

# NEW ZEALAND FOREST CERTIFICATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

## NZFCA DIRECTIVE 2017/01

### NZS AS 4708: 2014

#### Requirement 5.6 *Chemical Use* for certification of forest managers under the New Zealand Forest Certification Scheme (NZFCS)

#### **BACKGROUND**

The New Zealand Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (NZS AS 4708:2013) is endorsed by the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). In order to retain PEFC endorsement the NZFCS must be in compliance with a number of PEFC Standards including PEFC ST 1003:2010, *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*.

PEFC ST 1003:2010 and NZS AS 4708:2014 both contain specific requirements addressing chemical use in forest management (see below). It should be noted that there are other requirements which address related aspects of chemical use such as compliance with the law, pollution prevention, education and training etc.

#### **PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management**

5.2.9 *The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.*

*Note: Any exception to the usage of WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined by a specific forest management standard.*

5.2.10 *Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.*

*Note: “pesticides banned by international agreements” are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001, as amended.*

#### **NZS AS4708–2014 Sustainable Forest Management**

##### Requirement 5.6 *Chemical Use*

- 1 *The forest manager shall minimize the use of chemicals and any adverse impacts arising from their use.*
- 2 *The forest manager shall not use World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B pesticides unless legally approved for use.*
- 3 *The forest manager shall not use pesticides banned by any international agreements defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001.*

New Zealand has a rigorous legislative and regulatory framework for the registration, control and use of pesticides. The combination of New Zealand law and the specific requirements in the New Zealand Standard (NZS AS 4708:2014) creates a framework which is consistent with the intent of the PEFC requirements. Compliance with the law is required by separate requirements of the Standard (Requirements 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4).

New Zealand has a programme to eradicate bovine TB. It is contained within a government regulation (Biosecurity (National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Plan) Order 1998) which has been made

under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The programme is managed by an entity known as TB Free managed by OSPRI. From time to time OSPRI will carry out operations to control possums (which are a bovine TB carrier) in a forest and will use 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and possibly other chemicals on the WHO Class 1a and 1b lists. Prior to entry into the forest, they will notify the forest manager of the operation. The forest manager is obliged under New Zealand law, to comply with the requirements of the operation.

In a more general sense, Section 114 of the Biosecurity Act allows an inspector or authorized person to apply a pesticide for the purpose of eradicating or managing an unwanted organism, or to prevent the spread of a pest or unwanted organism, without the need for landowner approval. Section 114A permits aerial application of pesticides.

Compliance with legal obligations is also a requirement of PEFC certification and so there is an apparent conflict between the PEFC standard and New Zealand law. This Directive has been issued by the Board of NZFCA in order to resolve this conflict

### **DIRECTIVE**

Clause 5.2.9 of PEFC ST 1003:2010 allows for exceptions to be granted for the usage of WHO Class 1a and 1b pesticides. New Zealand Forest Certification Association Inc. (NZFCA) is preparing a more general Directive for use of some Class 1a and 1b pesticides by forest managers. Pending the completion of that Directive, NZFCA is authorising, subject to the terms and conditions set out below, the use of pesticides in accordance with instructions received by the forest manager under a statutory process such as the Biosecurity Act 1993:

1. The application of WHO Class 1a or 1b pesticides (including sodium fluoroacetate (1080)) in certified forest areas is permitted where the application is carried out by a person or entity authorised under the Biosecurity Act. In such instances it is expected that the certified forest manager will seek information on the volume of pesticide applied, the precautions taken and report this as part of their annual audit.
2. NZFCA requires any certification body issuing a PEFC forest management certificate for a New Zealand forest to provide specific written assurance, based on evidence, that the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2010 have been met, other than the exception listed above.
3. If and when any such certificate is issued by a certification body and submitted for registration, NZFCA, or its appointed administrator, will consider the information presented, request additional information if required, and will determine whether or not to recognise and register the certificate. The Board of NZFCA will be the ultimate decision-making body for the appeal of any such decision.

Authorised by the Board of New Zealand Forest Certification Association Inc.

17 May 2017