

Forest Certification in Canada

The Programs, Similarities & Achievements





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1 Introduction to Certification

Forest Certification

Independent forest certification provides a stamp of approval showing customers they are buying products that come from forests managed to comprehensive environmental, social, and economic standards. A certificate is issued only after a thorough review by third-party auditors determines, among other things, that long-term harvests are sustainable, there is no unauthorized or illegal logging, wildlife habitat is preserved, and soil quality is maintained.

In Canada: Canadian forest managers certify their lands to one of three internationally recognized forest certification programs – Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative®¹ (SFI). All three set high thresholds that forest companies must clear, above and beyond Canada’s tough regulatory requirements. Moreover, they are tailored to take into account global forestry issues as well as circumstances specific to the Canadian landscape, such as the livelihood of local communities and the interests of Aboriginal people.

Many companies are also certified to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) Standard, which provides a solid management system for meeting goals and then improving on them. The forestry-specific standards (CSA, FSC, SFI) can then be built on top of this foundation for continual improvement.

Globally: FSC operates at the global level and accredits regional standards in Canada as meeting its international principles and criteria. The Programme for the Endorsement of Certification schemes (PEFC) is a global forest certification umbrella organization that endorses national forest certification systems that meet its assessment criteria. Both the CSA and SFI certification programs have been endorsed by PEFC.

In 2002 forest companies belonging to the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) and responsible for managing the vast majority of the commercial forest in Canada, committed to certifying their forestry operations to CSA, FSC, or SFI. That goal was met in 2006. New FPAC members and operations acquired by member companies must meet this certification commitment within five years as a requirement of membership.

Traceability

Illegal logging in developing countries is a major cause of deforestation and poses a significant threat to the overall sustainability of forests and the economic viability of forest communities. It can undermine the viability of legally harvested and traded forest products. Forest companies belonging to the Forest Products Association of Canada have signed a commitment to only purchase and use wood from legal sources, and to trace their wood supplies to provide documented assurance that they come from well-managed and legal origins.

There are multiple wood production and tracking mechanisms whereby saw or pulp mills in Canada can identify the forest management unit and the exact stand that wood has originated from. This is largely because 93% of the forest lands are publicly owned. They are managed under a multi-layered legislative framework and many of the traceability mechanisms in place are part of regulations and government oversight. The details of the traceability mechanisms used are likely to vary between provinces, territories, and companies because of jurisdictional and business management differences. For example, one company might use a contractor payment system to identify the forest each load of wood comes from; another might take the location from the load slip that accompanies the wood to the mill. However the same general mechanisms (such as approval of management and operating plans, and field inspections) are in place everywhere.

¹ Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), Sustainable Forestry Initiative®, SFI® and the SFI logo are registered service marks of SFI Inc

Chain-Of-Custody Certification

A chain-of-custody is a set of chain-wide administrative and technical requirements for traceability². The chain might run from the forest to the first mill that receives it (a "forest" chain-of-custody) or from the forest through all stages of production to the end consumer (a "product" chain-of-custody). The traceability mechanisms to be used are established in the chain-of-custody standard of the relevant forest certification program (e.g. CSA, FSC, SFI) and audited by independent third parties.³ Chain-of-custody certification complements forest management certification by verifying the link between the certified forest and the product, enabling the product to be sold as certified. Both FSC and SFI have developed program-specific chain-of-custody standards whereas the CSA program uses the PEFC international chain-of-custody standard.

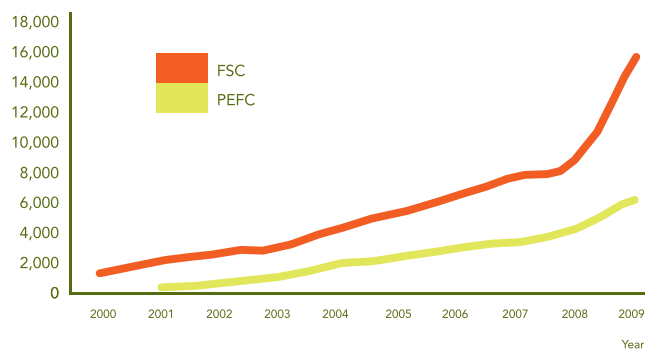


A certification system's chain-of-custody provides:

- third party verification of the percentage of certified, non-certified and recycled content in a product
- assurance that non-certified sources come from legal and controlled or non-controversial sources
- the ability to communicate that content through a label on the product.

Businesses and governments have rising expectations about the environmental and social pedigree of the paper and wood products they buy, and are asking for certified wood. Because of concerns over illegal logging and deforestation they are also scrutinizing any non-certified wood. This demand for proof that forest products have been sustainably and legally harvested has, in turn, boosted demand for chain-of-custody certification. The majority of FPAC member companies use a certified chain-of-custody to track their wood supplies.

World Trends - Chain of Custody Certificates



source: www.fsc.org, www.pefc.org

² <http://www.utzcertified.org/index.php?pageID=159>

³ Adapted from www.storaenso.com/links/glossary/sustainability-glossary

Certification Programs Used in Canada

Three major forest certification programs are used in Canada. They apply to public and private lands, can be used for both large and small forest areas, and include environmental objectives and performance measures.



The Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

(CAN/CSA-Z809-08). CSA is a not-for-profit membership-based organization founded in 1919, and Canada's oldest and largest standards development organization. The CSA Sustainable Forest Management Standard (Z809-08), Canada's national standard for sustainable forest management, was released in 1996 and last revised in 2008. It uses a definition of sustainable forest management developed by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) from the Montreal Process, an inter-governmental process for developing global criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

A standard specifically for woodlots and other small area forests, CSA Z804, was released in 2008.



The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Canada.

FSC Canada was constituted in 1998 and operates under FSC International (see below). It is a Registered Charity governed by a Board of Directors representing a balance of interests. It has developed three regional (sub-national) standards for Canada that include and build on the Principles and Criteria of the FSC International Standard for responsible forest management. These have been accredited by FSC International and are: the Maritimes Standard (released 1999, last revised 2008), the British Columbia Standard (released 2003, revised 2005), and the National Boreal Standard (2004). A draft standard for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region was field-tested in 2007.

There are also streamlined requirements for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF).



