

Forest management certification

What is forest management certification?

Forest management certification is a voluntary forest management tool designed to recognise and promote environmentally responsible forestry and the sustainability of forest resources.

Forestry Corporation of NSW is certified as compliant with the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) AS 4708.

This standard is based on criteria for sustainable forest management agreed upon by the PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes), an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation that promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification.

The AFS is also endorsed on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia and draws upon an internationally agreed framework for regional criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management in Australia.

Forest management certification allows people to trace exactly where their timber came from, so they can be confident the forest it came from is managed sustainably.

Forest management certification using an internationally recognised standard, such as the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), independently assures consumers that the certified timber products they purchase have been produced in a socially, ecologically and economically sustainable manner.

How is forest management certified?

To be certified by the AFS, forest managers like Forestry Corporation have their operations reviewed by an independent auditor accredited by JAS-ANZ.

The auditor assesses whether the organisation meets criteria set out in the forest management certification standard, such as:

- Systematic forest management
- Public participation and adherence to good neighbour principles



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- Protection and maintenance of biological diversity of forests
- Maintenance of the productive capacity of forests
- Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality
- Protection of soil and water resources
- Maintenance of forests' contribution to carbon cycles
- Protection and maintenance of indigenous and non-indigenous peoples' heritage values
- Maintenance and enhancement of long-term social and economic benefits.

The audit includes a review of documents, interviews with staff and on-the-ground inspections of a range of forest operations.

How do I tell if wood products are certified?

Companies selling certified sustainable timber need a 'Chain of Custody Standard' (AS 4707-2006 or similar) certificate to verify the timber came from a certified forest.

You can identify certified timber products by looking for these forest management certification logos.

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