

App./Cert.	FMS20001 C10332, OHS20082
Date	04/07/2006

AFS PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT

Client:**Site Address:**

Forestry Tasmania
Head Office and Derwent Office 79 Melville Street HOBART TAS 7001 AUS
Perth Nursery, 15962 Midlands Highway, Perth TAS 7300
Bass District Office, Scottsdale
Hobart Wharf logyard

Standard(s):

AS 4708(INT): 2003 The Australian Forestry Standard

AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004 Environmental management system - Specification with guidance for use.

AS/NZS 4801-2001 Occupational health and safety management systems – Specification with guidance for use.

Relevant Codes

FMS - E0301, E0302, E0303, F01, F02, F03, F04, F05, F06

CEM - E0301, E0302, E0303, E02, E03, E07

OHS - H0301, H0302, H0303, HS31, HS32, HS33, HS34

Scope of Certification:

The registration covers the Forestry, Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Management System for processes involved in the management of the State Forests of Tasmania. Activities include forest land management, road establishment and maintenance, plantation and native forest timber establishment and maintenance, timber harvesting and sales, tourism and State forest recreational management and development.

The Defined Forest Area registration applies to the forest area under Forestry Tasmania management control as detailed in the registers described in the Forestry Tasmania Defined Forest Area Procedure.

COMMERCIAL- IN – CONFIDENCE

The contents of this report must not be disclosed to a third party without the agreement of the SAI Global Client

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INTRODUCTION

SAI Global conducted an eight day integrated OHS, Environmental and Forestry management system six monthly surveillance audit of Forestry Tasmania (FT) from 01/05/2006 to 09/05/2006 .

The purpose of this report is to summarise the results of the audit against the requirements of AS 4708, The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS).

SAI Global audits are carried out within the requirements of international standards relating to audit practice such as ISO 19011 and to the requirements of JAS-ANZ Procedure 26.

In addition to the information contained in this audit report, SAI Global maintains files for each client. These files contain all observation sheets and notes taken during the audit including communication with stakeholders. Information in these files is treated as confidential.

AUDIT SCOPE

This audit is regarded as the interim six monthly AFS surveillance audit and as such, addressed management system elements consistent with the requirements of ISO 14001 and Criterion One (Management Systems) and Criterion Two (Public Participation) of the Australian Forestry Standard (AS4708).

The audit sample included Bass District office and field operations, Derwent District office, Perth Nursery, Hobart wharf and business functions in Human Resources (HR), contracts and contractor management, purchasing and statistical analysis.

SAI Global as part of the audit process also consulted a sample of stakeholders relevant to Bass and Derwent Districts.

DEFINED FOREST AREA (DFA)

The Defined Forest Area (DFA) is the forest area under Forestry Tasmania's management control and to which the Australian Forestry Standard (AS4708) is applicable. The details of this area are described in the Forestry Tasmania Defined Forest Area Procedure. As of February 2006, the DFA comprised a total area of 1,450,853ha. This includes Crown land of 19,342ha, 5,455ha of plantation Joint Venture (JV) on State forest where Forestry Tasmania (FT) is an equity partnership and 1,075ha of plantation JV on tenures other than State forest and where FT is an equity partner. The Gunns Lease Plantations (GLP) on State forest do not form part of this DFA.

NON-CONFORMANCES

No major non-conformances have been raised as a result of this audit and therefore certification of the system may continue.

As with most surveillance audits, a number of areas of concern (minor non conformities) have been identified where there is a partial failing to meet the requirements of the Standard or there is a risk of a requirement not being met. These areas of concern require corrective action by Forestry Tasmania to be followed up by SAI Global at the next surveillance audit.

KEY FINDINGS MADE DURING THE AUDIT

Statistical Power

Regeneration surveys have been considered for statistical power analysis with a change made to plot size. The regeneration surveys and stocking standards in Native Forest Silviculture Technical Bulletin No 6 () have been revised to reflect best practice, which is now set at an optimum 16 sq metre plot. Each coupe is assessed for regeneration in this manner.

