

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO DRAFT AS/NZS 4708:20XX

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Background

The 2020 draft of AS/NZS4708-Sustainable Forest Management has been released for public comment. This document lists and summarises the key changes when compared to the 2013 version of the Standard.

Principles of Development

- 1.** To align the draft with the 2018 PEFC Meta-Standard for Sustainable Forest Management PEFC ST 1003:2018. The PEFC Meta-Standard lists the sustainability performance requirements for National Standards that are to be endorsed by PEFC.
AS/NZS 4708 has been revised to ensure it meets all relevant requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018.
- 2.** To align with the Structure of ISO 14001-Environmental Management Systems. AS/NZS 4708 has been reformatted to align with ISO 14001 to allow easy integration into an existing management systems. Where relevant and appropriate, similar wording and concepts from ISO 14001 are used.
- 3.** The Standard has been revised as a joint Australian/New Zealand Standard with a Committee comprised of representatives from both Countries.

Specific Changes

- The potential impacts of climate change are acknowledged and performance requirements impacted by climate change noted.
- The differences between conformance (voluntary adherence to a Standard) and compliance (meeting legal requirements) has been explained.
- A new figure outlining the context of the management system and its interactions with the system elements has been included.
- Normative references have been expanded to align with PEFC requirements.

- Terms and definitions not used in the Standard have been deleted. New or revised definitions have been added for:
 - Competent forest worker
 - Compliance obligations
 - Conversion
 - Drainage lines
 - Equal treatment
 - Fair contract
 - Fertilizer
 - Forest worker
 - Group forest certification
 - Hazardous activities
 - Highly hazardous pesticides
 - Infrastructure
 - Integrated pest management
 - Invasive species
 - Living wage
 - Monitoring
 - Pest species
 - Precautionary principle
 - Remnants
 - Significant biodiversity values
 - Streamside management zone
 - Threatened
 - Trees outside forests
- Requirements to determine and document the scope of the management system have been clarified.
- Requirements to maintain a sustainable forest management policy have been aligned to ISO.
- Requirements for planning have been aligned with ISO.
- Requirements to provide the information necessary to establish chain of custody have been added.
- Requirements for performance evaluation have been expanded and aligned to ISO.
- Requirements to demonstrate improvement have been strengthened.
- Sustainability criteria have been clearly defined under Clause 11-Sustainability Criteria.

- Requirements and restrictions are provided in circumstances where degraded forests beyond restoration are converted to plantations.
- Risk assessments are now required for the use of pesticides. The use of pesticides must be documented.
- Requirements related to the use of fertilizers have been expanded.
- Requirements for the conduct of salvage operations have been clarified/expanded.
- The use of traditional knowledge is given additional recognition.
- The concept of a living wage consistent with PEFC requirements has been introduced.
- Requirements for ethical behaviour and anti-corruption measures have been expanded.
- Requirements to support local industry have been strengthened.
- A new Appendix providing guidance for the application of the Standard to “Trees Outside Forests” and “Small Forest Areas” has been added.
- A new Appendix for Group Certification has been added.
- An Appendix on the use of WHO Class 1A and 1B chemicals has been added.
- The bibliography has been updated and expanded.

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