COMMITTEE SRC AS4708

DR2 AS 4708

Draft for Public Comment
Australian Standard

SUBJECT TO ALTERATION – DO NOT USE AS A STANDARD

BEGINNING DATE
FOR COMMENT: **20 August 2012**

CLOSING DATE
FOR COMMENT: **1 October 2012**

Sustainable Forest Management

Invitation for Public Comment

Draft Australian Standard

The Australian Forestry Standard is currently under review. A Standard Review Committee (the Committee) has been established for this purpose and is responsible for the issue of this draft (DR AS 4708). The Committee comprises representatives of organizations interested in the development and application of the proposed Standard. These organizations are listed inside the back cover.

The Committee is inviting comments from interested parties on the technical content, wording and general arrangement of the draft.

This is the second of two planned public comment periods before the final Standard is accepted and approved for publication.

The preferred method of submission of comment on this document is to complete the Stakeholder Feedback Form that is available at www.forestrystandard.org.au.

Please place relevant criterion or requirement numbers beside each comment.

Editorial matters (i.e. spelling, punctuation, grammar etc.) will be corrected before final publication.

It is convention for Standards that the international spellings apply, so for example words with optional z or s spellings use the z version.

Please provide supporting reasons and suggested wording for each comment. Where you consider that specific content is too simplistic, too complex or too detailed please provide an alternative.

If the draft is acceptable without change, an acknowledgement to this effect would be appreciated.

Completed forms are to be submitted to SRC AS 4708 Project Manager at PO Box 7031, YARRALUMLA, ACT 2603. Alternatively forms can be faxed to (03) 9470 3390 or emailed to SRC-AS4708@forestrystandard.org.au. The closing date for comments is 1 October 2012.

All submissions will be acknowledged. If you don't receive an acknowledgement within 7 days of submission please either resubmit it or contact the Project Manager at SRC-AS4708@forestrystandard.org.au or by telephone at (03) 9470 3391 or 0428 408 144.

The Committee will consider all comments received by the due date. The Committee will use the comments to prepare a final standard for ballot. The final Standard will be submitted to Standards Australia for acceptance as an Australian Standard.

Further copies of the draft are available from the Australian Forestry Standard Limited at www.forestrystandard.org.au.

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Draft for Public Comment

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Standard Review Committee SRC AS 4708

DRAFT 2

Australian Standard

Sustainable Forest Management

(To be AS 4708-2012)

First published as AS 4708 (Int) - 2003

Second published as AS 4708 - 2007

Comment on the draft is invited from individuals and organizations with an interest in this subject. The procedure for public comment is set out on the inside cover of this document.

This document is a Draft Australian Standard and is liable to alteration in the light of comments received during the review and the opinions of the Standards Review Committee. It is not to be regarded as an Australian Standard until finally issued by Standards Australia.

PREFACE

This draft Standard was prepared by the Australian Forestry Standard Review Committee. This committee is a technical committee under the accredited Standards Development Organization – Australian Forestry Standard Limited.

The objective of this Australian Standard is to provide forest owners and managers with environmental, economic, social, and cultural criteria and requirements that support the sustainable management of forests. This Australian Standard, currently known as the Australian Forestry Standard (the Standard), was first published as an interim Australian Standard in 2003 and a full Australian Standard in 2007. After 5 years of application it is appropriate for the Standard to be reviewed in light of stakeholder expectations, new scientific and technological information, and changes to international norms for sustainable forest management. When approved, it will be published as the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management.

The Standard is intended for voluntary application to any forests being managed for the production of forest products and services, whether native or planted forests. It can be utilized by forest owners and managers who are seeking independent, third-party certification of their forest management system. Certification to the standard is a credible response to market demands that forest products come from certified forests. It will also support and strengthen the framework of policy and regulation that delivers improved environmental, economic, social, and cultural outcomes from well-managed forests.

Independent, accredited third-party certification against the Standard provides a clear and unambiguous statement that the production of forest products and services in a particular defined forest area was managed in accordance with a set of predetermined and clearly defined environmental, economic, social and cultural performance criteria and requirements that support the sustainable management of forests.

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Introduction

Sustainable Forest Management

Sustainable forest management is the management of forests according to the principles of sustainable development. Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment, so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come.

Management of forests should use the precautionary principle for prevention of environmental degradation and the principle of inter-generational equity to maintain the suite of forest values for present and future generations.

There are four principles to sustainable forest management that are embraced by the Standard:

Environmental sustainability

This entails maintaining and or enhancing:

- the ecological processes within forest ecosystems;
- the forest soil;
- food chains and energy flows;
- carbon, nutrient and water cycles; and
- the biodiversity of forests,

so as to provide viable and functional forest ecosystems. The forest ecosystem needs to support healthy organisms, whilst maintaining its productivity, adaptability and capability for self renewal. Forest management needs to understand, and build upon these natural ecological components and processes.

Economic sustainability

This entails optimizing the economic benefits for income, employment, goods and services from the mixture of forest uses within ecological constraints. It requires that benefits to the forest owner manager exceed the costs incurred, and that some form of equivalent capital is handed down from one generation to the next so that our use of the forest does not preclude utilization options for future generations.

Social sustainability

This entails maintaining and enhancing the net social benefit derived from the mixture of forest uses while maintaining options for the future. This includes sustaining the relationship between ethics, social norms and development. An activity is socially sustainable if it conforms to ethical values and social norms, or does not exceed a community's tolerance of change.

Cultural sustainability

This entails maintaining and enhancing the cultural capital of the community. Cultural capital refers to the collective knowledge, wisdom, cultural practices and related environmental assets valued by communities and handed down from generation to generation by various means.

Forest Certification Principles

The Standard was developed and revised cognizant of the requirement for international recognition. It is based on the following principles.

