

# **Project Proposal- Revision of AS4707- Chain of Custody for Forest and wood Products**

**Approved September, 2020**

## Proposal Form – Standards Development Projects

Version: 4.4  
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Please click [here](#) for guidance on the proposal submission process.

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Proposal title</b>           | AS 4707-CHAIN OFCUSTODY OF FOREST AND TREE BASED PRODUCTS-REQUIREMENTS |
| <b>Your name</b>                | Simon Dorries  |
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| <b>Email address</b>            | sdorries@responsiblewood.org.au  |
| <b>Name of employer</b>         | Responsible Wood   |
| <b>Job title or position</b>    | CEO  |
| <b>Postal address</b>           | 30 Boothby Street  |
| <b>Suburb</b>                   | Kedron   |
| <b>State</b>                    | QLD  |
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| <b>Web address</b>              | www.responsiblewood.org  |

**If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation that is different than your current employer, please fill out the information below.**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Nominating organisation</b>  |  |
| <b>Primary contact name</b>     |  |
| <b>Primary contact position</b> |  |
| <b>Primary contact email</b>    |  |
| <b>Primary contact phone</b>    |  |

## Section 1: Scope

| <b>1A: Provide details of the proposed documents</b> |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| #  | Title<br>(e.g. Masonry cement)                                   | Project type<br>(e.g. revision,<br>amendment <sup>1</sup> or new <sup>2</sup> ) | Designation<br>(e.g. AS 1316:2003) <sup>3</sup> | Product type<br>(e.g. AS, AS Int, SA TS, etc...)<br><sup>4</sup> |
| 1  | Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products- Requirements | Revision  | AS 4707   | Australian Standard  |
| 2  |  |   |   |  |
| 3  |  |   |   |  |
| 4  |  |   |   |  |
| 5  |  |   |   |  |
| 6  |  |   |   |  |

<sup>1</sup> An amendment is usually only possible for small changes to recently created documents. See Section 4 of Standardisation Guide [SG-003: Standards and Other Publications](#) for more details.

<sup>2</sup> If you are proposing to create a new document, please provide a suggested Title.

<sup>3</sup> Use the [Standards Australia Webstore](#) to obtain the full designation and name of existing documents.

<sup>4</sup> Standards Australia mainly develops Australian Standards (AS) but it also develops the following Product types: Australian Interim Standard (AS Int), Australian Technical Specification (SA TS), Australian Technical Report (SA TR), Handbook (SA HB), Miscellaneous Publication (SA MP), Supplement (Normative), Supplement (Informative), Australian Standard Certified Reference Material (ASCRM). For guidance, see Standardisation Guide [SG-003: Standards and Other Publications](#).

### **1B: Write a clear and concise statement of the nature of the issue to be addressed by your proposal.**

Describe who is affected e.g. businesses, community organisations or individuals affected by the problem. What are the consequences of no action?

Australian Standard 4707:2014 is an adoption of the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard PEFC ST:2002. PEFC ST 2002 was revised in 2020.

To maintain mutual recognition with other PEFC endorsed Chain of Custody Standards and to facilitate the global trade in Australia grown sustainable wood products, it is necessary to align AS 4707-Chain of Custody for Wood Products to the most recent version of PEFC ST:2002-Chain of Custody for Forest and Tree-Based Products.

Failure to update AS 4707 will result in the loss of mutual recognition for wood products processed and traded under AS 4707:2014 in the 52 Countries participating in the PEFC mutual recognition system. These Countries include major trading partners such as Japan, China, USA, Canada, UK and members of the EU. PEFC has provided guidance that to maintain recognition, National CoC Standards must be aligned to PEFC 2002:2020 by February 2022.

**1C: Write a clear and concise proposed scope that will outline how to address the identified issue(s).**

**Unless this is a proposal for a new document, this should not be a scope of the document, but a scope of the work which you propose to undertake.**

Include what is going to be changed from the status quo and summarise the specific intent of the change.

*If you wish to include proposed revisions as tracked changes in the Standard, or an outline of a new Standard, please summarise the scope and note the attachment here, and include the document as an appendix to this form.*

The scope of the revision is as follows.

