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Global-Mark Pty Ltd

Summary Report - September 2022

Sustainable Forest Management



**Responsible
Wood** RW/1-44-2

This document is external





	Comments
Certification standard	AS 4708:2013
Client Name / Business name	Forestry SA
Business address of the client	Kuitpo Forest Offices, 11 Harvey Road, Meadows, SA 5201
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members:	Jonathan Tibbits, Wayne Tibbits
Dates of review:	Wednesday 28 th to Friday 30 th September 2022 on-site. Contact stakeholders and remote closing meeting Friday 7 th October. Remote assessment of client's corrective action Saturday 14 th October.
Scope of activities within the scope of certification	Processes involved in the management and protection of native forests, plantations and other land use activities. It also covers the harvesting and delivery of forest products by ForestrySA to customers sourced from the Defined Forest Area. The Defined Forest Area registration applies to the total land under ForestrySA management control in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Green Triangle as documented in the ForestrySA GIS database, excluding the mid north region.
Type of review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 1 pre-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2 certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance post certification; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up or special audit
Scope of the audit / review including sites visited	Forest management system at main office, two depots, and selected forest sites/ compartments/ coupes. Criteria 0-9 inclusive of the Standard.
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>This two-person recertification review over three days focused on the full set of AS 4708 criteria, namely requirements related to management system, stakeholders, biodiversity, forest productive capacity, ecosystem health, soils & water, carbon, cultural values, and social & economic. Both audit team members conducted the audit on-site reviewing the overall Forest Management System [FMS], and in the field assessing forest operations and conditions across the defined forest area.</p> <p>Since the previous audit in early 2022, there has been some changes in members of staff supporting the forest management system. Ranger, Kieran, who was 2021 recipient of the Responsible Wood Richard Stanton Award, has left FSA and gone to Environment & Water. Jeff had commenced as Harvesting Manager just weeks before the audit.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder feedback:</u> This audit did include consultation a sample of the organisation's stakeholders. The audit team leader made contact by phone, before the closing meeting, with two stakeholders, one interested and one affected. The audit team leader selected them from the forest manager's list of stakeholders, as they were directly interested in the activities of the forest manager. They had interests over shared local or regional issues, including forest recreation and wood production. Indeed, both were very positive about how the forest manager had taken interest in their concerns. They used terms such as "one of most progressive forest organisations in terms of recreational trail development", "easy to work with", "exemplary", and "negotiable like any good business".</p> <p>During this audit we raised eight new findings, six as observations and two minor nonconformances. The client was required to formulate a corrective action plan for each minor nonconformance, which they have done for № 68 & 73. Corrective action plans have been received from the forest manager with both short-term rectification and specific long-term corrective. Both matters have sufficient detail to be accepted by Global-Mark, and recommend issue of updated certificate. Completion of recommended actions will be reviewed by</p>



	Comments
	<p>Global-Mark at the 2023 audit.</p> <p>In December 2021, the standard AS/NZS 4708: 2021 was published, superseding AS 4708: 2013. Transition to the new version must be completed by early 2024, as a certificate for AS 4708: 2013 will no longer be valid after 9th March 2024.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder feedback</u>: This audit did not include any consultation a sample of the organisation’s stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breadth of use of the Responsible Wood logo, across sustainable forest management system. 2. Outstanding focus on community services through an array of site developments and activities, that assist conservation and recreation. 3. Commercial operations have new harvest contracts and arrangements in place that may well assist planned silvicultural treatment of forests. 4. Two stakeholders were very positive about how the forest manager had taken interest in their concerns. They used terms such as “one of most progressive forest organisations in terms of recreational trail development”, “easy to work with”, “exemplary”, and “negotiable like any good business”. 5. The ideas of doing low intensity sampling [data from harvesting heads] of young age plantations T1 to compare with historic SQ classes. <p><u>Improvement matters are as follows</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For future transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021 - It appears that in terms of meeting the revised requirements, work is needed on the policy, sustainable forest management risks & opportunities, forest management plan, and review of the sustainable forest management system itself. 2. More comprehensive internal audits of the sustainable forest management. 3. Contractor conformance to operational control of safety and achieving sustainable forest management expectations of ForestrySA.
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units] and Defined Forest Area [DFA]	Commercial plantations, mostly pine and in the Adelaide Hills. Native forest reserves in Green Triangle and Adelaide Hills.
Guidance as to how to obtain further details of the DFA	Refer to https://www.forestrysa.com.au
The area of the DFA as advised to the Scheme Owner	Approximately equal proportions in two Forest Management Units [FMU] of commercial standing plantation that is mostly Radiata Pine forest in the Mount Lofty Ranges, and secondly natural features estate as Proclaimed Native Forest Reserves and other natural feature types in both Green Triangle and the Mount Lofty Ranges. The Mid North forest region is not included. Total 32,291 hectares.

Review team declaration:

We confirm that for the purpose of this review:

- We did not have any conflict of interest with and are fully independent from the company listed above.
- The review team had sufficient resources, and competences to complete its review and reach its conclusions summarised here.
- We had the appropriate credentials to perform this review in accordance with Global-Mark Pty Ltd and applicable accreditation requirements.

Comment and disclaimer on this report:

- This summary report does not and should not be seen as advice. Please consult a qualified advisor or consultant for advice.
- Due to the sampling nature of third party business reviews, the time available and samples size, some issues, nonconformance, non-compliances or improvements might not have been identified in the present audit summarised reported. This does not imply that these issues do not exist or are in conformance or compliance. Employees, management, and other stakeholders of the organization need to and are



responsible for, continuously identifying and taking necessary controls to ensure continued conformance with the standard.

- Readers of this report should make judgement taking the above into account.
- The summary report has been prepared for the abovementioned client/ business to make publicly available without request.

End of summary report



Document Information and Revision History of Template

Document Number & Name	AS 4708 / NZS 4708 Summary Report
Original Author(s)	Wayne Tibbits

Revision	Date	Author(s)	Notes
0	5 th July 2019	Dr W. Tibbits	Initial release in new format. Excludes personal information of confidential nature from content.
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