

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:	Recertification	Report date:	20 – 31 May 2024
Standard/s:	AS/NZS 4708:2021	Auditors:	██████████ ██████████
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 recertification assessment of Sustainable Timber Tasmania with respect to conformance with the requirements of AS/NZS4708:2021, the Australian/New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management. The audit also assessed conformance with ISO 45001:2018 – Safety Management Systems and PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody. The findings from the Chain of Custody assessment are reported independent of this report.

The audit was conducted over two weeks, with the initial part of the audit being conducted remotely followed by an on-site assessment of operational performance.

The remote component was enabled by Information and Communications Technology (ICT) using Microsoft Teams for interviews and screen-sharing. The client established a shared folder (Dropbox) for provision of relevant system documentation and records. This was progressively developed throughout the assessment. There were no connectivity issues that adversely affected communications and the audit objectives were achieved.

The report follows the common ISO high-level structure according to AS/NZS 4708:2021 with additional detail for ISO 45001:2018 as appropriate. The remote assessment covered all management system requirements.

The on-site component included operational performance in both the north and south of the state, covering a range of forest management units and forest management activities including the operation of fire towers and maintenance of depots. These are detailed in the report. The audit included interviews with more than 50 members of staff in addition to contractors and other stakeholders.

The audit also included a further assessment of the regeneration at Huntsman (HU304Y) and the organisation's response to continuing concerns raised by interested parties.

Key strengths of the management system identified during this assessment included:

- Contractor engagement arrangements
- Effectiveness of processes for monitoring, analysing and reporting on performance (PowerBI)
- Document management and the functionality of the library

- Heavy vehicle mass management
- Stakeholder engagement framework and processes
- Fire management
- Fleet management
- Critical risks and controls development and participation from workers
- Safety Culture Survey
- Stakeholder interactions and management in relation to: Pallawah Bridge, Castra Falls, Marrawah Skipper habitat maintenance and Giant Tree Policy

Significant improvements were noted in relation to:

- Capability and capacity with respect to management of fire, including early detection and accessibility, installation of fire detection cameras, use of new technologies, fleet configuration.
- Burn Planning - new and simpler system for risk assessment consistent with STT Risk matrix
- Brady's Complex - Post event review
- Development of the communications and radio network
- Introduction of LogR electronic log docket system
- Stakeholder Mapping and analysis
- Implementation of FOS Plans Phase 2 comprising safe work procedures and operational audits to monitor the effectiveness of controls.

There were no non-conformances awaiting closure from the previous assessment. Two new non-conformances were identified in relation to processes for reviewing risks and the routine testing of lifting equipment.

The audit also identified several opportunities for improvement which are detailed in the report.

The assessment has confirmed that STT continues to operate a forest management system that effectively incorporates the requirements of the nominated standards. Accordingly, the report includes a recommendation for recertification to AS/NZS 4708:2021 and ISO 45001:2018.


The assessors would like to thank STT for the constructive engagement and participation 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 as at 16 May 2024:	794,903 hectares
Advised to AFS Limited on:	16 May 2024
Certificate expires on:	30 June 2027

Report prepared by:

	Lead Assessor – Forest Management
<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>