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI® Inc.)

(SFI 2010 – 2014). SFI Inc. is an independent, non-profit charitable organization with a forest management standard developed specifically for North American forests. The SFI standard (first released in 1998, last revised in 2010) is applied across forests in both Canada and the United States, and is based on sustainability principles and measures that include both land management and fiber sourcing objectives. SFI Inc. is governed by a three chamber Board of Directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

The SFI Standard is applied to larger forest operations and SFI Inc. recognizes PEFC endorsed systems in North America, such as the American Tree Farm System in the U.S., for certification of family forest ownerships.

Links to International Standards and Programs

FSC International and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) are global, independent non-profit programs that recognize national and regional forest certification programs meeting international requirements and developed in a multi-stakeholder process.



FSC provides internationally recognized standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for responsible forest management. Founded in 1993, it operates in some 50 countries through a network of national initiatives. The FSC international standard consists of 10 Principles and 56 Criteria. Indicators are developed under these principles and criteria at the national or sub-national level, and together they form regional standards that FSC accredits. The principles, criteria and indicators meet the international requirements of WTO, ISEAL and ISO. By December 2009 117.9 million hectares (291 million acres) distributed in over 82 countries had been certified to FSC-endorsed or locally adapted generic standards.⁴

In Canada three regional standards have been accredited by FSC and a fourth has been field-tested.

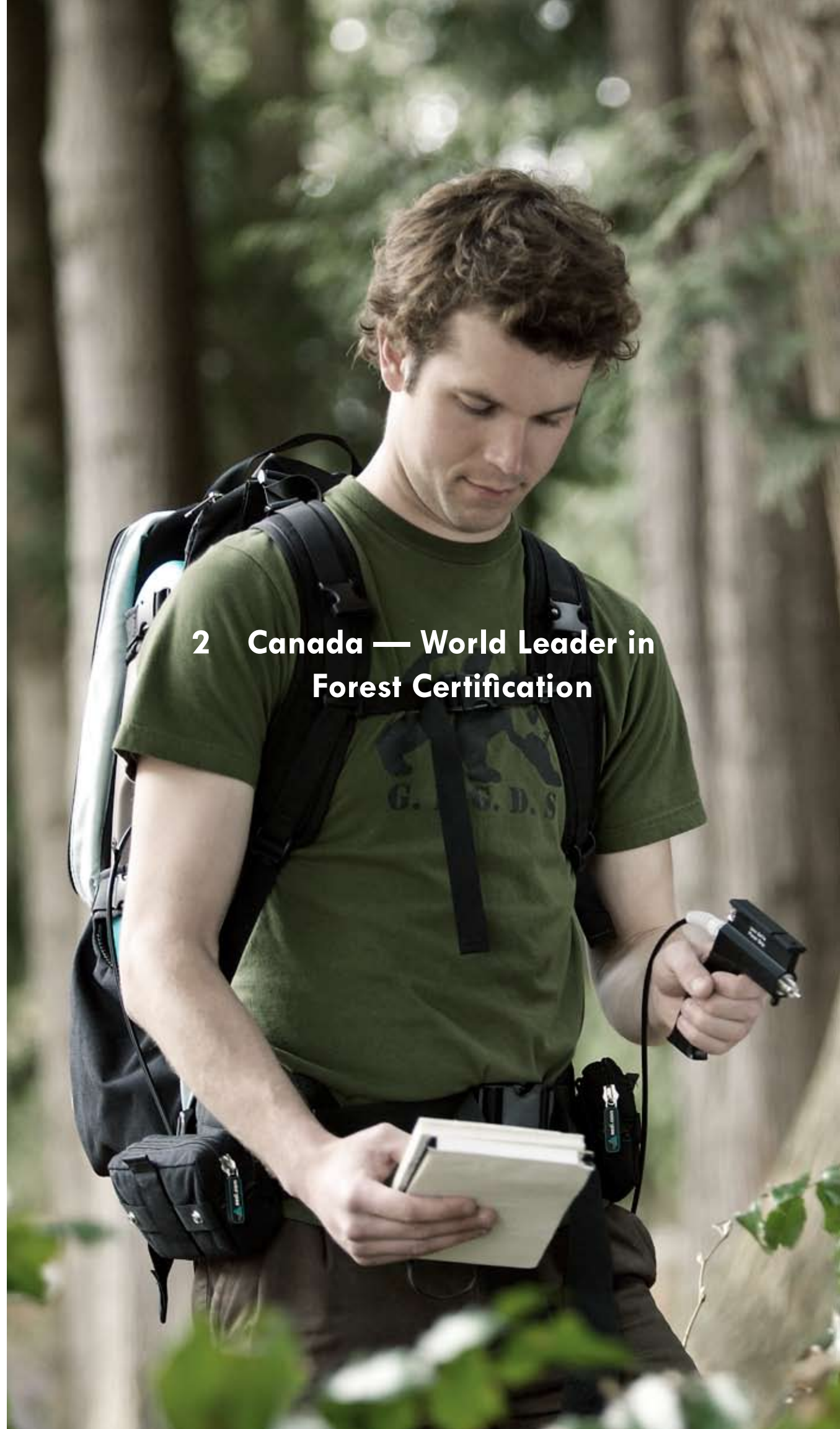


PEFC was founded in 1999 and assesses and provides mutual recognition for certification programs that put into practice internationally agreed-upon sustainable forest management criteria. These criteria result from inter-governmental processes, such as the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, which are recognized and supported by 149 governments around the world. Certification bodies are accredited by national accreditation organizations which are members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). By December 2009 PEFC had endorsed 28 national forest certification systems accounting for 228 million hectares (563 million acres) of certified forest.⁵

In Canada the CSA and SFI programs were endorsed by PEFC in 2005.

