

TRANSITION POLICY FOR AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

AS 4708:2021-SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

This policy defines the requirements for certified organisations and certification bodies to transition from the 2013 version to the 2021 version of AS/NZS 4708 Sustainable Forest Management.

AS 4708:2021 was published in December 2021 and supersedes AS 4708:2013.

POLICY

For Certificate Holders (Organisations certified to AS 4708:2013)

Certificates issued to AS 4708:2013 will be recognised in the Responsible Wood and PEFC systems until **9th March 2024**. After this date, certificates to AS 4708:2013 cease to be recognised. To remain recognised, updated certificates listing AS4708:2021 in their scope must be in place from **10th March 2024**.

FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES

It is recommended that certification bodies commence audits against AS/NZS 4708:2021 as soon as practically possible. It is recommended that observations be raised for non-conformances against requirements to educate and inform certificate holders of changes necessary to their management system. Certification bodies must ensure that their certificate holders transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021 no later than **10th March 2024**.

Approved by the Responsible Wood Board

9th March 2022