- a. Amend and align AS 4707 with PEFC ST 2002:2020.
- b. Take feedback from Stakeholders and further amend AS 4707 in response to this feedback.
- c. Review requirements for due diligence provided in AS 4707 to ensure they remain consistent with key Australian legislation i.e. the *Illegal Logging Act*.
- d. Review definitions to ensure the Standard continues to meet community expectations for excluding controversial forest products from wood product supply chains.

| <b>1D: Are you proposing an adoption of an International Standard (i.e. ISO or IEC)?</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>If so answer the following:</b> <sup>5</sup>   |  |
| <b>Is it a Modified or Identical Adoption?</b><br><b>Note:</b> if Identical please use the <a href="#">Proposal Form – Identical Adoption</a> | No, the Standard is not based on an ISO Standard.<br>An ISO Standard exists( ISO 38200), however this document is designed for the trade of wood products of <u>legal origin</u> . It is not suitable for the Chain of Custody of sustainably sourced wood products and it is not possible to adopt this Standard without very significant modification. |
| <b>What is the designation?</b><br><b>e.g. ISO 10303.212-2004</b>   | N/A  |

<sup>5</sup> Use the [Standards Australia Webstore](#) to obtain the full designation and name of existing documents.

| <b>1E: Is the existing document referenced in Australian State, Territory or Commonwealth legislation or regulatory framework?</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>For joint documents, also consider New Zealand legislation.</b> <sup>6</sup>   |   |
| Yes (List all legislation or regulation that refer to the existing document. <sup>7</sup> )<br><br><b>Note:</b> For National Construction Code (NCC) and WaterMark proposals, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) needs to be consulted prior to submission. | While the Australian Standard AS 4707 is not referred, the PEFC Certification Scheme under which AS 4707 is recognised is referenced under the <i>Illegal Logging Act</i> . |
| No (Go to 1F)   |   |

<sup>6</sup> To search for Standards in Australasian legislation, use our search function [here](#), under 'Standards and the Law'.

<sup>7</sup> Use the full formal designation for the relevant legislation, e.g. Explosives Regulation 2013 (NSW). If more than four items of legislation are affected, provide a list as an attachment to this proposal form.

**Note:** All relevant regulatory authorities must be consulted in the stakeholder consultation.

| <b>1F: Is there an ISO/IEC document that also covers the issues in question?</b> |    |
|--|----|
| Yes (Go to 1G)   |    |
| No (Go to 1G)  | No |

| <b>1G: Will the proposed document include any conformity assessment requirements?</b> <sup>8</sup> |    |
|--|----|
| Yes  |    |
| No   | No |

<sup>8</sup> See Standardisation Guide [SG-006: Rules for the structure and drafting of Australian Standards](#). Note that conformity assessment requirements are rarely permitted in a Standard. If you selected "yes," please discuss with the relevant [Stakeholder Engagement Manager](#) prior to submission.

## Section 2: Net benefit

**2A: What will be the impact of the proposed project in the below categories? Explain this in terms of a positive or negative impact on the following “Net Benefit” criteria.<sup>9</sup>**

**Public health and safety (max 200 words)**

The Standard provides best practice requirements for OH&S in timber processing and merchandising facilities. Performance against these requirements are independently audited by accredited and competent Certification Bodies.

The overall benefit is a positive improvement in workplace safety.

**Social and community impact (max 200 words)**

The Standard supports and facilitates the sourcing and distribution of forest products from forests meeting Australian Standard AS 4708-Sustainable Forest Management. AS 4708 has mandatory requirements designed to improve social and community benefits, especially in those rural communities where forestry makes a significant contribution to the local economy. AS 4707 supports a sustainable forest management system that provides positive social and community impacts.

**Environmental impact (max 200 words)**

The Standard is intended to support the processing and trade of forest products originating from sustainably managed Australian forests. The Standard also provides mechanisms for the labelling and identification of sustainably sourced wood products.

In identifying sustainably sourced forest products, consumers are able to make a conscious choice to choose products associated with more positive environmental practices. This helps create demand for responsibly sourced forest products and lessens negative environmental impact by the increased use and market acceptance of sustainably grown materials. AS4707 allows Australian grown sustainable forest products to compete more effectively with substitutes that contribute to or are associated with negative environmental impacts.

**Competition (max 200 words)**

AS 4707 provides for the clear identification of products of sustainable origin.

This allows the value of sustainability to be captured and allows Australian grown and processed products to compete in an open market against lower cost products from less environmentally responsible sources. It differentiates products on the basis of environmental impact and allows competition on the basis of value including environmental benefits, rather than solely on price.

AS4707 increases competition and improves transparency.

**Economic impact (max 200 words)**

The Standard identifies products from responsible and sustainable sources and differentiates these products from products from less sustainable sources. This allows the economic value of sustainability to be realised through greater market acceptance, and in some cases premium pricing.

In some forest product markets, sustainability is a mandatory condition for entry. The revised AS 4707 provides evidence of sustainability and provides market access to significant and important markets.

AS 4707 underpins the PEFC national recognition system in Australia. The revised and updated Standard is a requirement to maintain this mutual recognition and provides access to large and critical export markets.