⁴ www.fsc.org
⁵ www.pefc.org

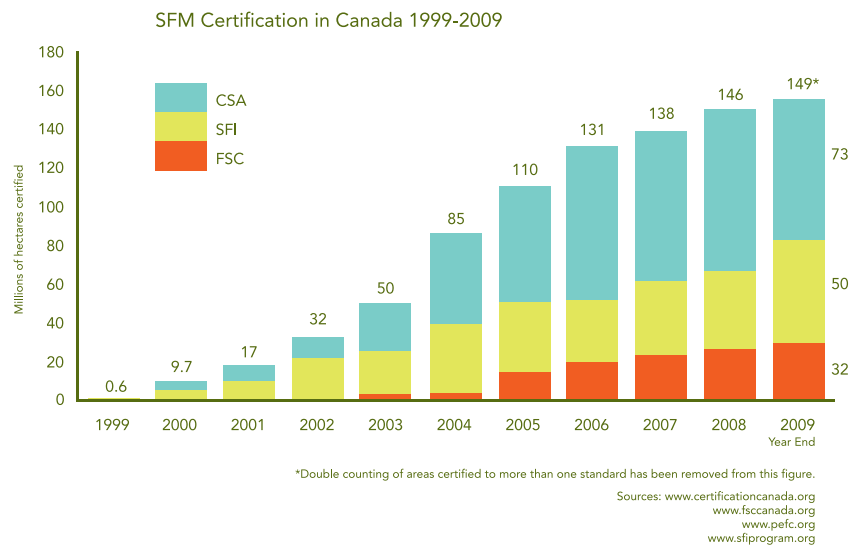
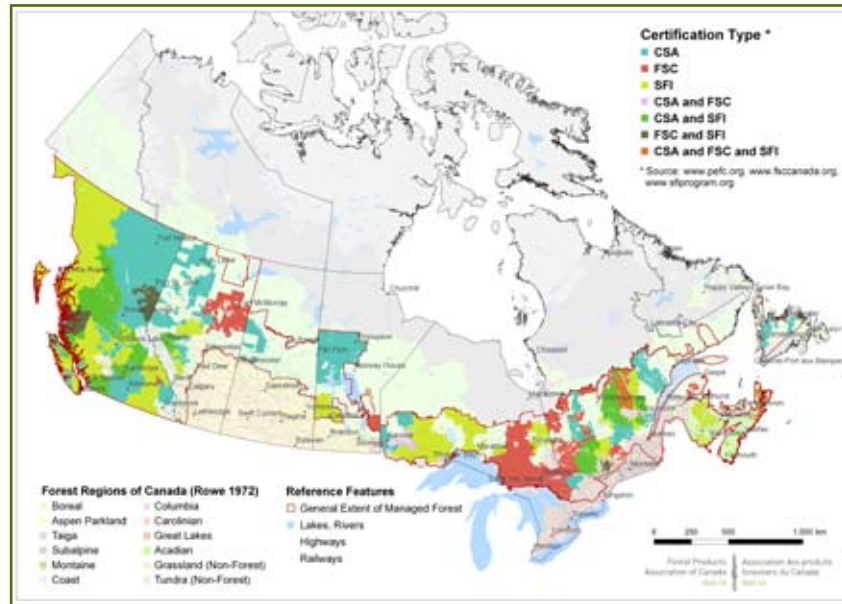
2 Canada — World Leader in Forest Certification



Canada leads the world in third-party forest certification.

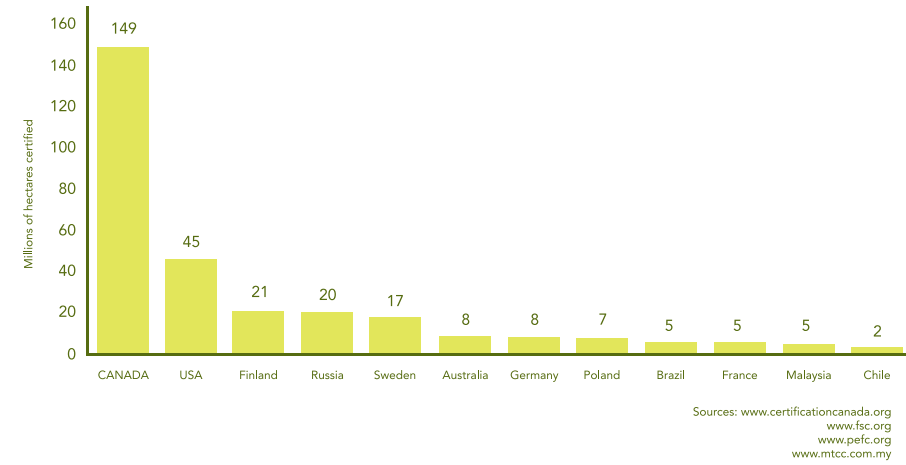
The early certification commitment of FPAC member companies in 2002 was instrumental in spurring the phenomenal growth of forest certification in Canada. There is now a significant amount of certified wood available from Canada to meet the growing customer demand for certified forest products.

Certification map. A map of areas of certified forest operations across Canada can be found at www.certificationcanada.org, and a map of the certified operations of FPAC member companies can be found at www.fpac.ca. Details about a certification can be viewed by clicking on the specific area. An example of these maps is shown below, and the most current versions can be found on the websites.



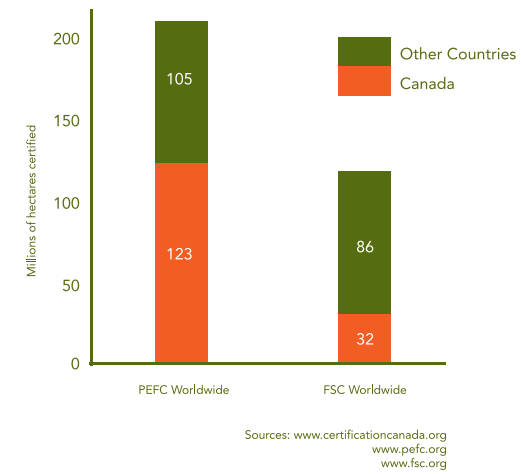
- There are 149 million hectares (368 million acres) of forest area in Canada third-party certified to the three sustainable forest certification standards.
- FPAC members account for 92 million hectares (227 million acres) of those certifications. (counting areas certified to multiple standards only once)

Canadian Certification in the Global Context 2009 Year-end



- Canada has the largest area of third-party independently certified forests (CSA, FSC, SFI) in the world.
- Canada has over 40 per cent of the world's certified forest area.
- Only 10 per cent of the world's forests are certified.

