

Introduction

The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), Australia's first and only national forest management standard for native forests and plantations, was initially launched on 11 October, 2002 after nearly two years of development within a standards drafting framework.

It was published on 19 February 2003 as an Interim Australian Standard® for a two year period (the expiry date was 19 February 2005). The Interim Australian Standard® status was extended for a further two years to 19 February 2007 to allow for the review of the AFS to be finalised prior to seeking recognition as a full Australian Standard®. As the review of the AFS was still ongoing as of February 2007, a further six months extension was approved by Standards Australia so that the AFS was to expire on 19 August 2007.

The AFS embodies forest management performance criteria and requirements that support continual improvement towards sustainable wood production in Australia's native forests and plantations. There are nine criteria and forty requirements with the number of requirements varying under each criterion. The nine criteria are:

- management system;
- public participation;
- protect and maintain biological diversity;
- forest productive capacity;
- forest ecosystem health and vitality;
- protect soil and water resources;
- contribution to carbon cycles;
- natural, cultural, social, religious and spiritual values; and
- social and economic benefits.

The AFS as an Australian Standard

The AFS was recognised by Standards Australia (SA), Australia's peak national standards body, as an Australian Standard® (AS) and was initially designated as AS 4708(Int)—2003 The Australian Forestry Standard.

Following the review of the AFS conducted between 2004 and 2007, the AFS was recognised by Standards Australia (SA) as an Australian Standard® on 5 August 2007 and has been designated as **AS 4708—2007** The Australian Forestry Standard

The AFS has been published in a format that provides the normative forest management certification standard within the main Australian Standard® document as well as being supported by three informative Supplements that provide guidance material on each of the nine criteria and forty requirements for medium-large native forest ownerships, medium-large plantation ownerships and small-scale native forest and plantation ownerships.

How do I get a copy of the AFS?

- Purchase from any of Standards Australia's shopfronts and offices.
- Purchase from SAI Global - <http://www.saiglobal.com> online shop, or
- Download from Australian Forestry Standard Limited - <http://www.forestrystandard.com.au>

AFS Standard and Supplements;

- AS 4708-[year] - [The Australian Forestry Standard PDF \[1 154KB\]](#)
- AS 4708-[year] - [Supplement 1 to The Australian Forestry Standard PDF \[898KB\]](#)
- AS 4708-[year] - [Supplement 2 to The Australian Forestry Standard PDF \[861KB\]](#)
- AS 4708-[year] - [Supplement 3 to The Australian Forestry Standard PDF \[855KB\]](#)

For other Forestry Standards see

- AS 4707-[year] – AFS Chain of Custody Standard

Comment on the AFS?

Feedback over the life of the AFS is always welcome on the technical contents of the AFS and its Supplements which may be generated by the general community reading, reviewing and commenting, by forest owners and managers applying the AFS in practice for the certification of a forest estate or by interested organisations contrasting it with comparable forest management performance standards either domestic or international.

The AFS Technical Reference Committee welcomes your comments on the AFS and its Supplements. To be of assistance, your comments should reference a page/paragraph or clause or section it would be greatly appreciated by the drafting group when you or your organisation provides its submission.

Please e-mail your comments or submission - rich text message, or WORD or PDF document - to afs@forestrystandard.org.au

OR mail as hard copy to:

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