

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Sustainable Timber Tasmania	Certificate #	AFS 603478
Client address	Bathurst St Hobart TAS 700	Website:	sttas.com.au
Audit type:	Surveillance Assessment	Report date:	5 – 14 August 2019
Standard:	AS4708:2013	Auditors:	Ross Garsden and Gerard Moore
This document provides a summary of the findings contained in a report to this client with respect to the implementation of the client's management system as determined during an audit conducted by BSI.			

Scope of certification:

Activities associated with the sustainable management of Tasmania's Permanent Timber Production Zone land, as described in the organisation's Forest Management Plan, including the administration, planning and management of forests; and the harvest, transport and sale of forest products.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of a routine surveillance assessment of Sustainable Timber Tasmania's (STT) Forest Management System (FMS) with respect to the requirements of AS4708:2013, the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management. The audit was conducted concurrently with an assessment of the organisation's complementary Standards, ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems; AS 4801:2001 Safety Management Systems and PEFC ST 2002:2013. Findings in relation to ISO14001 and AS4708 have been incorporated into the structure of this report, where appropriate.

The scope of the audit included the application and implementation of the centrally-managed system at the Hobart Head Office as well as the planning and execution of a range of forest management activities in both the Northern Region and Southern Region. The newly occupied premises at Derwent Park and New Norfolk were visited in addition to existing offices and depots at various locations including Perth Office and Nursery, and the Geeveston Office.

The audit focused on the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management framework particularly with respect to forest management activities. Strengths of the organisation and its management system identified in this audit at a corporate level included:

- Active engagement of staff in reframing the corporate values and the leadership and innovation conference
- Recognition as 'Employer of choice' and the capacity to attract and retain a quality workforce (competent and confident); investment in training and willingness to engage new staff where needs are identified
- The effectiveness of the management review framework and associated processes and the active engagement of the GMT
- Proactive stakeholder engagement processes and tactical and operational planning processes
- Continuing support for collaborative research arrangements

At an operational level, the system strengths included:

- Fire management and burn planning arrangements are comprehensive and well-understood. The timeliness of response to fire and capacity to seize the opportunity for re-seeding is noted.
- Environmental monitoring and reporting framework
- Quality of information provided to contractors and the contractor review process

STT has responded positively to the findings in the previous report. The two minor non-conformances have been effectively addressed and are now closed. Two new minor non-conformances have been noted in relation to:

- Cause identification with respect to the effectiveness of actions taken to address non-conformances.
- Housekeeping at the Fire Store at Perth Nursery.

STT has also reviewed the suite of opportunities for improvement noted in the previous report and has implemented a plan to address each as appropriate. A number of opportunities for improvement have been identified and these are detailed in the report.

The audit provided an opportunity for direct engagement with several key stakeholders including Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and the Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority. In addition, the audit involved observation of stakeholder engagement processes with the harvest and haulage contractors as part of the annual contractor review process.

The report notes the recognition of the organisation as 'Employer of Choice.' This is reflected in the high staff retention rates.

Significant improvements noted in this assessment include:

- Development of a new Safety Manual
- Emergency response capacity – defibrillators at all offices
- Revised Good Neighbour protocol and establishment of Tasmanian Forest and Forest Products Network
- Environmental monitoring framework
- Heavy Vehicle Transport management (overloads and fatigue management)
- Automated reporting tools as Power BI continues to be rolled out
- Development and implementation of new systems including:
 - Browsing Monitoring and control tools fully operational
 - Truck Overload Management System
 - E-weight dockets
 - Workflows (K2)
 - FIRS Inventory tool (for plantation thinning assessments)

The management system is firmly integrated into the organization's business processes and the management team continues to demonstrate a solid commitment to driving continual improvement across the business.

STT has demonstrated that its Forest Management System effectively incorporates the requirements of the respective Standards and that the system is supporting both staff and contractors in managing the various risks associated with the business.

Once again, the active participation and engagement of staff throughout the audit contributed to the effectiveness of this assessment. The auditors would like to thank Sustainable Timber Tasmania for the preparation and planning that preceded the audit and the cooperation of all staff involved.

Defined forest area statement

The defined forest area consists of six forest management units: hardwood plantations, softwood plantations, wet eucalypt forests, dry eucalypt forests, blackwood forests and rainforest.

Defined forest area (in hectares) as at 19 March 2019:	794,430 hectares
Advised to AFS Limited on:	5 August 2019
Certificate expires on:	30 June 2021

Report prepared by:

Ross Garsden	Technical Specialist – Forest Management
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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>
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