Timberlink Australia verification of controlled wood supply 2016-17

Timberlink Australia has wood supply for their products come from a variety of sources. Some are local FSC certified or FSC controlled wood certified and some are local controlled material sources.

Local supply is from the following suppliers holding Forest Management certification or supplying certified woodchip:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Fibre supplier with FSC certification</th>
<th>FSC product group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIMBERLANDS PACIFIC Pty Ltd</td>
<td>W1.1 Roundwood (logs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2, 113-115 Cimitiere Street, Launceston 7250 Tasmania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest management certificate code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCS-FM/COC-004554</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norske Skog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyer Rd, Boyer Tasmania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest management certificate code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW-FM/COC-005388</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 534 Melbourne VIC 8007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest management/Chain of Custody certificate code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA-FM/COC-001128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forico Pty Limited</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233b Charles Street, Launceston 7250 Tasmania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest management/Chain of Custody certificate code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA-FM/COC-004896</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Bluegum Plantations Pty Limited</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Portland Road, Hamilton VIC 3300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW-COC/CW-005606</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts (Central &amp; Northern Regions Pty Ltd)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier, SA, 5290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCS-COC-004912/ SCS-CW-004912</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local supply is from the following suppliers holding Controlled Wood certification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Fibre supplier with FSC Controlled Wood certification</th>
<th>FSC product Group</th>
<th>FSC Claim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tas Land and forests, PO Box 403, Devonport, Tasmania (FSC CW certified SCS-CW-005406)</td>
<td>W1.1 Roundwood (logs)</td>
<td>Controlled Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFM Forest Products, 70 Hampden St Battery Pt, Hobart, Tasmania 7004; (FSC CW certified SA-CW/FM-004688)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local supply is from the following non certified suppliers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Fibre supplier</th>
<th>FSC product Group</th>
<th>FSC Claim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Tasmania 79 Melville St, Hobart TAS 7000, Australia</td>
<td>W1.1 Roundwood (logs)</td>
<td>Controlled Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKS Forest Solutions, 18 Glover Ave Blackstone Heights Tasmania 7250</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Fairthorne &amp; Son Pty Ltd, PO Box 1989 Subiaco WA 6904</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambier Timber Sales, GMB Moorak SA 52901</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Triangle Forest Products 11 Monterey Drive (PO Box 2249), Mount Gambier SA 5290a (supply from 2015)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Forty One Plantations, PO Box 162 Mt Gambier SA 5290</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMTP Branxholm Sawmills Pty Ltd 1628 Warreninja Rd Branxholm Tasmania 7261</td>
<td>W3.1 Woodchips</td>
<td>Controlled Material</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timberlink Australia has conducted a risk assessment on supply as part of their verification program for controlled wood sources under FSC-STD-40-005(V2-1) EN. Given that FSC Australia have published an FSC accredited national (Annex 2) risk assessment there is already a determination of Low risk for Tasmania at the annex 2 level for 3 controlled wood criteria and Victoria and South Australia for 4 controlled wood criteria. Since wood is from plantation sources and there is no risk of wood from conversion sources (in Tasmania) our Annex 3 verification process is focused on High Conservations values (HCV) only.

The risk assessment found an unspecified risk for HCV. Therefore a verification process according to FSC-STD-40-005(V2-1) EN. Annex 3 needs to be carries out. In order for the wood to qualify as controlled wood this verification needs to confirm that suppliers have a strong system of control for HCV at all stages of their operations.

This verification process has been updated to be consistent with FSC ADVICE-40-005-14 and FSC Australia guidance on controlled wood implementation [http://www.fscaustralia.org/policies-and-standards/controlled-wood/guidance-on-controlled-wood-implementation](http://www.fscaustralia.org/policies-and-standards/controlled-wood/guidance-on-controlled-wood-implementation)

For the determination of a strong system of control for HVC the FSC Australia guidelines have been used. [http://au.fsc.org/download.high-conservation-values-evaluation-framework-final-v3-4.231.htm](http://au.fsc.org/download.high-conservation-values-evaluation-framework-final-v3-4.231.htm). In addition, all applicable and current FSC International advice notes are followed.
1. Assessment of the HCV control system

Examination of the HCV control system at AKS Forest Solutions Tasmania

General

AKS forest solutions harvest mainly small farm forestry blocks for 3rd party owners and supplies some of this wood to Timberlink.

HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.

AKS forest solutions consult the FPA databases (ecology section), the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment websites and Forestry Tasmania’s Conserve database for instances of rare threatened or endangered species potentially present on the property. These database also help to generate a map including values in adjacent areas.

Values noted in the data search may or may not be present on the plantation so ground truthing is required to check if their habitats and values are actually there. For example Bandicoot might be noted on the data but the ground truthing exercise will confirm if they or their habitat i.e. Open Grassland, Is present in the pine plantation area. If it is not then the prescription is not applied.

For each the value found the Threatened and Fauna and Flora Adviser of the Forest Practices Authority is consulted. This gives prescriptions for forest management were specific species and values are present

If a value is noted as present in the ground truthing exercise the prescription is applied, in addition the FPA expert may be asked their opinion and may give additional prescription.

Ground truthing exercise also has considerations for adjacent areas, for example Wedge Tailed Eagles in adjacent areas will impact on forest practices within the plantation


2 http://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/fpa_services/planning_assistance/advisory_planning_tools/threatened_fauna_advisor/threatened_fauna_advisor
If during the ground truthing exercise something is discovered that was not mentioned in the data search the FPA expert is called in to advise on the prescription. The finding is also added to the Conserve database from Forestry Tasmania for future searches.

**HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

Operations are mainly on previously cleared all farmed land and surrounded by farmland. Therefore HCV 2 does not apply since no large landscape level values are present.

However if the plantation is adjacent to a large intact native forests there are considerations such as the control of wildings that form parts of the forest management plan.

**HCV 3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.**

The process for identifying HCV 3 values is the same as for identifying HCV 1 values since the various data sources like the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment website covers both Endangered Species and Endangered ecosystems.

If endangered ecosystems are found in searches and confirmed by ground truthing then prescriptions are applied per the fauna and flora advisory or from an FPA expert who may be called in. Prescriptions are typically machinery exclusions, fire bans and monitoring for wildings.

**HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.**

For water values there is an initially a check to see if there is any impact on domestic water catchments. If there is a domestic water catchment there is an obligation under the forest practices code to Inform and work with the catchment management authority to develop and apply prescriptions.

If there is no domestic water catchment involved in the forest practices plans prescribes actions required according to the classes of waterways present. For example the amount of buffer to be applied and restrictions on machinery to prevent issues like sedimentation.

There is also an evaluation of geology and erodible soils. If there is a slope on the sites there are specific prescriptions applied from the forest code of practice depending on the degree of slope.

Fire plans are developed as part of the forest practices planning. Burning outside the fire permits period requires an official notification to the Tasmanian Fire service.

If there is burning inside the permit period conditions set by the permit are be followed.

Fire breaks are in place and kept open per the requirements of the forest practices code.
For roads and landings the forest practices code prescribes requirement which are met. If developing a road from scratch a permit is required and conditions applied. These will vary depending on the type of road for example a new temporary road used only in the summer the requirement maybe only to restore the road after the harvest is over.

For existing roads there are requirements to maintain culverts and drainage. In addition landing sites are restored after the harvest.

**HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.**

HCV 5 conditions did not occurring in Australia

**HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)**

For HCV 6 in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage there are some databases that cannot be easily accessed, for example those controlled by the Tasmania Aboriginal Land Council. This is because the traditional owners do not want sites to be identified to the general public.

In the forest practices code there is an aboriginal archeology sensitivity zone definition. For example flat areas on bank sides.

If any of the sensitivity zones appear on the maps in the and the ground truthing exercise A forest practices authority archaeologist and/or the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council may invited to look and reports on prescription that need to be applied.

If something that has not been identified during searches or ground truthing Is found during operations the operations stop and the area is isolated. A forest practices authority Archeologist is called in who may also involve the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council to give a prescription to be followed

**Examination of the HCV control system at Forestry Tasmania**

**General**

Forestry Tasmania is a Government Business Enterprise that manages all Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) land in Tasmania.

**HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.**

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3. Reference subsection D5.1
In the preparation of FPPs Forestry Tasmania utilises internal procedures and databases and externally maintained databases at the Forest Practices Authority and Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment to determine instances of threatened species potentially present within or adjacent to the operation area. Planning is undertaken by personnel with appropriate training.

Values noted in the data search may or may not be present on the plantation. Field verification is undertaken to verify if their habitats and values are present and to determine if other (previously unrecorded) values are also present. For each the value identified the appropriate planning tools is consulted and appropriate management prescription is developed.

If values are noted as present in the ground truthing exercise the prescription is applied, in addition additional advice may be sought from the Forest Practices Authority.

Ground truthing exercise also has considerations for adjacent areas, for example Wedge Tailed Eagles nests in adjacent areas may require special management provisions within the FPP.

**HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

Plantations in Tasmania does not meet the definition of large natural landscape level forests.

**HCV 3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.**

Plantations in Tasmania does not meet the definition of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems. The FPP includes requirements to remain within the operation area, minimising risks of impacts on adjacent native forest communities.

**HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.**

Water values are maintained through the implementation of stream side reserves and machinery exclusion zones as required by the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code. Domestic and town water catchments are identified as part of the planning process and management actions are included in FPPs to minimise any impacts on the catchments. The FPP planning process also requires evaluation of soil and erodibility.

If burning is undertaken, it is in accordance with the provisions of the FPP and burn plan.

Any roading required is included in an FPP and for existing roads there are requirements to maintain culverts and drainage. In addition landing sites are restored after the harvest.
HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.

Plantations in Tasmania do meet the definition of being fundamental to the basic needs of local communities.

HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)

Sites of cultural significance (Aboriginal or historic) are identified through database searches and/or field verification. Management prescriptions for sites are included in FPPs. Where required advice is sought from the Forest Practices Authority, and other relevant regulator e.g. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. Training is provided to relevant staff in the identification and management of heritage values.

Examination of the HCV control system at OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd (South Australia)

One General FMU managed by OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd.

HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.

Comprehensive management plans for all forests managed by OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd. exist. These have undergone a stakeholder consultation process and are publically available. https://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/

Forest areas containing native forests and HCV1 are identified in these plans. Most of these areas are also gazetted by the State Government giving them protected status and have their own management plans.

OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd uses 3 land use classifications:

- General Zones for plantation pines:
- Transitional Zones for areas under restoration to native vegetation e.g. biodiversity corridors, and
- Conservation Zones for areas of protected native forests.

Assessment of habitats for the occurrence of rare or endangered species is done by specialists using survey work and existing sources (e.g. regional plans or publically available overlays). All information is recorded on GIS layers and maps used in all forestry operations. Prescriptions for management of rare and endangered species are set by specialist planners using available information and research.

Corridors to link areas containing HCV1 are being progressively established. These have been designed in consultation with stakeholders.
OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd is AS4708 (Australian Forestry Standard) certified which requires identification and management of significant biological diversity values.

**HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

No large natural landscape level forests exist within or adjacent to the FMUs. Conservation zones, with publicly available management plans exist for small but regionally significant areas of remnant native vegetation contained within or adjacent to the FMUs. Most of these areas are gazetted by the State Government giving them protected status.

Confirmed by reference to estate level maps and management plans.

**HCV 3 Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.**

Remnant areas of native vegetation within or adjacent to the FMUs are identified in forest management plans and given conservation zone status. Most of these areas are also gazetted by the State Government giving them protected status.

Assessment of habitats for the occurrence of rare or endangered species is done by specialists using survey work and existing sources e.g. regional plans or publically available overlays. Rare and endangered flora and fauna species known to exist within the FMUs are identified in forest management plans. [https://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/](https://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/)

Information is presented recorded on GIS layers and maps used in all forestry operations. Prescriptions for management of rare and endangered species are set by specialist planners using available information and research.

OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd is AS4708 (Australian Forestry Standard) certified which requires identification and management of significant biological diversity values.

**HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.**

Mandatory requirements (covered by various legislation) and guidelines relating to erosion control and water quality in South Australia are addressed in the “Guidelines for Plantations Forestry in South Australia 2009”. The “Code of Practice for Timber Production 2007” addresses these requirements in Victoria. Forest management plans reference these documents which are also reflected in operational plans. FMUs within the Green Triangle are considered to be in a low-moderate erosion risk area. Water supply in the Green Triangle is from groundwater catchments managed by state level Natural Resource Management plans.

For catchment management in the Mount Lofty Ranges FMU, OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd. has an Environmental Performance Agreement with the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which refers to the OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd. estate located in the Mount Lofty Ranges Water Protection Area (MLRWPA), regulating and monitoring herbicide use for the establishment of plantations and the following 2 years.
An MOU with SA Water establishes a framework that enables OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd. to have ongoing access to nominated areas within the SA Water catchments for their commercial plantations. This covers aspects of forest management that could impact water quality. OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd are AS4708 certified. AS4708 requires that forest management shall protect soil and water resources.

**HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.**

Local communities are not critically dependent on these FMUs for their basic needs. There is an operating stakeholder database used for stakeholder engagement.

**HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)**

There are known aboriginal issues or cultural heritage sites in the FMUs. These are referred to in forest management plans and are recorded in GIS layers and maps using data from the Aboriginal Affairs department. There are some post-colonial sites recognized under the Heritage Places Act 1993.

There are state guidelines for both Aboriginal and post-colonial cultural heritage which are reflected in the forest management plans. OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd are AS4708 certified. AS4708 requires that forest management shall protect and maintain for Indigenous and non-indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, recreational, religious and spiritual heritage values.

**Examination of the HCV control system at Green Triangle Forest Products (South Australia)**

**HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.**

GTFP is AS4708 (Australian Forestry Standard) certified which requires identification and management of significant biological diversity values. Forest areas containing native forests and HCV1 are identified in forest management plans. There are existing management plans for SBDV.

Before each harvest of GTFP forest compartments an assessment is conducted using the “GTFP – SBDV Feature Management Guide” which references publically available data and the “Quick SBDV Reference Page” which recommends controls for the values found. The results are recorded on the “Assessment Recording sheet.” This sheet is incorporated into the Work plan. All issues are also entered into a risk register.

Potential endangered species are identified through the DEH overlays (SA) and the DSE maps (Victoria) and site visits.

**HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

No large natural landscape level forests exist within, or contain the FMU. Parks containing remnant native vegetation exist adjacent to the FMU in some cases. These are identified in management plans and maps. Buffer zones separate the FMU from these areas.
HCV 3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

GTFP is AS4708 (Australian Forestry Standard) certified which requires identification and management of significant biological diversity values. Forest areas containing native forests and HCV3 are identified in forest management plans. There are existing management plans for SBDV.

Before each harvest of GTFP forest compartments an assessment is conducted using the “GTFP – SBDV Feature Management Guide” which references publically available data and the “Quick SBDV Reference Page” which recommends controls for the values found. The results are recorded on the “Assessment Recording sheet.” This sheet is incorporated into the Work plan.

All issues are also entered into a risk register.

Potential endangered ecosystems are identified through the DEH overlays (SA) and the DSE maps (Victoria) and site visits.

HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.

The Code of Practice for Timber Production 2007, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria, is a key document which GTFP use to manage HCV4. It contains mandatory requirements and industry guidelines for the management of watershed protection and erosion control within the State of Victoria. GTFP apply this Code regardless of whether the plantations they manage are located within South Australia or Victoria. GTFP also apply The Guidelines for Plantation Forestry in South Australia 2009, which they helped develop.

GTFP are AS4708 certified. AS4708 requires that forest management shall protect soil and water resources. There are many legislative requirements that are relevant to HCV4 which GTFP must comply with. For example: EPA Acts SA & Vic, NRM Act SA and Catchment and Land Protection Act Vic.

The operational plans consist of a “Work Plan Checklist” and a “Harvesting Work Plan”. Implementation of each risk control is signed off in the field on infield notes, Daily QA checks and harvest visit records.

