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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 Pty Ltd
Business address of the client	Level 1, 62-66 Paterson Street, Launceston, TAS 7250
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members	Amy Robertson [Auditor in training], Wayne Tibbits {Audit Team Leader}
Dates of review	Monday 11 th to Wednesday 13 th December 2023
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"/> Remote MD4; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Includes transition
Sites visited to assess [e.g., office, depot, nursery, fire tower etc.]	Office.
Forest Management Units visited	Plantation <i>Eucalyptus</i> .
Name of each forest site visited	<p>Amy Robertson: Monday & Tuesday - these sites, but order to be determined:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FO008W 2) FO025YZ&30Y 3) WW066Y 4) HA019F 5) HA016B 6) AR027B or KD018F or SN010A 7) Probably SO001B - or AR023B_001, BD030C_001, HP015E, SZ031A. 8) SO02B or WW057X <p>Wayne Tibbits: Monday - these sites in order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NT025A at Preston, a randomly selected, recently completed pesticide spray of noxious weeds. 2) NT116D at Preston, an inactive 2023 second rotation planting 3) NT175A at Wilmot, recent road maintenance including open up track, gravel, replace culvert 4) NT630A at Wilmot, a randomly selected site, recently completed pesticide spray of noxious weeds. 5) NT104A_001 at Erriba, a randomly selected site, recently completed application of secondary fertiliser 6) CB151A at Paradise, a randomly selected site, track maintenance, file note 2-Oct-23 to open up access to dam for water, file note in draft about discovered internal track to use, file note with three photos showing machine wash-down, file note on 23-Oct-23 that Giant Hog Weed found outside quarantine area <p>Wayne Tibbits: Tuesday - these sites in order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) NE007A at Burns Creek, an active site preparation after clearfall harvest, TDF Contracting excavator <p>NE447 at Derby, an active road construction operation by Morgan Forest Services to open up and prepare class 4 roads for harvest in early 2024</p>
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	Sustainable forest management system transition to AS/NZS 4708: 2021, Launceston office, and plantation forest management activities/ operations.

General	Comments
Name of Management Representative	Stephanie Bourke - Certification Manager
	Comments on main points from audit
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>This is the second surveillance review after the re-certification in 2022. In December 2021, the standard AS/NZS 4708: 2021 was published, superseding AS 4708: 2013. Transition to this new version was assessed at this review.</p> <p>All performance requirements of the seven sustainability criteria of the standard were assessed. The audit duration of five [5] auditor days, undertaken by a team of two, comprised about 75% field inspections across their estate.</p> <p>There have been no major changes to the sustainable forest management system and scope of certification during this certificate cycle. Customer base remains relatively stable, with 14 domestic customers. However, there have been several changes in organisational structure, with a new role of Certification Manager, and a few new employees in field role.</p> <p>The audit plan did not require any formal contact before, during, or after the audit, with any stakeholders.</p> <p>The certified sustainable forest management system remains well maintained, with various instances of progress on a continual improvement path - see below. The audit team leader completed a Responsible Wood notification for the organisation.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning for salvage operations - The Forest Management Plan v has clear reference to protection of biodiversity in cases where salvage might need to happen. ○ Conversion of natural ecosystems - the forest manager has produced a document "POST 2006 Ex Native Forest Establishment" with plantation history. This identifies 2,914 hectares post 2006 that will be further investigated, 484 on freehold and 2,430 on forestry right. ○ Chemical use - The organisation has an ESRA [Environmental and Social Risk Assessment] for standard pesticides. ○ Forest roading - Special attention paid to placement of gravel on dirt road section of 17% [above normal maximum of 12%] plus heavy rock to stabilise bank at coupe NT175A. <p><u>Identified improvement matters are as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real time testing of emergency preparedness, especially with respect to control fires through rapid operation of water tank pump units. ○ The forest manager could improve how it ensures that outsourced contractor activities are influenced to conform with the requirements of the Standard, such as having readily available FPP's and information to guide operators understand fire weather readings. ○ Prioritisation of adherence to its established internal audit program. ○ Added focus on tactical level objectives that are measurable and monitored, resources required, responsibility, and

General	Comments
	<p>completion</p> <p>We believe that the organization listed above at the site(s) listed above has the capability to systematically meet the requirements of transition to the standard (listed above), and for the activities/products listed on the Global-Mark scope of certification.</p>
Defined Forest Area	Comments on Defined Forest Area and scope of certification
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units]	Plantation and native vegetation.
Brief description of the geographic locality of Defined Forest Area	Across Tasmania.
Area of the Defined Forest Area as advised to the Scheme Owner	The area specified in the FMP on the website is 63,960.5 hectares, as 47,628 hardwood, 61 softwood, 6,039.5 native protected, and 10,231 for other non-productive. This is close to the figure at Responsible Wood of 63,808 hectares.
Source for details of the Defined Forest Area (maps etc.), audit Summary Reports	Defined Forest Area and certification details are available at https://relianceforestfibre.com.au/
Describe any applicable qualifications for scale and intensity	<p>Forest management activities covering plantation, predominantly <i>Eucalyptus</i>, and the following operations: planning, establishment, maintenance, roading and harvesting over which Reliance Forest Fibre has management control of contracted operations.</p> <p>Natural vegetation is managed for non-wood production values.</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.

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.
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