

Forest Management System – Summary Audit Report			
Client name:	HVP Plantations Pty Ltd	Certificate #	AFS 603858
Client address:	World Trade Centre L12, Tower 4 MELBOURNE VIC 3005	Website:	www.hvp.com.au
Audit type:	Routine Surveillance Assessment	Audit date:	21-25 Sept. 2020
Standard:	AS4708:2013	Auditors:	Ross Garsden
<p>This document provides a summary of the findings contained in a report to this client with respect to the implementation of the client’s management system as determined during an audit conducted by BSI.</p>			

Scope of certification:
<p>Activities associated with the sustainable management of HVP Plantations’ softwood and eucalypt plantations, including the planning and management of forest operations; the delivery and sale of forest products, the management of planned and un-planned fires and the management of Custodial Lands for conservation purposes.</p>

Executive summary:
<p>This report presents the findings of a routine surveillance assessment of HVP Plantations Pty Ltd (HVP) forest management system with respect to compliance with the requirements of AS4708:2013. The assessment was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 situation with a focus on activities in the Northern Region.</p> <p>The aim of the audit was to verify continuing compliance with the Standard and assess progress towards achievement of the company’s objectives. The audit included assessment of: a range of forest management processes and associated activities including: response to the 2019-20 fires and COVID-19, operational planning and supervision of harvesting operations and site preparation; road maintenance; chain of custody/chain of responsibility procedures; research and fire management.</p> <p><i>Strengths of the HVP Forest Management System (FMS) system identified in this assessment include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational response to extraordinary circumstances – 19/20 fire season and COVID-19, and in particular the timeliness and effectiveness of communications at all levels • Organisational culture – family, mateship (mission, vision and values). Support for staff throughout and following the fire event and in particular mental health and fatigue management • Fire Management Systems and organisational capability and willingness to provide resources • Corporate support endorsing local management decisions – pursuing the best long-term outcomes for the asset • Demonstrated capacity to identify resource needs and provide specific and dedicated resources as necessary to manage specific situations such as the post-fire rehabilitation. • Medium-term planning capability for budgeting and scheduling on-ground works – in-house system development • Silvicultural management framework - Site preparation, close and effective integration with nursery and relationships with transport and planting contractors allowing the ability to get planting program underway and completed early in the season.

- Demonstrated safety focus and strengthened commitments to social and environmental impact assessment, particularly in relation to the use of chemicals
- Commitment to and demonstrated support for on-going and collaborative research work

Significant improvements noted in this assessment include:

- Management of heavy vehicle transport and in particular, the management of information regarding overloads and communication with contractors in relation to performance
- Increased automation and resolution of forecast fire danger information
- Development of organisational culture with respect to risk management
- Communications strategy for haulage arrangements particularly with respect to the fire salvage
- Coupe planning database (in development – Promapp project)
- Improved planning capability and support with respect to roading
- Improved plug integrity for containerised cuttings to reduce planting shock and avoid issues with deterioration in transit.
- Recognition that electronic information capture processes exist and can be effective e.g. adoption of Canvas Forms builder for creating monitoring and reporting forms that are accessed via mobile phones
- Development of protocols for risk minimisation in chemical use
- Response to the non-conformance regarding road and track maintenance (previous minor)

HVP has implemented actions to address the non-conformances noted in the previous report and these are now closed. No new non-conformances were identified during this assessment.

HVP has reviewed the range of opportunities for improvement noted in the previous report and these have been actioned appropriately. This audit identified further opportunities for improvement and these are detailed in the full report.

As with the previous audit, all personnel involved in this assessment provided positive and constructive support throughout the audit process. HVP's management system continues to evolve with continual improvement clearly evident. HVP continues to meet the requirements of AS4708:2013 and the report includes a recommendation for continued certification.

Defined forest area statement

The defined forest area comprises approximately 135,000 hectares of pine plantations (mostly *Pinus radiata*), 18,000 hectares of hardwood (eucalypt) plantations and over 50,000 hectares of custodial lands (mostly native forest) in three geographical areas (Gippsland, Northern and Western Regions) of Victoria.

Defined forest area (as at 30 June 2020):	237,487 Ha
Advised to AFS Limited on:	25 September 2020
Certificate expires on:	31 March 2022

Report prepared by:

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<i>Name of person who prepared this report</i>	<i>Position</i>

END OF REPORT