Canada's Contribution to Worldwide FSC and PEFC Certification



- Canada has more than half of all PEFC endorsed certifications (CSA and SFI) and more than one quarter of all FSC certifications

3 Key Elements of Certification Programs

The CSA, FSC and SFI forest certification programs were developed for specific circumstances and needs, and have differences. The legal framework within which standards are applied has also influenced them. For example CSA is only applied in Canada, largely on government-owned forest lands, and was written to complement tough policies, guidelines and government oversight already in place for the public forestlands in Canada. A standard for small area forests that may be privately owned also exists. FSC was established as a response to concerns over global deforestation and is applied on public or private lands, large or small, worldwide. It includes requirements that may not already be in place in developing countries lacking a strong environmental and social framework. SFI is applied in Canada and the United States on both public and private lands and its requirements for North America recognize the strong legal framework in place there. It incorporates outreach and training requirements for suppliers of wood bought from non-program participants.

The standards have evolved over time, just as the definition of sustainable forest management itself has. They remain current and relevant through regular standard reviews that accommodate new science and changing public views, and on many fronts there has been convergence over time. For example the CSA standard has become more responsive to social concerns, FSC standards have become more responsive to economic concerns, and SFI is now a fully independent non-profit organization.

All standards promote responsible forest management through the conservation of biological diversity, maintenance of wildlife habitat and species diversity, protection of special sites, soil and water, and sustainable harvest levels. Forests are protected from illegal logging, laws and rights are observed, input is obtained from multiple stakeholders, there is public reporting, and audits by independent third parties are required.

For more on how the certification systems all promote responsible forest management, please see the table that follows entitled “Key Elements in Forest Certification Programs”.

Celebrating the Value of All Standards

The CSA, FSC, and SFI certification standards all belong in purchasing policies aimed at obtaining environmentally sound products from well-managed forests. The standards complement each other in that they accomplish the same overall objectives. They are applied side-by-side across the landscape, and increasingly, on the same forest area to keep options open for meeting market demands. Certification to one standard makes it easier to certify to another since many elements are already in place. See the map of certified areas in Canada at www.certificationcanada.org or www.fpac.ca.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers recognizes CSA, FSC and SFI as being consistent with national and international agreements related to sustainable forest management and meeting criteria for balancing interests, being objective and science-based, implementable and practical.⁶

Many other government agencies and corporate buyers in North America with procurement policies that include certified products recognize the CSA, FSC and SFI programs. Globally the programs are recognized either explicitly or through the FSC or PEFC international programs, and are accepted by the governments of France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. A robust independent assessment carried out by the British government’s Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) found that CSA, FSC, SFI and PEFC all provide assurance of legal and sustainable forest products.

⁶ Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Statement on Forest Certification Standards in Canada. http://www.sfmcanada.org/CMFiles/PublicationLibrary/CCFM_Statement_Forest_Certification_EN1KWA-24122008-5150.pdf



Benefits of including all standards in procurement policies include:

- Promoting well-managed, legal and sustainable sources of forest products
- Rewarding sustainable forestry leadership in the 10% of the world's forests that are certified, encouraging similar improvements in the other 90% of the world's forests.
- Promoting competition and continual improvement amongst the standards
- Ensuring a plentiful supply of certified forest products
- Giving freedom of choice (options) to organizations looking for certified forest products
- Improving global forest management by providing independent third-party verification of responsible practices.

Conclusions

While there are some differences, the three certification programs used in Canada all promote sound forest management through principles, criteria and objectives that are viewed as the basis of sustainable forest management within Canada and around the world.

Only 10 per cent of the world's forests are certified, and the fact that over 40 per cent of those certified lands are found in Canada means Canada has a stable and secure supply of certified fibre. This independent verification provides added assurance of responsible forest practices from a country with some of the world's toughest and well-enforced regulatory frameworks for forestry.

Table of Key Elements in Forest Certification Programs

The forest certification standards used in Canada are consistent across key values. However each moves from global values and principles, to local application, in a different way:

- CSA has one standard with key SFM elements and mandatory core indicators that are consistent across Canada. The organization seeking certification, working with interested parties in a public participation process, develops a Sustainable Forest Management Plan that identifies forest values, establishes core and locally developed indicators for each value, and sets appropriate targets for each indicator.
- FSC has a global standard of Principles and Criteria that are common across FSC national or regional standards worldwide. These are audited through indicators in sub-national standards developed for four main forest types in Canada.
- SFI has one set of auditable requirements that are consistent across Canada and the United States, divided into Land Management Objectives, Fibre Sourcing Objectives, and objectives that apply to both.

These "structural" differences make it difficult to directly compare the three standards, as they each take a diverse approach to developing auditable indicators. CSA does this at the both the national and local levels (through core indicators and local indicators), FSC does this at the sub-national standard level (through standards for different forest types), and SFI does this directly in its standard.

The following table illustrates the forestry requirements of these standards and provides some examples of indicators to show how the requirements are specifically applied in Canada's Boreal Forest Region. Other important elements of certification standards, such as auditor qualifications, chain-of-custody and labeling are also covered. The table is based on what is written in the standards and should not be taken as giving an accurate indication of what happens when they are applied on the ground.

