

AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY STANDARD LIMITED

Policy 07

Participation in International Standard Development

V1.1-07/2010



PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

At the national level, Australian Forestry Standard Limited is an accredited Standards Development Organisation (SDO) with particular expertise in forest management and chain of custody of forest products. In pursuing its domestic standards development activities, AFSL interacts with the relevant areas of Standards Australia covered by the Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations (accreditation of SDOs) and the National Standards Office [NSO] (Australian Standard® and International Standard development). The NSO co-ordinates Australia's participation in the programme of International Standard development activities related to the standards development work area of the accredited SDOs.

At the international level, AFSL is the Australian member of the PEFC Council, the ultimate decision making body of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). The PEFC Council oversees a global forest certification scheme which includes its own international standards and other relevant documentation and the PEFC Council encourages all its members to participate in the development of PEFC international standards and documentation.

2 POLICY

2.1 Standards Australia

AFSL recognises that the co-ordination role for Australia's participation in International Standards development is within the work area of the National Standards Office under Standards Australia as the peak national standard body.

Given the national role of the NSO in International Standards development and the recognised competency of AFSL within its scope of accreditation for standards development, AFSL shall engage with the NSO in relevant International Standards development which may be initiated by the NSO or AFSL.

If AFSL participates in International Standards development which is aligned with its scope of accreditation from ABSDO, AFSL shall commit to:

- Liaising with the NSO on the schedule of International Standard development opportunities which would be within the scope of AFSL as an accredited SDO;
- Providing New Work Items (NWI) for international Standards where such NWIs would be within its scope of accreditation from ABSDO;
- Considering requests from the NSO to provide suitably qualified delegates for International Standard development work which is within its scope of accreditation;

- Considering requests from the NSO to provide secretariat for international technical committees Standards where the international Standards activity would be within its scope of accreditation from ABSDO;
- Ensuring that any nominated delegate has the backing and support of AFSL for international Standards development work;
- Ensuring that the nominated delegate has technical support of one of AFSL's Technical Committees or the support of a balanced group of Australian stakeholders as agreed between AFSL and the NSO;
- Agreeing to utilise the guidance documentation provided by the NSO for international Standard development work to facilitate the delegate's nomination and work activity; Seeking the advice, expertise and experience of the NSO and through the NSO, Standards Australia in preparing the nominated delegate for international Standard development work;
- Pursuing the funding opportunities provided for international Standard development work whilst seeking internal and external funding to ensure the participation of the nominated delegate at international meetings; and
- Ensuring the appropriate funding of travel and accommodation costs for the nominated delegate to attend international Standard development meetings based on a combination of NSO funding and AFSL funding.

2.2 Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes

AFSL is committed to be an exemplar member within the PEFC Council and, to that effect, shall commit to:

- Ensuring that AFSL staff effectively engage in PEFC Council International Standard development in a timely manner to provide an Australian perspective;
- Ensuring appropriate funding of travel and accommodation costs for AFSL staff to attend relevant International Standard development meetings, as required, from within AFSL's budget;
- Providing opportunities for AFSL staff to engage with the PEFC Council and its members by suitable electronic media where attendance at International Standard development meetings is impractical;
- Seeking the advice of AFSL's technical committees for PEFC International Standard development issues which are within the scope of the forest management and chain of custody standards; and
- Collaborating with the national standards body, Standards Australia through the NSO, to further any development pathway for PEFC International Standards to be developed under an ISO International Standard development process where benefit can be demonstrated to all parties.