

Forest Certification



Key points

- Forest certification provides customers with independent assurance that the wood products they buy have been sourced from a sustainable and legal supply.
- Certification is a voluntary, market-based mechanism.
- There are two major forest certification schemes globally: the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®).
- Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STTas) is certified under the Australian Forestry Standard, which is endorsed by the PEFC. It is currently also seeking certification under FSC®.

What is forest certification?

Forest certification schemes require that forest management companies comply with the core principles of sustainable forest management.

Requirements cover consideration of legal requirements, stakeholder relations, biodiversity, cultural values, soil and water values, product recovery, and social and economic benefits.

Certification requires a systematic approach be taken by the forest manager to ensure that all operations are planned, implemented, monitored and reviewed, with a view to continually improving performance.



Regrowth eucalypt logs being graded at a landing.

While there are several forest certification schemes around the world, the two major ones are the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®). Both certification schemes are not-for-profit and have an international governing body that sets policy and authorises the use of region-specific standards.

Assessment against the established criteria and indicators for these schemes is not carried out by the certification organisation, but by authorised independent auditing bodies.

Certification schemes are voluntary and market-based. Certification allows the certificate holder to make sustainability claims in the marketplace. This enables purchasers to make well-informed decisions about the products they purchase, taking into account their sustainability standards they expect. The PEFC and FSC scheme logos both have broad international recognition and are seen on wood and paper-based products in many retail outlets.

Australian Forestry Standard

Sustainable Timber Tasmania is currently certified under the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), which is a certification scheme that was developed under accreditation by Standards Australia. The AFS is recognised internationally by PEFC.

To ensure ongoing compliance with the standard, Sustainable Timber Tasmania's operations are independently audited every nine months, with a major re-assessment occurring every three years.

Forest Stewardship Council®

FSC® certification is important to Sustainable Timber Tasmania because it will provide further and ongoing access to key markets. Sustainable Timber Tasmania has appointed an independent auditor to assess our compliance against FSC® standards. Sustainable Timber Tasmania is currently certified for FSC® Controlled Wood for its plantation estate and operations.



Eucalypt hardwood timber certified under AFS and PEFC certification.

