



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 Entity = 62-66 Paterson Street, Launceston, TAS, 7250 Also that of participant 04 in group organisation.
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members	Wayne Tibbits
Dates of review	Monday 29 th and Tuesday 30 th April 2024. Then an additional day for one site in southern Tasmania, Thursday 16 th May 2024.
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 type="checkbox"/> Follow up or special audit or transition
Sites visited to assess [e.g., office, depot, nursery, fire tower etc.]	Office of the Group Entity = 62-66 Paterson Street, Launceston, TAS, 7250
Forest Management Units visited	Sampling and allocation of sites within the defined forest area will depend upon information supplied by the Group Entity as requested in this booking and audit plan.
Name of each forest site visited	<p>These sites on Tuesday 30th April:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mithril, coupe 1, Nettlefolds Road, Holwell, FPP № LCD0083, 59 hectares, <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantation, suspended active clearfell to be replanted, contractor = Broadhurst. 2. Huddelstone, Lamont Road, Glengarry, FPP № ALJ0090, 27 & 26 hectares total & operational, <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantation, live active active clearfell to remain cleared, contractor = Ten Mile Developments, crew of Barry, Simon, Sam. 3. Calvert coupe at Tayene, a completed active establishment operation, in the old set, and a random selection. FPP SCM0073-01 52.9 hectares. This site also visited 6 Nov 2018. 4. Inactive site = Ranu coupe at Certificate of Compliance dated 7/8/23 by Steve Martini, required Aboriginal survey. FPP ALJ0037 requires Aboriginal survey within 30 days on completion for area within 100 metres of river. Confirm page 17 of 31 of FPA procedures required this. 5. A & L Calder coupe at Cuckoo, a completed active harvest operation, in the new set, owned by participant 01, Adrian Calder. <p>This site on Thursday 17th May:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Cowen's 1, in southern Tasmania.
Sections of the Standard and Sustainability Criteria in scope of this audit / review	<p>Section 4.2, Sections 7, 9-11.</p> <p>Follow up findings from 2023 re-certification = № 77, 80-81, 83-87</p>
Exclusions to the standard and/or management system	Sections not listed above were not assessed.
Extent of activities within the scope of certification	Group Forest Certification Scheme comprising individual forest owners &/or managers under a group structure managed by Reliance Forest Fibre for processes involved in all forest management activities in plantations and native forest.
Name of Management Representative	Stephanie Bourke
	Comments on main points from audit
Global-Mark summary of the main	The forest manager was represented by the group entity and one

findings	<p>participant of the group organisation. Both were well prepared for this surveillance audit, as were the two contractors who were visited in the field during the second day of the audit.</p> <p>Due to the widespread location of coupes with active operations, two separate days were needed for the field component, as one full day and part of another day. These two days had to be several weeks apart.</p> <p>The audit team sampled two sets of sites. Firstly, sites that were in the defined forest area at the last audit by Global-Mark, of which there were four active sites, and we sampled two [square root of four]. Secondly, a set of sites that were added to the defined forest area since the last audit by Global-Mark, of which there were five active sites, and we sampled three [square root of five rounded up].</p> <p>Four matters of minor non-conformance were detected at this audit and findings issued. Two were closed during the audit. The forest manager was asked to provide a set of corrective action plans for the remaining two nonconformance matters.</p> <p><u>Positive comments are as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantation at site № 1, required harvest by contractor Broadhurst working on steep slopes in many parts, over 50% as measured by clinometer of the auditor. It had extraction tracks with grips at right spaces apart per FPC, to assist protection of soil and water properties, as verified by the auditor and Principal who walked a couple of these tracks and conclude a well-done harvest job of a steep site. o High levels of utilisation at site № 2, with small end diameters down to 4 cm. o Clear level of engagement between Highland Forest Products and landowner N. Calvert. <p><u>Identified improvement matters are as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Roll out of internal audit plan with a focus on effective transition and adoption of AS/NZS4708:2021. o Review of system documents for the group in order to streamline and enhance effectiveness - refer to audit findings № 2024-02, 2024-08, 2024-09. o Increased checks of data for properties entering the defined forest area, particularly hectares - refer to audit finding № 2024-01. <p>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.</p>
Defined Forest Area	Comments on Defined Forest Area and scope of certification
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units]	Currently plantations of <i>Eucalyptus</i> or <i>Pinus radiata</i> .
Brief description of the geographic locality of Defined Forest Area	Across Tasmania.
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	Publicly available communicated items can be found at the website [https://relianceforestfibre.com.au/certifications/] section for “Group Forest Management Scheme for Forest Owners and Managers”. There are working links to policy, summary of forest management, maps, current certificate, audit report summary in current period of re-certification August 2023.
Describe any applicable qualifications for scale and intensity	Mostly relatively small-scale plantations <100 hectares, as low as 8 hectares. Intensity on lower side for plantation activities, as often thinning. Some higher intensity re-establishment activities.

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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