

GUIDANCE NOTE TO CERTIFICATION BODIES **AUTHORISATION TO USE THE NEW RESPONSIBLE WOODS CLAIM** **DURING TRANSITION TO AS/NZS 4708:2021**

BACKGROUND

This guidance document aims to provide clarity and direction regarding the use of the Responsible Wood and PEFC formal claims during the transition period to the revised AS/NZS 4708:2021 standard for sustainable forest management. Organisation's certified to AS 4707:2021 now use revised formal claims whereas AS 4708:2013 certified forest managers typically use the "100% AFS certified" type formal claims.

The transition period to AS 4708:2013 ends on 9 March 2024, so this guidance exists to provide clarify and alleviate any confusion on differences between, or the need to change the formal claim between certified entities throughout the chain of custody.

Certification bodies must ensure that their certificate holders transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021 no later than 10th March 2024.

GUIDANCE

AS 4708:2013 defined the formal claim as "100% AFS certified", and the revised AS/NZS 4708:2021 requires the following formal claims be used:

'100% ANZFS CERTIFIED',
'100% PEFC CERTIFIED',
'100% ANZFS/PEFC CERTIFIED',
'100% ANZFS',
'100% PEFC',
'100% RW CERTIFIED',
'100%RW',
'100% RW/PEFC CERTIFIED' or
'100% RW/PEFC'

During the transition period, sustainable forest management certificate holders are permitted to use the formal claims as provided in AS/NZS 4708:2021. This ensures consistency with and recognition under the latest version of the Australian Chain of Custody Standard, AS 4707:2021.

IMPLEMENTATION

Certification Bodies operating during the transition period are advised to consider this guidance when auditing claims made in delivery documentation and acceptance of claims as input into chain of custody systems.

Certification Bodies are encouraged to communicate with Responsible Wood and stay updated on any developments or changes related to the transition process. Responsible Wood will continue to provide support and guidance to Certification Bodies to ensure a smooth transition to the updated AS/NZS 4708:2021 standard.

Please note that this guidance document is subject to periodic review and updates based on evolving Certification Body accreditation processes and Responsible Wood's requirements.

For any questions or further clarification, Certification Bodies are encouraged to contact Responsible Wood.

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