

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Chain of custody for certified wood and  
forest products**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by the Australian Forestry Standard Technical Committee of Australian Forestry Standard Limited. As an accredited Standards Development Organization, Australian Forestry Standard Limited develops and publishes Australian Standards. The Standard was endorsed on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 8 September 2006.

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The following are represented on Committee B-000:

- Australian Council of Trade Unions
  - Australian Forest Contractors Association
  - Australian Forest Growers
  - Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council
  - Australian Retailers Association
  - Australian Timber Importers Federation
  - Australian Wood Panels Association
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  - Furnishing Industry Federation of Australia
  - Master Builders Australia
  - National Association of Forest Industries
  - Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee (of Natural Resource Management Standing Committee)
  - Timber Merchants Association
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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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## PREFACE

This Australian Standard was prepared by the Australian Forestry Standard Technical Committee. This committee is a technical committee under the accredited Standards Development Organisation - Australian Forestry Standard Limited.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (December 2007). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.*

The objective of this Chain of Custody Standard is to provide all organisations in the wood or forest products certification chain with the minimum criteria and requirements to implement a credible system for the tracking of wood or forest products originating from certified forests through all phases of ownership, transportation and manufacturing to the end consumer.

Chain of Custody (CoC) basically tracks a wood or forest product from its origin in a certified forest through to its end use as a wood or forest product by the consumer. CoC covers all intermediate steps such as harvesting, transportation, primary and secondary processing, manufacturing, re-manufacturing, distribution and sales. As such, CoC is an inventory control system that provides a quality assurance standard.

This Chain of Custody Standard is intended for voluntary application by any organisation that seeks to assure its customers that the certified wood and forest products they buy are sourced from a certified forest. Its application will assist in ensuring or delivering access to domestic and international markets that seek assurances on the origin of wood or forest products from sustainably managed forests. With the increasing availability of recycled wood based raw material in the marketplace, this CoC standard also allows organisations utilising virgin and recycled raw material to participate in CoC certification of mixed products.

Accredited, independent, third-party certification against this CoC standard provides a clear statement that wood and forest products have been produced, in accordance with a set of clearly defined performance requirements, from certified forests that demonstrate sustainable forest management.

The CoC standard may be used by itself or in conjunction with:

- AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000: Quality management systems—Requirements;
- AS/NZS 3843:1998 Guide 65: General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems; and/or
- AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004: Environmental management systems—Requirements with guidance for use.

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# STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

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## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

### Chain of custody for certified wood and forest products

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## SECTION 1 Scope and General

### 1.1 Scope

This Australian Standard sets out the minimum criteria and requirements for Chain of Custody (CoC) certification for wood or forest products originating from a defined forest area (DFA) that has been certified to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) [AS 4708 (Int)—2003 or subsequent versions of the AFS] or sourced from other forests managed under schemes recognised as substantively equivalent to the AFS<sup>1</sup>. Generally, an organisation will be responsible for certified wood or forest products from the point at which the organisation takes ownership or control of the product to the point at which the organisation delivers certified wood or forest products to the next organisation in the link of the certification chain from the forest to the end consumer.

This Australian Standard also sets minimum requirements for CoC certification of wood products which include varying percentages of recycled wood based raw materials.

### 1.2 Objective

The objective of this Australian Standard is to provide a common approach to track the pathway that wood or forest products take from a DFA or stated source including recycled wood based raw materials to the final consumer. It is applicable to all of the links in the certification chain including manufacturing, transformation and distribution. The CoC standard does not deal with the environmental merits of forest management or manufacturing processes. The environmental merits of these activities are covered by the AFS, ISO 14001 or other schemes. The anticipated outcome from the use of this Australian Standard is to give confidence to all organisations in the certification chain that they are dealing with a certified wood or forest product from its receipt by their organisation to delivery to the next organisation in the certification chain. This recognises that there may be one or several stages in the certification chain from a wood or forest product in the DFA or stated source to final product and that ownership of the certified product may also change at times along the certification chain.

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<sup>1</sup> The basis for compatibility or substantive equivalence shall be established in AFS Limited's AFS Logo Use Rules Manual and AFS Limited's PEFC Logo Use Rules Manual. Further references in AS 4707 at Clauses 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2.4.1 and in Appendices C and F to the wording of 'substantively equivalent' or 'equivalent' shall be deemed to be covered by this interpretation in 1.1 Scope.'