Governance principles:

- being independent and impartial, including a clear separation between development of standards and accreditation of certification bodies;
- complying with and where practical exceeding, legal and other requirements; and
- involving competent national accreditation bodies and independent, accredited third party certification bodies,

Quality principles:

- being scientifically based and involving the scientific community in its development;
- incorporating performance levels at appropriate scales through an open process involving all interested stakeholders; and
- being based on the principles of sustainability;
- compatibility with an internationally-recognized environmental management system;
- being easily understood and leading to the same results when used by different certification bodies; and
- being regularly assessed, revised and updated in the light of new knowledge as part of a continual improvement process,

Accessibility principles:

- having transparent and understandable process that are accessible to all stakeholders.
- being accessible to stakeholders with a balance of influences;
- being voluntary and including the broad participation of forest owners;
- accommodating all forest types, scales and ownership structures; and
- minimizing costs of certification and not making forest products uneconomical in comparison to other materials.

Use of the Standard

The Standard recognizes that native forests and plantations are managed for a variety of objectives. It sets out specific forest management performance requirements for operations and activities on the defined forest area. It establishes a systematic approach to forest management including requirements for stakeholder engagement. The Standard does not include any criteria related to the fitness of the forest products and services for any purpose. As such, it is fundamentally a clear and unambiguous statement that a certified forest product was grown and harvested at a location that was managed in accordance with a set of predetermined and clearly defined environmental, economic, social and cultural performance requirements that support the sustainable management of forests.

The Standard is intended for voluntary application to any forests regardless of size or ownership. It is intended to be compatible with relevant international and national policy instruments, and has been developed with national and international audiences in mind, as well as for implementation by forest managers in a local or regional setting. The Standard also recognizes the importance of meeting both national and international sustainable wood production and marketing requirements, the resource management needs of the industry, as well as promoting voluntary adoption by producers.

The Standard is supported by a guidance document that identifies appropriate approaches to implementation and differentiates between different scales of ownership (size, groups and management regime) and between native forests and plantations.

Forest owners or managers can form group forest certification schemes that can be certified to this Standard. There is a guidance document supporting this application of the Standard.

The Standard relates to the management operations and activities within the defined forest area and in relation to product chain of custody whilst the forest products are under the control of the forest owner or manager. Also, some off-site effects of forest management including impacts on stakeholders and adjacent environments are addressed under the Standard.

The Standard is not intended to replace or override the regulatory framework within which Australian forest managers operate. Compliance with legislation is a minimum requirement, however, the Standard sets a suite of requirements that support the achievement of sustainable forest management and which may involve going beyond a legal minimum in order to gain benefits from certification.

The Standard does not set site-specific requirements for particular forest types, communities or individual operations as they vary with bioregion and legal jurisdiction. These are addressed under Commonwealth, State, Territory and local government legal requirements.

There are requirements for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of management in relation to the forest management performance and stakeholder engagement requirements, and review and continual improvement of the management system.

Certification to the Standard is only available on the basis of an audit by an independent third party auditor from an accredited Certification Body. Such an audit is entirely voluntary.

Process of Development and Revision

This draft revised standard has been prepared for public comment by the Standard Review Committee formed for this purpose (SRC AS 4708). The Committee is made up of representatives of a broad range of stakeholders covering environmental, economic, social and cultural interests. They will review comments received during the public comment phases and will prepare a standard that will be submitted for approval as an Australian Standard.

The requirements of the Standard are derived from certain elements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) environmental management system (EMS) Standard AS:NZS ISO 14001:2004, the Montreal Process criteria and indicators for temperate and boreal forests, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes' (PEFC) meta standard for sustainable forest management (PEFC ST 1003:2010) and the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council. The Standard is the forest management standard of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme that has mutual recognition by the PEFC.

These processes provide a basis for the development of the Standard that is compatible with other national and international schemes and standards that aim to achieve sustainable forest management.

Structure of the Standard

The Standard consists of:

- an introduction that describes the rationale for a forest standard; the process for its development including its structure, content, and use; and
- normative requirements and definitions. The Standard is made up of criteria that specify the principles required for sustainable forest management and normative requirements that are audited to demonstrate compliance. Each criterion and requirement is named with a heading and number.

There are two informative supporting guidelines that will accompany the final standard. There will be one guideline for the application of the Standard and one guideline on the management of group forest certification schemes seeking certification to the Standard. The Guidelines are produced by Australian Forest Standard Limited in consultation with the Standards Review Committee to assist in the implementation of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme. They are not subjected to the Standards Australia processes for creating Australian Standards.

The Standard

Scope

The Standard specifies environmental, economic, social and cultural criteria and system and performance requirements for the production of forest products and services that support continual improvement towards sustainable forest management.

The Standard can be applied to any defined forest area irrespective of scale or type of ownership, or whether native forest or plantation. The requirements for each criterion are the normative elements to which a forest manager seeking independent, third-party certification, must comply. To be certified, forest management within the defined forest area shall meet or exceed all the relevant requirements. The requirements are grouped under a series of criteria and are generally stated in a positive form.

The informative guidance on the basis of assessment and auditing of the requirements of the Standard to accommodate different enterprises, large and small, native forests and plantations is provided as a Guideline. This guidance does not create additional normative elements. Rather, it is intended to add clarity through additional information and practical examples where appropriate.

The requirements are all qualified so as to apply only where applicable to the actual operations of the forest manager and to their defined forest area. The scale and nature of the defined forest area and the scale and nature of the enterprise can be considered in the application of the requirements and some will not apply in all cases.

The Standard includes some general requirements that do not relate to sustainable forest management criteria but are required to allow the certification of the forest manager and identify their responsibilities in the chain of custody for certified forest products.

Normative references

The Standard has been prepared to include within its requirements all of the elements that must be considered by forest managers without the need to reference other sources of normative material, therefore there are no normative references.