Criterion 4.1 Forest management shall be undertaken in a systematic manner that addresses the range of forest values

Systems for managing safety and environmental risks

- The audit indicated a greater use of the risk registers and awareness of personnel. There has been an increased usage of forest operation plans (FOP's) and these appear to be working very well.
- A rail safety register for the Maydena Hauler project has been put in collaboration with the rail safety authority. This register has been separated into the various stages of the project from governance, concept, design, construction, operation and maintenance, with controls assessed for all inherent risks. This has been very thoroughly done.
- The construction management plan will be developed with Workplace Standards and will then be developed as the site management plan for the operation of the hauler.
- Corporate environmental aspects and impacts have been noted along with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) hazards and risks.
- Roading to the site has been completed with topsoil being stripped and stockpiled. A shed has also been constructed.
- FT is currently waiting on the final design from the engineers

Native forest regeneration

- At the time of audit, the Bass District was in the middle of the burning season with aerial sowing undertaken progressively following the burns. In line with the Tourism Protocol, e-mail lists are now consistently used to advise tourism operators and related stakeholders of proposed high intensity burns. These are very well developed and provide a good administrative tool for the districts.
- The District fire management group advises neighbours and these are noted in the burn plans. All issues are recorded in an email database (GroupWise) so that other Community Liaison Officer's (CLOs) can take note of any items of relevance.
- The Asthma Foundation is also being advised so they can liaise with asthmatics on their database in the District.

- The Bass District seed co-ordinator liaises closely with the manager of the Perth seed centre and follows the specifications noted in Technical Bulletin 1 (Seed and Sowing). Sowing plans are developed and tracked through a spreadsheet. Calibrations of the sowing machine used by the helicopter are kept and there is a prescription requiring coupes to be sown within 21 days of the burn. Bass Regeneration Sowing Mixes for 2005 are documented in a central database.
- There is also a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place noting the requirements for sowing seed. The Bass Native Forests Quality Standards tables also note the proportion of seed required to be collected. Corrective Action Requests (CAR's) are documented where the quality standards are not reached.
- There is an objective to try to reduce the number of broad-cast burns in Autumn, and therefore fuel heaping is undertaken to reduce the amount of broad-cast burning required at this time. The heaps are able to be burnt over a much broader period of time than for broadcast burns, and thereby lessen the smoke nuisance in Autumn.
- In both low and high intensity burns, there has been good consideration and notation of the wind direction and potential concerns from stakeholders particularly with regard to Launceston.
- Field personnel interviewed during the visit were well aware of the forest management system requirements and had been proactive in system development including use of the Forest Operation Plans (FOP's).

Management of non-forest activities

- Reserve management and the assessment of non-forest practice plan (NonFPP) activities has had considerable focus over the past six months with development of a Standard Operating Procedure and a very thorough system of checking for issues prior to the commencement of activities. This is still being rolled out but appears to have addressed this issue very well.
- Examples verified included an assessment of the environmental risk of the hanging of cables over a part of a forest reserve to access timber in an adjacent coupe. Prescriptions that are set for the reserve or from any non-FPP assessment are included in the relevant forest practice plan. Monitoring will then be picked up on the normal monitoring sheet.

Criterion 4.2 - Forest management shall provide for public participation and foster on-going relationships to be a good neighbour

- Community Liaison Officers (CLO's) are continuing to develop good mechanisms for advising neighbours and stakeholders of FT activities and act as a conduit for any concerns or anticipated use of the forest.

- Training has been provided to the CLOs on non-forest practice plans (non-FPP) and reserve activity assessments. They have been shown how to assess the reserve maps and fill in the proformas and are required to contact Hobart for all non-FPPs. The non forest practice plan presentation provided was very good and will be rolled out to the Tourism, Fire, DFRD and Property Branches who would all undertake non-FPP activities at various stages. Lists of all personnel trained were viewed in PUP's (HR database).
- Evidence was available to indicate that coupe shapes have been altered to take into account stands of Leatherwood. A set of guidelines for harvesting leatherwood areas has been established and agreed with the Beekeeper Association.
- The coupe file for Wedge 044A notes the cable harvesting of 28ha of Tall *E obliqua* through clearfell, burn and sow technique. A leatherwood retention area had been protected and noted on the monitoring sheet for apiary management. The boundary had been modified to increase a streamside reserve. Natural and cultural values assessment sheets had been completed as well as soil erodibility assessments and council notifications. An email was received from the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) to indicate that the survey was appropriate and cable logging could be undertaken. The nearest beekeeper was contacted and advised.
- The Three-Year Wood Production plans were viewed and it was noted that they were subject to consultation with the forest industry, local government and specialist areas. At the time of audit ,the first year of the plan was being presented to the relevant councils. Districts collated a list of issues raised at these meetings and those present at the meeting, which are then compiled and presented on behalf of Forestry Tasmania and returned to the Forest Practices Authority. No further conversion of native forest is to be undertaken other than for up to the area in accordance with the Supplementary Regional Forest Agreement (Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement). Conversion decisions are noted in a planning spatial database and a more stringent justification process developed and documented.
- Any changes made to the Three-Year Wood Production Plans are reviewed for any impact on special values. Coupes where concerns have been raised are well documented for all districts based on the complaints, views of interested parties and expected areas of concern. The plans also list additional action required to manage these areas such as additional water sampling, public consultation etc. All contractors, customers etc are noted to indicate who else might be affected should the plan be changed i.e. it picks up on economic aspects of the planning process.

