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Global-Mark Pty Ltd

Summary Report

Sustainable Forest Management



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

This document is external





	Comments
Certification standard	AS 4708:2013
Client Name / Business name	SFM Forest Products Pty Ltd
Business address of the client	SFM Pty Ltd.'s main office: 45 High Street, New Norfolk 7140.
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members:	Dr. Philip Crosby, Dr. Wayne Tibbits [audit team leader]
Dates of review:	Thursday 23 rd to Friday 24 th February 2023
Scope of activities within the scope of certification	Forest management activities covering native forest and plantations, and the following operations: including establishment, silviculture, and harvesting.
Type of review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 1 pre-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2 certification; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveillance post certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Re-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up or special audit
Scope of the audit / review including sites visited	Management of forests and including plantations and native forests [in Tasmania]. Criteria in AS 4708:2013 of 0, 1, 4 and 5, and parts of 2. Alignment to corresponding requirements in AS/NZS 4708: 2021.
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>The scope of the organisation's sustainable forest management system remains broad. It includes plantation silviculture for both <i>Pinus radiata</i> [D. Don.] and <i>Eucalyptus</i> species, native cool temperate forest selective harvest, salvage of inundated forests from a man-made lake, and native forest areas managed with a reserved status.</p> <p>The scope of this audit was restricted to the Forest Management Units of plantation softwood, plantation pine, and native forest in Tasmania. The Launceston office, which had changed address since the 2022 recertification audit, and the Hydrowood FMU, were not included although they had been indicated in the 2022 Post Certification Plan to include. A new Post Certification Plan has been issued identifying scope of the future surveillance and recertification audits, including the next audit in November 2023 being a transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021.</p> <p>The suite of criteria assessed were - defined forest area, chain of custody, management system, productive capacity, and ecosystem health. The audit team was notes the dedicate manner in which the forest manager, through its employees and contractors, acts to meet the performance requirements across all of the assessed criteria. The scope of this audit did not include any intentional seeking, receiving, or processing stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>The forest manager was well prepared for the audit, with all employees interviewed in the office readily able to supply the evidence sought for the relevant requirements.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native forest selective harvest silviculture at SFM166H visually confirmed the forest manager and its contractor did implement actions to minimise damage to forest growing stock. We walked in from landing N#3 and sighted minimal damage to retained AGR. 2. Pine plantation T1 thinning at coupe SX049T confirmed the forest manager and its contractor did implement actions to minimise damage to forest growing stock. The audit observed both the harvester and forwarder operators carefully, falling, processing, and extracting wood in such ways [careful manoeuvring of logs in machine heads] that damage to retained plantation trees was minimised. 3. Pine plantation clearfall operations were planned with cording in wet conditions, which assists to not compromise forest productive capacity through its afforded protection to soils. Sighted this at PL019prz. In addition, the harvest contractor used as much as possible the regrowth wattle rather than the pine, so the wood production was not impacted. 4. All pine plantation landings inspected appeared rehabilitated to a high standard.



	Comments
	<p>5. Programme in place for wildling pine and rubbish removal from native forest.</p> <p><u>In terms of areas for potential improvement we note:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater attention in FPP planning stage to consider that hybridisation of <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantation and native forest species might have already happened. 2. Transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021.
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units] and Defined Forest Area [DFA]	Tasmania, and Victoria including the Lenah estate [25,918.7 hectares], Hydrowood Lake Salvage [2,062 hectares], the Portland Treefarm Project estate [1,419 hectares], and other private forest owners [813 hectares].
Guidance as to how to obtain further details of the DFA	From the client's website or from Responsible Wood.
The area of the DFA as advised to the Scheme Owner	The overall total figure 30,575 is 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.



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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End of summary report