Definitions

For the purpose of the Standard, the definitions below apply.

aspect
: An element of an enterprise's activities that can interact with environmental, economic, social or cultural factors and that can affect the outcomes of forest management for the production of forest products and services. A significant aspect is one that has, or can have a significant impact.

assessment	Process of determining the status or condition of a forest value by a person with technical expertise before or after a forest management activity. It is usually to determine the impact and effectiveness of the forest management activity.
audit	A systematic and documented verification process of objectively obtaining and evaluating evidence to determine whether an organization's management system conforms to forest management performance criteria and requirements of the Standard.
benign chemicals	Those chemicals with less persistence, more target specificity and less general mobility within the environment than other chemicals.
biodiversity	The diversity of plants, animals and other living organisms in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes (or units of heredity), species and ecosystems. It also includes the composition, structure and function of ecosystems and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them.
bioregion	Large, geographically distinct areas of land with common characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate, ecological features and plant and animal communities. The bioregions are described in the latest version of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA).
carbon sink	Components of the land and biomass where carbon is held in non-gaseous form for substantial periods of time.
chain of custody	The process of tracking wood and forest products originating in certified forests through all phases of ownership, transportation, and manufacturing from the defined forest area to the final product and delivery to the end consumer.
code of practice	A set of objectives, outcomes, goals or operating procedures designed to control, regulate or govern field activities.
continual improvement	Process of enhancing the management system to achieve improvements in overall performance in line with the enterprise's forest management policy through monitoring, evaluation and review.

crown cover	Area of ground covered by tree canopies, ignoring overlaps and gaps within individual canopies.
damage agent	A vector that can cause a reduction to forest values or impact on forest ecosystem health and vitality including endemic or exotic species, and physical processes like cyclones and bushfires.
defined forest area	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 and legal rights, which allows them to achieve the requirements of this Standard. It includes productive and non-productive forest areas, streamside reserves, conservation areas, and roads, etc. The defined forest area is described by survey plans, legal title(s), gazettal notices or GIS shape files, whether as freehold, joint venture, agreement, lease or crown land.
degraded forest	A forest that has reduced capacity to provide goods and services because it has lost structure, function, species composition and or productivity normally associated with the forest type. A degraded forest requires silvicultural intervention to restore its productivity.
disturbance regime	A pattern of disturbance events, such as fire or flooding, followed by a period of recovery from the disturbance, e.g. regrowth of a forest after a fire.
ecological integrity	The ability of the forest ecosystem to support and maintain key ecological processes and a community of organisms with a species composition, diversity and functional organization as comparable as far as possible with that of natural habitats within a region.
ecosystem	The aggregate of all living organisms and their interactions with each other and the non-living parts of the environment for a defined place or kind of habitat.
enterprise	An individual, company, organization, business or firm which exists to undertake forest management.
environment	Surroundings in which an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interaction.

erosion	Detachment and movement of soil particles or aggregates by processes such as rainfall, runoff, through-flow, wind and frost.
establishment	The creation of a new forest or plantation arising from the treatment, seeding or the planting of a site with trees.
extraction track	A track along which logs are transported from the felling point to a nearby landing, loading or aggregation point (also known as a snig or skid track).
forest	An area of land, 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 metres and crown cover or potential crown cover of overstorey strata about equal to or greater than 20 per cent. This definition includes Australia's diverse native forests and plantations, regardless of age. It is also sufficiently broad to encompass areas of trees that are sometimes described as woodlands.
forest management policy	Statement of commitments, intentions and principles in relation to overall forest management which provides a framework for action and setting of objectives and targets.
Forest Management Plan	A plan (or a collection of plans, documents or other instruments that have been prepared by, or for, or are available to, the forest manager) that demonstrates compliance with the requirements specified in the Standard for the management of forests within the defined forest area.
forest manager	The person or enterprise with legal control of forest operations within the defined forest area.
forest operations	A process, method or series of actions, especially of a practical or mechanical nature within a forest related to its management or use for the production of forest products, including but not limited to road construction and/or maintenance, timber harvesting and extraction, stream crossing constructions, non-commercial thinning, slash disposal, site preparation and/or prescribed burning.
forest products	The physical goods derived from the forest including all wood and non-wood commodities.

forest services	The environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits derived from the forest including the full range of environmental and ecological services.
forest worker	A person who carries out work in any capacity for the enterprise.
genetically-modified trees	Trees in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination, taking into account applicable legislation providing a specific definition of genetically modified organisms. The following techniques are considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC): • Recombinant nucleic acid techniques involving the formation of new combinations of genetic material by the insertion of nucleic acid molecules produced by whatever means outside an organism, into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system and their incorporation into a host organism in which they do not naturally occur, but in which they are capable of continued propagation; • Techniques involving the direct introduction into an organism of heritable material prepared outside the organism including micro-injection, macro-injection, and micro-encapsulation; • Cell fusion (including protoplast fusion) or hybridization techniques where live cells with new combinations of heritable genetic material are formed through the fusion of two or more cells by means of methods that do not occur naturally. The following techniques are not considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC): • in vitro fertilization; • natural processes such as, conjugation, transduction, and transformation; and • polyploidy induction.
greenhouse gases	Those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapor (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4) and ozone (O_3) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth′s atmosphere.

group forest certification scheme	A scheme or arrangement managed by a Group Manager on behalf of a Group Entity allowing for the certification of Group Members under one Forest Management Certificate.
impact	Any change to environmental, economic, social or cultural factors, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from the enterprise's activities.
Indigenous people	People of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent or both tribal peoples whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations, and to peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabit the country at the time of conquest or colonization.
introduced species	A plant or animal not native to the ecosystem, region or country.
inventory	The systematic collection of data and forest information for assessment or analysis.
known and potential habitat	An area or areas occupied, or periodically or occasionally occupied, by a species, population or ecological community and includes any biotic or abiotic component, and into which organisms of that kind have the potential to be reintroduced.
land	Syn. defined forest area.
monitoring	A systematic, planned series of measurements or observations taken at regular intervals of time to provide the basis for analyzing and reporting trends of change.
Montreal Process	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.
native vegetation	Any locally indigenous vegetation community containing the suite of species and habitats normally associated with that vegetation type.

