Invitation to stakeholder consultation about the forestry in the Tasmanian region

DNV GL has issued a certificate according to FSC Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-40-005) to Forico. The standard covers PURCHASE of timber that is not FSC certified. It does NOT cover forest owners but the organizations that buy timber.

DNV GL Business Assurance will conduct the audit during the first week of May 2017. This invitation to consultation is about the forestry in general in the geographical area: Tasmania, Australia.

The applicable risk assessment is a National Risk Assessment (Australia). The result of the risk assessment for controlled wood is:

- Low risk for the 3 criteria for Controlled wood / Unspecified risk for the wood harvest from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities; and for wood harvested from areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest use. Explanation of the criteria can be found at the bottom of this text.
- There are no risks in the supply chain.
- There is a procedure for filing complaints available from the organization, by contacting them via http://forico.com.au/contact.

Control measures in place include:

- The implementation of the Forico Environmental Sustainability Policy, Stakeholder Engagement Policy, and Chain of Custody Policy relating to sustainable operational management responsibilities and legal / other obligations;
- Compliance with the Forico DDS;
- Conducting verification assessments at a prescribed sampling intensity to demonstrate operations of SUs follow legislative and certification requirements;
- Ensuring open, transparent and respectful communication occurs with all interested and affected stakeholders in relation to implementing the DDS;
- Ensuring continued compliance with the external Certification Standards to which Forico is accredited.

What is controlled wood?

Controlled wood is the name for timber that has been assessed as low risk to be controversial. The standard objectives are for the organization to have a system to avoid purchase of timber which is considered as controversial according to FSC requirements. The FSC definitions of controversial sources can be found in the FSC standard for Controlled Wood, FSC-STD-40-005. The definitions are international and are supposed to be the same globally. At the bottom you find the definitions as they are stated in the standard, in English.

DNV GL Business Assurance wishes to get your comments on the forestry sector in this region, for some specific issues, see the questions below. Send your comments preferably by e-mail to the contact person...
below. You have to include your name and how we can contact you. We do not handle anonymous comments.

All comments will be handled confidential, if you do not state explicitly otherwise, and your name / the name of your organization will not be included in the reports and other documents.

It is voluntary to send comments, and if you do not wish to make any comments, you can disregard this invitation.

Questions regarding controlled wood (for all questions we need to receive both your comments and the evidence that is available):

- Is it your opinion that there is evidence that the forestry sector in this region harvest timber illegally which threatens forests, people or communities?

- Is it your opinion that there is evidence that forestry in this region harvest timber in violation of traditional and human rights, i.e. the rights of indigenous people?

- Is it your opinion that there is evidence that the forestry in this region is managed in such a way that high conservation values have an uncertain chance of continued survival or presence at the eco regional level? This shall be understood as a threat to values of national importance, as e.g. Biodiversity Hotspots, Global 200 Ecoregion, Frontier Forest, Intact forest landscapes?

- Is it your opinion that there is evidence that within this region, there is significant conversion of natural forests to other land use? Natural forest means a forest that is not continuously managed.

- Is it your opinion that there is evidence that within the region Genetically Modified plants are used within forestry?

The FSC standard is available from the following web-site.
Search for FSC-STD-40-005 ver 3.0.

If you are not satisfied with how DNV GL handles your comments, you can make a complaint, see our website https://www.dnvgl.com/services/fsc-r-chain-of-custody-certification-3281

The contact person for this audit is Judy Alexander, phone 0418 138 125, e-mail judy.alexander@y7mail.com

We need to get your comments at least 3 weeks before the start of the audit.

FSC definitions:
Controlled wood category 3 – Wood harvested from forest in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities

Threat in the context of this standard means having an uncertain chance of continued survival or presence of HCVs at the ecoregion level. This standard requires the identification of threats to HCVs caused by forest management activities.

There is no difference in the definition of HCVs and their different categories between the FSC Principles and Criteria (FSC-STD-01-001) and this standard. The difference relates to the objectives of both standards. While the FSC Principles and Criteria require the maintenance and enhancement of HCVs at the management unit level, this standard requires the organization to avoid timber from forests where HCVs are being threatened at the ecoregional level.

Controlled wood category 4 – Wood harvested from areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses

The intent of the risk assessment for this category is to reveal risk in regions where there is a significant occurrence of deforestation of natural forests. The organization is encouraged to seek for guidance from FSC network partners and regional offices on the interpretation of ‘significant rate of loss’ for forests in their countries and regions.