



AFS/01-31-38
Promoting sustainable
forest management

building
a sustainable
future

Boral
Timber



Boral Timber hardwoods have full Chain of Custody certification aligned with the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS)

Chain of Custody Certification

Chain of Custody tracks a forest or wood product from its origin in a certified forest through to its end use by the consumer. The Chain of Custody certification verifies that Boral Timber hardwood products are produced from certified, legal and sustainable resources. As such, Chain of Custody is a tracking process that provides an environmental assurance standard for the sustainable use of Australia's forest resources.

Forestry Management Certification

State or private property forestry owners can apply for forestry certification to prove that they are managing their forests in a sustainable manner in accordance with recognised certification schemes, and in the case of AFS, according to an Australian Standard.

The Australian Forestry Certification Scheme (AFCS)

AFCS is a forest certification scheme developed to promote sustainable forestry management specifically for the Australian environment. AFCS is mutually acknowledged by the internationally recognised Program for the Endorsement of Forestry Certification (PEFC). The AFCS is the only forest certification scheme with an Australian Standard (AS4708-2007).



www.forestrystandard.org.au



www.pefc.org

What does this mean for timber specifiers, users and future generations?

Chain of Custody certification (AS 4707-2006) confirms that Boral Timber hardwoods are sourced from certified and legal sources and the company can prove traceability of its wood materials from the forest through to the sale of its products to customers.

- **Architects and specifiers** can confidently specify Boral Timber hardwood products on projects that require certified timber, knowing that the Australian Forestry Certification Scheme is the only forest certification scheme with an Australian Standard AS 4708-2007.
- **Builders** can recommend certified Boral Timber hardwood products knowing that they are sourced and manufactured from sustainably managed and legal resources. AFS certification covers 95% of Australian certified forestry providing confidence in an abundant supply of locally certified materials.
- **Consumers** can rest assured that the timber used for their hardwood flooring, decking, hardwood structural framing or furniture has been legally sourced from sustainably managed resources.
- **Future generations** can breathe easy knowing that the timber being harvested and regrown today provides a positive solution to climate change. Carbon absorption and storage by forestry and timber products plays a large role in positively affecting factors associated with climate change such as green house gas emissions. See page 4 for the full story on timber and Australian forestry.



Building a sustainable future

Boral Timber is part of the largest building and construction materials supplier in Australia, with a product that has one of the best environmental credentials of all building materials - timber.

Boral Limited, as a group of companies, has continued to advance its sustainability credentials with focused efforts on energy efficiency, waste management, reuse, recycling and water conservation.

Boral Timber products provide quality, cost effective, long-term building solutions with lower climate change impact levels during service life and at disposal than most other building products.

- Boral Timber hardwood products are sourced from AFS certified forests and legal resources.
- Boral Timber hardwoods has AFS Chain of Custody Certification. 95% of certified forestry in Australia is certified in accordance with the Australian Forestry Standard.
- The carbon stored in Boral Timber's annual usage of wood products in Australia is the equivalent of the carbon emissions of approximately 300,000 cars per annum.
- Boral Timber carefully selects, dries and treats its Australian products for Australian conditions.
- The company conforms to local timber marketing acts, building codes, customs acts and trade practices legislation.
- Boral Timber uses the waste from wood products, such as saw dust, as biofuel to generate energy at the company's timber mills.
- Boral Timber is committed to sourcing wood products from sustainably managed resources.
- Boral is a member of the Greenhouse Challenge, a Federal government initiative linking industry and government to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Boral Timber AFS certified products

Hardwood flooring

- Boral 19mm and 13mm solid strip flooring
- Boral Silkwood engineered hardwood flooring
- Boral parquetry
- Boral decking

Structural Hardwoods

- Green and seasoned hardwoods

Other Hardwood products

- Furniture boards, pallets, crating, poles, cross-arms, dunnage, woodchips and woodwaste/ biofuel.

Plywood*

- Cladding and linings
- Flooring
- Formply
- Bracing and structural
- Bridge decking and modules
- Acoustic barriers



* Boral Plywood has AFS Chain of Custody Certification (AFS/01-31-21)

Sustainable forestry and legal wood products: positively contributing to climate change

Timber: natural, renewable, sustainable

- Unlike other building materials wood can be harvested, re-grown and re-harvested in an average person's lifetime.
- Timber absorbs and stores carbon for many decades.
- Nearly half of the dry weight of timber is carbon, making it a carbon positive building product.
- Timber has the lowest embodied energy of all building products.
- Timber waste can be used as a carbon neutral biofuel, reducing the negative impact of carbon-emitting fossil fuels.



Australian forestry: a sustainably managed resource

- Australian forests are protected by strict Federal and State controls and regulations ensuring that there is a healthy balance between long term conservation and sustainable forestry management.
- Australian Forestry (149 million hectares) has one of the highest land cover areas per capita in the world (14 times the world average).
- Only 6.3% (9.4 million hectares) of total Australian forestry is available for timber harvesting each year. Of the forestry available for harvesting only 1% is harvested each year.
- Over the last decade Australian public nature conservation reserves increased by 39% - creating a world class forest reserve system.
- Australian public nature conservation reserves, locked away for future generations, are nearly two and a half times larger than production forestry.
- Australian plantation and commercial forests absorb an equivalent amount of carbon to take 9 million cars off the road each year.
- Younger trees in active re-growth forestry absorb more CO₂ than mature trees.
- Increased usage of wood products from sustainably managed forests is a positive step towards reducing the effects of climate change.

