



Australian Forestry Standard

Audit scope and summary - March 2009

Performed by NCS International

Purpose and scope of audit

This audit represents:

- An Assessment Audit to extend the scope of Forest Products Commission's existing Australian Forestry Standard certification to include all Forest Products Commission Plantations and Jarrah native forest in Western Australia's South West Forests; and
- A Surveillance Audit of the organisation's ISO14001 Environmental Management System across a sample of the Forest Products Commission business that included Sharefarms, Forest Products Commission Plantations, and Karri and Jarrah native forest management in Western Australia's South West Forests, to:
 - ensure that the organisation complies with its internal procedures;
 - ensure the ongoing compliance of the organisation's Environmental and Forest Management Systems and with the relevant Standard;
 - assess the effectiveness of the Environmental and Forest Management Systems in providing improved management, statutory compliance and performance;
 - identify additional areas of risk improvement opportunities; and
 - provide the organisation with feedback to facilitate ongoing development and implementation of their management systems

Audit report

The specific areas/functions audited are as detailed in the final version of the audit program dated the 6th March 2009.

The audit included a review of the organisation's management system at Head Office Rivervale, Bunbury Regional Office, Nannup Operational Office, Albany Regional Office, Manjimup Operational Office and included field visits to plantation coupes in the Blackwood Valley Plantation that were burned by wildfire in early 2009.

This assessment represents an extension of scope to include the management of all forests which are defined in the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013, in particular the management of Jarrah and Plantation forest.

Forest Products Commission (FPC) has progressed in the integration of its ISO14001 certified management system to incorporate the full range of forest management outcomes that also include economic, social, and cultural values of forests and forest resources.

There is still some work to do, however it is recognised that operational staff are enthusiastic and willing to develop a forest management system that is simple yet effective and which allows the FPC to measure its performance against objectives and targets. The further integration of the safety system to link with key system process such as management review, internal audits, non-conformance corrective and preventative action systems is commencing.

There is increased activity in the delivery of training and recognition of competencies for new and existing staff to recognised national Competencies as well as the delivery of in-house forest management systems awareness training and chemical spill training.

The review of the current monitoring and measuring processes for established objects and targets to enable the effective analysis of data and trends to ensure improved environmental performance requires additional focus.

The inclusion of forest management areas which are subject to active mining tenements within the next five years do not meet the requirements of the standard in relation to conversion of forest to non-forest cover and defined forest area and are subject to conditions for certification.

Other non conformances identified include:

- environment Policy does not fully meet all requirements of a forest management policy
- objectives and Targets are not measureable in South West Forests
- significance of Cultural and European heritage in Plantation aspects register
- review of aspects and impacts procedure to include all AFS requirements
- file & records management systems and document control inconsistent across sites visited
- organisation charts require updating
- emergency response and preparedness not tested at Nannup Commission Plantations
- operational Controls:
 - inappropriate storage of fuel in forest areas
 - inadequate fire suppression equipment at harvesting site
 - draft procedures do not meet requirements.
- monitoring and measuring of performance
- damage to habitat trees in South West Forests
- road maintenance not in accordance with requirements
- safety issues identified in South West Forests harvesting operations

- log loading practices
- personal protective equipment requirements
- tree felling techniques.

Other opportunities for improvement have been identified and are included in the body of this report.

The assessment team would like to thank staff for their kind assistance and participation.

Authorisations

For NCS International

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Date: 19 March 2009

Certification standard(s):

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ISO 14001:2004 - Environmental Management Systems
AS 4708:2007 - Australian Forestry Standard

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