Surface water is identified by GIS maps and aerial photos. In Victoria water quality is governed by the local government (Glenelg Shire) under the Victorian Code of Practice. In SA it is governed by South East Natural Resource Management Board.

There is a procedure for winter and summer logging to avoid erosion of wet soil and vehicles getting bogged.

HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.

Local communities are not critically dependent on the FMU for their basic needs. GTFP have a “Stakeholder Register” with discussions recorded.

There is also a “Neighbour’s Register” with communications of harvesting activities.

HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)
The “GTFP – SBDV Feature Management Guide” also covers cultural heritage. Aboriginal heritage sites are listed with locations on 2 spread sheets (SA & Victoria). These sites are drawn on the compartment maps attached to the “Harvesting Work Plan”. GTFP are AS4708 certified. AS4708 requires that forest management shall protect and maintain for Indigenous and non-indigenous people, their natural, cultural, social, recreational, religious and spiritual heritage values.

Examination of the HCV control system at 2 small private suppliers F Fairthorne & Son Pty Ltd, PO Box 1989 Subiaco WA 6904 Gambier Timber Sales, GMB Moorak SA 52901

General

Small farm forestry lots between 2 and 10 ha.

HCV 1. Forest areas containing habitat for national or state-listed threatened species or species of high significance.

Most sites are previously harvested and have little or no remnant vegetation around them.

Where there is a 3rd party owner the owner is asked to declare if there are any known RTE species or issues.

Areas of native vegetation are routinely excluded.

A harvest plan is prepared for the site.

In addition Timberlink interrogates publically available information for the presence of HCV. If there are any issues they inform the supplier who will include these in the harvest plan e.g machine exclusions. More precise prescriptions may be advised from Timberlink eg http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Plants_Animals/Threatened_species_and_ecological_communities/Recovery_planning

HCV 2. Forest areas containing large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most, if not all, naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

These are small farm forestry plantations on open land. HCV 2 values are not present.

HCV 3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

4 http://au.fsc.org/download.the-directory-of-information-sources.130.xls
Most sites are previously harvested and have little or no remnant vegetation around them. Any remnant vegetation is always excluded from operations.

Where there is a 3rd party owner the owner is asked to declare if there are any known threatened ecosystem issues.

A harvest plan is prepared for the site.

In addition Timberlink interrogates publically available information for the presence of HCV\(^5\). If there are any issues they inform the supplier who will include these in the harvest plan e.g machine exclusions. More precise prescriptions may be advised from Timberlink e.g 
http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Plants_Animals/Threatened_species_and_ecological_communities/Recovery_planning

**HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations such as slope, erosion control, water catchment.**

The compartments are mapped prior to harvest showing waterways and other features. For SA and VIC the relevant codes of practice are followed to protect HCV 4 issues and plans presented to be signed off by the relevant shire council.

Timberlink verification audits confirm that no HCV issues have been compromised and that plans have been followed.

**HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (water, food, firewood, shelter, income) with no readily available alternative.**

Local communities are not critically dependent on the FMU for their basic needs.

**HCV 6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)**

Plans are presented to the relevant shire council for approval. Issues of cultural heritage may form part of that approval.

In addition Timberlink interrogates publically available information for the presence of HCV\(^6\). If there are any issues they inform the supplier who will include these in the harvest plan e.g physical exclusions. More precise prescriptions may be advised from Timberlink in conjunction with local archeologists or traditional owners.

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\(^5\) [http://au.fsc.org/download.the-directory-of-information-sources.130.xls](http://au.fsc.org/download.the-directory-of-information-sources.130.xls)

\(^6\) [http://au.fsc.org/download.the-directory-of-information-sources.130.xls](http://au.fsc.org/download.the-directory-of-information-sources.130.xls)
2. Procedure for verifying uncertified suppliers at the Annex 3 level.

