



BSI Standards Publication

Measurement procedures associated with the chain of custody in native tropical forest management areas

National foreword

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**International
Standard**

ISO 8347

**Measurement procedures
associated with the chain of
custody in native tropical forest
management areas**

*Procédures de mesure associées à la chaîne de contrôle dans les
zones de gestion des forêts tropicales indigènes*

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 287, *Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document is developed in the context of the challenges that have arisen from the international commercialization of tropical wood, such as deforestation of native tropical forests through illegal harvesting and documentary fraud in the chain of custody of tropical wood products. The document is not intended to be a comprehensive solution to these challenges, but rather offers a methodology that can be used to monitor these challenges within specific contexts for native tropical forests. Data from remote sensing increases the validity of volume and areas harvested from which tropical wood products originate, as described in the text below. The focus of this document is the methodology for using remotely sensed data and the appropriate contexts in which to do so, rather than the use of a specific remote technology for data collection. Traceability of the origin of wood extracted through selective logging of native forests in tropical regions of the world has become a standard requirement by consumers of these wood products, who increasingly favour purchasing products from areas that have been legally authorized and are managed and harvested more sustainably. Particularly in markets such as the EU, the USA, Australia and Japan, the lack of reliable information regarding the practices adopted at the origin of wood extraction and throughout industrialization can hinder the commercialization of such wood-based products.

The upcoming demand in the EU,^[10] for instance, for these products that are “deforestation-free” requires strong evidence that they have originated from a specific location where the forest area under management has not been subject to forest degradation. In this document, native tropical forests are addressed.

Typically, forest management and chain of custody certification of native tropical forests is based on the periodic auditing of detailed documentation and a sample of evidence collected on site covering the various stages of production, from receiving the logged wood originated at the forest management unit (FMU), through primary processing of logs, further industrialization, and final commercialization of wood-based products. However, because not all the logged wood from native tropical forests commercialized internationally will be covered by certification, questions can potentially be raised by consumer markets with respect to the effectiveness of available information and supporting documentation in ensuring the origin of the wood-based products being commercialized.

In the last decades, remote sensing technologies have been frequently utilized for native tropical forests with the purpose of detecting changes in forest coverage and of determining the extent of land use conversion. As an example, satellite remote sensing integrated into alert mechanisms has helped detect deforestation in areas of native tropical forest in Brazil. Likewise, progressive effort in monitoring and evaluating canopy opening by remote sensing tools during selective logging (within a previously informed time period) suggest the possibility of finding an effective way to correlate the amount of retrieved trees from a declared origin with the information that accompanies the logged wood that arrives at a mill for primary processing to support the chain of custody of resulting wood-based products (hence commercialized to a variety of destinations).

Adding geospatial referenced information at the source of the wood extracted from native tropical forest areas will strengthen the link between the documentation provided as “proof of origin” of the logged wood at the mill (beginning of the process) to the documentation that accompanies the wood-based products to the end of the chain of custody. As a result, remote sensing technologies can then be used to analyse the native tropical forest management areas and verify consistency between the declared amount of logged wood and the related selective logging features (geographical location, dates, logged areas, canopy opening associated to logged trees or infrastructure). Therefore, the field of work of this document is to establish the guidelines of a methodology to assess the impact on forest coverage resulting from the implementation of a selective harvest under a forest management plan (FMP) by using remote sensing tools, within a pre-established region in space and a similarly delimited time interval. The magnitude of the impact thus determined will be compared to the logged wood’s documentation (formal and georeferenced) extracted by the organization interested in the commercialization of its wood-based products, to verify consistency between the two distinct sources of information. This proposed verification methodology will be an independent means for a variety of stakeholders to monitor the selective logging forest areas, and hence will significantly enhance the credibility of the overall process. Implementation of this document would generate a robust data set describing where harvesting activity has occurred. It is highly recommended that this data set be used to check the potential overlap of harvesting on protected areas, indigenous lands, the described distributions of IUCN Red List endangered species (or group), and other relevant spatial data layers that

exist for the purpose of preventing or observing impacts on conservation areas or areas related to social justice. However, these additional analyses are not required for conformance to this document.

This document is based on cross checking data from remote sensing with official information, relating to the planning of management activities approved by the competent authorities (management plan, harvest authorizations and/or similar). The competent authorities have official information that reports what was carried out in the harvest (invoices and/or any other documents that have official support that indicate the movement of logs out of the forest). Nevertheless, the use of this document cannot state that the official information presented has a high probability of being true and of correctly reporting the origin of the log, as well as that the forest manager respected the environmental legislation in force in the country.