The Forestry Requirements

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
CONSERVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	<p>Criterion 1. Biological Diversity: Conserve biological diversity by maintaining integrity, function, and diversity of living organisms and the complexes of which they are part.</p> <p>Elements:</p> <p>1.1 Ecosystem Diversity: Conserve ecosystem diversity at the stand and landscape levels by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur in the DFA.</p> <p>1.2 Species Diversity: Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found in the DFA are maintained through time, including habitats for known occurrences of species at risk.</p> <p>1.3 Genetic Diversity: Conserve genetic diversity by maintaining the variation of genes within species and ensuring that reforestation programs are free of genetically modified organisms.</p> <p>1.4 Protected Areas and Sites of Special Biological and Cultural Significance: Respect protected areas identified through government processes. Co-operate in broader landscape management related to protected areas and sites of special biological and cultural significance. Identify sites of special geological, biological, or cultural significance within the DFA, and implement management strategies appropriate to their long-term maintenance.</p>	<p>Principle 6. Environmental Impact:</p> <p>Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p> <p>Criterion 6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <p>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</p> <p>b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.</p> <p>c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p> <p>Also specified in Criteria:</p> <p>6.1 (Assessment of Environmental Impact),</p> <p>6.2 (Species at Risk),</p> <p>6.4 (Representative Sample of Ecosystems) and Principle 9 (High Conservation Value Forests).</p>	<p>Principle 4. Protection of Biological Diversity: To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types.</p> <p>Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value: To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic fauna</p> <p>Objective 11. Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas:</p> <p>Performance Measure 4.1. Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand and landscape levels.</p>
	Example: Application in Canada's Boreal Forest		
	Core Indicators: (Local indicators may also be set)	Indicators: FSC Boreal Standard for Canada	Indicators:
Natural Forest Landscapes	<p>Element 1.1: ...maintain the variety of communities and ecosystems that occur naturally...</p> <p>1.1.2. Forest area by type or species composition</p>	<p>6.3.4. Forest units and communities that are significantly under-represented relative to the preindustrial composition are being increased in abundance over the longer term. In the near term, at a minimum, their abundance is being maintained with the intent to increase it over the longer term</p> <p>6.3.6. Set targets for landscape patterns, consistent with the pre-industrial forest. Management is returning the forest landscape pattern to one consistent with the pre-industrial forest. This approach is consistent with maintaining natural levels of core habitat and connectivity throughout the long-term planning horizon</p>	<p>Performance Measure 4.1, Ind. 5: Program for assessment... of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape...</p> <p>Performance Measure 17.1, Ind. 5: Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders and have a program to take into account the results ...</p>
Forest Age	<p>Element 1.1: ...maintain the variety of communities and ecosystems that occur naturally...</p> <p>1.1.3. Forest area by seral stage or age class</p>	<p>6.3.5. Maintain average landscape and/or regional distributions or amounts of the full age-range of old forests as identified in the analysis of pre-industrial condition. Allow for a 25% departure from estimated mean of older forests. In absence of a credible estimate of the mean, retain a minimum of 20% old forest. There may be up to 50% departure from the mean in regions with exceptionally high natural proportions of older forests.</p>	<p>Performance Measure 4.1, Ind 6: Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.</p>

The Forestry Requirements (cont.)

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
<p>MAINTAIN WILDLIFE HABITAT AND SPECIES DIVERSITY</p> <p>(Provides further detail on “CONSERVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY” above)</p>	<p>Element 1.1. ...maintain the variety of communities and ecosystems that occur naturally...</p> <p>Element 1.2 Species Diversity: ...ensure habitats for native species ... are maintained through time, including habitats for known occurrences of species at risk.</p> <p>Criterion 2 Ecosystem Condition and Productivity: Conserve forest ecosystem condition and productivity by maintaining the health, vitality, and rates of biological production.</p> <p>Element 2.1 Forest Ecosystem Resilience: Conserve ecosystem resilience by maintaining both ecosystem processes and ecosystem conditions.</p> <p>Element 2.2 Forest Ecosystem Productivity: Conserve forest ecosystem productivity and productive capacity by maintaining ecosystem conditions that are capable of supporting naturally occurring species. Reforest promptly and use tree species ecologically suited to the site</p>	<p>Criterion 6.2: Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.</p> <p>Criterion 6.3: Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <p>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</p> <p>b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.</p> <p>c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>Performance Measure 4.1. ...programs to promote biological diversity at stand and landscape levels.</p> <p>Performance Measure 4.2. Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.</p> <p>Performance Measure 8.1. Program Participants shall provide information to landowners for reforestation following harvest, for the use of best management practices, and for the identification and protection of important habitat elements for wildlife and biodiversity, including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.</p> <p>Performance Measure 15.1. Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.</p>
	Example: Application in Canada’s Boreal Forest		
	Core Indicators: (Local indicators may also be set)	Indicators: FSC Boreal Standard for Canada	Indicators:
Wildlife Habitat	<p>Element 1.2 ... habitats for native species ... are maintained through time, including habitats for species at risk.</p> <p>1.2.1. Degree of habitat protection for selected focal species, including species at risk</p> <p>1.2.2. Degree of suitable habitat in the long term for selected focal species, including species at risk</p> <p>1.2.3. Proportion of regeneration comprised of native species</p>	<p>6.3.12. Maintain large areas (thousands of hectares) of contiguous core forest habitat, representative of the habitat types of the landbase, making up at least 20% of the management unit. Large cores consist primarily of mature and old forest and to the greatest extent possible do not contain roads.</p> <p>6.3.13. Maintain or restore connectivity between important wildlife areas and key landscape features such as High Conservation Value Forests, late seral stage forests and protected areas.</p> <p>6.3.14. Set quantitative habitat objectives for species chosen to represent a range of habitat requirements.</p>	<p>Performance Measure 4.1, Ind1: Program to promote conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.</p> <p>Performance Measure 4.2, Ind1: Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data ...</p> <p>Ind 2: A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.</p>
Retention of Structure	<p>Element 1.1: ...maintain the variety of communities and ecosystems that occur naturally...</p> <p>1.1.4. Degree of within-stand structural retention</p>	<p>6.3.10. Harvesting activities (normal and salvage) maintain residual stand structures sufficient to fulfill ecological functions</p>	<p>Performance Measure 4.1, Ind 4: Development and implementation of criteria... to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.</p>

The Forestry Requirements (cont.)

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
<p>PROTECT / MAINTAIN SPECIAL SITES (Biological and Cultural)</p>	<p>Element 1.4: Respect protected areas identified through government processes. Co-operate in broader landscape management related to protected areas and sites of special biological and cultural significance. Identify sites of special geological, biological, or cultural significance...and implement management strategies appropriate to their long-term maintenance.</p> <p>Criterion 6 Society's Responsibility: Society's responsibility for sustainable forest management requires that fair, equitable, and effective forest management decisions are made.</p> <p>Element 6.2 Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge, and Uses: Respect traditional Aboriginal forest values, knowledge, and uses as identified through the Aboriginal input process.</p>	<p>Criterion 3.3: Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in co-operation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</p> <p>Criterion 6.4: Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p> <p>Principle 9 Maintenance of high conservation value forests: Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</p>	<p>Principle 6: Protection of Special Sites To manage forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.</p> <p>Performance Measure 4.1, Ind 3: Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value...</p> <p>Performance Measure 18.2, Ind 1: Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to a) understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge; b) identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and c) address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.</p> <p>Performance Measure 8.1, Ind 2: Program to address Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value in harvests of purchased stumpage</p>

The Forestry Requirements (cont.)