Areas Of Concern

- Mechanisms for managing non-forest practice plan (non FPP) activities will still require enhancement to ensure all potential impacts are assessed and controlled and personnel involved at the District level trained appropriately.
- Reinduction and auditing of contractors requires improvement.

- There remains a concern that the generic nature of the monitoring processes and the early development of the system procedures is not ensuring that the linkage between aspects/hazards identified, the controls in operation to manage them and the checking of these controls through the monitoring mechanisms is fully understood and in place.
- Issues raised by the public in relation to contractors i.e. noise, speed etc are sometimes recorded in the contractor files rather than in the Corrective Action Request (CAR) system and therefore are not subject to tracking or the rigour required to indicate that they have been completed appropriately.
- The delay in availability of the Three Year Plans has been raised by a number of stakeholders as a problem; explanations for the delay have been inconsistent and as such, communication mechanisms require improvement.
- Methods of stakeholder identification, engagement and record keeping require improvement.

Improvements Noted

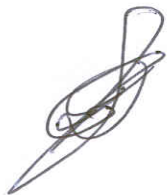
All areas of concern raised in previous audits had been appropriately addressed. Actions undertaken to improve the system include the following:

- Tourism ventures will now be audited when District systems and operations are audited. This is reflected in the new internal auditing schedule.
- A very good presentation has been put together by the Senior Environmental Planner and delivered to FT personnel on the requirements of the Australian Forestry Standard and the FT management system. Only the Fire Management Branch is still to be covered by the training.
- Presentations have been given to personnel on the AFS and how it links to Forestry Tasmania's management system. Requests have been received from the Districts for further training as it has improved awareness and use of the system. The bulk of the internal auditors have completed the training, which provides good detail on all relevant FT documentation and the AFS Standard.
- Safety and environmental risks have now been incorporated into the corporate register for operation of the Maydena Hauler. Design is included in the Forest Practices Plan (FPP).
- A tick box has been included on the Forest Operation Plan (FOP) to note that special values have been correctly transferred across from the Forest Practices Plan.
- A copy of the Forest Operation Plan is now provided to the contractor and signatures are required to indicate that the discussion has taken place and these issues are raised.
- A hydrology section on the hazard and risks register notes the hazards, for monitoring staff, associated with the water monitoring points. The quarry at WARRA was not considered to be a regular look out point for visitors.

- Contractors are being re inducted to address all requirements of the FT management system.
- All Districts were found to be using the contractor induction kit and are now undertaking formal inductions of their contractors.
- Assessments of harvesting competencies for contractors are still being developed although there has been the TAFE harvesting operations skills analysis undertaken in May 2005.
- Housekeeping at Hobart wharf has been considerably improved and there is now a greater awareness among the wharf staff as to acceptable conditions.
- There was some previous discussion on the condition of the logs in the yard; however, stacks viewed indicated logs in good condition. This issue has been discussed with the operators and has increased awareness.
- Requirements for justifying and documenting changes that involve conversion have been tightened in the system.

Conclusion

The management system has continued to be improved and enhanced over the previous six months. There has been excellent training conducted both of FT personnel in the requirements of the AFS and also contractor inductions resulting in a greater awareness and use of the system. This awareness is also leading to improvements being generated from field personnel. All areas of concern previously raised have been addressed.



David Crow
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