

19 December 2017

**Enabling
Sustainability**

Australian Standard AS4707-2014 **Chain of custody for forest products - proposed amendment**

The following amendment is proposed to address a drafting error that potentially affects some certified organisations.

Appendix 2, Implementation of the chain of custody standard by multi-site organisations

Replace:

2.6 The producer group is limited to participation of sites which are domiciled in a single state and which have no more than 100 employees (full time employees equivalent) and a turnover of maximum A\$25,000,000.

with:

2.6 The producer group is limited to participation of sites which are domiciled in a single country and which have no more than 100 employees (full time employees equivalent) and a turnover of maximum A\$25,000,000.

Purpose:

The word 'country' appears in this clause in the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification chain of custody for forest products standard on which AS 4707 is based. That word was inadvertently changed to state when the PEFC Standard was adapted for Australia. The change may have arisen due to misunderstanding of the significance of **state** and **country** in the context of the European Union, where PEFC originates.

The purpose of this clause is to prevent large companies from grouping together to avoid individual certification. This purpose is achieved by the restrictions on numbers of employees and on turnover. The restriction on operating in a single state in Australia is

therefore unnecessarily restrictive in Australia, where businesses commonly operate in more than one state.

Comments may be addressed to:

info@responsiblewood.org.au

or to:

Responsible Wood

P.O. Box 786

New Farm

Queensland 4005

Comments will be accepted until **28th February, 2018**