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
MAINTAIN SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES	<p>Criterion 3 Soil and Water: Conserve soil and water resources by maintaining their quantity and quality in forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Element 3.1 Soil Quality and Quantity: Conserve soil resources by maintaining soil quality and quantity. (soil disturbance, downed woody debris)</p> <p>Element 3.2 Water Quality and Quantity: Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity. (proportion of disturbed watershed)</p>	<p>Criterion 5.5: Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p> <p>Principle 6. Environmental impact: Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p> <p>Criterion 6.5: Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p>	<p>Principle 2. Forest Productivity and Health. To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity. In addition, to protect forests...</p> <p>Principle 3. Protection of Water Resources To protect water bodies and riparian zones, and to conform with best management practices to protect water quality.</p> <p>Objective 10. Adherence to Best Management Practices. ... use of best management practices to protect water quality.</p> <p>Performance Measure 2.3: Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity</p>
	Example: Application in Canada's Boreal Forest		
	Core Indicators: (Local indicators may also be set)	Indicators: FSC Boreal Standard for Canada	Indicators:
Riparian Areas	<p>Element 3.2 Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity.</p> <p>3.2.1. Proportion of watershed or water management areas with recent stand-replacing disturbance.</p> <p>A6.3.3 To maintain water quality and quantity in forest-based rivers, lakes, and wetlands, forest managers might need to restrict, to the degree possible, the proportion of a watershed's forest that has recently experienced stand-replacing disturbances. This will also help ensure that peak flow thresholds are not exceeded due to management actions.</p> <p>A.6.3.3.3 Established research on the effects of certain field practices on local water quality and flows can be used to establish regulations and guidelines to control field practices. These regulations and guidelines address such topics as fish habitat, stream crossings and riparian areas.</p> <p>A7.3.3.1 Respect legal rights: common law rights of riparian owners</p>	<p>6.3.17. Forests surrounding or adjoining permanent water bodies are protected by inner riparian reserves extending at least 20 metres from the treed edge of water bodies. Additional riparian reserves are applied as appropriate, averaging an additional 45 metres, and managed to maintain fish or wildlife habitat and/or cultural and recreational values.</p> <p>6.3.18. Appropriate considerations are included for ephemeral or intermittent streams in operating guidelines and standard operating procedures.</p>	<p>Performance Measure 3.1: Program Participants shall meet or exceed ... best management practices developed under Canadian ... approved water quality programs.</p> <p>Performance Measure 3.2, Ind 1: Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.</p> <p>Ind. 4: Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.</p> <p>Ind 5: Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.</p> <p>Performance Measure 10.1: Program to require that harvests of purchased stumpage comply with best management practices.</p> <p>Performance Measure 10.2: Program Participants shall monitor the use of best management practices by wood producers supplying the Program Participant</p>

The Forestry Requirements (cont.)

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
ENSURE HARVEST LEVELS ARE SUSTAINABLE	<p>Criterion 2 Ecosystem Condition and Productivity: Conserve forest ecosystem condition and productivity by maintaining the health, vitality, and rates of biological production.</p> <p>Element 2.2 Forest Ecosystem Productivity: Conserve forest ecosystem productivity and productive capacity by maintaining ecosystem conditions that are capable of supporting naturally occurring species. Reforest promptly and use tree species ecologically suited to the site.</p> <p>Criterion 5 Economic and Social Benefits: Sustain flows of forest benefits for current and future generations by providing multiple goods and services.</p> <p>Element 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits: Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of timber and non-timber benefits. Evaluate timber and non-timber forest products and forest-based services.</p>	<p>Principle 5. Benefits from the forest: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>Criterion 5.6: The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>	<p>Objective 1. Forest Management Planning. To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term forest productivity and yield based on the use of the best scientific information available.</p> <p>Performance Measure 1.1. Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.</p>
	Example: Application in Canada’s Boreal Forest		
	Core Indicators: (Local indicators may also be set)	Indicators: FSC Boreal Standard for Canada	Indicators:
Sustainable Harvest	<p>Element 2.2 ... maintain ecosystem conditions capable of supporting naturally occurring species. Reforest promptly, use tree species ecologically suited to the site.</p> <p>2.2.1. Additions and deletions to the forest area</p> <p>2.2.2. Proportion of the calculated long-term sustainable harvest level that is actually harvested</p> <p>Element 5.1 ...produce an acceptable and feasible mix of timber and non-timber benefits. Evaluate timber and non-timber forest products and forest-based services.</p> <p>5.1.1. Quantity and quality of timber and non-timber benefits, products, and services produced in the DFA</p>	<p>5.6.1 The analysis and calculation of harvest rates is based on a precautionary approach, credible growth-and-yield information, a current inventory, sensitivity analysis of the assumptions that go into the calculations, natural succession pathways, operational constraints, etc. (see list).</p> <p>5.6.3 The wood supply modelling exercise is subject to peer review.</p> <p>5.6.4 Actual harvest rates for timber, averaged over five years, do not exceed the planned average level</p>	<p>Performance Measure 1.1, Ind 1: Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including a) a long-term resources analysis; b) a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; c) a land classification system; d) soils inventory and maps, where available; e) access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities; f) up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS); g) recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and h) a review of non-timber issues ...</p> <p>Ind 2: Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.</p>
NO WOOD FROM ILLEGAL OR UNAUTHORIZED SOURCES (Also see Chain-of-Custody below)	<p>4.2 Required Activities: The organization shall meet the SFM requirements of this Standard, which include: a) compliance with legislation applicable to the Defined Forest Area.</p> <p>7.3.3 Rights and Regulations: The organization shall: a) demonstrate that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements relating to ownership, tenure, rights, and responsibilities in the Defined Forest Area have been identified and complied with;</p>	<p>Principle 1. Compliance with laws and FSC Principles: Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>Criterion 1.5: Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</p>	<p>Principle 8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing. To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws.</p> <p>Principle 9. Legal Compliance. To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.</p>
PROTECT FORESTLANDS FROM DEFORESTATION AND CONVERSION	<p>Element 2.2 Forest Ecosystem Productivity: Conserve forest ecosystem productivity and productive capacity by maintaining ecosystem conditions that are capable of supporting naturally occurring species. Reforest promptly and use tree species ecologically suited to the site.</p> <p>Element 4.2 Forest Land Conversion: Protect forest lands from deforestation or conversion to non-forests, where ecologically appropriate.</p>	<p>Criterion 6.10: Forest conversion to plantations (“Forest areas lacking most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems...”) or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</p> <p>a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and</p> <p>b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and</p> <p>c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits.</p>	<p>Objective 2. Forest Productivity. To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage, and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.</p> <p>Performance Measure 2.1: Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.</p> <p>Ind 6: Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.</p> <p>Ind 7: Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.</p>

The Forestry Requirements (cont.)