native vegetation conversion	Removing native vegetation, or a significant portion of the characteristic suite of species for the native vegetation community, to establish a plantation or replace with non-forest cover.
natural heritage places	Places with outstanding natural heritage values that have been included on the Australian National Heritage List deemed to be of significance to Australia.
non-wood products	Forest products other than wood.
objective	Overall goal arising from forest management policy that an enterprise sets itself to achieve and which is quantified where practical.
old-growth forest	Ecologically mature forest in which the effects of disturbances are now negligible.
performance outcomes	Measurable results of the management system related to an enterprise's environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects based on the forest management performance criteria and requirements of this Standard.
pesticides	Chemicals (including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) used to control biological damage agents.
plantation	Stands of trees of either native or exotic species, created by the regular planting or sowing of cuttings, seedlings or seed.
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.
productive capacity	Capacity to produce forest products and services. Includes non-wood products and for plantations, alternative crop types. It can be applied to non-market benefits such as ecosystem services.
provenance	A term identifying the original geographic source of seed, pollen, or propagules.

regeneration	New trees arising naturally or with human assistance after harvesting, fire or other causes have removed all or some of the overstorey.
region	An area considered as a unit for geographical, functional, social or cultural reasons; an administrative division of a country.
riparian zone	An area, usually of linear configuration, that is geographically and ecologically associated with a river, stream or wetland.
rotation	The planned number of years between regeneration or planting and the subsequent harvesting of a stand of trees.
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.
Significant Biodiversity Values	Any of the following natural values: • known or likely occurrences of threatened, vulnerable, rare, or endangered species, populations and their known and potential habitat; and/or as listed on current schedules of relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation; • threatened, vulnerable, rare and endangered ecological communities or ecosystems and/or as listed on current schedules of relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation; • regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity; • disjunct or outlier populations, refugia and centres of endemism; • old-growth forest which is rare or depleted within the forest type (generally less than 10% of the extant distribution); • ecosystems that are currently reserved at less than 15% of their pre-European distribution; • forest types or ecosystems and old-growth forest which are rare, depleted or under-represented in the regional conservation reserve system; • habitat of migratory species listed under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; or • Natural Heritage Places.

silviculture	The science and practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society.
silvicultural system	A planned program of treatments throughout the life of a stand to achieve stand structural objectives, for the production of forest products and services or other values based on integrated resource management goals. A silvicultural system includes harvesting, regeneration and stand-tending methods or phases. It covers all activities for the entire length of a rotation or cutting cycle.
site	The area in which a plant or stand grows, considered in terms of its environment, particularly as this determines the type and quality of the vegetation the area can carry.
social benefit	The non-monetary and rarely calculable benefits to society arising from forms of un-priced economic activity.
stakeholders	There are two types of stakeholders included in this definition. Interested stakeholders are groups and individuals who have environmental, economic, social, cultural interests in the management of the defined forest area. Affected stakeholders are individuals or groups directly impacted by the enterprise's activities.
stand	A distinguishable unit of forest consisting of trees sufficiently uniform in age-class distribution, species composition, structure, and growing on a sufficiently uniform quality site.
structural elements	The components of habitat determined by their location and arrangement such as standing and fallen dead wood, hollow bearing trees, rocks and caves.
sustainable yield	The maximum level of forest product that can be maintained for a defined period under a given management regime without reducing the long-term productive capacity of the forest. When the age class structure is in transition, the sustainable yield will differ from the natural growth. It is most relevant to large native forests and may have little relevance to small plantations.

thinning	A silvicultural treatment made to reduce the stand density of trees to generate a financial return for the forest owner, to improve growth, enhance forest health, and or recover potential mortality.
threatened species and ecological communities	A species or community listed on current schedules of relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation, including schedules of rare, endangered and vulnerable species, populations and ecological communities.
threatening process	A process that threatens, or may threaten, the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community including processes listed on current schedules of relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation.
traditional uses	Legal and authorized uses with a long habitual or customary history.

Forest management criteria and requirements

The Standard defines sustainable forest management according to a set of nine criteria. Criterion 1 addresses a management system for the enterprise. Criterion 2 addresses stakeholder engagement, and the remaining criteria address forest management performance. For each criterion, the Standard establishes a number of requirements that must be met in order to achieve and maintain certification. There are two general requirements that need to be demonstrated for an enterprise to be certified to the Standard. These are listed below.

This approach enables and encourages continual improvement to forest management operations and outcomes based on learning and experience. It recognizes that forests will change over time due to human activities and natural processes, and requires management to be adapted as our understanding of the relationship between management actions and forest values improves. While the Standard separates the key forest values and sets particular performance requirements for them, it is recognized that they are interconnected and should not be considered in isolation.

General Requirements

0.1 DEFINED FOREST AREA	The forest manager shall define the area under management control and to which the Standard applies. The forest manager shall: a. describe, record and map the entire defined forest area and maintain and regularly update a register of all separately described titles or coupes; b. monitor and document any changes to the defined forest area; and c. make the maps of the defined forest area (at a scale not smaller than 1:250,000) publically available.

0.2 CHAIN OF CUSTODY	The forest manager shall ensure that forest products that are sold or supplied as 'certified' are identifiable as originating from the defined forest area by the provision of appropriate documentation to the next entity which takes ownership or control of these products.

Criterion 1 – Systematic Management

Forest management shall be undertaken in a systematic manner appropriate to the nature and scale of the enterprise and provide for continual improvement.

