

December, 2008

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a Standards Development Organisation¹ and is a not-for-profit public company registered in July 2003. The company owns the standard development functions and manages the elements of the **Australian Forest Certification Scheme**.

OBJECTS OF AFS LIMITED

The objects of Australian Forestry Standard Limited are to:

- promote sustainable forest management in Australia's forests through an Australian Forestry Standard to be owned by the Company (AFS);
- support and maintain the development of the AFS, and other related or complementary standards;
- maintain accreditation as a Standards Development Organisation;
- support and facilitate the use of the AFS, and any related standards, for forestry certification within Australia; and
- seek mutual recognition for the AFS internationally.

AUSTRALIAN FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME ELEMENTS

AFS Standard and Supplements;

- AS 4708-2007 - The Australian Forestry Standard PDF [1 154KB]
 - Supplement 1 to The Australian Forestry Standard
 - Supplement 2 to The Australian Forestry Standard
 - Supplement 3 to The Australian Forestry Standard

AFS Chain of Custody;

- AS 4707-2006 – AFS Chain of Custody Standard

BUSINESS PLAN

The company's Business Plan 2008-2013 outlines the Vision, Values and Mission Statement for both the company and the Australian Forest Certification Scheme:

VISION

To make the Australian Forest Certification Scheme the pre-eminent forest certification scheme of choice for the forest products supply chain from forest to consumer in Australia.

¹ **Standards Development Organisations**

The Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations (ABSDO) operates to encourage and accredit Standards Development Organisations (SDO) in Australia to produce internationally aligned Australian Standards®.
Reference: <http://www.absdo.org.au/>

VALUES

The following values guide us in our work:

- Openness and transparency
- Responsibility and accountability
- Integrity and objectivity
- Mutual respect and trust
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Honest governance and communication

MISSION STATEMENT

The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) will:

- provide Australian and overseas consumers with an independent, internationally recognised third-party certification scheme for forest management in Australia.
- promote a culture of 'continuous improvement' of the sustainable forest management practices in Australia.
- support a market for forest products that are a result of sustainable forest management practices and value adding processes that maintain the integrity of the source forest certification and promote the broader environmental benefits of using wood-based products.

Australian Forestry Standard Limited will provide the structure and framework within which the Australian Forest Certification Scheme is implemented, maintained, reviewed and promoted to all stakeholders interested in forest certification.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

In developing the Five Year Business Plan, AFS Limited has identified Strategies and Actions to fulfil the Vision for the company and the Australian Forest Certification Scheme.

See AFS Limited Strategies and Actions document.

THE COMPANY

The company succeeded the **Australian Forestry Standard Steering Committee** who has initiated and managed the development of The **Australian Forestry Standard** from late 1999 to July 2003. The Australian Forestry Standard Steering Committee was a partnership of the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments, National Association of Forest Industries, Plantation Timber Association of Australia, Australian Forest Growers and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The company is an accredited Standards Development Organisation with its initial accreditation being awarded by the Standards Accreditation Board of Standard Australia on 27 January 2004 for three years. The scope of the accreditation was "to develop Australian Standards for forest management for wood production and Australian Standards that support the Australian Forest Certification Scheme".

The company underwent regular surveillance audits over the three year period by the Standards Accreditation Board of Standard Australia to maintain its accreditation as a Standards Development Organisation.

Following a structural re-organisation within Standards Australia in 2006/07, the accreditation of Standards Development Organisation is now undertaken by the Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations (ABSDO). The company was re-accredited, based on the ABSDO's '*Requirements for Accreditation of Standards Development Organisations – INTERIM – 20/12/2006*', by the ABSDO for three years to the same scope of accreditation. The next accreditation audit will take place at the end of 2008 to be finalised early 2009. See process for accreditation at the end of this document

The company's standards development processes are described in **Procedure 1 - Standards Development** within the Australian Forest Certification Scheme.