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND/OR INVOLVEMENT	<p>5.2 Interested Parties: The organization shall: (c) demonstrate through documentation that efforts were made to contact and encourage affected and interested communities, including Aboriginal communities, to become involved in the SFM public participation process; (d) acknowledge that Aboriginal participation in the public participation process is without prejudice to Aboriginal title and rights, or treaty rights;</p> <p>Element 6.1 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights: Recognize and respect Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights. Understand and comply with current legal requirements related to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.</p> <p>Element 6.2 Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge, and Uses: Respect traditional Aboriginal forest values, knowledge, and uses as identified through the Aboriginal input process.</p> <p>7.2 SFM Policy. Top management shall define and maintain the organization's SFM commitment through policy statements and/or other documented public statements. The statement(s) shall contain a commitment to (c) respect and recognize Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights;</p> <p>(e) provide participation opportunities for Aboriginal Peoples with rights to and interests in SFM within the DFA;</p> <p>7.3.3 Rights and Regulations: The organization shall: (c) demonstrate that Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights have been identified and respected;</p>	<p>Criterion 3.1: Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p> <p>Criterion 3.2: Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Criterion 3.3: Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in co-operation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</p> <p>Criterion 3.4: Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.</p> <p>4.4.3 Agree that Indigenous Peoples' participation (in public participation) will not prejudice Aboriginal and treaty rights</p>	<p>Performance Measure 13.1. Program Participants shall avoid controversial sources and encourage socially sound practices.</p> <p>Performance Measure 14.2. Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates.</p> <p>Performance Measure 18.2. Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.</p>
	Example: Application in Canada's Boreal Forest		
	Core Indicators: (Local indicators may also be set)	Indicators: FSC Boreal Standard for Canada	Indicators:
Indigenous Peoples Rights	<p>Element 6.1. ... Understand and comply with current legal requirements related to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights</p> <p>6.1.1. Evidence of a good understanding of the nature of Aboriginal title and rights</p> <p>6.1.2. Evidence of best efforts to obtain acceptance of management plans based on Aboriginal communities having a clear understanding of the plans</p> <p>6.1.3. Level of management and/or protection of areas where culturally important practices and activities (hunting, fishing, gathering) occur</p> <p>Element 6.2 Respect traditional Aboriginal forest values, knowledge, and uses as identified through the Aboriginal input process.</p> <p>6.2.1. Evidence of understanding and use of Aboriginal knowledge through the engagement of willing Aboriginal communities, using a process that identifies and manages culturally important resources and values</p> <p>6.4.3. Evidence of efforts to promote capacity development and meaningful participation for Aboriginal communities</p>	<p>3.1.2 Agreement is obtained from each affected indigenous community verifying that their interests and concerns are clearly incorporated in the management plan. Agreement includes a description of the responsibilities of the parties etc. (see list), and is not intended to abrogate or derogate from their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.</p> <p>3.1.3 Support the efforts of affected Indigenous communities to develop capacity for participation in forest management and development.</p> <p>3.14. Jointly establish opportunities for long-term economic benefit.</p> <p>3.1.5 A developed dispute resolution process has been jointly developed with affected indigenous communities and is being fairly implemented.</p> <p>3.3.3. Where indigenous communities indicate threats of serious environmental, economic or cultural impact, (e.g. destruction of burial sites, livelihood, damage to water supply etc.) forestry operations are suspended or relocated until disputes are resolved.</p>	<p>Performance Measure 13.1, Ind 1: Process to assess the risk the Program Participant's fiber sourcing could take place in countries without effective laws addressing (c) . indigenous peoples' rights.</p> <p>Ind 2: Program to address any significant risk identified under 13.1.1.</p> <p>Performance Measure 14.2, Ind.1: Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering ... indigenous peoples' rights...</p> <p>Performance Measure 18.2, Ind 1: Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to:</p> <p>(a) understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;</p> <p>(b) identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites;</p> <p>(c) address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands</p>

The Forestry Requirements (cont.)

	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-08)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFI 2010-2014 Standard)
REQUIRE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE	<p>7.3.5 SFM Plan: The organization shall document, maintain, and make publicly available an SFM plan for the Defined Forest Area.</p> <p>7.4.3 Communication. The organization shall:</p> <p>b) establish and maintain procedures for ... responding to relevant communication from external interested parties;</p> <p>c) make the SFM Plan publicly available;</p> <p>d) make publicly available an annual report on its performance in meeting and maintain the SFM requirements;</p> <p>e) make publicly available the results of independent certification and surveillance audit reports, including at a minimum, the topics listed (description of audit, findings, corrective actions, recommendations etc.)</p>	<p>Criterion 7.4: While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1 (management objectives, description of forest resource, environmental limitations, etc.).</p> <p>Criterion 8.5: While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2 (yield of forest products harvested, growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest, etc.).</p>	<p>Performance Measure 19.1 A certified Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</p> <p>Ind 1: The summary audit report submitted by the Program Participant ...shall include those elements listed (description of audit, description of operations, summary of findings etc.)</p> <p>The summary audit report will be posted on the SFI Inc. website for public review.</p>

