Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	Forestry Tasmania	**Certificate #**	14647001-ASE-001
Client address	Melville St Hobart	**Website:**	forestrytas.com.au
Audit type:	Routine surveillance	**Audit date:**	4-8 August 2014
Standard:	AS4708:2007 and AS4708:2013	**Auditor:**	Ross Garsden
This document provides a summary of the findings contained in a report to this client with respect to the implementation of the client's management system as determined during an audit conducted by BSI.			

Scope of certification:

The sustainable management of forests within the defined forest area, as described in Forestry Tasmania's Sustainability Charter. The scope of certification includes all activities associated with the administration, planning and management of forests including harvest, transport and sale of forest products.

Executive summary:

This report presents the findings of a routine surveillance assessment of Forestry Tasmania's forest management system. The audit was undertaken concurrently with an assessment of the organisation's environmental and safety management systems with respect to the requirements of the relevant standards. The audit assessed compliance with the requirements of AS4708:2007 as well as AS4708:2013. The scope of the audit included the application and implementation of the centrally-managed system at the Hobart Head Office as well as the planning and execution of a range of forest management activities in Derwent District (southern region) and research activities at Warra.

Forestry Tasmania is developing a new (draft) Forest Management Plan (FMP) which clearly articulates the organisation's functions and obligations, and outlines its policies and objectives. The FMP also describes the management system that supports the various activities conducted under the plan. The FMP is currently being finalised following a public consultation period.

Forestry Tasmania has developed a WIKI to act as a primary source of information pertaining to the implementation of its forest management system. This innovative approach is highly effective in ensuring that system processes are well-supported and that current documentation is readily accessible to all parties. Not all system components are yet incorporated into the WIKI.

The audit has determined that Forestry Tasmania is meeting the requirements of AS4708:2013. Chain of custody and stakeholder engagement processes were demonstrated to be effective and forest management is based on well-supported scientific research.

The Forest Practices Authority confirmed that Forestry Tasmania continues to demonstrate a very high level of regulatory compliance, with virtually all Forest Practices Plans lodged being fully compliant with the Code and no corrective actions required. This is consistent with observations made during assessment of a range of sites and operations visited during the audit.

The organisation's forest management system is supported by a solid research base. A range of forest management research activities and projects were assessed at the Warra Research facility. The value of this research in providing a robust scientific foundation for achievement of forest management objectives and driving continual improvement in forest management practices cannot be overstated.

The Management Decision Classification System, coupled with the Landscape Context Planning Tool

demonstrated the organisation's capacity to plan and manage the forest estate with a high degree of confidence. In this regard, the research being undertaken by Forestry Tasmania, in collaboration with a number of other organisations, is supporting the organisation's capacity to deliver a truly adaptive management model.

The audit assessed the key areas of difference between the former version of the standard and the recently released version. These included: Chain of custody procedures; application of, and contribution to research; stakeholder engagement processes; biodiversity monitoring and management; and carbon accounting. The audit has determined that Forestry Tasmania is meeting the requirements of AS4708:2013.

The audit has identified several minor no-conformances relating to:

- Hazard identification and risk assessment; and
- Legal requirements.

An action plan has been developed to address the issues identified during the audit.

As this is a surveillance audit, not all areas of the respective standards have been assessed. FT demonstrated effective planning and management of forest operations. . Processes for identification and management of biodiversity, forest health, soil and water values and cultural heritage were demonstrated to be effective.

The development of the Enterprise Agreement is consistent with the requirements of the Standard.

The active participation and engagement of staff throughout the audit contributed to the effectiveness of this assessment. The auditors would like to thank Forestry Tasmania for the preparation and planning that preceded the audit and the cooperation of all staff involved.

The next audit is a re-certification assessment, scheduled for April 2015.

Defined forest area statement	
The sustainable management of forests within the defined forest area, as described in Forestry Tasmania's Sustainability Charter. The scope of certification includes all activities associated with the administration, planning and management of forests including harvest, transport and sale of forest products.	
Defined forest area (in hectares):	1,505,480 ha*
Advised to AFS Limited on:	December 2013
Certificate expires on:	30 June 2015

Report prepared by:	
Ross Garsden	Technical Specialist – Forest Management
Name of person who prepared this report	*Position*

END OF REPORT