

Forest Certification UPDATE



DRYDEN FOREST MANAGEMENT COMPANY LTD.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Dryden Forest Management Co. Ltd. (DFMC) is a co-operative made up of 16 small harvesting companies who were former District Cutting Licensee/Order in Council Licensees on the Dryden Forest.

DFMC was awarded a Sustainable Forest Licence #542444 on June 24, 1998 and became responsible for the general administration of the Dryden Forest, including responsibilities for planning, reporting and implementing all forest operations.



The Dryden Forest lies within the Boreal Forest Region however a small portion in the south is a transition zone between the Boreal Forest and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Regions. Coniferous trees, mostly spruce and jack pine are characteristic of the Dryden Forest, in association with trembling aspen and white birch. Pockets of red pine and white pine occur, and to a limited extent eastern white cedar, and tamarack. DFMC does not own or operate a manufacturing facility. Harvesting is done by the 16 shareholders of DFMC and three Aboriginal communities/businesses and the wood fibre is sold to local/regional mills.

BACKGROUND

During the period of September 8 – 11, 2015 DFMC underwent a re-assessment audit to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and the results of the SAI Global evaluation.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on the Dryden Forest Sustainable Forest License.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (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) for registrations to SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.



The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations, access activities and renewal operations. Evidence was gathered through interviews with Company staff and contractors, company records and direct observation in the field. Three minor non-conformities, nine opportunities for improvement and two positive aspects were identified.

THE AUDITORS

Rod Seabrook, SAI Global auditor, performed the audit. Mr. Seabrook is a Certified Environmental Professional and Environmental Management System Lead Auditor and an Associate Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.

AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

Type	Performance Measure #	Description
Minor	7.1.1 a)	Operations are not fully compliant with procedures for management of harvest residue (chipper debris, roadside slash)
Minor	11.2.2	The Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee wood producer training program does not have a continuing education component
Minor	12.3.2	Evidence of the Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee having submitted data to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses provided was not produced for audit

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

1.4 Consider aligning the wording in the DFMC Environmental Policy Commitments with the wording in Section 1.4 of the SFI 2015-2019 Standard - Forest Management Standard Principles

3.1.2 Consider strengthening the wording in contracts to the requirement to follow conditions prescribed by the FMP (e.g. CROs)

8.2.1 Consider developing a communication program jointly with affected aboriginal communities, outside of the mandated FMP consultation process

9.1.2 Consider specifying minimum standards for securing of mobile refueling tanks

10.1.2 Consider reviewing the status of the jack pine commercial thinning trial to determine whether any further research work or measurements would be beneficial

11.1.1 Consider whether professional credentials should be added to the Training Needs Matrix and whether the reference to Qualified Logging Professional should be removed from the title

11.1 b) Consider reinforcing with operations staff the need for clean-up and disposal of small fluid leaks from equipment

15.1.2 Consider providing a clear discussion of progress in achieving SFI Forest Management Standard objectives and performance measures in the management review meeting minutes to make it evident that all have been reviewed

15.1.3 Consider preparing a summary section within the management review meeting minutes to capture the discussion of outputs (i.e. deficiencies and associated action plans, timelines, responsibilities, resources) and better demonstrate continual improvement in conformance to the Standard

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS

DFMC has developed corrective action plans to address the root causes of the non-conformities identified during the audit. The root cause analysis and proposed corrective actions have been reviewed by the SAI Global Lead auditor to ensure that they are appropriate, and fully address the identified deficiencies. At the next annual audit a follow-up on the implemented corrective actions will be done to confirm that the corrective actions were appropriate and effective in ensuring the non-conforming situation will not reoccur.

COMPLAINTS

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

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances:	0
Minor non-conformances:	3
Opportunities for Improvement:	9
Positive Aspects:	2

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 and subsequently 60 days or registration cannot be achieved/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.

Opportunity for Improvement

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

Positive Aspects

Areas that are deemed to be of best practices.

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Excellent ditch construction on Redvers Road
- Field mapping of seeps/ephemeral streams by operations

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

Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	√
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	√
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	√
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	√
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	√
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	√
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	√
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	√
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	√
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	√
Objective 11	Training and Education	√
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	√
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	√
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	√
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	√

Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	√	Pre-harvest inspection records	√
Written policies	√	Post-harvest inspection records	√
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	√	Cutblock size calculations	√
EMS and SFI field handbook	√	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	√
Training records (staff and contractors)	√	Monitoring records for non-timber values	√
SFI/EMS training agenda	√	Utilization records	√
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	√	Laws, legislation, regulations records	√
Timber supply review	√	Annual management review records	√
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	√	Internal audit records	√
Timber development standards	√	Corrective action logs	√
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	√	Education/community involvement records	√
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	√	Records of public inquiries and complaints	√
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	√	Stakeholder communications records	√
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	√	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	√
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	√	Logging agreements and/or contracts	√
Reforestation plans	√	Wood producer training programs	√
Fire preparedness plan	√	SFI Annual Report	√
Spill prevention and response plan	√	SFI and company websites	√
Silviculture surveys and reports	√	SFI brochure	√
Tree improvement reports	√	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	√
Green-up records	√	Research and discussion papers	√
Free to grow records	√	Support for research and science	√
Planting program records	√	External audit field inspections	√
Harvest inspection records	√	External audit interviews (office and field)	√
Road and bridge inspection records	√		

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Re-registration Audit

Based on the results of this re-registration audit it has been determined that the management system of Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria. The action plans related to the non-conformances were reviewed and considered acceptable. Implementation of action plans for the minor non-conformances will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. Therefore, a recommendation for registration is made to SAI Global.



SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFI Forest Management, SFI CoC, SFI Fiber Sourcing, SFI Certified Sourcing Label, PEFC CoC, FSC® Forest Management, FSC® CoC.

The group, led by Sylvain Frappier, Technical Manager - Forestry, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts.

Contact certification.americas@saiglobal.com for more information.

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