.2 and 4.9.4</p> <p>Note – The choice of an appropriate silvicultural system or systems for a given forest is an important decision in the pursuit of sustainable forest management. The choice of a silvicultural system is influenced by a number of factors, many of which are not mutually exclusive. The Technical Reference Committee considered these issues and strong community concern about clearfelling in arriving at its position on silvicultural practices. Amongst other things, this position requires a full and transparent evaluation of all relevant factors, and does not preclude the introduction of new innovative systems in the future if they are soundly based and help meet individual management objectives. However, it does not preclude the use of clearfelling where it is the most appropriate silvicultural system.</p>
<p>4.5.1 The forest manager shall identify, assess and prioritise any potential damage agents (such as weeds, insect and vertebrate pests and diseases and pathogens) that may impact on forest ecosystem health and vitality.</p>	<p>4.5.1 The forest manager shall identify, assess and prioritise the potential damage agents (such as weeds, insect and vertebrate pests and diseases and pathogens) that may impact on forest ecosystem health and vitality.</p>

<p>NOTE: This requirement is intended to cover both native (indigenous) and feral (introduced) damage agents, be they animal, plant or microbial</p>	<p><i>No equivalent text</i></p>
<p>4.5.5 The forest manager shall 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.</p> <p>NOTE 1: This requirement seeks to reduce or minimise reliance on the use of chemicals and is not intended to result in forest managers foregoing achievement of critical forest management outcomes.</p> <p>NOTE 2: More benign chemicals refer to those with less persistence, more target specificity and less general mobility within the environment.</p>	<p>4.5.5 The forest manager shall reduce reliance on chemicals (including pesticides and fertilisers) and favour alternative cost-effective methods (including safe biological agents) that minimise adverse impacts on the environment.</p>
	<p>Note – This requirement seeks to reduce or minimise reliance on the use of chemicals and is not intended to result in forest managers foregoing achievement of critical forest management outcomes.</p>
<p>4.6 Criterion 6—Forest management shall protect soil and water resources</p> <p>NOTE 1: The intent of the requirements</p> <p>While the requirements are specific for the forest manager, it should be noted that there are a number of landscape scale issues where the responsibility for stewardship is shared among a number of catchment or land users, and the forest managers’ responsibility is part of a broader community of land managers in the regional landscape.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Other issues relating to protection of soil and water resources are addressed under Criterion 4, which addresses maintenance of long-term site productivity.</p>	<p>4.6 Criterion 6 – Forest management shall protect soil and water resources</p> <p><i>No equivalent text</i></p>

<p>4.6.3 The forest manager shall manage forest operations to ensure hydrological flows are in accordance with authorised regional catchment goals, where they exist.</p> <p>Where regional catchment goals do not exist, the forest manager shall liaise with the relevant catchment management authorities and minimise adverse environmental impacts of changes in hydrological flows by ensuring that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both long-term and short-term disturbances to hydrological flows relative to the existing situation are taken into account; and 	<p>4.6.3 The forest manager shall manage forest operations to ensure hydrological flows are in accordance with authorised regional catchment goals, where they exist.</p> <p>Where regional catchment goals do not exist, the forest manager shall minimise adverse environmental impacts of changes in hydrological flows by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both long term and short term disturbances to hydrological flows relative to the existing situation are taken into account; and
<p>4.6.4 The forest manager shall manage forest operations to protect and maintain the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil and improve those properties where appropriate and reasonably practicable.</p> <p>The forest manager shall—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise the extent of land within forest harvesting areas occupied by zones of major soil disturbance; • ensure that rutting does not exceed that specified in relevant codes and equivalent instruments or operational guidelines; ... 	<p>4.6.4 The forest manager shall manage forest operations to protect and maintain soil physical, chemical and biological properties and improve those properties where appropriate and reasonably practicable.</p> <p>The forest manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise the extent of land within forest harvesting areas occupied by zones of major soil disturbance; • ensuring that rutting does not exceed that specified in relevant codes and equivalent instruments or operational guidelines; ...
<p>4.8 Criterion 8—Forest management shall protect and maintain, for Indigenous and non Indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, recreational, religious and spiritual heritage values</p>	<p>4.8 Criterion 8 – Forest management shall protect and maintain, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, religious and spiritual heritage values</p>
<p>4.8.1 The forest manager shall recognise the rights and responsibilities of Australia's Indigenous peoples based on</p>	<p>4.8.1 The forest manager shall recognise the rights and responsibilities of Australia's Indigenous peoples based on their prior ownership of the forests,</p>

