

Forest Certification UPDATE



MIITIGOOG L. P.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Miitigoog L.P. is a partnership between Kenora area First Nations, forest industry partners and Kenora independent loggers. It holds the Sustainable Forest Licence for the Kenora Forest. The Kenora Forest, located in Northwestern Ontario, is approximately 1.2 million hectares with an annual available harvest of 440,000 m³. The Forest supplies fibre to area sawmills, pulp mills, and a strand lumber mill for the manufacturer of lumber, structural wood and kraft pulp..

BACKGROUND

During the period of January 19-21, 2016 Miitigoog L.P. underwent a surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Standard 2015-2019. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and results of the SAI Global surveillance audit.



SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on the Kenora Forest SFL #550400.

The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard meets and exceeds the requirements of the earlier SFI 2010-2014 SFI Standard (Section 2), therefore fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

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 and SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and licensees. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's office. Eight opportunities for improvement and six positive observations were identified.



THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Rod Seabrook (lead auditor) and Laird Van Damme. Mr. Seabrook holds a Certified Environmental Professional/Lead Auditor designation with ECO Canada and is an Associate Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association. Mr. Van Damme is a Registered Professional Forester.

AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

None identified

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 2.3.1. Consider describing the processes in place to identify soils vulnerable to compaction (e.g. training and mapping tools) in the SOPs or AWS (i.e. fine textured soils).
- 2.3.2 Consider describing erosion control measures in the Harvest SOPs
- 4.1.5 Consider ensuring consistency between SAR as listed in the FMP and on the SAR Card
- 7.1 Consider methods to improve conifer fibre utilization
- 9.1 Consider whether directions in the Miitigoog green card regarding labelling of fuel tanks (>450 litre and < 2000 litres requiring only one placard) and the Miitigoog requirement for mobile tanks mounted on trailers to be double walled are consistent with legal requirements
- 10.3.1/2 Consider updating the climate change awareness links in CCSIC page (e.g. NRCAN weblinks)
- 11.1 Consider reinforcing with field staff the requirement for a 5m setback for forestry aggregate pits
- 11.2.2 Consider updating the CCSIC links to training modules

COMPLAINTS

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

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Slash was well piled
- No garbage observed on active or completed blocks
- Comprehensive spring training presentation
- Awareness of potential negative environmental impacts and associated controls by contractor workforce
- Outstanding improvement in environmental and socio economic performance from the 2004 IFA
- Performance since registration in 2010 is consistently good.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Periodic Assessments

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Major non-conformances: | 0 |
| Minor non-conformances: | 0 |
| Opportunities for Improvement: | 8 |
| Positive Aspects: | 6 |

SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard Periodic Assessments

Not Applicable

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.

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

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 |

Evidence Observed

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Written policies | X | Post-harvest inspection records | X |
| Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices | X | Cutblock size calculations | X |
| Training records (staff and contractors) | X | Pre-work discussions/meeting 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 | X | Internal audit records | X |
| Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture) | X | Stakeholder communications records | X |
| Timber development standards | X | Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities | X |
| Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:) | X | Wood producer training programs | X |
| GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values) | X | SFI Annual Report | X |
| Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation | X | SFI and company websites | X |
| Operational plans (annual, cutblock level) | X | SFI Implementation committee (participation/support) | X |
| Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines | X | Support for research and science | X |
| Reforestation plans | X | External audit field inspections | X |
| Spill prevention and response plan | X | External audit interviews (office and field) | X |
| Harvest inspection records | X | | |

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 of Miitigoog L.P. is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria, therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.



Harvest reserve left on Area of Concern

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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