1.1 POLICY	The forest manager shall define a forest management policy appropriate to the nature, scale and impacts of the forest that includes a commitment to: a. a systematic approach to forest management; b. continual improvement in management performance and forest management impacts on environmental, economic, social, and cultural outcomes; c. compliance with relevant legislation, other external requirements to which the forest manager subscribes including the requirements of the Standard; d. provision of resources necessary to meet the Standard; e. a process of regular review of the forest management system; and f. consideration of the views of stakeholders;
1.2 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN	The forest manager shall have a Forest Management Plan that delivers the policy commitment. The Forest Management Plan shall: a. identify applicable legal requirements and other external requirements to which the forest manager subscribes; b. identify and assesses the significance of specific aspects and impacts of activities relevant to the full range of forest management performance requirements of the Standard; c. set forest management objectives, targets and monitoring processes for identified significant impacts relevant to the forest management performance requirements of the Standard; and d. demonstrate consideration of stakeholder input. The Forest Management Plan should provide: e. scope and objectives of forest management; f. a description of the forest including current condition and inventory results and forecasts; g. a description of forest values to be managed, including those important for the protection of environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits; h. a description and rationale for silvicultural regimes;

	i. a reference to relevant operating conditions and controls for specified activities; and j. for periodic review.
1.3 IMPLEMENT-ATION	The forest manager shall implement a management system to deliver the Forest Management Plan, legal and other requirements that is based on, inventory, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes. The forest manager shall ensure that: a. evidence of a legal right to manage the forests within the defined forest area is maintained; b. operational plans, procedures, controls and guidelines are in place to achieve the forest management performance objectives and comply with legal and other requirements; c. roles and responsibilities are defined and there is capacity to implement the management system; d. staff and contractors have adequate competencies to achieve the required forest management outcomes; e. forest operations make best use of natural structures and processes, provide adequate genetic, species and structural diversity, and use preventative biological measures to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests wherever is economically feasible; f. procedures for communication and documentation are established and maintained; and g. contingency/emergency plans are in place to respond to and manage accidents and emergency situations including the prevention and mitigation of associated environmental impacts and that these plans are periodically tested.
1.4 MONITORING AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS	The forest manager shall monitor and evaluate forest management activities and their outcomes to ensure that forest management performance requirements are met. The forest manager shall implement measures to correct identified deficiencies and to prevent repeat occurrences, to support continual improvement in forest management. The forest manager shall ensure procedures are in place for: a. checking operational plans and practices for compliance with legislation, codes of practice, regional and local prescriptions, guidelines and other relevant controls; b. monitoring and auditing of forest operations for conformance with planned practices and to ensure that the forest management performance requirements are met; c. routine monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of forest management using scientifically-rigorous and sufficiently powerful approaches that allow timely remedial actions to be applied when performance requirements are not met; and

	d. periodically auditing the management system to determine whether or not it conforms to the planned practices and has been properly implemented and maintained.
1.5 REVIEW	The forest manager shall periodically review and where necessary modify the management system and its procedures to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness and to ensure continual improvement in management performance and forest management outcomes are achieved. The review shall cover: a. the results of auditing and monitoring of forest operations and activities; b. monitoring and feedback mechanisms, including the adequacy of monitoring activities; and c. policies, plans, objectives and targets, stakeholder interactions, research findings and changes to other elements of the management system to meet changing circumstances, new information and the commitment to continual improvement. The review shall document any improvements to management performance and forest management outcomes.
1.6 RESEARCH	The forest manager shall base forest management, amongst other things, on the results of current and ongoing scientific research. The forest manager shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organizations.

Criterion 2 – Stakeholders

Forest management shall include stakeholder engagement and demonstrate that this is considered in the development of both forest management policy and the Forest Management Plan.

2.1 IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS	The forest manager shall identify and document stakeholders that are directly affected by or have an interest in the management of the defined forest area.
2.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN	The forest manager shall establish and maintain a stakeholder engagement plan which ensures stakeholder feedback is considered in the development of the Forest Management Plan. The stakeholder engagement plan shall: a. include an evaluation of the direct effects on and interests of stakeholders; b. include an evaluation of stakeholder feedback on the environmental, economic, social, and cultural impacts associated with forest management activities;

	c. where the stakeholder impact or interest is significant, identify the ways in which stakeholder feedback is sought and considered; d. recognize the different needs of affected and interested stakeholders; and e. be periodically reviewed.
2.3 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION	The forest manager shall facilitate and encourage meaningful participation of stakeholders. This shall include: a. providing culturally appropriate opportunities for stakeholders to make their views known on important issues related to forest management on the defined forest area and to influence decision-making in the forest management planning process; and b. explaining how decisions were made, including demonstrating how stakeholders' feedback was considered.
2.4 STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY PLANNED FOREST OPERATIONS	The forest manager shall foster relationships with affected stakeholders including: a. consideration of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural impacts of planned forest operations on affected stakeholders; b. timely notification to stakeholders and appropriate responsible authorities that may be directly affected by planned forest operations prior to their commencement; c. taking actions to mitigate any adverse impacts on affected stakeholders.
2.5 RESOLUTION OF ISSUES & CONCERNS	The forest manager shall maintain a record of communication with stakeholders. The forest manager shall employ appropriate mechanisms to address complaints, disputes and grievances.
2.6 PUBLIC DISCLOSURES	The forest manager shall: a. make a summarized document which contains an outline of the Forest Management Plan publicly available; or b. make the Forest Management Plan publicly available. The forest manager shall make publically available a summary of the certification and surveillance audit reports provided by the certification body. The forest manager shall decide what other information can be made publically available and shall document its decisions. The forest manager shall establish and implement methods for public communication, where the decisions are for public disclosure.

Criterion 3 – Biodiversity

Forest management shall maintain, and or enhance biodiversity.

3.1 IDENTIFY BIODIVERSITY	The forest manager shall identify biodiversity including structural elements within the defined forest area. The forest manager shall identify biodiversity priorities for maintenance and or enhancement within the defined forest area.
3.2 MAINTAIN AND OR ENHANCE FOREST BIODIVERSITY	The forest manager shall manage forests to progressively establish and maintain a spatial configuration of forest cover, stand structural elements and growth stages that is demonstrated to support the maintenance and or enhancement of biodiversity. The nature of the planned actions shall be appropriate to: a. the type and condition of forest and the nature and scale of ownership; and b. identified biodiversity priorities.
3.3 ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE OF BIODIVERSITY	The forest manager shall assess the biodiversity including structural elements to identify the Significant Biodiversity Values within the defined forest area. The assessment of the significance of biodiversity shall be based on existing knowledge, research results, the biodiversity regulatory frameworks and relevant forest planning instruments and shall be assessed in a bioregional (IBRA) or State or Territory context.
3.4 MAINTAIN AND OR ENHANCE SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY VALUES	The forest manager shall implement effective strategies and practices to support the maintenance, and or enhancement of Significant Biodiversity Values. The forest manager shall minimize adverse impacts on Significant Biodiversity Values by planning and implementing forest operations to be consistent with those actions specified in relevant recovery, action or threat abatement plans and prescriptions, recognized interim guidelines or equivalent instruments and takes account of known information and relevant specialist advice. The forest manager shall develop and implement a plan to enhance the capacity of the forest to support Significant Biodiversity Values, where they have been diminished or degraded.
3.5 MONITOR BIODIVERSITY	The forest manager shall support monitoring of biodiversity and Significant Biodiversity Values. The nature of the monitoring shall be appropriate to the type and condition of forest and the nature and scale of ownership.