their prior ownership of the forests, seas, coasts and waters.	seas, coasts and waters.
<p>4.8.3 The forest manager shall allow exercise of existing legal or traditional uses of the forests to continue.</p> <p>Where such uses threaten the condition of the forest or the achievement of the forest management performance criteria, the forest manager shall pursue negotiated outcomes</p> <p>NOTE: This requirement has potential links to requirements at 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 and 4.9.1.</p>	<p>4.8.3 The forest manager shall allow exercise of existing legal or traditional uses of the forests to continue.</p> <p>Where such uses threaten the integrity of the forest or the achievement of the forest management performance criteria, the forest manager shall pursue negotiated outcomes.</p> <p>Note – This requirement has potential links to requirements 4.2.1-4.2.3</p>
<p>4.9.1 The forest manager shall identify opportunities and implement actions appropriate to support regional industry and regional communities, having due regard to the role of forestry in rural and regional development and the economic, social, environmental and cultural requirements of the AFS.</p> <p>NOTE: This requirement includes adequate public access to forests for the purposes of recreation taking, into account respect for ownership rights and the rights of others as well as effects on forest resources and compatibility with other functions of the forest.</p>	<p>4.9.1 The forest manager shall identify opportunities and implement actions appropriate to support regional industry and regional communities having due regard to the role of forestry in rural and regional development and the economic, social, environmental and cultural requirements of the AFS.</p> <p><i>No equivalent text</i></p>
4.9.4 The forest manager shall foster a safe working environment and comply with relevant O ccupational H ealth and S afety (OH&S) employment legislation.	4.9.4 The forest manager shall foster a safe working environment and comply with relevant occupational health and safety employment legislation.

5 Certification framework	5 Certification framework
<p><i>Certification process</i></p> <p>The certification process involves determining whether forest management meets all the normative requirements of the AFS. The following (Box 1) is an overview of the main steps in the certification process.</p>	<p><i>Certification process</i></p> <p>The certification process involves determining whether forest management meets all the normative requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard. An overview of the steps in this process is below at Box 1.</p>
<p>Box 1: The Steps in the Certification Process</p>	<p>Box 1: The Steps in the Certification Process</p>
<p>Initial approach When a forest owner/manager makes an initial approach to an accredited certification body, the certification body will ask for some basic information about the forest management in order to provide a quote and formal proposal.</p> <p>Scoping visit Though not essential, a scoping visit is useful in identifying at an early stage any areas where a forest is unlikely to meet the requirements of the certification standard so they can be addressed before the audit begins.</p> <p>Formal application When a forest owner/manager is ready to proceed with certification, they complete a formal application form and agree a fee with the certification body.</p> <p>Initial audit (Stage 1) The certification body will undertake a review of key management system processes and a sample of field operations, and provide a report that assists the forest owner/manager to identify and rectify any major areas of concern. NOTE: Small growers undertaking certification may seek to substitute this stage by self- or assisted-completion of</p>	<p>The following are the main steps in the certification process.</p> <p>Initial approach When a forest owner/manager makes an initial approach to a certification body, the certification body will ask for some basic information about the forest in order to provide a quote and formal proposal.</p> <p>Scoping visit/pre-assessment Though not essential, a pre-assessment is useful in identifying at an early stage any areas where a forest is unlikely to meet the requirements of the AFS certification standard so they can be addressed before the main audit begins.</p> <p>Formal application When a forest owner/manager is ready to proceed with certification, they complete a formal application form and agree a fee with the certification body.</p> <p>Initial visit The certification body confirms that the audit plan is appropriate, that the team has the right competency, and that the system is ready for audit.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">project checklists that cover the requirements of the AFS.</p> <p>Certification audit (Stage 2) The certification body evaluates the management of the forest against the requirements of the certification Standard.</p> <p>Certification If the evaluation is positive, a certificate of registration will be issued.</p> <p>Surveillance The certification body will check the certificate holder to ensure continued compliance with the certification standard. They will check that any corrective actions the forest owner/manager was asked to carry out have been completed.</p> <p>Re-certification The certification body will periodically need to re-evaluate the management of the forest against the requirements of the certification standard.</p>	<p>Initial audit The certification body evaluates the management of the forest against the requirements of the AFS certification standard.</p> <p>Certification If the evaluation is positive, a certificate of registration will be issued.</p> <p>Surveillance The certification body will check the certificate holder to ensure continued compliance with the AFS certification standard. They will check that any corrective actions the forest owner/manager was asked to carry out have been completed.</p> <p>Re-certification The certification body will periodically need to re-evaluate the management of the forest against the requirements of the AFS certification standard.</p>
<p>Certification bodies</p> <p>Certification bodies are specialist organisations that undertake independent, third-party assessments of conformance with established standards</p>	<p>Certification bodies</p> <p>Certification bodies are specialist organisations that undertake third-party assessments of conformance with established standards.</p>
<p>Audit team</p> <p>Audits will be carried out by a team nominated by the certification body, comprising a lead auditor/team leader and other auditors, who together, have suitable experience and expertise to carry out the audit.</p> <p>The process of selecting the team should give consideration to—</p>	<p>Audit team</p> <p>Audits will be carried out a team nominated by the certification body, comprising a lead auditor/team leader and other auditors, who together, have suitable experience and expertise to carry out the audit. The process of selecting the team should give consideration to:</p>
<p>Undertaking the audit</p> <p>Evidence may be collected through—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examination of documents, such as management plans, 	<p>Undertaking the audit</p> <p>Evidence can be collected through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examination of documents, such as management plans, monitoring records or data from surveys;

