

FOREST MANAGEMENT SURVEILLANCE REPORT
SECTION A: PUBLIC SUMMARY

Project Nr.:	7223-IE		
Client:	SWS Forestry Services, Republic of Ireland		
WebPage:	www.irishforests.ie		
Address:	SWS Forestry Services, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland		
Country:	Republic of Ireland		
Certificate Nr.	SGS-FM/CoC-1461	Certificate Type:	Group Forest Management (Resource Manager)
Date of Issue	4 th August 2003	Date of expiry:	3rd August 2008
Scope:	Forest Management of the SWS Forestry Resource Manager forests in the whole of the Republic of Ireland for the production of softwood/hardwood timber.		
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Evaluation dates:

Surveillance 1	22-23 September 2004
Surveillance 2	7-9 September 2005
Surveillance 3	31 August -1 September 2006
Surveillance 4	13 March 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. SAMPLING AND EVALUATION APPROACH 3
- 2. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT, HARVESTING, SILVICULTURE AND MONITORING 3
- 3. STANDARD USED IN THE EVALUATIONS 3
- 4. RECORD OF CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS (CARS) 4
- 5. RECORD OF STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS AND INTERVIEWS 6
- 6. RECORD OF COMPLAINTS..... 7
- 7. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION..... 7

COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES

Procedures for submitting complaints, appeals and disputes, and the SGS processing of such are published on www.sgs.com/forestry. This information is also available on request – refer contact details on the first page.

1. SAMPLING AND EVALUATION APPROACH

A detailed record of the following is available in section B of the Evaluation report. This section does not form part of the public summary, but includes information on:

- Sampling methodology and rationale;
- FMUs included in the sample;
- Sites visited during the field Evaluation; and
- Man-day allocation.

This fourth surveillance audit was planned to audit forests not previously seen or not seen since the initial FM audit in 2003.

2. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT, HARVESTING, SILVICULTURE AND MONITORING

The following table shows significant changes that took place in the management, monitoring, harvesting and regeneration practices of the certificate holder over the certificate period.

Description of Change	Notes
SURVEILLANCE 1	
No change	
SURVEILLANCE 2	
SWS Forestry Services have commenced timber harvesting operations.	Noted, there were no adverse operational or chain of custody issues.
SURVEILLANCE 3	
No change	
SURVEILLANCE 4	
SWS Forestry Services have re-commenced timber harvesting operations.	Noted, there were no adverse operational or chain of custody issues.

3. STANDARD USED IN THE EVALUATIONS

A checklist was used that consisted of the documents listed below. This checklist was prepared using the FSC-endorsed national or regional standard. A copy of this checklist is available on the SGS Qualifor website, www.sgs.com/qualifor.

Standard Used in Evaluation	Effective Date	Version Nr	Changes to Standard
Forestry Management Standards for the Republic of Ireland (Second Draft). This has not been endorsed by FSC.	December 1999	2	
SGS Qualifor: Group Management Checklist (AD34)	1 February 2005	1	

Standard Used in Evaluation	Effective Date	Version Nr	Changes to Standard
FSC Accredited National Standard for the United Kingdom (UKWAS). (Being the FSC-endorsed standard most closely applicable to the Republic of Ireland).	1999	1 and 2	First edition published 1999 and used for Surveillances 1-3. Revised 2 nd edition (2006) used in Surveillance 4.
SGS Qualifor: Forest Management Generic Standard (AD33-01)	2 Feb 2005	1	

4. RECORD OF CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS (CARS)

CAR #	Indicator	CAR DETAIL					
		Date Recorded>		Due Date>		Date Closed>	
M01/01	GCP 4.2.3/4	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		Monitoring inspection records did not record performance of Group members against the requirements of the Group Manual or the Standard.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		Inspection questionnaire (which is based on Irish Forestry Standard); draft 2) is used as tick box with no details of compliance or non-compliance. In many cases the YES tick box has been ticked on the basis of agreement in principle with the requirement, rather than actual compliance.					
		Close-out evidence:					
This Major CAR was downgraded to a Minor CAR on the basis of corrective actions proposed by SWFS and agreed by SGS. These were; that the Site Inspection Questionnaire would be modified to ensure its completion on a site-specific basis, a practical training session would be provided for all foresters on completion of the questionnaire and the Questionnaire would be completed again for existing sites providing evidence of compliance.							
This was checked at surveillance.							
02	IFS 3.B.1; FSC 3.3.1; UKWAS 7.4.1	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		Not all sites and features of cultural significance have been identified.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		At Gortroe, earth banks were not identified on maps and no measures were planned to protect the banks					
		Close-out evidence:					
Earth banks are now mapped and measures protection measures are currently being planned prior to and operations commencing.							
03	IFS 6.B.1: FSC 6.4.1; UKWAS 6.3.1	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		Not all areas and features of particular significance for biodiversity have been identified and marked on maps.					
		Objective Evidence:					

