

UPDATE Forest Certification



Canadian Forest Products Chetwynd TFL 48

Canfor's TFL 48 holds ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) registration as well as being registered under the CSA's Sustainable Forest Management System (CSA-SFM) Standard.

The combination of ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM registration provides a robust framework for implementing and monitoring a sustainable forest management plan for the TFL. This was evident in the recent approval letter for the TFL's new management plan, which noted that the plan was "very well written, particularly with respect to the framework of criteria and indicators."

The framework of criteria and indicators used in the plan is based on the criteria and critical elements for sustainable forest management developed by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and embodied in the CSA-SFM Standard.

The specific indicators selected were achieved through a public involvement process using a multi-interest Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

In November 2001, an audit team from KPMG Quality Registrar Inc. carried out a periodic assessment of both the ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM registrations. This Certification Update summarizes the process and KPMG's findings.



Background to the audit

- Both the ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM standard require regular periodic assessments by the independent auditor (KPMG) to check continuing conformance with the standards.
- This was the fifth visit to the operation by an audit team from KPMG QRI.
- A team of 2 auditors (one forester, one biologist) conducted the assessment for TFL 48.
- The team conducted interviews with staff, contractors and 2 members of the PAC, examined EMS records, monitoring information and public involvement information and conducted a field assessment of conformance by operations and the accuracy of monitoring records.
- John Bavester, Senior Merchandise Manager for Wood Commodities with Wickes Lumber acted as an observer for a portion of the assessment.



Field operators were interviewed to assess their familiarity with key elements of operational plans, work instructions and emergency response procedures.

Findings – TFL 48

Noteworthy comments

- This was the second consecutive Periodic Assessment during which no nonconformances were identified.
- The SFM plan is now fully incorporated into an approved management plan for the TFL.
- A comprehensive annual SFM report was prepared and released in June covering activities during 2000.
- Excellent progress has been made in developing patch size targets that are consistent with natural disturbance patterns on the TFL.
- Review of incident tracking records indicates that the Operation’s procedures are catching issues before they become a problem on the ground.
- The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) continues to play a role in resolving and clarifying issues around SFM objectives. Additionally, the Operation has provided additional public review and comment opportunities on its draft Forest Development Plan prior to submission to the MOF.
- Good field practices were observed during the audit field visits.
- The audit team noted that average timber retention rates were high around fish streams of all sizes.

Key opportunities for improvement

- Recommendations were made to improve the readability of the SFM annual report for the general public and to ensure that all information from the Ministry of Forests’ Small Business Forest Enterprise Program is received in time for inclusion in the report.
- Field operators for one of the TFL contractors need to be more familiar with the elements of the Field Operations Manual that relate directly to their jobs.



Field audit of active and recent operations found a strong emphasis on good field practices.

January, 2001 ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM Periodic Assessments	
Major nonconformances	0
Minor nonconformances	0
Opportunities for improvement	3

Major nonconformances:

- Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the EMS/SFM Objectives.

Minor nonconformances:

- Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of EMS/SFM Objectives.

All nonconformances require an action plan within 30 days and must be addressed by the operation.

Major nonconformances must be addressed immediately or registration can not be achieved/maintained.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- Are not nonconformances but are comments on specific areas of the EMS where improvements can be made.

Through KPMG QRI, KPMGs Vancouver based forestry specialist group is accredited to register forest companies to ISO 14001, CSA-SFM and AF&PA SFI certification standards. The group is lead by Mike Alexander and consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters and industry experts.

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