



global-mark



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:	Jonathan Tibbits, Dr. Philip Crosby, Dr. Wayne Tibbits [audit team leader]
Dates of review:	Monday 4 th to Wednesday 6 th April 2022
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 type="checkbox"/> Surveillance post certification; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up or special audit
Scope of the audit / review including sites visited	All criteria and requirements of AS 4708. The main office and PTP office. All Forest Management Units.
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>This early 2022 audit was able to be conducted with all three auditors on site, whereas the late 2021 audit was done partly remotely and partly on site. Seven full auditor days were spent on site in 2022. Inspections of the forest sites were conducted that noted implementation of the forest management system, as indicated in the body of audit report's comments.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 infecting and/or isolating several employees of the client, some interactions with them were conducted remotely by the audit team on-site or in the field.</p> <p>Two members of the audit team spent almost all of their time [four auditor days in total] at forest sites, assessing implementation in the field. The audit team leader spent about half a day at forest sites, and the remaining two and a half days assessing management system components in the two office sites.</p> <p>The audit included seeking, receiving and processing stakeholder feedback, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A direct face-to-face meeting with a stakeholder affected by the forest manager's activities, being a neighbour who lives in a rented house next to a plantation. This person had no issues or perceived adverse impacts from forest operations. We witnessed on this occasion, the forest manager striving to build constructive relationships when this neighbour. • A telephone conversation with an interested stakeholder with an environmental interest. Their representative had found SFM one of the easier organisations to work with, where projects progressed nicely from concept to delivery. There were connections in place with employees of the forest manager. • A telephone conversation with a neighbour. They would not know who to deal with at SFM, though they know the Regional Forester outside of forestry from sale of cattle. <p>The full suite of criteria were assessed - defined forest area, chain of custody, management system, biodiversity, productive capacity, ecosystem health, soil-water values, carbon, cultural values, social & economic benefits. The audit team was impressed with the manner in which the forest manager, through its employees and contractors, acts to meet the performance requirements across all of the criteria.</p> <p>The scope of the organisation's sustainable forest management system in broad, including 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>



	Comments
	<p>A single minor nonconformance identified, with respect to safety and health, promptly received a corrective action plan. With this corrective action in place, Global-Mark confirms that re-certification, and issue of an updated AS 4708 certificate can be recommended. The certificate will be to AS 4708:2013 with an expiry date of 9th March 2024, as this is the latest date at which such certificates must expire, in order to transition to the new version AS/NZS 4708:2021.</p> <p>We believe that the organization listed above at the sites listed above has the capability to systematically meet the requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard and for the activities/products and sites listed on the Global-Mark scope of certification.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lenah estate - There is evidence that the operations have been well planned (paying particular attention to the seasonality of the area and sensitivity to rainfall). Landings are suitably located and well-constructed. 2. Exemplar stump heights are achieved at B.R. & K.F. Muskett & Sons where the hot saw feller buncher is used. <p><u>In terms of areas for potential improvement we note:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions with field operatives indicated little/no knowledge of SFM's biodiversity policy. SFM might consider a refresher notice to all staff. 2. Attention to opportunistic repair of track infrastructure. 3. General housekeeping with respect to empty fuel tanks, first aid kit inventory and fire extinguisher checks. 4. Opportunity exists to connect with and enable neighbours to know SFM.
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units] and Defined Forest Area [DFA]	<p>From largest to smallest: Plantation <i>Pinus radiata</i> [D. Don.] - Lenah estate, some private Native forest including reserved and unproductive land - Lenah estate Hydrowood - Lake Pieman salvage Plantation <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> [Labill.] - Portland Treefarm Project [PTP] Native forest selectively harvested - privately owned Plantation <i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> [Deane & Maiden.] - privately owned</p>
Guidance as to how to obtain further details of the DFA	<p>From the client's website or from Responsible Wood.</p>
The area of the DFA as advised to the Scheme Owner	<p>The overall total figure 30,447.9 is hectares, with an update to be provided later in April 2022.</p>

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