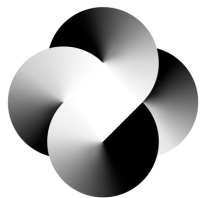




ForestFit™

GROWERS DRAFT NATIONAL OPTIMAL AUDITING PATHWAY

MAR 2024



Australian
Forest
Products
Association



National Optimal Auditing Pathway

The National Optimal Auditing Pathway (National OAP) Steering Committee (SC), was convened by Growers and is supported by AFCA, to help drive long-term industry transformation, including:

- Identify how Grower cost savings from reduced assessment activities and management of certified Forest Contracting Businesses (FCBs) will be recognised and incentivised for ForestFit™ Certified businesses;
- Explore alignment and streamlining of current audit arrangements with ForestFit™ Certification.
- Cooperate and work together to maximise efforts and resources; and
- Share consistent information and messages.

Key assessment activities

The key assessment activities required during the operations cycle have been identified, defined and agreed upon by the SC (July 2023) to create a common language' for Growers and FCBs that are ForestFit™ certified.

AUDIT		VERIFICATION		COMPLIANCE		INSPECTION		OBSERVATION	
A systematic, independent and documented process conducted by a third party (Conformity Assessment Body) for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine if the audit criteria is fulfilled.		A documented process conducted by a second party to assure the information provided is valid and compliant with contractual requirements and system implementation.		A documented systematic check conducted by the first party to ensure adherence to the required laws, regulations, policies or standards. This involves reviewing documents, conducting interviews and inspecting operations and sites.		A documented visual examination process completed by the first party to assess the condition of a site, operation, system or process for a specific purpose, such as identifying safety hazards, quality controls or environmental concerns.		A physical examination completed by the first party of a site, operation or process to gather information, assess conditions and identify potential issues or opportunities for improvement.	
FORESTFIT	NON CERTIFIED	FORESTFIT	NON CERTIFIED	FORESTFIT	NON CERTIFIED	FORESTFIT	NON CERTIFIED	FORESTFIT	NON CERTIFIED
RESPONSIBILITY									
FCB	Forest grower	Forest grower		FCB		FCB	Forest grower	FCB	
External independent third party									
FREQUENCY									
Annual	Biannual	Annual		Quarterly		Monthly		Weekly (minimum)	
CRITERIA*									
Work Health and Safety Environmental Practices General Requirements (People) Business Sustainability		Work Health and Safety Environmental Practices General Requirements (People) Business Sustainability		Work Health and Safety Environment		Work Health and Safety Environment		Work Health and Safety Environment	
VALUE									
Reputable assurance and confidence for all stakeholders, including forest grower and FCB, that the systems and processes are risk based, successfully operationalised and continuously improved.		A validated approach confirming systems and processes are implemented and assessed. Generally undertaken when a new process occurs (ie new contract).		A risk based approach to systematically assess, manage and implement systems and processes to ensure responsibilities and obligations are met.		Systematic monitoring of on site processes, ensuring alignment with sustainable practices and identifying opportunities for improvement, including areas that may pose risks.		Fostering a culture of continuous improvement through knowledge sharing and feedback utilising tools such as risk assessments, toolbox meetings, etc, to ensure daily operations are safe and environmentally sustainable.	

National Optimal Auditing Pathway

The DRAFT National OAP for pilot commencing April 2024 clarifies the Grower and ForestFit™ certified business requirements through contract management (commercial) and operational management, including acknowledgment that:

- Each party is a a key stakeholder of the other party.
- Each party is integral to each other's future business viability and success.
- ForestFit™ certified businesses are responsible for all site operational assessment activities and incident investigations.

Contract Management

Engagement

Growers procure outsourced providers for harvest, haulage, civil, silviculture and/or minor forest products operations.

ForestFit™ certified business tender documentation:

- ForestFit™ Certificate
- Other certifications or accreditations.

Commencement

[HOLD] Pilot to identify and validate any external requirements of Growers (eg PEFC, FSC, ILO, EUDR) relevant to outsourced providers who are ForestFit™ certified.

[HOLD] Pilot to identify and validate, as appropriate, how ForestFit™ certified businesses can demonstrate conformance.

Implementation and reporting

Periodic performance review

ForestFit™ certification requires recording and consolidation of key performance metrics.

