

Forest DATE Certification



Canadian Forest Products Grande Prairie FMA #9900037

Canfor's Alberta Region is currently registered under the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) standard. Additionally, the Grande Prairie FMA area (Forest Management Agreement #9900037) is also registered under the Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management System (CSA-SFM) standard.

In January 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

- FMA #9900037 was registered to ISO 14001 in November, 1999 and CSA-SFM in June, 2000. The FMA area is one of Canfor's three SFM registered area-based tenures.
- Canfor's implementation of an **ISO 14001** EMS demonstrates to the public that Canfor is operating under the objectives of continually improving environmental performance and reducing environmental impact.
- The implementation of a **CSA-SFM** system on the FMA area assures the public that Canfor is conducting sustainable forest management on the FMA area to the standards defined by the CSA. These standards are based on the criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management developed by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. A public participation process is also an important requirement of the CSA System.



The audit

- *Initial Registration Audit* – The initial audit included a complete assessment of planning and operations on Canfor's FMA. The assessment consisted of an exhaustive review of the management plan, an EMS document review, a full-scope field audit and interviews with Canfor employees, contractors and local stakeholders.
- *Periodic Assessments* – These are used to monitor the continued conformance of operations to certification standards. They occur on a regular basis and each one includes a sample of roughly one-third of the certification elements.
- The January 2001 Periodic Assessment focused primarily on field practices, including the following elements:
 - training and awareness;
 - EMS documentation;
 - operational controls and implementation (functional work instructions and operational plans);
 - emergency preparedness and response; and,
 - internal monitoring, measurement and assessment.



The audit included both ground and helicopter based field inspections of recent activities. Observers included biologists from Centex Corp., one of Canfor's major customers, and Delize Storcer and Mark Pirker from the FMAC.



Findings – Grande Prairie FMA #990037

Noteworthy comments

- Strong progress has been made on species of special management concern and all 7 species now have long-term programs in place (e.g. based on models of habitat suitability.)
- Public involvement continues to take place in the development of the new management plan through the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC).
- Opportunities to observe the assessment process in the field were provided to customers and members of the FMAC. Members of the FMAC have been in attendance on all registration and periodic assessment audits. To date, about 8 members have accompanied the auditors in the field.
- Continued progress has been made in upgrading fuel storage facilities in camps
- Good field practices were observed during the periodic assessment and field operators were handling the lack of a protective snow layer well
- Field operators are showing an increased focus on leaving snags, saplings, etc. standing to provide increased vertical structure in cutblocks after harvesting.
- Monitoring requirements related to CSA-SFM objectives have now been rolled into the operation’s “TTS” tracking system to ensure they are completed on time.

Key Areas of Minor Nonconformance

- Two isolated minor nonconformances were identified on the FMA during the January, 2001 Periodic Assessment.
 - One operator was not aware of work instructions related to his specific role, and
 - In two isolated incidents, individual operators did not have up to date copies of block maps.

Key opportunities for improvement

- Block maps are not controlled documents under the EMS and do not have revision dates or numbers. As block maps are frequently updated during operations to reflect changes to plans, there will likely be a need to strengthen controls over map distribution and changes to ensure all operators have the correct version of the map.
- The auditors noted an increasing emphasis on the retention of vertical structure (such as snags and saplings) in cutblocks. Some form of formal objectives or guidelines would be beneficial in the future to ensure these field practices contribute beneficially to achieving the operation’s habitat suitability objectives.

The unusual lack of a protective snow layer in January was handled well by field operators.

January, 2001 ISO 14001 and CSA-SFM Periodic Assessments	
Major nonconformances	0
Minor nonconformances	2
Opportunities for improvement	2

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.

Contacts:

Mike Alexander, RPF, CEA (604) 691-3401
 Chris Ridley-Thomas, RPBio, CEA (604) 691-3088
 David Bebb, RPF, CEA (604) 691-3451

This issue may only be reproduced by the intended client Canadian Forest Products Ltd., with the express consent of KPMG. Information in this issue is of a general nature with respect to audit findings and is not intended to be acted upon without appropriate professional advice.