<p>monitoring records or data from surveys;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observations of actual on-the-ground practices and conditions in the forest; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observations of actual practice and conditions in the forest; and
<p>Audit findings</p> <p>The audit team should review all the audit evidence to determine whether forest management conforms to the requirements of the AFS. The audit team should ensure that any audit findings of non-conformity are well documented and supported by audit evidence. There are two types of non-conformance—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major non-conformances, which occurs when forest management is failing to meet a relevant requirement; and • minor non-conformances, which occurs when forest management is partially failing to meet a requirement, or where there is significant risk of a requirement not being met. 	<p>Audit findings</p> <p>The audit team should review all the audit evidence to determine whether forest management conforms to the requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard. The audit team should ensure that any audit findings of non-conformity are well documented and supported by audit evidence. There are two types of non-conformance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major non-conformances occur when forest management is failing to meet a relevant requirement; and • minor non-conformances occur when forest management is partially failing to meet a requirement, or is where there is significant risk of a requirement not being met.
<p>Site sampling</p> <p>Some large forest managers may operate over a large number of forest management units. In some circumstances, the entire organisation can be certified on the basis of a sample of sites within the defined forest area.</p>	<p>Site sampling</p> <p>Some large forest managers may operate over a large number of forest management units. In some circumstances, the entire organisation can be certified on the basis of a sample of sites.</p>
<p>Surveillance audits</p> <p>After initial certification, 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 the three-yearly certification cycle. Some key requirements will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>After three years, the certified forest owner/manager must be reassessed</p>	<p>Surveillance audits</p> <p>After initial certification, 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. Some key requirements will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>After three years, the certified enterprise must be reassessed.</p>

