

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
<b>Client name:</b>	Sustainable Timber Tasmania	<b>Certificate #</b>	AFS 603478
<b>Client address</b>	Bathurst St Hobart TAS 700	<b>Website:</b>	sttas.com.au
<b>Audit type:</b>	Recertification Assessment	<b>Report date:</b>	26 April – 6 May 2021
<b>Standard:</b>	AS4708:2013	<b>Auditors:</b>	Ross Garsden and Gerard Moore
<b>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.</b>			

**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 recertification 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; ISO 45001:2018 Safety Management Systems and PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody. The findings from the Chain of Custody assessment with respect to export operations are presented separately.

This audit also included a migration assessment with respect to the requirements of ISO 45001 Safety Management Systems.

As with the previous assessment, 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 and Southern Regions. This assessment was conducted on-site, with appropriate controls to conform with the organisation's requirements in relation to the COVID-19 situation. Information and communications technology (ICT) was used to communicate with employees in remote locations for the opening and closing meetings and at other times where appropriate.

The audit focused on the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management framework particularly with respect to the planning and execution of a range of forest management activities including roading, harvesting and regeneration activities.

There were no non-conformances to close out from the previous assessment and no new non-conformances were identified during this assessment. STT has reviewed the opportunities for improvement noted in the previous report and has implemented a plan to address each as appropriate. This assessment has identified further opportunities for improvement which are detailed in the report.

The audit provided an opportunity for direct engagement with contractors involved in a range of activities including fencing for protection of regeneration and harvesting and haulage processes.

*Strengths of the organisation and its management system identified in this audit include:*

- Leadership culture and new structure – mindful of and responsive to change and willingness to take a risk-based and proactive approach to management particularly with respect to biodiversity monitoring and legal implications
- Stable workforce with flexible work arrangements
- Continuing adoption and development of best-available technology
- Corporate focus on safety
- The research framework and industry collaboration with respect to forest health monitoring
- Cadet program
- Corporate support for improvement (natural capital accounting and fire management)
- Effectiveness of stakeholder engagement and relationship building (e.g. Lakes River Road)
- Effective co-regulatory approach

*Significant improvements noted in this assessment include:*

- Re-development of the Perth site
- Adoption of the Project Management Framework to drive significant project initiatives
- Operational focus on increasing retention of mature forest elements and the development and application of voluntary biodiversity management initiatives, e.g. large tree retention, no clearfelling of old growth and the habitat retention trials.
- Cadetship program and succession planning
- Effectiveness of strategic internal and external communication
- Provision of the new intranet – functionality and accessibility
- Effective use of Operational Coupe Notes and other site records
- Contractor uptake of tablet technology – opportunities for further uptake
- Natural Capital Accounting Project and effectiveness of reporting and communication
- Rationalisation of seed zones based on improved scientific understanding
- Fire Management: upgrade of Incident Control Centres (e.g. Video-link between fire rooms) and fire detection capability - Orora satellite detection and Special Intelligence Gathering (SIG) and provision of training in key functional areas.

As noted in the previous report, the management system is firmly integrated into the organization's business processes and has demonstrated its effectiveness in the identification and management of risks and its capacity for driving improvement at all levels across the business.

The audit has verified that the STT Forest Management System conforms with the requirements of the respective Standards and that the system is supporting both staff and contractors in managing the various processes throughout the business. Accordingly, the report includes a recommendation for certification to ISO 45001 and recertification to the other nominated Standards.

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 thorough preparation and planning that preceded the audit and the constructive engagement and participation throughout the audit process.

<b>Defined forest area statement</b>	
The defined forest area consists of six forest management units: hardwood plantations, softwood plantations, wet eucalypt forests, dry eucalypt forests, blackwood forests and rainforest.	
<b>Defined forest area (in hectares) as at 23 April 2021:</b>	794,700 hectares
<b>Advised to AFS Limited on:</b>	23 April 2021
<b>Certificate expires on:</b>	30 June 2021

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

END OF REPORT