3.6 REVIEWS OF BIODIVERSITY	The forest manager shall periodically review and reassess the biodiversity, the biodiversity priorities and the Significant Biodiversity Values within the defined forest area.
3.7 REGENERATION	The forest manager shall regenerate native forest with species and provenances native to the area, or from an equivalent locality, as far as reasonably practicable, to maintain local gene pools and species mixes.
3.8 INTRODUCED GENETICS	The forest manager shall evaluate the impact of introduced species, provenances or populations established in plantations, and where possible constrain their spread to protect the ecological integrity of adjacent native vegetation. The forest manager shall not plant or sow genetically-modified trees. The forest manager shall manage plantations to develop and implement strategies to minimize the risk and consequences of genetic pollution from pollen flow between plantations and native forest species. The strategies will involve identification of the conservation status of any adjacent forest ecosystem or gene pool, the probability that pollen-mediated gene flow will occur, and the impact that such gene flow is likely to have on any adjacent population or forest ecosystem. The forest manager shall implement measures to prevent escape and control of non-endemic plantation species into areas outside the defined forest area.
3.9 NATIVE VEGETATION CONVERSION	The forest manager shall not convert native vegetation to plantation or to non-forest except in the limited circumstances outlined below: a. infrastructure development required by the Forest Management Plan; and or b. small scale native vegetation conversion up to 5 per cent, to a maximum of 5 hectares, of a single forest operation for purposes such as the establishment of practical operational units, re-alignment of boundaries at subsequent rotations and incorporation of new areas within the defined forest area; and c. for large and medium forest growers, the area of native vegetation conversion is less than one percent of the area of native forests harvested in any year. The forest manager can convert native vegetation to plantation in the limited circumstances where: d. it makes a contribution to long-term environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits; and e. the defined forest area occurs north of the Tropic of Capricorn; and f. it is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant for land use and forest management; and

	g. is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a relevant authority and includes consultation with persons and organizations materially affected by, and or with an interest in the management of the defined forest area.; and h. entails a small proportion of the forest types concerned. The forest manager shall, in any of these circumstances above (a-h): i. ensure that native vegetation conversion occurs only where it does not involve occurrences of Significant Biodiversity Values; and j. commit to and demonstrate an offset process to effectively balance the environmental outcomes of the native vegetation conversion for relevant environmental values. The forest manager may convert native forest to non-forest cover and remove forest products (subject to the relevant parts of the Standard) where parts of the defined forest area are subject to legislation or regulation for activities such as mining, quarry operations or other infrastructure development. The forest manager shall demonstrate that the enterprise was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion of native vegetation to plantations after 31 December 2006, except where conversion operations had commenced prior to that date.

Criterion 4 – Forest Productive Capacity

Forest management shall maintain the productive capacity of forests and land.

4.1 IDENTIFY PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY	The forest manager shall identify existing and potential productive uses of the defined forest area to support the maintenance of the long term productive capacity of the land.
4.2 IDENTIFY HARVEST RATES	The forest manager shall identify harvesting rates for forest products commensurate with the long term productive capacity of the land. The forest manager shall consider: a) structure and condition of the forest; b) estimates of sustainable yield; c) social impacts; d) markets; and e) optimal use of the defined forest area.

4.3 PLAN AND MONITOR USE	The forest manager shall plan operations to ensure the productive capacity of the defined forest area is not compromised. The forest manager shall monitor forest condition, growth and harvest rates. The forest manager shall manage plantations to ensure that planning considers the selection of suitable species for plantation establishment appropriate to each site.
4.4 INFRA-STRUCTURE	The forest manager shall plan, establish and maintain adequate infrastructure such as roads, snig tracks and bridges to ensure efficient delivery of forest products while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.
4.5 SILVICULTURE	The forest manager shall use silvicultural systems that have been demonstrated to be appropriate for the forest type, the specific stand and site conditions, forest management and biodiversity objectives and market or product requirements.
4.6 ESTABLISH-MENT	The forest manager shall ensure that natural or assisted regeneration of native forests and establishment of plantations is effective and timely. The forest manager shall assess the effectiveness of regeneration of native forests and take remedial action where necessary to ensure that the species composition, forest health and productive capacity are not diminished. The forest manager shall assess the stocking rate of plantations and take remedial action taken where necessary to ensure effective establishment and growth.
4.7 DAMAGE TO GROWING STOCK	The forest manager shall minimize damage to forest growing stock during forest operations.
4.8 UNPLANNED FIRE	The forest manager shall implement measures to manage the extent and impact of unplanned fires.
4.9 NON-WOOD PRODUCTS	The forest manager shall regulate, monitor and control the use of non-wood products from the defined forest area where the forest manager is responsible for regulation of such use.

Criterion 5 – Forest Ecosystem Health

Forest management shall maintain forest ecosystem health and vitality.

