

## Does Taranaki Sawmills Ltd meet FSC's Controlled Wood standard?

18<sup>th</sup> August 2025

We are carrying out an audit of Taranaki Sawmills Ltd located in Hudson Road, Bell Block, New Plymouth, New Zealand to see if their operations comply with FSC's [Controlled Wood](#) standard (FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1). We are writing to you to ask if you know of any reason why their operations would not meet this standard.

Controlled Wood is wood that meets minimum requirements and that can therefore be mixed with FSC wood and used in products with an FSC Mix label. In particular, the wood must not be:

- harvested illegally.
- harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.
- harvested from forests with a high conservation value that is threatened by management activities.
- harvested from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.
- from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

We will carry out our audit on 07/10/2025. Here is how you should comment, if you wish to do so:

- When? You should send comments to us before or during the audit.
- How? You can comment by .
  - Meeting with a Preferred by Nature staff member in person.
  - Phone to Di Fan, Preferred by Nature staff member from New Zealand. Her phone number is +64 (022) 3876670
  - Email to Di Fan at [dfan@preferredbynature.org](mailto:dfan@preferredbynature.org)
  - In person by arranging to meet with Di Fan
- If you want your comments to be confidential please notify us when you submit the comments.

If you provide comments, we will provide feedback to you within 30 days of the audit.

Taranaki Sawmills Limited has written a summary document that lists:

- the risks they have identified that they may source unacceptable wood
- the measures they implement to mitigate those risks.

We have attached this summary document to this letter.

If you wish to dispute any aspect of this forest certification process or the decision we reach as to whether this company meets the Controlled Wood standard, you can access our Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://preferredbynature.org/dispute-resolution-policy>

Thank you for any help you are able to provide.

If you have any recommendations for contacting other stakeholders that may have an interest in providing comments on this company and audit, we would also gladly receive these from you.

Yours sincerely,

Di Fan

Forestry Specialist – New Zealand

Preferred by Nature

## Appendix A: Description of the Due Diligence System, including information provided by the organisation according to FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1, Section 6

### 1. General information

<b>Organisation name:</b>	Taranaki Sawmills Ltd dba TARANAKIPINE
<b>FSC certificate code:</b>	PBN-COC-005483, PBN-CW-005483
<b>Organisation's DDS contact person:</b>	William Stanners (Quality and Compliance Lead)
<b>DDS prepared/assisted by:</b>	William Stanners (Quality and Compliance Lead) (no external assistance provided)
<b>Date last reviewed/updated (by the organisation):</b>	16 September 2025

### 2. Suppliers

Participating site	Non-certified material type sourced	Exact number of suppliers	Supplier type(s)	Average no. of tiers in the supply chains	Approximate or exact number of sub-suppliers
Taranaki Sawmills Ltd	W1.1 Logs	11	Forest Manager	1	N/A

### 3. Supply areas

Supply area	Controlled wood category	Reference to risk assessment used	Risk designation
North Island, New Zealand Specifically Taranaki, Wanganui, King Country, Waikato and Central North Island areas. <b>Area covered by three Regional Councils:</b> Taranaki Regional Council	1	FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN	Low risk
	2		Low risk
	3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6		Low risk
	3.3		Specified risk

Horizon Regional Council	4		Low risk
Waikato Regional Council	5		Low risk

## 4. Risk assessment and mitigation

### 4.a Risk mitigation for the origin of the material

The Organisation has identified the following recommended control measures for Controlled Wood sub-category 3.3 from FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN (page 220).

**For the areas containing priority 1 land environments not under legal protection and the non-protected plantation forest and natural forest adjacent to these areas: evidence of a local authority biodiversity mapping assessment and protection strategy in the relevant planning documents confirms HCV3 are identified and protected in the sourcing area.**

All current sources of material originate from either the Waikato Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council or Taranaki Regional Council, all of which have relevant biodiversity mapping assessment and protection strategies in place, and which the Organisation relies on to reduce Specified risk identified in relation to sub-category 3.3 to Low risk. In addition, Taranakipine will not accept logs from outside these areas.

### 4.b Risk assessment and mitigation for mixing in the supply chain

Participating site	Supply chain type and supply area	No. of tiers	Risk of mixing	Control measures	Findings from field verification if undertaken as a control measure
Taranaki Sawmills Ltd	Wood delivered and purchased directly from forest owner to Organisation's log yard	One tier	Risk of mixing in this supply chain has been identified as 'no risk of mixing', see DCS Appendix D, section 3 Control measures.	N/A	N/A

## 5. Technical experts used in the development of control measures

N/A, technical experts were not required.