Forests absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide, and timber stores nearly half its weight in carbon. Therefore increased wood usage from sustainably managed forestry is a positive contributor to climate change.

Specifying for a smaller carbon footprint: a guide for architects and specifiers

With governments and consumers driving demand for building products with sustainable environmental credentials, architects and specifiers play an important role in specifying timber as a natural and renewable building product.

When specifying for a sustainable future and a smaller carbon footprint there are a number of considerations to keep in mind. Architects, builders and consumers should consider the following recommendations.

1. Consider timber wherever possible

Timber is extremely versatile as a building product, has a high level of thermal efficiency, is lightweight, strong, cost effective and durable above and below ground. Together with good design (orientation, ventilation and shading) lightweight timber construction will generally be a better option in terms of embodied energy, carbon storage potential and operational energy in Australian climates. Timber generates lower levels of carbon in the production process than many other common building materials.

2. Consider the aesthetics of timber products

The natural beauty and diversity of timber are some of its most desirable features. Structural timber products can also add to the aesthetic character of a design.

3. Choose certified, legal products

Australian Forestry Standard certification provides an independently audited and credible means of establishing the sustainability credentials of timber products. In addition, AFS Chain of Custody ensures that wood products have been legally sourced. For further details visit the AFCS website at www.forestrystandard.org.au.

4. Specify Australian products

Imported products, particularly rainforest timbers, have an excessive carbon footprint as they require long-distance transportation. The impact of international illegal logging influences around \$400 million in forestry products and wood furniture imports in Australia every year. Australia has a world-class regulatory system for timber production that can be trusted.

5. Keep in mind the impact of disposal

Consider the impact of the products specified when it comes time to renovate or demolish. Timber has amongst the lowest levels of environmental impact when it comes to reuse or disposal in comparison to other building materials.



For assistance with timber specification, contact the Boral Timber Specification team at timberspec@boral.com.au

Frequently asked questions about Forestry and Chain of Custody certification

Q. What do AFCS and AFS stand for?

A. Australian Forest Certification Scheme and Australian Forestry Standard.

Q. What is AFS?

A. The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS - as contained in AS 4708-2007) drives the Australian Forestry Certification Scheme under the control of Australian Forestry Standard Limited which is an independent organisation. Forestry owners may apply for AFS certification, which certifies that their forest meets the Australian Forestry Standard. The Australian Forestry Certification Scheme (AFCS) is the only forestry certification scheme in Australia with an Australian Standard - AS 4708-2007.

Q. Is AFCS part of an international organisation?

A. Yes, the AFCS is mutually acknowledged by the PEFC, which stands for Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes. PEFC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which was founded in 1999 and promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. It is the largest Forest Certification scheme in the world.

Q. What is forestry certification?

A. State or private property forestry owners can apply for forestry certification to prove that they are managing their forests in a sustainable manner in accordance with recognised certification schemes, and in the case of AFS, according to an Australian Standard.

Q. How many forestry certifications are there in Australia?

A. Two – the Australian Forestry Certification Scheme (AFCS) and the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). The certifications demonstrate that harvested products have originated from sustainably managed resources in accordance with the respective criteria applied by the AFS or FSC.

Q. What are the main differences between AFS and FSC?

A. AFS has been specifically designed for Australian conditions and the AFS certification covers more than 95% of Australian certified forestry, making AFS certified products easier to source.

Q. Is there a difference between Forestry certification and Chain of Custody certification?

A. Yes, State and private property forests can voluntarily apply for forest management certification while producers, such as Boral Timber, can voluntarily apply for Chain of Custody certification.





Q. What is the difference between AS4707-2006 and AS4708-2007?

A. AS4707-2006 is the Chain of Custody Standard for manufacturers of timber products. AS4708-2007 is the AFS Standard governing forest management certification.

Q. How is Chain of Custody audited and awarded?

A. The Boral Timber Chain of Custody is awarded through an independently audited process carried out by the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPPAA), as accredited by JAS-ANZ. The AFS and Chain of Custody certifications are not controlled by the timber industry and the AFS reports into the international PEFC as an independent body.

Q. Why is it important to have a Chain of Custody?

A. Supporting sustainably managed resources is vital for the long term future of our natural resources and it is important that wood product users are assured that their products are sourced from sustainable and legal resources.

Q. Are Boral Timber hardwood products sourced from certified and legal sources?

A. Yes, Boral Timber sources its raw hardwood materials from Forests NSW, which is AFS-certified, and private property providers that have provided proof of legally sourced timber.

Q. Can Boral Timber hardwoods provide proof that its products are sourced from sustainability managed resources?

A. Yes, through the Chain of Custody certificate (Certification No.453 and AFS/01-31-38).

Q. As Boral Timber sources its timber from sustainably managed forests in New South Wales, does this mean that if I buy certified Boral timber from other states e.g. in Western Australia, it will still be certified?

A. Yes, if labelled as a Boral Timber certified hardwood product.

Q. Does certification only apply to Boral Timber hardwoods?

A. Boral Plywood (AFS/01-31-21) and Sawmillers Exports (AFS/01-31-12) also have AFS Chain of Custody certification.

The conservation of Australian native forests is secured for future generations by strict government and certification controls.

To find out more about AFS Chain of Custody certification and PEFC visit www.forestrystandard.org.au and www.pefc.org

If your questions are not covered here, please contact Boral Timber on 1800 818 317 or email timberspec@boral.com.au



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