



global-mark



Global-Mark Pty Ltd

Summary Report

Sustainable Forest Management



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

This document is external



1 Audit details

1.1 Client Name

SFM Agribusiness Pty Ltd, and SFM Forest Products Pty Ltd.

1.2 Business address of the client

Principal office site at 70 Hamden Road, Battery Point, TAS 7004.

1.3 Names of review team members and audit team leader

Dr Wayne Tibbits.

1.4 Dates of review

Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th September 2024.

1.5 Purpose and the scope of this audit

1.5.1 Type of review

Stage 2 certification Surveillance post certification; Re-certification; Follow up/ special or transition
 Remote MD4 - [Justification not needed as not done]

1.5.2 Forest sites visited to assess

Portland Treefarm Project estate defined forest area in Green Triangle. Sites visited on Wednesday 25th were:

- Nunan between 0920-1045 hours - area 137.7 hectares, inspected 0.6 ha conservation zone amenity planting of old radiata pine, 3.2 ha protected area swamp with 2.1 ha streamside reserve, 0.1 ha dam of no use for operations, estimated visually 120-150 tonnes per hectare, sighted koala in plantation tree, healthy appearance of plantation trees though this coppice was highly variable.
- Agipas [random selection, so had to go to this site] between 1053-1214 hours - area 107.7 hectares, inspected found coppice crop relatively consistent, dam with several different frog sounds, amenity planting, boundary with PF Olsen, single edge tree from first rotation as retained koala habitat was measured at 63cm dbhob, rocky unplanted area.
- Ellis between 1223-1315 h - area 34.9 hectares, inspected 1.7ha patch that was formerly under a power line, which when removed was planted this being a couple of years after coppice crop on either side, trees average about 17cm diameter, patch of retained trees from first rotation for koala were about 37cm diameter.
- Moore at between 1329-1405 h - area 85.7 hectares, inspected old native vegetation trees mapped, patch of retained trees from first rotation for koala, illegal car wheels marks, site of previous occupants by way of oak tree with associated old garden plants.
- Wallace between 1444- 1508 hours - area 93.2 hectares, inspected areas mapped as “unplanted” which turned out to be areas where infield chip harvest was concentrated. Site access limited due to soil conditions of wet tracks.

1.5.3 Other sites visited and assessed

SA regional office at 20 Penola Road, Mt Gambier, 5290.

Main regional office at 45 High Street, New Norfolk, TAS, 7140.

1.5.4 Sustainability Criteria in scope of this audit

All sustainability seven criteria in section 11 of the standard were assessed.

2 Global-Mark summary of main findings

Positive comments with respect to the sustainable forest management system are as follows:

1. The way that publicly available information is presented goes beyond what is required by the Standard. For instance, maps of the defined forest area as an external communication means include the locations of the SFM offices, and for Hydrowood two maps are included, the “North West” at 1:250,000 and “Hydrowood” at 1:150,000 that cover the same area but in much greater detail at the larger scale.
2. Expertise and knowledge of the properties in the PTP estate by staff managing this set of sites.
3. Rapid and detailed response to one complaint concerning noise from log trucks on the Plenty Road, which included the Regional Manager visiting the complainant to resolve the matter. We noted an email of thanks at the end of this from the complainant.
4. At three of the five sites in PTP visited there were patches of retained trees from first rotation for koala habitat that now were about 37-63 cm diameter, meaning that though some may have blown down, others have grown on that could be harvested at the second cut and could assist in minimisation of waste, albeit other koala trees might have to be left at the second cut.
5. Adoption of new IT resources to manage key tracking and recording such as Employment Hero for staff management purposes and “Pipe Drive” is now used to record stakeholder interactions.

Improvement matters with respect to the sustainable forest management system are as follows:

1. The option selected by the owners of PTP to run coppice as the second crop has resulted in what appeared as a highly variable set of stands. A 1.7ha patch that was formerly under a power line, later removed, that was planted couple of years after main plantation harvest with coppice was visibly more uniform and likely to have equal or better stem volume than the coppice on either side. The forest manager could verify the effectiveness of this silvicultural system.
2. Mapping whilst thorough did at times have some potentially misleading information. For instance, at Nunan the helicopter landing area is shown in the swamp protected area, a windbreak of very old pine trees was indicated and described as “Conservation Zone - Amenity Planting”, and at Wallace two patches indicated as “unplanted” did actually have coppiced trees growing which turned out to be areas where infield chip harvest was concentrated.
3. Implement occasional checks of information externally communicated on the website for technical correctness if relevant to the forest management system.
4. Provide greater detail to assumptions used in calculations used for carbon sequestration.

SFM Agribusiness operates its sustainable forest management system centrally administered from southern Tasmania yet with a whole of business approach across the estates and their respective teams in Tasmania and the Green Triangle of South Australia and Victoria. Their other managed Limestone estate is not in the scope of this certificate.

This audit was the final surveillance before re-certification due in first half of 2025. It detected 100% conformance with the standard and only two formal audit observations related to potential opportunities for improvement.

We believe that the organization listed above at the site(s) listed above has the capability to systematically meet the requirements of the standard (listed above), and for the activities/products listed on the Global-Mark scope of certification.

3 Details of the defined forest area

3.1 Description of forest management units and the geographic location of defined forest area

There are these forest management units. The Master defined forest area register shows *Eucalyptus globulus* hardwood plantation in Green Triangle, reserved areas with native vegetation in Victoria and Tasmania, *Pinus radiata* plantation in Tasmania, hardwood plantation in Tasmania, and Hydrowood lake salvage.

3.2 Information on where further details of the defined forest area may be accessed

At the website <https://www.sfmes.com.au/resources>.

3.3 The actual size of the defined forest area

The total is recorded at 30,063 hectares. This is consistent with the “quarterly activity statement” to 30/06/2024 as reported by the Sustainability Manager to Responsible Wood and Global-Mark, and as recorded on Responsible Wood register of certified forest managers.

4 Additional information

4.1 Any applicable qualifications for scale and intensity

Scale is broad in terms of geographic spread operations across multiple FMUs, and with activities across all seasons. Intensity is variable with current low levels at PTP [track maintenance and weed control], soon to increase with second crop harvest scheduled from 2025, but with high levels in Lenah Estate such as chemical use, aerial activities, mechanical harvest and site preparation operations, fire use. Lower intensity at Hydrowood, yet with controlled risks, associated with operating in a lake environment.

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.
1	17 th March 2023	Dr W. Tibbits	Revised release for passing on to Program Manager to use for accreditation to AS/NZS 4708: 2021.
2	30/7/23	Emily Silberberg	Revised after JASANZ finding during transition to AS/NZS 4708: 2021.
3	27 th August 2024	Dr W. Tibbits	New format to more clearly align to Scheme Rules, simplify the summary, and report by section not tabular format.