

## **TRANSITION POLICY FOR AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD AS/NZS 4708:2021-SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

### **BACKGROUND**

This policy defines the requirements for certified organisations and certification bodies to transition from the 2013 version to the 2021 version of AS/NZS 4708:2021 Sustainable Forest Management.

AS/NZS 4708:2021 was published in December 2021 and supersedes AS 4708:2013.

### **POLICY**

#### **For Certificate Holders (Organisations certified to AS 4708:2013)**

Certificates issued to AS 4708:2013 will be recognised in the Responsible Wood and PEFC systems until **9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. After this date, certificates to AS 4708:2013 cease to be recognised. To remain recognised, updated certificates listing AS/NZS 4708:2021 in their scope must be in place from **10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

#### **FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES**

It is recommended that certification bodies commence audits against AS/NZS 4708:2021 as soon as practically possible. It is recommended that observations be raised for non-conformances against requirements to educate and inform certificate holders of changes necessary to their management system. Certification bodies must ensure that their certificate holders transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021 no later than **10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

## **GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The following Clauses of AS/NZS 4708:2021 are applicable to all certified organisations and applied in areas certified to AS4708:2013 undergoing transition and in new areas entering the defined forest area.

<b>CLAUSE OF AS/NZS 4708:2021</b>	<b>SUB-CLAUSE</b>
SECTION 4	ALL
SECTION 5	ALL
SECTION 6	ALL
SECTION 7	ALL
SECTION 8	ALL
SECTION 9	ALL
SECTION 10	ALL
CLAUSE 11.1	SUB-CLAUSES 1, 2 AND 4
CLAUSE 11.2	ALL SUB-CLAUSES
CLAUSE 11.3	ALL SUB-CLAUSES
CLAUSE 11.4	ALL SUB-CLAUSES
CLAUSE 11.5	EXCLUDING SUB-CLAUSE 6
CLAUSE 11.6	ALL SUB-CLAUSES
CLAUSE 11.7	ALL SUB-CLAUSES
APPENDICES A, B AND D	ALL SUB-CLAUSES

The principle of retrospectivity<sup>(1)</sup> is to be applied to the following clauses in existing certified areas transitioning from **AS 4708:2013** to **AS/NZS 4708:2021**.

- Clause 11.1 Sub-clause 3
- Clause 11.5 Sub-clause 6

The certification body is to determine conformity against these Clauses for new areas (assessed against AS/NZS 4708:2021) entering a certified defined forest area for the first time.

*Note 1: The requirements are applied to future management activities only and do not alter the status of areas certified in conformance with as4708:2013.*

**Approved by the Responsible Wood Board  
13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**