5.1 IDENTIFY DAMAGE AGENTS	The forest manager shall identify and assess potential damage agents that could impact forest ecosystem health and vitality.
5.2 MAINTAIN HEALTH	The forest manager shall prioritize, plan, and implement practices to support the maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality. The forest manager shall ensure that damage stays within tolerable levels and degradation is minimized. The forest manager shall monitor forest health and take action to control or eradicate damage agents.
5.3 PESTS	The forest manager shall identify exotic and endemic weed species and pest animals that occur within the defined forest area and take action to control or eradicate them. The forest manager shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of such control actions and modify the control methods in order to contain the spread. The forest manager shall take action to constrain their spread: a. to protect where possible the ecological integrity of native vegetation within the defined forest area; b. to protect where possible the integrity of adjacent land uses; and c. where required by State or Territory weed or pest legislation.
5.4 FIRE AND DISTURBANCE REGIMES	The forest manager shall use fire and other disturbance regimes within native forests to maintain and or enhance forest ecosystem health and biodiversity. The forest manager shall periodically review the contribution of the disturbance regime to the maintenance of biodiversity, forest ecosystem health and vitality within native forests. The forest manager shall use the results of the review to adjust the disturbance regime where necessary to increase its effectiveness.
5.5 REHABILITATE DEGRADED FOREST	The forest manager shall identify all sites within the defined forest area that have been degraded and facilitate the rehabilitation of degraded forests.

5.6 CHEMICAL USE	The forest manager shall: a. minimize reliance on chemicals (including pesticides and fertilizers) with potential for environmental harm; b. favor alternative, cost-effective methods (including safe biological agents and more benign chemicals) that minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment; c. adopt practices and plan operations that minimize the potential for offsite impacts; d. apply fertilizers in a controlled manner and with due consideration for site-specific conditions to minimize any adverse impact on soil and water values; e. not use World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides unless legally approved for use in Australia and no other cost-effective viable alternative is available; and f. not use any pesticides banned by any international agreement as defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use.

Criterion 6 – Soil and Water Resources

Forest management shall protect soil and water resources.

6.1 IDENTIFY SOIL AND WATER VALUES	The forest manager shall identify and assess the soil and water values that can be adversely affected by forest operations.
6.2 WATER QUALITY	The forest manager shall manage forest operations to minimize adverse changes to water quality (physical, chemical or biological) with the objective of: a. minimizing transport of soil into waterways; b. maintaining riparian zones and protective buffer strips; and c. designing, constructing and maintaining temporary and permanent roads and roadway crossings of waterways to recognized standards intended to minimize degradation of water quality.

6.3 WATER QUANTITY	The forest manager shall manage forest operations to ensure hydrological flows are in accordance with regulated catchment goals where they exist. The forest manager shall minimize adverse impacts of changes in hydrological flows by ensuring that: a. both long term and short term disturbances to hydrological flows relative to the existing situation are considered; b. the environmental impacts of both increased and reduced hydrological flows are considered; and c. liaison occurs with the relevant catchment management authorities.
6.4 SOIL PROPERTIES	The forest manager shall manage forest operations to minimize nutrient losses. 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. The forest manager shall: a. minimize the extent of land exposed to major soil disturbance during harvesting operations; b. ensure that soil disturbance does not exceed that specified in relevant codes and equivalent instruments or operational guidelines; and c. promptly rehabilitate extraction tracks, temporary roads and product storage areas with appropriate techniques including revegetation and drainage. The forest manager shall demonstrate the use of soil conservation techniques that aim to maintain soil properties in the long term.
6.5 POLLUTION	The forest manager shall manage forest operations to prevent or constrain water pollution and soil contamination, and to ensure that: a. chemicals are used as prescribed by the manufacturer; b. chemicals from planned applications are not transported into waterways; c. disposal of waste fuels, lubricants and chemicals is carried out to avoid water pollution and soil contamination; and d. any inadvertent spills are promptly contained and affected areas appropriately remediated.

Criterion 7 – Forest Carbon

Forest management shall maintain and or enhance forests' contribution to the carbon sink

7.1 CARBON SINK	The forest manager shall acknowledge the capacity of the forests within the defined forest area to act as a carbon sink. The forest manager shall adopt management practices that support the capacity of the forests within the defined forest area to act as a net carbon sink and demonstrate that the forest's ability to act as a sink is not compromised through inappropriate management practices.
7.2 MINIMIZE GREENHOUSE GASES	The forest manager shall demonstrate a commitment to minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from forest operations and the running of the enterprise.
7.3 MEASUREMENT OF CARBON STOCKS	The forest manager shall have a scientifically justified, quantitative estimate of the current and future carbon storage on the defined forest area.

Criterion 8 – Cultural Values

Forest management shall protect and maintain, for Indigenous and non Indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, recreational, religious and spiritual heritage values.

8.1 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' VALUES	The forest manager shall recognize the rights, responsibilities and values of Indigenous people based on their recognized prior ownership of the forests and land. On land within the defined forest area where these rights remain, this shall include: a. providing for Indigenous people's input into decision making; b. applying Indigenous people's knowledge of sustainable development and management of forests to the defined forest area; c. supporting education and promotion to the wider community of Indigenous people's rights and interests in and values of forests as an important part of national interests; d. supporting Indigenous people's economic and social aspirations in sharing benefits from the management of forests for forest products, services and associated environments; and e. recognizing Indigenous people's cultural and traditional customs and promoting their eco-cultural sustainability.

8.2 INDIGENOUS HERITAGE VALUES	The forest manager shall protect and maintain Indigenous people's important cultural, religious, spiritual and social heritage values through the identification of known values. The forest manager shall consult with the relevant Indigenous people to: a. identify and assess the importance of Indigenous people's heritage values; b. prepare and review the Forest Management Plan; and c. avoid damage to important values during planned forest operations.
8.3 OTHER HERITAGE VALUES	The forest manager shall assess the importance of cultural, religious, spiritual and social heritage values in a regional context based on relevant heritage studies and forest planning instruments. The forest manager shall protect and maintain important heritage values through identification of known values. The forest manager shall consider important heritage values in the preparation of the Forest Management Plan and implement actions in consultation with the appropriate bodies.
8.4 TRADITIONAL USES	The forest manager shall allow exercise of existing legal traditional uses of the forests to continue within the defined forest area. The forest manager shall pursue negotiated outcomes with affected parties, where such uses threaten the condition of the forests or the achievement of the forest management performance criteria.

Criterion 9 – Social and Economic Benefits

Forest management shall maintain and enhance long-term social and economic benefits.