Other Program Elements

	CSA	FSC	SFI
BALANCE	Decisions are made with representation from a balance of social, economic and environmental interests. All standards are supported by various conservation groups.		
QUALIFICATIONS OF AUDITORS	Third-party audit by a certification body accredited by Standards Council of Canada (SCC), or another International Accreditation Forum member, according to ISO 17021:2006 for EMS with specific forestry qualifications for CSA audits	Third-party audit by a certification body accredited by Accreditation Services International (of which FSC International is the sole shareholder) in accordance with ISO 65 and ISO 19011:2002 Guidelines – FSC-STD-20-004. The new FSC Standard requires a formal ISO 9001, ISO 14001 or OHSAS 18001 lead auditor certification.	Third-party audit by a certification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB), or the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) according to ISO 17021:2006 for EMS with specific forestry qualifications for SFI audits.
AUDITS OF FOREST PLANNING & PRACTICES	<p>Audits to this standard are carried out by accredited certification bodies that are independent of the standards-writing body (CSA).</p> <p>In addition to the initial audit, there are mandatory surveillance audits, which include both a document review and on-site checks of the forest to ensure progress is being made towards the achievement of targets and that the SFM requirements are being upheld.</p> <p>A full re-certification audit is required periodically following the initial certification, in accordance with the requirements of the Standards Council of Canada.</p>	<p>Certification bodies shall follow the requirements for decision making as specified in Part 2 of FSC-STD-20-002 Version 3 in applying this standard, and use the benchmarks, management processes, and targets identified in this Standard as the basis upon which to make assessments.</p> <p>In cases where local or regional considerations have not been fully accounted for by this Standard, or where circumstances unique to an applicant's operations are relevant, certifiers are expected to use their best professional judgment in ensuring that the spirit of the FSC Principles and Criteria is upheld in the management of the applicant's forest.</p>	<p>Audits are conducted in accordance with ISO 19011:2002 guidelines.</p> <p>5.3. Determination of Conformance:</p> <p>The certification body shall ensure that the objectives and scope of the audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for accurate field determination of conformance for the entire operating unit; • Verify that the Program Participant's SFI program conforms to SFI principles, policies, objectives, performance measures, indicators, and any additional indicators that the Program Participant chooses; and • Verify whether the Program Participant has effectively implemented its SFI 2010-2014 Standard program requirements on the ground.
REVISION OF THE STANDARDS	All forest standards remain current and relevant through an open, inclusive revision process involving public input, which typically occurs in Canada on a five-year cycle.		
CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY	All chain-of-custody standards require screening of any non-certified wood sources to ensure they come from legal (authorized) and credible sources. They also exclude 'controlled wood' in the case of FSC, and controversial sources in the case of PEFC (CSA and SFI) and SFI. The use of both segregation and percentage-based methods to calculate certified content is allowed with all of the standards.		
	CSA CoC certification requires conformance with the PEFC International Standard – "Chain-of-custody of forest based products – requirements"	<p>FSC CoC Standard (FSC-STD-40-004 Version 2) Exemptions (until end of 2010):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under a percentage system, a reduced labelling threshold of 50% can be used for chip and fibre products • Use of non-certified co-products instead of controlled wood material for FSC-Mixed products allowed in exceptional circumstances based on a written derogation granted in advance. 	SFI CoC certification requires conformance with SFI Section 3, SFI CoC Standard. SFI recognizes fibre from PEFC North American-endorsed standards (SFI, ATFS and CSA) and recognizes PEFC CoC certificates issued in North America for use of the SFI labels.

Other Program Elements (cont.)




	CSA	FSC	SFI
LABELS	All programs have optional on-product labels for use by organizations that have a valid CoC certification under that standard and meet the specified label use requirements.		
	<p>Ability to use PEFC labels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For products with PEFC certified content of 70% or greater, from forests certified against a PEFC endorsed forest certification scheme. For products with PEFC certified & recycle content. Minimum of 70% from forests certified against a PEFC endorsed forest certification scheme and post-consumer recycled raw material. 	<p>A label for 100% FSC certified content</p> <p>A 100% recycled label. (minimum of 85% from post-consumer sources, maximum of 15% from post-industrial sources).</p> <p>A variety of Mixed Source labels that include a combination of FSC certified material, controlled material, and recycled material. Content claims can be calculated using transfer, percentage or credit systems (usually 70% combined FSC certified and recycled content).</p>	<p>Certified Content Labels: Show that some or all of the product's fiber content comes from forests that are certified to any PEFC endorsed standard in Canada or the US (SFI, CSA, and American Tree Farm System).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a combined content label showing exact percentages of content from certified forests, certified fibre sourcing, and post consumer recycled (for use with average percentage calculations). When a company uses the volume credit method, the claim on the label is "Promoting Sustainable Forest Management" Labels can include a mobius loop stating the percentage of post consumer content in the product. <p>SFI Certified Program Participants also have the ability to use PEFC labels with a valid PEFC CoC certificate.</p> <p>Fiber Sourcing Labels: Show that procurement is third-party certified as meeting the SFI Requirements for Fiber Sourcing. (Objectives 8-20 in the SFI Standard)</p>
	LABEL EXAMPLES		
	 <p>PEFC Certified and Recycled</p> <p>This product is from sustainably managed forests, recycled and controlled sources</p> <p>www.pefc.org</p>	 <p>FSC</p> <p>Mixed Sources</p> <p>Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber</p> <p>Cert no. XXX XXX 000</p> <p>www.fsc.org</p> <p>© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council</p>	 <p>SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE</p> <p>Certified Chain of Custody</p> <p>X% Certified Forests, X% Certified Fiber Sourcing and X% Post-Consumer Recycled</p> <p>www.sfiprogram.org</p>
WEBSITES	<p>www.pefccanada.org</p> <p>www.csasfmforests.ca</p>	<p>www.fsccanada.org</p>	<p>www.sfiprogram.org</p>

Table Sources: Based on information publicly available at the time from CSA, FSC, PEFC, and SFI

Glossary

ANSI American National Standards Institute

DFA Defined Forest Area

SFI Sustainable Forestry Initiative

CSA Canadian Standards Association

EMS Environmental management system

SFM Sustainable forest management

CCFM Canadian Council of Forest Ministers

FSC Forest Stewardship Council

PEFC Programme for the Endorsement of
Forest Certification schemes

CoC Chain-of-Custody

ISO International Organization for
Standardization





Canada Wood
Produits de bois canadien

www.canadawood.info

Forest Products Association of Canada
fpac.ca



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