Controlled Wood Verification Program

Timberlink Australia audits the following controlled material suppliers annually (so long as they have supplied or are predicted to supply Timberlink Australia in the audit year). Note that uncertified suppliers not on the list may still supply wood to Timberlink after passing our Controlled Wood Verification Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tas Land and forests, PO Box 403, Devonport, Tasmania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Tasmania 79 Melville St, Hobart TAS 7000, Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKS Forest Solutions, 18 Glover Ave Blackstone Heights Tasmania 7250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFM Forest Products, 70 Hampden St Battery Pt, Hobart, Tasmania 7004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Forty One Plantations, PO Box 162 Mt Gambier SA 5290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Fairthorne &amp; Son Pty Ltd, PO Box 1989 Subiaco WA 6904</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambier Timber Sales, GMB Moorak SA 52901</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Triangle Forest Products 11 Monterey Drive (PO Box 2249), Mount Gambier SA 5290 (supply from 2015)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

CMTP Branxholm Sawmills Pty Ltd is a small sawmiller with logs sourced from a subset of Timberlink’s suppliers. Each year, their supply documentation is audited to ensure their log suppliers all fall within Timberlink’s Controlled Wood verification program.

For all suppliers including private growers detailed records are kept of supplying blocks and these are made available to FSC auditors.

Timberlink Australia has adopted the FSC Australia Annex 2 risk assessment. It identified low risk for all controlled wood categories except HCV (3.1 and 3.2) which was undetermined at all IBRA bioregions in Australia.

Therefore Timberlink Australia completes an annex 3 risk assessment on HCV for all its suppliers using the draft guidelines from FSC Australia as the benchmark. “High Conservation Values (HCVs) evaluation framework for use in the context of implementing FSC Controlled Wood standards” http://au.fsc.org/download.high-conservation-values-evaluation-framework-final-v3-4.231.htm

Under this approach there is verification that appropriate ‘tools’ have been used to satisfy the 6 classes of HCV. The assessments have been completed of all suppliers using FSC Australia guidelines (the ‘tools not rule approach’). Under this there is verification that appropriate ‘tools’ have been used to satisfy the 6 classes of HCV e.g. publically available ecological maps of RTE species and ecosystems for HCV 1 and HCV 3.

In the Annex 2 risk assessment under 3.1 and 3.2 there is an undetermined risk. Therefore the onus is on the supplier to demonstrate a strong system of control that Timberlink Australia can confirm in their verification audits. The system of control for each of the suppliers is set out in detail in this document (above).
Stakeholder consultation

Timberlink Australia has developed a stakeholder consultation process including NGOs and local indigenous representatives. On an annual basis these stakeholders are consulted on the verification audits. Where issues are raised these are taken into account if possible/practical.

The publication of this document is part of that stakeholder process.

Auditor training

TIMBERLINK AUSTRALIA personnel and contractors conducting field verification audits have had appropriate training against the requirements of the FSC Australia HCV framework. Training records are kept.

Audit timing

Audits will occur at a timing that prevents uncontrolled wood passing through the supply chain. In practical terms this means audits will be on active harvesting blocks just before or just after the wood is harvested.

3. Districts and Sampling Plans

Timberlink classifies the audited Company by grouping sets of “similar” units for the purpose of sampling. Similarity is defined as:

1. Forest type (natural forest, plantation);
2. Geographical location (district);

By default, it is assumed that a single supplier has a single FMU in either area (Green Triangle or Tasmania).

Thus there are 2 districts for the sampling plan. These are selected because these are distinct geographic regions with common features landscapes and morphology and the same species of harvested trees.

District 1. *Pinus radiata* Plantations under the management in Tasmania
District 2  *Pinus radiata* Plantations under management in The Green Triangle.

NB

1. Any full FSC certified supply is outside the scope of the Timberlink Australia controlled wood certification, they are therefore excluded from the calculation of the sampling plan.
The sampling plan is calculated on the basis of the number of:

Sample frequency = 0.8 x √nFMUs

(For SLIMF Sample frequency = 0.6 x √nFMUs)

District 1 = 0.8 x √3FMUs = 1.4 Therefore the minimum sample was 2 FMUs

District 2 = 0.8 x √4FMUs = 1.6 Therefore the minimum sample was 2 FMUs

In both districts, sampling each supplier (up to four in Green Triangle, four in Tasmania) satisfies the minimum sample requirement. Note that Timberlink may not purchase log from all approved suppliers in any given financial year period.