Review

Annual performance review

- Assurance that systems and processes are risk based, successfully operationalised and continuously improved.

ForestFit™ certified business documentation:

- Incident investigation outcomes.
- Annual management review.
- Audit outcomes report.

Operational Management

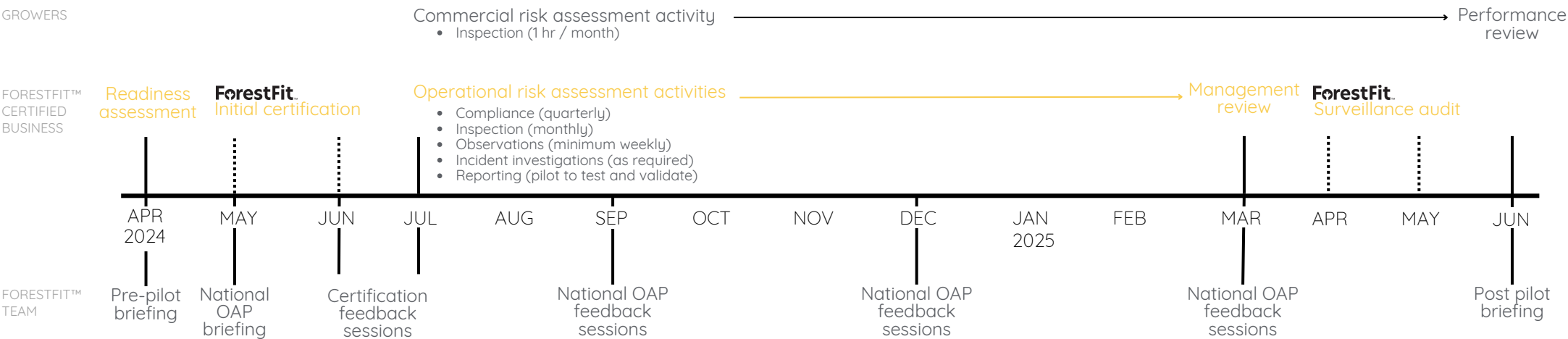
	GROWERS	FORESTFIT™ CERTIFIED BUSINESS
Planning	<p>Preplanning - identify key characteristics and controls.</p> <p>Planning - identify legal, regulatory, site and method requirements.</p>	<p>Preplanning - participate with Growers as required</p> <p>Planning - internal allocation of resources to meet contract requirements.</p>
Implementation	<p>Site handover - induction of principal contracting business, acknowledgement of known hazards and site sign off.</p>	<p>Site risk assessment - updates to safety and/or environment plans.</p> <p>Site operations - initiation of activities as per plan method and specifications.</p>
Measurement	<p>Commercial risk assessment activity</p> <p>Inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour per month.• FCB has undertaken assessment activities.• Any identified issues, hazards or risks and/or guidance questions. <p>Incident investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder who receives a copy of incident investigation outcomes. <p>Reporting [HOLD]</p> <p>Pilot to identify and validate data.</p>	<p>Operational risk assessment activities</p> <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly documented systematic checks. <p>Inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly documented visual examinations. <p>Observation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly (minimum) physical examination. <p>Incident investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertakes investigation.• Incident investigation outcomes provided to stakeholders as required. <p>Reporting [HOLD]</p> <p>Pilot to identify and validate data.</p>
Review	<p>Final site assessment - upon completion</p>	<p>Management review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• internal systems review and audit preparation. <p>ForestFit™ Certification audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audit (annual) - external third party procured to undertake management systems audit.

National Optimal Auditing Pathway

Pilot process

The SC have proposed a National OAP pilot to test and validate the DRAFT National OAP. Participant feedback will be used to finalise the pathway for national adoption.

Participants will be required to be certified to Standard 1: Mandatory Requirements and Standard 3: Work Health and Safety, with the option of certifying to Standards 2: Business Sustainability and Standard 4: Environmental Practices.





ForestFit™ Training and Certification has been codesigned by national representatives from forest growers, forest contracting businesses, processors, industry associations, existing industry certification schemes and the New South Wales (NSW) Government in partnership with Australian Forest Contractors Association (AFCA). The NSW Environmental Protection Authority, NSW Local Land Services and NSW Department of Primary Industries' Plantation Regulation Unit provided expert regulatory input.

