

RULING 01-2017

AS 4708-2013

Ruling on Chain of Custody Documentation

January 2017

This ruling provides additional information for forest managers about how to meet the requirements with respect to AS 4708-2013 0.2 Chain of Custody. This ruling is in addition to the guidance provided in AS 4708 GN01-2013 Sustainable Forest Management - Guidance for the certification forest management (GN01 to AS 4708-2013).

This ruling is required because the Chain of Custody Standard AS 4707:2014 was released after the forestry Standard AS 4708-2013 and requires specific documentation to be provided about the certification status of forest products produced from the defined forest area. Since AS 4708-2013 provides the first link in the 'chain of custody' supply chain, it is important that the documentation provided is consistent with AS 4707:2014.

AS 4708-2013 requires the forest manager to ensure that forest products and services that are sold or supplied as 'certified' are identifiable as originating from the defined forest area by the provision of appropriate documentation.

The ruling is:

1. Forest managers will ensure that, as a minimum, documentation that is provided for certified forest products and services includes:
 - a) customer identification;
 - b) forest manager identification;
 - c) identification/description of products;
 - d) quantity of each product covered by the documentation;
 - e) date of delivery / delivery period / accounting period;
 - f) the formal claim on the material category specifically for each claimed product covered by the document, as applicable; and
 - g) the forest manager's certificate identifier or other document confirming the certification status of the defined forest area.

As required by AS 4707:2014, the formal claim may be stated as either:

- a) "100% AFS CERTIFIED " or
- b) "100% PEFC CERTIFIED" or
- c) "100% AFS/PEFC CERTIFIED."