



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	Reliance Forest Fibre Pty Ltd
Business address of the client	62-66 Paterson Street, Launceston 7250
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members:	Dr Phil Crosby on Tuesday 21 st March 2023, and Amy Robertson on Thursday 23 rd . Dr Wayne Tibbits on both days.
Dates of review:	Tuesday 21 st and Thursday 23 rd March 2023
Scope of activities within the scope of certification	Intensive plantation silviculture of short-rotation <i>Eucalyptus</i> grown primarily for pulpwood to feed the mill of the client.
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	Forest management operations in plantation forest management units in Tasmania. Management by staff of Reliance Forest Fibre Pty Ltd. Offices and forests, as listed above. Contact with stakeholders. Follow up open findings & collect information for Responsible Wood's PEFC reporting.
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>Changes since the recertification audit in June 2022 include the staffing and resourcing of its operations and system. Management of forest activity at RFF is now 100% in-house with no services from AKS Forest Management Services as of 30 June 2022.</p> <p>This audit also identified that there are changes needed to the sites included in the scope of certification of Reliance Forest Fibre. Firstly, the office moved premises in late 2022. Secondly, there is an office for the two members of staff in the southern region, which is at St John's Park in Hobart, and this needs to be added.</p> <p>A subset of the performance requirements of the nine core criteria of the standard were assessed. The audit duration of four [4] auditor days, undertaken by a team of three, comprised 75% field inspections across Tasmania, including the southern region, as well as the core areas in the Tamar basin region.</p> <p>The audit team leader made contact by phone, during the audit, with one stakeholder affected by machine noise from operations. This matter is still being communicated between the stakeholder and RFF.</p> <p>Noteworthy positive comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire preparedness - a good level of resourcing by contractor BR & KF Muskett at coupe SX051w. 2. Fire risk management - staff member Mitch applying his competence in use of moisture sticks in a plantation reforestation setting to aid decision making for debris burning. 3. Biodiversity awareness - site preparation owner/operator contractor B & A Hodgetts at coupe had their own video of quoll at night climbing a tree, so displayed interest and ability to identify priority species. <p>Identified areas for attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective transition within the next twelve months of the sustainable forest management system from AS 4708: 2013 to AS/NZS 4708: 2021. 2. Real time testing of emergency preparedness, especially with



	Comments
	<p>respect to control fires through rapid operation of water tank pump units.</p> <p>We believe that the organization listed above at the site(s) 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>
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units] and Defined Forest Area [DFA]	Mostly <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations, with the main species <i>E.nitens</i> . There is some native forest vegetation that is not managed commercially.
Guidance as to how to obtain further details of the DFA may be accessed	From the websites of Reliance or Responsible Wood.
The area of the DFA as advised to the Scheme Owner	The area is approximately 63,700 hectares as indicated on their website. The actual total is 63,808 as indicated in an email from the management representative to Responsible Wood on 24 Feb 2023.

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.
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