

Australian forestry Standards and certification schemes



Standard

The national Standard to which your system, product or service must conform

FSC-AUS-01-2018: forest management
 FSC-STD-30-010: supply of controlled material by forest managers
 FSC-STD-40-004: sourcing, processing, labelling and sale of forest-based materials
 FSC-STD-40-004: sourcing of controlled material

Sustainable Forest Management AS/ANZ 4708
 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree-based products AS/NZ 4707

Standard 1: Mandatory Requirements
 Standard 2: Business Sustainability
 Standard 3: Work Health and Safety
 Standard 4: Environmental Practices

Scope

Range or characteristics of objects of conformity assessment covered by certification

System principles for the management and evaluation of managed forest operations.

System performance requirements for the production of forest products and forest services.

Management systems and practices requirements for forest services operations:

System requirements for sourcing to distributing forest-based products:

- Wood products
- Pulp and paper products
- Non-timber forest products

System procedures for purchasing, tracking, manufacturing, selling and recordkeeping of tree-based materials.

- Harvest
- Haul
- Civil
- Silviculture
- Minor forest products

Certification scheme

Owner/Operator responsible for the daily operations of the certification scheme

FSC Australia and New Zealand

Responsible Wood (PEFC)

Australian Forest Contractors Association

Object(s) of conformity

Forest management system and practices

Forest management system and practices

Management system(s) and practices

Assurance

Assessment that systems and processes are risk based, successfully operationalised and continuously improved.

Independent third party conformity assessment by ASI accredited Certification Bodies

Independent third party conformity assessment by JASANZ accredited Certification Bodies

Independent third party conformity assessment by JASANZ accredited Certification Bodies

Audit frequency

Certification: 5 years
 Surveillance: Annually

Certification: 3 years
 Surveillance: 9 months

Certification: 5 years
 Surveillance: Annually

Assurance across Australian forestry supply chain

Accessing professional contracting businesses (outsourced providers) with the experience, expertise and resources to undertake active forest management operations is integral to the Growers' supply chain. Utilising certified outsourced providers assures appropriate risk allocation of business, safety and environmental due diligence requirements and that industry standards are met.

National and international policies and acts

(eg Fair Work, Environment Protection, Work Health and Safety, Sustainable Development Goals, Environmental, Social and Governance Frameworks, International Labour Organisation Standards, European Union Deforestation Regulation)

Growers/ managers

Holder of sales contract or permit:

- Sustainable forest planning and management
- Contract management of outsourced providers
- Supplying controlled wood

Certification

FSC and/or Responsible Wood enable access to market

Forest contracting businesses

Viable and sustainable outsourced providers:

- Silviculture
- Harvest
- Haulage
- Roding
- Civil
- Environmental services
- Fire management

Certification

ForestFit™ provides capability assurance and appropriate risk allocation

Processing and manufacturing

Sourcing and processing sustainably managed and/or controlled wood:

- Sawmilling
- Wood processing
- Value add
- Treatment

Certification

FSC and/or Responsible Wood enable access to market

Distribution and logistics

Management and transportation of sustainably managed and/or controlled wood:

- Product transportation
- Inventory management
- Supply chain logistics

Certification*

Not currently in ForestFit™ scope, may provide suitable assurance opportunity

Customer

Influence market and drive sustainable practices:

- Purchasing requirements for forest products

Certification

FSC and/or Responsible Wood assure responsibly sourced products

Deemed to Comply

To eliminate audit duplication of outsourced providers

ForestFit™ is aligned and benchmarked to relevant criteria:

- Formalised DTC with Responsible Wood.
- FSC DTC process to commence post FSC Standard updates.

Commercial management of outsourced providers

How strategic and commercial management of risk appetite is detailed within contracts and managed operationally has two outcomes.

Strategy

Board of Directors sets strategic and commercial management parameters:

- Finance (ie margins and pricing)
- Risk appetite
- Legal
- Reputation
- Culture.

Engagement

Grower procures outsourced providers with the expertise, experience, resources and legal requirements to execute operational services.

Commercial management

Grower drives activity and operational management by directing outsourced providers:

- Overstepping of contractual arrangements by undertaking compliance and due diligence checks.
- Managing conformities and performance
- Leading incident response.

Certified business contracted to undertake outsourced operations is accountable for activity and operational management:

- Legal requirements to undertake operations - insurances and resources
- Capability to deliver
- Accountable for performance outcomes:
 - Incident investigations
 - Annual management review.
 - Audit outcomes.

Risk management

Grower management of activities and operations:

- Assuming fiduciary and legal responsibility of compliance failures
- Conflict of interests
- Culture of dependence
- Inconsistent business practices for insurance coverage
- Diversion from primary operations

Contracting business management of activities and operations:

- Grower due diligence achieved through effective contract management
- Appropriate allocation of risk
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Formalised system assurance through certification.

Outcome

Internalising operations and associated risks and liabilities of outsourced providers

Managing risk through competent and certified assurance of outsourced providers

Pilot to test and clarify national approach

The DRAFT National commercial management approach for the pilot (Apr 2024 - Jun 2025) clarifies the Grower and ForestFit™ certified business requirements through contract management (commercial) and operational management, including acknowledgment that:

- Each party is a key stakeholder of the other party and integral to each other's future business viability and success.
- ForestFit™ certified businesses are responsible for all site operational assessment activities and incident investigations.

Commercial Management

Engagement

Growers procure outsourced providers for harvest, haulage, civil, silviculture and/or minor forest products operations.

ForestFit™ certified business tender documentation:

- ForestFit™ Certificate
- Other certifications or accreditations.

Commencement

[HOLD] Pilot to identify and validate any external requirements of Growers (eg PEFC, FSC, ILO, EUDR) relevant to outsourced providers who are ForestFit™ certified.

[HOLD] Pilot to identify and validate, as appropriate, how ForestFit™ certified businesses can demonstrate conformance.

Implementation and reporting

Periodic performance review

ForestFit™ certification requires recording and consolidation of key performance metrics.

Review

Annual performance review

- Assurance that systems and processes are risk based, successfully operationalised and continuously improved.

ForestFit™ certified business documentation:

- Incident investigation outcomes.
- Annual management review.
- Audit outcomes report.

Operational Management

GROWERS

FORESTFIT™ CERTIFIED BUSINESS

Planning

Preplanning - identify key characteristics and controls.

Preplanning - participate with Growers as required

Planning - identify legal, regulatory, site and method requirements.

Planning - internal allocation of resources to meet contract requirements.

Implementation

Site handover - induction of principal contracting business, acknowledgement of known hazards and site sign off.

Site risk assessment - updates to safety and/or environment plans.

Site operations - initiation of activities as per plan method and specifications.

Measurement

Commercial risk assessment activity

Operational risk assessment activities

Inspection

- 1 hour per month.
- FCB has undertaken assessment activities.
- Any identified issues, hazards or risks and/or guidance questions.

Compliance

- Quarterly documented systematic checks.

Inspection

- Monthly documented visual examinations.

Observation

- Weekly (minimum) physical examination.

Incident investigation

- Stakeholder who receives a copy of incident investigation outcomes.

Incident investigation

- Undertakes investigation.
- Incident investigation outcomes provided to stakeholders as required.

Reporting [HOLD]

Pilot to identify and validate data.

Reporting [HOLD]

Pilot to identify and validate data.

Review

Final site assessment - upon completion

Management review

- internal systems review and audit preparation.

ForestFit™ Certification audit

- Audit (annual) - external third party procured to undertake management systems audit.