<p><i>Application of the requirements</i></p> <p>Certified forest management can occur within different operational and ownership constraints. These include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single forest management unit, which is defined as a discrete, contiguous forest managed by one owner, manager, or agency. • A single forest management unit, which is defined as a discrete, contiguous forest managed by one or more owners, managers, or agency. • A group of forest management units under a single land tenure arrangement which is managed by a single forest manager using a single overall management system or process. 	<p><i>Application of the requirements</i></p> <p>Certified forest management can occur within different operational and ownership constraints. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a single forest management unit, which is defined as a discrete, contiguous forest managed by one owner, manager, or agency; <p><i>No equivalent text</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a group of forest management units under a single land tenure arrangement that are managed by a single forest manager using a single overall management system or process;
<p>Defined forest area</p> <p>NOTE - In certain circumstances, two organisations may have forest management interests in the Defined Forest Area with one having a custodial or ownership right whilst the other has a management or operational role. The organisation seeking certification under the AFS will need to demonstrate that it has management control over the forest operations through appropriate agreements or contracts, for the purpose of AFS outcomes.</p>	<p>Defined forest area</p> <p><i>No equivalent text</i></p>
<p>Statistical monitoring to protect environmental, social and economic values</p> <p>To protect the environment, society and the economy, monitoring systems are needed that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell us there <i>is</i> a serious problem when one exists (thus avoiding over-confidence, called ‘false negatives’) and • tell us there <i>is not</i> a serious problem when there isn’t one (thus avoiding false alarms, called ‘false positives’). 	<p>Statistical monitoring to protect environmental, social and economic values</p> <p>To protect the environment, society and the economy, we need monitoring systems that (i) tell us there is a serious problem when one exists (thus avoiding over-confidence, called ‘false negatives’) and (ii) tell us there is not a serious problem when there isn’t one (thus avoiding false alarms, called ‘false positives’).</p>

<p>Experience has demonstrated the difficulty of detecting unacceptable environmental impacts against a background of natural variation, measurement error, and incomplete knowledge of biological or ecological processes.</p> <p>To remedy this situation, the AFS requires that monitoring and auditing protocols report the probability that they will detect important changes (if they exist) for identified significant aspects of forest management.</p>	<p>Experience has demonstrated the difficulty of detecting unacceptable environmental impacts against a background of natural variation, measurement error, and incomplete knowledge of biological processes.</p> <p>To remedy this situation, the Australian Forestry Standard requires that monitoring and auditing protocols report the probability that they will detect important changes if they exist for identified significant aspects of forest management.</p>
Size of Ownership	Size of Ownership
<p>To help define this within the context of this Standard, guidance supplements have been prepared. These Supplements relate specifically to 'small' and 'medium and large' forest management units.</p>	<p>To help define this within the certification standard, guidance supplements have been prepared which relate specifically to 'small' and 'medium and large' forest management units.</p>
Scale of Relationship	Scale of Relationship
<p>Many of the requirements in the AFS, particularly those relating to forest operations and conservation, relate to proportions of the overall forest area. In applying such requirements, an appropriate scale must be decided, which allows the forest manager to achieve the requirement in the way that is best suited to the nature of the forest. This is particularly important for—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large forest blocks, particularly single-species plantations; and • holdings that are under common management but are physically fragmented (for example, in estates with several blocks of forest). <p>In large blocks of forest, it is acceptable to meet some requirements by concentrating management in one area provided that—</p>	<p>Many of the requirements in the AFS, particularly those relating to forest operations and conservation, relate to proportions of the overall forest area. In applying such requirements, an appropriate scale must be decided which allows the forest manager to achieve the requirement in the way that is best suited to the nature of the forest. This is particularly important for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large forest blocks, particularly single-species plantations, and • holdings which are under common management but are physically fragmented (e.g. in estates with several blocks of forest). <p>In large blocks of forest, it is acceptable to meet some requirements by concentrating management in one area provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all plans for implementing a requirement unevenly within the block are based on good practice which aims to meet the purpose of the requirement; and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all plans for implementing a requirement unevenly within the block are based on good practice that aims to meet the purpose of the requirement; and • wherever appropriate, management is based on a design plan. <p>In holdings under a common management which are physically fragmented, it will normally be acceptable for the requirements to be met over the holding as a whole, not in each individual block provided that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all forest blocks are located in the same landscape unit; • plans for implementing requirements unevenly in different blocks are based on good practice that aims to meet the purpose of the requirement; and <p>wherever appropriate, management is based on a design plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wherever appropriate management is based on a design plan. <p>In holdings under a common management which are physically fragmented, it will normally be acceptable for the requirements to be met over the holding as a whole, not in each individual block provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all forest blocks are located in the same landscape unit; • plans for implementing requirements unevenly in different blocks are based on good practice which aims to meet the purpose of the requirement; and • wherever appropriate management is based on a design plan.
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