9.1 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	The forest manager shall: a. identify opportunities that allow the forests within the defined forest area to play an environmental, economic, social, and cultural role in rural and regional development; b. support regional industry and regional communities, including commitments to local procurement and fair contracts with suppliers of goods and services.
9.2 OPTIMAL USE	The forest manager shall pursue the efficient and optimal use of harvested forest products to encourage best use of forests within the defined forest area having due regard to the environmental, economic, social and cultural requirements of the Standard. The recovery and value adding of otherwise wasted forest products shall be encouraged wherever possible.

9.3 DAMAGE AGENT SALVAGE OPERATIONS	The forest manager may conduct salvage operations to recover forest products after forests within the defined forest area have been affected by damage agents. The forest manager shall exclude all reserve areas within the defined forest area from salvage harvesting of forest products except where required for safety, fire management, rehabilitation or other justified reasons. Areas subject to these exceptional circumstances shall have additional stringent conditions to recognize the values in the reserves. The forest manager shall ensure that the planning and implementation of salvage operations shall maintain remaining Significant Biodiversity Values. The forest manager shall, where opportunities exist, retain biological legacies and stand structural elements on affected areas including variations in the intensity of salvage logging, retaining a range of growth stages to maintain biodiversity values within the affected area, and minimizing the levels of physical disturbance on regenerating areas. The forest manager shall ensure that the planning and implementation of salvage operations shall aim to protect soil structure, water quality, forest health and vitality and the productive capacity of the forest, recognizing the changed conditions.
9.4 ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES	The forest manager shall take action within the defined forest area to prevent unauthorized or illegal activities.
9.5 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	The forest manager shall: a. identify opportunities to support employment and skills development of forest workers including, but not limited to, nationally endorsed and or recognized competencies and qualifications where appropriate; and b. implement identified opportunities for forest workers through appropriate development actions.
9.6 HEALTH AND SAFETY	The forest manager shall foster a safe working environment by: a. complying with relevant workplace health and safety legislation; b. facilitating improvements in workplace health and safety; and c. adopting working conditions that do not endanger safety or health.

9.7 WORKER'S RIGHTS	The forest manager shall recognize the rights of forest workers to: a. join a union or association of workers; b. participate in collective bargaining; c. associate freely; and d. choose their bargaining representatives. The forest manager shall: e. support equal employment opportunities and use qualifications, skill, experience and merit as the basis for recruitment and advancement of staff; and f. comply with any collective bargaining agreements currently in force. The forest manager shall demonstrate that; *g. where it engages in collective bargaining, such bargaining:* o *takes place with representative workers' organizations where they exist;* o *shall not engage in direct dealing;* o *takes place in good faith;* o *involves the forest manager's best endeavors to reach agreement; and* o *does not undermine existing employment standards;* *h. representatives of organizations of employees have access to employees in the workplace and have the use of such facilities in the workplace as are necessary for the proper exercise of their functions as workers representatives;* i. forced labor is not used; j. workers, who are under the compulsory school attendance age are not used; k. workers are afforded equal treatment; and l. compliance with legal obligations creating minimum employee entitlements including those set out in national legislation or in instruments arising from this legislation. **Note**: The SRC has not reached consensus on those parts of this requirement shown above in *italics (g-h)*. Public comment on this requirement and these elements will be considered by the SRC as part of its efforts to reach consensus.

PREPARATION OF AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS

Australian Standards are prepared by a consensus process involving representatives nominated by organizations drawn from all major interests associated with the areas of interest. Australian Standards may be derived from existing industry Standards, from established international Standards and practices or may be developed within a Standards Australia technical committee or by accredited Standards Development Organizations.

Australian Forestry Standards Limited (AFSL) is accredited by Standards Australia as a Standards Development Organization.

As part of the development process, AFSL is making this draft available through a wide range of avenues including the AFSL website in order that all interests concerned with the application of a proposed Standard are given the opportunity to submit views on the requirements to be included. This is done on behalf of the Standards Review Committee (SRC AS4708)

The following interests are represented on the Standards Review Committee responsible for this draft Australian Standard:

Association of Accredited Certification Bodies (AACB)

Australian Forest Growers (AFG)

Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)

Australasian Pulp and Paper Industry Technical Association (APPITA)

Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union (CFMEU)

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)

Ecological Society of Australia

ForestWorks

Greening Australia Limited

Independent Forest Policy Expert

Institute of Foresters Australia

Planet Ark

SFM Forest Products

Timber Communities Australia (TCA)

University of Melbourne

Australian Forestry Standard Limited

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is an accredited Standards Development Organization and is a not-for profit public company registered in July 2003. The company owns the standard development functions, maintains their currency and manages the mandatory revision process. The scope of the accreditation was "to develop Australian Standards for forest management for wood production and Australian Standards that are aligned with international benchmarks". It owns two standards, AS4708 Sustainable Forest Management and AS4707 Chain of Custody.

Standards Australia

Standards Australia is an independent company, limited by guarantee, which prepares and publishes most of the voluntary technical and commercial standards used in Australia. These standards are developed through an open process of consultation and consensus, in which all interested parties are invited to participate. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth government, Standards Australia is recognized as Australia's peak national standards body.

Australian Standards

Australian Standards are prepared by committees of experts from industry, governments, consumers and other relevant sectors. The requirements or recommendations contained in published Standards are a consensus of the views of representative interests and also take account of comments received from other sources. They reflect the latest scientific and industry experience. Australian Standards are kept under continuous review after publication and are updated regularly to take account of changing technology.

International Involvement

Standards Australia is responsible for ensuring that the Australian viewpoint is considered in the formulation of international Standards and that the latest international experience is incorporated in national Standards. This role is vital in assisting local industry to compete in international markets. Standards Australia represents Australia at both ISO (The International Organization for Standardization) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Electronic Standards

All Australian Standards are available in electronic editions, either downloaded individually from SAI Global, or via on-line and CD ROM subscription services. For more information phone 131 242 or visit www.saiglobal.com/shop.