Two technical committees are constituted under the company to develop the standards which the company owns and manages as part of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme. **The Australian Forestry Standard Technical Reference Committee** is solely responsible for the technical content of The Australian Forestry Standard. **The Australian Forestry Standard Technical Committee** is solely responsible for the technical content of the **Chain of Custody Standard**. Both committees have at least two Directors of the company as members in accordance with the company's constitution.

MEMBERSHIP

There are four membership classes in the company:

- Government
- Forestry and Wood Products Sector
- Employee Representative Organisations
- General

with a current membership of 26 organisations or individuals.

If you would like to become a member of AFS Limited, download the Membership Information and Application document from www.forestrystandard.org.au or call the AFS Limited office on (02) 6281 3455.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The membership classes elect the Board of Directors, currently 10 Directors, with representation being:

- Government - four
- Forestry and Wood Products Sector - three
- Employee Representative Organisations - one
- General - one
- up to two Independent Additional, one of whom is the Chair of the company.

The current Directors are:

Mr Geoff Gorrie	Chair
Dr Hans Drielsma	Government
Mr Michael Bullen	Government
Mr Robert Lowe	Government
Ms Kathryn Adams	Government
Mr Allan Hansard	Forestry and Wood Products Sector
Mr Brian Farmer	Forestry and Wood Products Sector
Mr Warwick Ragg	Forestry and Wood Products Sector
Mr Trevor Smith	Employee Representative Organisations
Mr David Fiskén	General

The current Executive Staff are:

Ms Kayt Watts	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Mark Edwards	Executive Officer, Standards and Technical

CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Forestry Standard Limited

Postal Address: PO Box 7031, YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Location: Building 9, CSIRO Complex, Banks St. Yarralumla, ACT 2600

Phone: (02) 6281 3455

Fax: (02) 6281 3455

Email: afs@forestrystandard.org.au

Website: www.forestrystandard.org.au

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD® PROCESS - ABSDO²

- Australian Forestry Standard Limited (AFS Limited) has been an accredited Standards Development Organisation (SDO) since 27 January 2004. In August 2007, its accreditation was reconfirmed by the **Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations (ABSDO)** with the following scope:
 - “to develop Australian Standards for forest management for wood production and Australian Standards that support the Australian Forest Certification Scheme.”;
- Within its accreditation scope, AFS Limited can approve a project to develop a new standard, amend a current standard or revise a current standard by its internal decision making processes or existing work program;
- For the development of new Australian Standards® and the amendment or revision of current Australian Standards®, AFS Limited registers a new project with and provides a development plan to the **National Standards Office** (the co-ordinator of voluntary consensus standards) of **Standards Australia** to ensure no duplication of standards;
- AFS Limited undertakes the Australian Standards® development, amendment or revision process utilising one of its technical committees (the standard setting body) or forming a new technical committee to draft, amend or revise a standard. The technical committees are comprised of stakeholders from environmental, economic, social and cultural bodies with an interest in and understanding of the subject area of the proposed standard, with AFS Limited providing the secretariat;
- The standard/amendment which has been developed and agreed by consensus within the technical committee is provided to the National Standards Office for process approval, as AFS Limited has elected not to undertake this task. The process approval is to ensure that the standards development process followed by AFS Limited has met the ABSDO Requirements for recognition as an Australian Standard®;
- The Standards Development Committee of the Board of Standards Australia will endorse a proposed standard/amendment as an Australian Standards® after ensuring due process has been followed;
- Standards Australia and AFS Limited will co-operate on the final edit and badging of the proposed standard as an Australian Standard®; and
- SAI Global will publish the Australian Standard® in hard copy or soft copy and AFS Limited will provide a soft copy of the Australian Standard® on the AFS web site in line with the agreement reached between SAI Global and AFS Limited.

² The Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations (ABSDO) operates to encourage and accredit Standards Development Organisations (SDO) in Australia to produce internationally aligned Australian Standards®. Reference: <http://www.absdo.org.au/>, <http://www.standards.com>, <http://www.saiglobal.com>