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EWPAAs awarded chain of custody accreditation

THE Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPAAs) has been granted JAS-ANZ accreditation as a certification body under the Australian Forest Certification Scheme Chain of Custody Standard.

General manager Simon Dorries said the accreditation would allow EWPAAs, as an independent third party Australian certification body, to issue certificates of conformity to wood products businesses obtaining their wood products from certified forests.

“This gives an assurance to consumers that the forest and wood products they are purchasing are from forests managed to the highest possible standards,” Mr Dorries said.

“The chain of custody process basically is an inventory control system providing a quality assurance standard that tracks a wood or forest product through the supply chain.

“This accreditation by JAS-ANZ provides a measure of the competence, independence, integrity and impartiality of the certification bodies providing the users with confidence in the subsequent certifications.”

The Australian Forestry Standard is the leading management standard of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme, which certifies extensive areas of native forests and plantations across Australia. The AFCS also includes a Chain of Custody Standard (AS 4707-2006) to track forest and wood products from their origins in a certified forest through the supply chain to their end use by the consumer. Organisations obtaining forest and wood products from certified forests can utilise this process to provide the end consumer with assurance that their products have been sourced from a certified forest.

As a demonstration of its international standing, the AFCS has mutual recognition under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes, the world's largest forest certification body certifying nearly 200 million ha of forest worldwide.



PEFC has 32 members on six continents with 22 endorsed certification schemes, and ensures, through its technical criteria, that the highest international standards for development, accreditation and certification of the International Standards Organisation are met.

"This is an exciting new direction for the EWPAAs," Mr Dorries said.

"We are already the leading accreditation body in the Australasian engineered wood products marketplace, with the JAS-ANZ accredited PAA quality control program and product certification scheme, which is about product safety, fitness for use and regulatory compliance.

"With the chain of custody standard, we can now provide our members with environmental certification as well. Products carrying both the EWPAAs brand and the AFS stamp would demonstrate the market advantages of being a compliant product from a certified forest and could truly be regarded as the gold standard for the engineered wood products industry."



Simon Dorries: EWPAAs brand .. gold standard for engineered wood products.