## 6. Stakeholder consultation processes

N/A, stakeholder consultation not required

## 7. Complaints procedure

In the case of comments or complaints from stakeholders that are related to the DDS, the following process shall be implemented:

- a) Acknowledge receipt of the complaint.
- b) Inform stakeholders of the complaint procedure, and provide an initial response to complainant within a time period of two (2) weeks.
- c) Forward complaints related to risk designations in the relevant FSC risk assessment to the responsible body (for a CNRA: FSC)

**NOTE: When a complaint is forwarded to a responsible body, Clauses 7.2. d) - k) do not apply.**

- d) Conduct a preliminary assessment to determine whether evidence provided in a complaint is or is not substantial, by assessing the evidence provided against the risk of using material from unacceptable sources.
- e) Hold discussions with the complainant in order to solve complaints assessed as substantial before further actions are taken.
- f) Forward substantial complaints to the certification body and relevant FSC National Office for the supply area within two (2) weeks of receipt of the complaint.
  - Information on the steps to be taken by the organization in order to resolve the complaint, as well as how a precautionary approach will be used, shall be included with the complaint.
- g) Employing a precautionary approach towards the continued sourcing of the relevant material while a complaint is pending.

NOTE: This includes a description of how the precautionary approach is employed by the organization when a complaint is active.

NOTE: A complaint is pending if it has been considered to be substantial (according to Clause 7.2 d), and no effective corrective action (according to Clauses 7.2 h) - k) has been taken yet.

- h) Conduct either a field verification or desk verification to verify a complaint assessed as substantial by the organization, within two (2) months of its receipt.

- i) Determine the corrective action to be taken by suppliers and the means to enforce its implementation by a supplier if a complaint has been assessed and verified as substantial. If a corrective action cannot be determined and/or enforced, the relevant material and/or suppliers shall be excluded by the organization.
- j) Verify whether corrective action has been taken by suppliers and whether it is effective;
- k) Exclude the relevant material and suppliers from the organization's supply chain if no corrective action is taken.
- l) Inform the complainant, the certification body, and the relevant FSC National Office of the results of the complaint and any actions taken towards its resolution, and for maintaining copies of relevant correspondence.
- m) Record and file hardcopies of all complaints received and actions taken.

Contact information of the person or position responsible for addressing complaints	William Stanners Quality and Compliance Lead/ Management Representative P O Box 7145 Fitzroy 4341 NEW PLYMOUTH NEW ZEALAND
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## Appendix B: Summary of the evaluation of the Due Diligence System against FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1

### 1. Evaluation of justification for the organisation excluding confidential information (according to Clause 6.2 (d) in FSC-STD-40-005 V3-0) – See Appendix E (Description of the Due Diligence System)

None excluded; N/A

### 2. Extensions granted to the organisation for using approved FSC risk assessments

None granted

### 3. Brief description of the system developed for the evaluation of the DDS

Within Preferred by Nature's system for evaluating an organisation's due diligence system (DDS), auditors evaluate the presence and quality of a documented DDS in accordance with all applicable requirements of the FSC standards and additional guidance provided by the FSC Policy and Standards Unit. The DDS is evaluated for its relevance, effectiveness and adequacy. When auditing, sampling is conducted to capture variation in supply areas, operations, and risks.

The organization has adapted its DDS to use the New Zealand FSC risk assessment FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN. All inputs are from low risk sources except for sub-category 3.3. Control measures have been put in place to cover 3.3 using the *recommended control measure* indicated within the risk assessment.

#### Obtaining information

The auditor evaluated whether the due diligence system is comprehensive and allows organisations to identify risk at the forest level, and of mixing within supply chains. Organisation was able to provide:

- A supplier list in an excel spreadsheet.
- A supply chain map to understand where supplies are from.
- An indication of the material type being purchased
- Documented evidence of the above
- Evidence of the use of the *recommended control measure*, see FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN (page 220)

Legitimacy of the information provided was substantiated by the experience of the auditor through industry experience and other reliable sources of information such as log dockets received from log suppliers and sawmills and interviewing appropriate persons at the organisation.

#### Risk assessment

The FSC risk assessments used identify all categories as low risk, except for sub-category 3.3, for all New Zealand, FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN.

#### Risk mitigation

Control measures are implemented for category 3.3, see FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN (page 220).

**4. Summary of findings from field verification (confidential findings shall be excluded and justified) performed by PbN auditor - N/A**

## About us

Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo) is an international non-profit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate. We do this through a unique combination of sustainability certification services, projects supporting awareness raising, and capacity building.

For more than 25 years, we have worked to develop practical solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains in 100+ countries. We focus on land use, primarily through forest, agriculture and climate impact commodities, and related sectors such as tourism and conservation. Learn more at [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org)



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