<sup>9</sup> Add specific facts and examples if possible. Refer to the [Guide to Net Benefit](#). Not all categories may be affected, in which case, leave these blank.

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## Section 3: Evidence of support — Stakeholder support

### 3A: Describe the process taken to gain stakeholder support for your proposal (max 100 words)

Direct discussions with key stakeholders.

### 3B: Identify the Australian stakeholder organisations that you have consulted with.

**Evidence of stakeholder support MUST be provided in a letter (on company letterhead) or email (company email only).**

*At least two New Zealand-based stakeholders must be included for projects relating to joint AS/NZS Standards. Include those that do, and those that do not, support the proposal.*

| Key stakeholder groups                     | Organisation Name       | Contact name                  | Position                  | Letter or email evidence is attached: Y/N | Interested in membership of standards committee: Y/N |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Research and academic organisations</i> | University of Melbourne | Prof. Rod Keenan              | Head of Department        | Yes                                       | Maybe  |
| <i>Manufacturer associations</i>           | EWPA                    | Dave Gover                    | CEO                       | Yes                                       | Yes  |
| <i>Testing bodies</i>                      |                         |                               |                           |   |  |
| <i>Certification and auditing bodies</i>   | AACB                    | Dr. Wayne Tibbits             | Representative            | Yes                                       | Yes  |
| <i>Supplier associations</i>               | AFA                     | Patrizia Torelli              | CEO                       | Yes                                       | Maybe  |
| <i>User and purchaser associations</i>     | ATIF<br>NRA             | John Halket<br>Mark Gomm      | CEO<br>Representative     | Yes                                       | No   |
| <i>Employer and industry associations</i>  | AFPA<br>Timber Qld      | Ross Hampton<br>Mick Stephens | CEO<br>CEO                | Yes<br>Yes                                | Yes<br>Yes   |
| <i>Professional and technical bodies</i>   | IFA                     | Jacque Martin                 | CEO                       | Yes                                       | Yes  |
| <i>Unions and employee associations</i>    | CFMMEU                  | Travis Wacey                  | Policy Research Officer   | No- verbal only                           |  |
| <i>Consumer and community groups</i>       | NEFN                    | Dr. Mary Lush                 | Representative            | Yes                                       | No   |
| <i>Government and regulatory agencies</i>  | QDAF                    | Jim Burgess                   | Manager Operations Policy | Yes                                       | Maybe  |
| <i>Independent experts</i>                 |                         |                               |                           |   |  |
| <i>New Zealand stakeholders</i>            | NZFCA                   | Dr Jon Tanner                 | Chair                     | Support an AS Standard only               | No   |
| <i>Other</i>                               |                         |                               |                           |   |  |



## Section 4: Declaration

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Please check that your proposal is complete and all fields have been filled out. Read and complete the declaration, then forward this proposal and any attached documents to Standards Australia at [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au). The named proponent is deemed to have approved the information contained within this proposal and this declaration.

This declaration is a mandatory requirement and proposals will not be considered without it.

I consent to Standards Australia making information relating to Standards development projects public, including information contained within a proposal form I have submitted in part or in full. In the event that Standards Australia publishes proposals on its website, proponent details at page 1 and stakeholder contact details provided at Section 3 will not be included. However, with prior agreement, my contact details may be provided to interested parties wishing to contribute or comment on the proposal or the proposed project.

The information provided in this application is complete, true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I believe the proposed document will result in Net Benefit<sup>10</sup> to Australia. I have consulted with, and have the support of, national organisations with a relevant interest in this project.

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Name of proponent</b>   | Simon Dorries           |
| <b>Date of declaration</b> | 27 <sup>th</sup> August |

<sup>10</sup> As defined in the [Guide to Net Benefit](#)

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See the Standards Australia [Privacy Policy](#) for more information.

## Section 5: Instructions and notices

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To submit this proposal for Standards Australia consideration:

1. You must complete every section of this form and then submit your initial proposal draft to a [Stakeholder Engagement Manager](#). Use simple, non-technical and concise language and do not use jargon of any kind. For additional information, visit the "[Submitting a Proposal](#)" page on our website.
2. The Stakeholder Engagement Manager will conduct the preliminary review of this form and then guide you as to the next steps.
3. Final submissions, along with evidence of stakeholder support, have to be provided electronically to Standards Australia ([mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au)). Please note: you should circulate your proposal to stakeholders and collect evidence of support before submitting this form to [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au).

If you have any trouble with the form, you can contact us on (02) 9237 6170, 1800 035 822, or email us at [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au).

For identical adoptions of International Standards please complete the [Proposal Form – Identical Adoptions](#).