

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

Abitibi River Forest Management Inc.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

The Abitibi River Forest (ARF) sustainable forest license (SFL no. 551832) is located in the Northeast Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The SFL falls within the boundaries of the Cochrane, Kirkland Lake and Timmins administrative Districts and is licensed to Abitibi River Forest Management Inc. (ARFMI). Abitibi River Forest Management Inc. is a cooperative of forest resource management partners including logging operators, forest products producers and local First Nations.

The ARFMI partners have assumed all forest management planning and operational responsibilities, including forest regeneration and maintenance, on Crown land for the Abitibi River Forest.

This certification is limited to Sustainable Forest License 551832 and its 3,285,435 hectares of Crown lands in Ontario.

The company SFI representative is Paul Fantin, RPF.

AUDIT

During the period of June 18-21 2018, ARFMI underwent a surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard.

The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company’s office including stakeholder and First Nations communication.

The SFI program third-party audit was undertaken by SAI Global. SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) Standard ensuring the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Daniel Martin, RPF, audit team leader, and Sylvain Frappier, audit team member. The auditors are Professional Foresters and certified auditors.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard
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Single site	X	
Multi-site		
Group		

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

The Abitibi River Forest (ARF) sustainable forest license (SFL no. 551832) is located in the Northeast Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The SFL falls within the boundaries of the Cochrane, Kirkland Lake and Timmins administrative Districts and is licensed to Abitibi River Forest Management Inc. (ARFMI). Abitibi River Forest Management Inc. is a cooperative of forest resource management partners including logging operators, forest products producers and local First Nations.

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SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on Abitibi River Forest SFL 551832 Fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

There are no changes to the scope.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Table 2. Both tables are found in the section Evidence of conformity to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest management standard.

A sample of field review sites were chosen from a list of active sites and sites where forest management activities occurred since the last audit. The site choice also considered activity type, and risk factors, related to the audit objectives selected for review, as well as the opportunity to verify implementation of corrective actions for previous non-conformities.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received; therefore the complaint handling process could not be verified.

SITES INSPECTED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Onsite	5 days
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	6
Harvesting Blocks	9
Silviculture Sites	8
Operations visited: 23	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2018-01	Minor	9.2.1	SOP's related to handling of chemicals, fuel and oil are not being implemented consistently by some shareholders/contractors.	Aug. 21, 2018
	Major/Minor			
	Major/Minor			

Opportunities for improvement

None identified.

Good practices

None identified.

Status of previous audit non-compliances

The status of previous audit non-conformances is as follows:

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Status (closed/upgraded to major)
2017-1	Minor	3.2.1	Closed
	Major/Minor		
	Major/Minor		

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Surveillance Audit

Based on the results of this surveillance audit it has been determined that the management system is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria. The action plan(s) related to the non-conformance(s) has (have) been reviewed and considered acceptable. As applicable, any major non-conformance has been closed and implementation of action plan for minor non-conformance will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. Therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	X
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	X
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	X
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	X
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	X
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X

Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	X
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	X
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Cut block size calculations	X
Written policies	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Monitoring records for non-timber values	
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	Annual management review records	X
Timber supply review		Internal audit records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards		Education/community involvement records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	X
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	X
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	X

Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	X
Pest management plan	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use		Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Tree improvement reports	X	Support for research and science	X
Green-up records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records	X	Pre-harvest inspection records	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Post-harvest inspection records	X
Road and bridge inspection records	X	Government compliance records	X

DEFINITIONS

Major Non-Conformances

Pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives

All major non-conformances require an action plan to be implemented by the auditee within 90 days of an initial audit or registration cannot be achieved. Subsequently for surveillance audits, an action plan shall be implemented by the auditee within 60 days for the registration to be maintained.

Minor Non-Conformances

Isolated incidents that are non-critical but must be addressed before the next surveillance audit to maintain compliance to the SFI standard. Non resolved minor non-conformance will be escalated to a major non-conformance.

Opportunity for Improvement

Are not non-conformances but are comments on specific areas where improvements can be made.

Good practices

Areas that are deemed to be mentioned

MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

This multi-site / group organization maintains an internal audit program determined to be reliable, in this case SAI Global sampling approach is as follow where n = number of sites:

- i. $\sqrt{(n)}$ for initial certification audits
- ii. $0.6 \sqrt{(n)}$ for surveillance audits
- iii. $0.8 \sqrt{(n)}$ for re-registration audits

The central office function is audited annually.

OR

This multi-site / group organization did not maintain its internal audit program. SAI Global applies the following sampling where n = number of sites:

$\sqrt{(n)}$

The central office function is audited annually.