CAR #	Indicator	CAR DETAIL					
		At Gortroe, biodiversity areas had been identified on maps. However, during site inspection, additional biodiversity features were found ie earthbanks with scrub on edges.					
		Close-out evidence:					
		All significant features of importance for biodiversity conservation, including earthbanks at Gortroe, have been identified on maps.					
04	IFS 6.D.1; FSC 6.4.1; UKWAS 6.3.1	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		Not possible to verify requirement for conservation, long-term retentions and natural reserves to comprise <15% of the forest area.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		At Tulligoline, conservation areas, retentions and natural reserves are partly met from riparian zone clearance. However, the % of total plantation area is impossible to verify.					
		Close-out evidence:					
		Percentages of biodiversity conservation areas are now provided in all management plans inspected.					
05	IFS 6.E.4; FSC 7.1.4; UKWAS 3.4.2	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		The rate of planned felling in plantations is more than 25% per clear fell operation in a plantation of over 25 hectares.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		In Ballagh, a 59.30 ha plantation, the planned felling in 2037 is in two coupes.					
		Close-out evidence:					
		The Ballagh Management Plan has been modified to rectify this problem.					
06	IFS 8.A.2/6.B .1; UKWAS 6.1.1	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		Lack of adequate base-line data with appropriate information.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		At Gortroe, inadequate base-line survey data on areas of biodiversity value and cultural value.					
		Close-out evidence:					
		All Management Plans now have maps and tables of biodiversity conservation areas.					
07	IFS 4.E.1; FSC 4.4.9; UKWAS 7.1.1	Date Recorded>	03/01/24	Due Date>	04/09/23	Date Closed>	04/09/23
		Non-Conformance:					
		Incomplete stakeholder list.					
		Objective Evidence:					
		The Stakeholder list provided was incomplete.					
		Close-out evidence:					

CAR #	Indicator	CAR DETAIL					
		An updated stakeholder list is now available.					
08	IFS 3.A.1; FSC 3.3.6; UKWAS 7.2.2	Date Recorded>	23 Sep 2004	Due Date>	Next surveillance	Date Closed>	9 Sep 2005
Non-Conformance:							
Public access is not encouraged in forests managed by SWFS.							
Objective Evidence:							
At Glengort South, Limerick, the forest gates are locked in order to control trespass. This property has recently been purchased by SWFS but no efforts have been made to invite public access. At Cummeenavrick, Co Kerry, public access is discouraged, following a spate of recent vandalism and theft. The problems caused by illegal use of the forest, including dumping rubbish and theft cause real difficulties. However, those people who are simply seeking recreational access may be denied access to the forest.							
Close-out evidence:							
SWFS intend to discuss the general solutions to this problem at a future meeting of managers. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of welcoming words on forest signs and the provision of stiles to allow pedestrian access while preventing or deterring vehicular access and dumping. Progress will be checked at next surveillance.							
New signs have been provided that explain the difficulty and invite people to contact SWFS for access if required. A pro forma letter of response to requests is now available to bona fide applicants.							
		Date Recorded>	yy/mm/dd	Due Date>	yy/mm/dd	Date Closed>	yy/mm/dd
Non-Conformance:							
Objective Evidence:							
Close-out evidence:							

5. RECORD OF STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS AND INTERVIEWS

Nr	Comment	Response
SURVEILLANCE 1		
1	No comments received.	
SURVEILLANCE 3		
1	The Department of Agriculture & Food: Forest Service report huge advances in the professionalism of SWFS in recent years and specifically mentioned a high quality of documentation in relation to their management and grant applications. They reported having no concerns about SWFS.	Noted.

Nr	Comment	Response
SURVEILLANCE 4		
1	A neighbour at Foilduff was content with forestry operations and had benefited from improved access to his house due to SWFS road works.	Noted.

6. RECORD OF COMPLAINTS

Nr	Detail		
	Complaint:	Date Recorded >	
	No complaints received to date.		
	Objective evidence obtained:		
	Close-out information:	Date Closed >	

7. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

During the surveillance evaluation, it is assessed if there is continuing compliance with the requirements of the Qualifor Programme. Any areas of non-conformance with the QUALIFOR Programme are raised as one of two types of Corrective Action Request (CAR):

- i. Major CARs - which must be addressed and closed out urgently with an agreed short time frame since the organisation is already a QUALIFOR certified organisation. Failure to close out within the agreed time frame can lead to suspension of the certificate.
- ii. Minor CARs - which must be addressed within an agreed time frame, and will normally be checked at the next surveillance visit

The full record of CARs raised over the certification period is provided above.

The table below provides a progressive summary of findings for each surveillance. A complete record of observations demonstrating compliance or non-compliance with each criterion of the Forest Stewardship Standard is contained in a separate document that does not form part of the public summary.

SURVEILLANCE 1	
Issues that were hard to assess	None
Number of CARs closed	7 Outstanding CARs were closed.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No outstanding CARs from previous evaluations remain open.
New CARs raised	No New Major CARs and one Minor CAR was raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of SWS Forestry Services remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole

	<p>forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.
SURVEILLANCE 2	
Issues that were hard to assess	None
Number of CARs closed	One outstanding CAR was closed.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No outstanding CARs from previous evaluations remain open.
New CARs raised	No new CARs were raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of SWS Forestry Services remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.
SURVEILLANCE 3	
Issues that were hard to assess	None.
Number of CARs closed	No CARs outstanding.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No CARs outstanding.
New CARs raised	No new CARs were raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of SWS Forestry Services remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.
SURVEILLANCE 4	
Issues that were hard to assess	None.
Number of CARs closed	No CARs outstanding.
Nr of CARs remaining open	No CARs outstanding.
New CARs raised	No new CARs were raised.
Certification Decision	<p>The forest management of the forests of SWS Forestry Services remains certified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The management system is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation; and ▪ The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to the specified corrective actions, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the

	scope of the certificate.
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END OF PUBLIC SUMMARY