



global-mark



Global-Mark Pty Ltd

Summary Report

Sustainable Forest Management



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

This document is external



General	Comments
Certification standard	AS/NZS 4708: 2021
Client Name / Business name	Reliance Forest Fibre Group Scheme
Business address of the client	Group Member: 04 & Group Entity = 62-66 Paterson Street, Launceston, TAS, 7250
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members	Wayne Tibbits
Dates of review	Monday 7 th to Wednesday 9 th August 2023. 22 nd August.
Type of review: Follow up corrective action plan on nonconformities identified 7 th to 9 th August.	<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"/> Remote MD4; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Includes transition AS/NZS 4708: 2021
Sites visited to assess [e.g., office, depot, nursery, fire tower etc.]	Group Member: 01 = Highland Forest Products [HFP], 255 Cuckoo Road Scottsdale, TAS, 7260 Group Member: 04 & Group Manager: = 62-66 Paterson Street, Launceston, TAS, 7250
Forest Management Units visited	<i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> plantations. Please note FPP's = Forest Practice Plans.
Name of each forest site visited	Properties by names of [none visited previously], all plantation <i>E.nitens</i> : 1. Benham at Lake Leake - FPP ALJ068, 389 hectares, thin. PTR 2865, 2362, 3710. Group member 1. Suspended, recently active. 2. LL001 at Lake Leake - FPP ALJ001, 232 hectares, clearfall and reforest. PTR 1655, 1695. Group member 1. Completed active. 3. LL002 at Lake Leake - FPP ALJ0013, 270 hectares, clearfall and reforest. PTR 1655, 1695. Group member 1. Live and active. 4. Plessing at Musselboro - FPP ALJ0087, 156 hectares clearfall and reforest. PTR 0332, 1902. Group member 1. Live and active. 5. Eucalypt Gum Farms 1 & 2 at Retreat. Group member 1. Inactive. 6. Buckland at Stewarts Road, Winkleigh - FPP LCD0075, 11.8 hectares, clearfall and half reforest, half return to pasture. Group member 4. Completed active. From new set of sites. 7. Mithril Pty Ltd.'s property Gen Ayr at Nettlefold's Road, Howell - FPP LCD0083, 59 hectares, clearfall and reforest. Group member 4. Suspended, active. From new set of sites.
Sections of the Standard and Sustainability Criteria in scope of this audit / review	All
Exclusions to the standard and/or management system	Nil
Extent of activities within the scope of certification	Activities include planning, establishment, maintenance, roading & harvesting over which Group Members have management control.
Name of Management Representative	Heath Blair, as Group Manager representative
Comments on main points from audit	
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>All performance requirements of the seven sustainability criteria of the standard were assessed. The audit duration of three [3] auditor days, undertaken by a solo auditor, comprised about 70% time for field inspections.</p> <p>This audit included brief telephone contact with two neighbours who are affected stakeholders. They were questioned about the level of contact from the Group Member managing the forest operations that could affect</p>

General	Comments
	<p>them. Both had no concerns and recalled the NOI from the forest manager. One would like additional notice on the day of any planned burn as it could impact his cattle that might be calving [in order to move them] and household washing on the clothesline.</p> <p>The certified sustainable forest management system remains maintained.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pleasing to see that basic items such as first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and PPE, including helmets, were fit for purpose at both live active harvest sites visited. Except spill kit at Ten Mile Developments. 2. Encouraged that even though the Group is Managed and supported by Reliance Forest Fibre, which is operates a wood chip processing facility, its member Highland Forest Products has been able to segregate products appropriately to provide increased value to landowners with sawlogs going to Western Junction Sawmill. 3. Shift in species selection at certain sites for logical reasons that support sustainable forest management, such as pine in next rotation at Lake Leake” <p><u>Identified improvement matters are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considering the small size of the group, contemplate whether key higher level documents, such as the policy, we reviewed and jointly signed by all three group members. 2. Housekeeping of suite of system documents to ensure the group is properly referred to, rather than its inception name of “Smartfibre Group” as the certification scheme. <p>During the audit we had discussion with the Group Entity on the requirements to demonstrate sustainable forest management related to duration that blocks are in the defined forest area.</p> <p>Three major nonconformities were identified that were a barrier to recommending certification. One was addressed by the client during the audit, and Global-Mark closed it. The other two were addressed by the client after the audit, and upon follow-up Global-Mark closed both.</p> <p>Four minor nonconformities were identified. Three of the four were not a barrier to recommending certification, providing Global-Mark received a corrective action plan, which it did.</p> <p>However, one minor nonconformity related management review and we require this closed prior to recommending certification to the new standard AS/NZS4708:2021. This is because without such a review, the organisation does not have the capacity to confirm its own conformance to the new version.</p> <p>Hence, we propose that the existing certificate for AS4708:2013 be extended to 9 March 2024, which is the final date that such certificates are valid to, as advised by the Scheme Owner, Responsible Wood.</p> <p>We believe that the organization listed above at the sites listed above has the capability to systematically meet the requirements of the AS4708:2013 standard (but not AS/NZS4708:2021 listed above), and for the activities/products listed on the Global-Mark scope of certification.</p> <p>Therefore, we request that the organisation provide us records of the completed management review due in September 2023 as soon as they can, for us to assess and determine if we can then recommend certification to the new standard AS/NZS4708:2021.</p>
Defined Forest Area	Comments on Defined Forest Area and scope of certification
Brief description of the FMUs	100% of sites in defined forest area as of August 2021 are <i>Eucalyptus</i>

General	Comments
[Forest Management Units]	nitens plantations . Native forest FMU removed 14 Jan 2022.
Brief description of the geographic locality of Defined Forest Area	Across Tasmania, predominantly in north-east, Midlands, and Central Highlands.
Area of the Defined Forest Area as advised to the Scheme Owner	5,676 hectares
Source for details of the Defined Forest Area (maps etc.), audit Summary Reports	Refer to their website: https://relianceforestfibre.com.au/
Describe any applicable qualifications for scale and intensity	Small scale with three active group members and about 88% of the defined forest area managed by Group Member 1.

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			
3			