

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

Resolute Forest Products

Ontario Woodlands

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Resolute Forest Products holds Sustainable Forest Licences on five Crown Forests in Northwestern Ontario encompassing some 4.6 million hectares. Fibre is also procured from private land sources and other area Crown Forests. The Woodlands Division is managed through the central office located in Thunder Bay and two satellite offices (Atikokan and Ignace). Fibre from the Ontario Woodlands feeds Resolute FP mills in Thunder Bay, Atikokan, and Ignace.

BACKGROUND

During the period of October 31 to Nov 3 Resolute FP underwent 12 month surveillance audits to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard and the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing (FS) Standard.

The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed road construction, harvest and silviculture operations through field inspections and interviews with company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company’s office.

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 Rod Seabrook, audit team leader, and Cindy Hutchison and Dan Simonds as audit team members. Mr. Seabrook is an Environmental Professional and Associate member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association. Ms. Hutchison and Mr. Simonds are professional foresters and certified auditors.

REGISTRATION TYPE

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

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

Resolute FP manages approximately 4.6 million hectares on five Crown forests in Northwestern Ontario (Black Spruce, Caribou, Crossroute, Dog River-Matawin, and English River). The company has been issued a Sustainable Forest Licence for each forest which carries a range of obligations including preparation and implementation of forest management plans according to Provincial requirements and regeneration of harvested areas. Forest management plans are prepared according to specifications in the Forest Management Planning Manual for Ontario Forests and other Provincial manuals and guides. Approximately 70% of the total area is located in the Boreal Forest region with the remainder being in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence transitional zone. Tree species are predominantly black spruce, jack pine and poplar with lesser amounts of white birch, balsam fir, white spruce, red pine and white pine. The clearcut silviculture system is employed and harvested areas are regenerated by either natural or artificial means (planting or seeding). Regeneration standards are set in the forest management plan and must be met.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

There has been no modification to the scope since the last public summary report.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Appendix 3, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 3, Table 2.

A sample of field review sites were chosen from a suite 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
Off-site preparation and on-site office review:	3.25
Field review:	2.5
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	5
Harvesting Blocks	4
Silviculture Sites	3
Operations visited: Highstone Logging; Raleigh Falls Timber; Shuniah Forest Products; BTG Contracting	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

Not applicable.

Opportunities for improvement

Not applicable.

Exceptional practices

- SAR handbook and updated Woodlands Environmental Handbook
- Permanent bridge installation at km 15.5 McGee Road
- Diligent tracking of fuel tank inventories and certifications by contractor
- The leading role that Resolute FP plays in the Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee

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)
2015-01	Major	Objective 3	Closed
2015-02	Minor	Indicator 11.2.2	Closed

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, therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S FIBER PROCUREMENT AND/OR MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

The fibre procurement program sources wood from several non-Resolute FP Crown SFLs in Northwestern Ontario, with a small component coming from private land principally in the Thunder Bay area. All fibre is delivered to one of three Resolute sawmills (Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Ignace) or sent directly to the company's pulp and paper mill located in Thunder Bay. Wood is harvested either by contractors hired by Resolute FP or purchased as bush chips from non-Resolute SFL holders. The verifiable monitoring program consists of documented BMP inspections conducted on each supplier. In addition, Resolute FP maintains a risk assessment under its chain of custody certifications. Non-Resolute FP SFLs are also subject to the Provincial compliance inspection program, summary reports from which are publicly available.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

There has been no modification to the scope since the last public summary report.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Appendix 4, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 4, Table 2.

A sample of field review sites were chosen from a suite of active sites and sites where activities were completed 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.

MANUFACTURING UNITS SUPPLIED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation and on-site office review:	1
Field review:	1
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	2
Harvesting Blocks	2
Silviculture Sites	1
Manufacturing units supplied from the sites visited: Thunder Bay sawmill; Thunder Bay pulp and paper mill	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

Not applicable.

Opportunities for improvement

Not applicable.

- SFI FS: 4.1.4 Consider strengthening internal processes for assessing and documenting whether fibre sourced from non-Resolute SFLs could be from illegal logging – pieces in place – can't demonstrate doing all of it
- SFI FS - 3.1.2 Consider formalizing the program for tracking and managing QLP status of procurement suppliers, including active status and currency expectations

Exceptional practices

- The leading role that Resolute FP plays in the Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee

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)
2015-02	Major/Minor	Indicator 6.2.2	Closed

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING 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, therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

Appendices

Appendix 1: 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.

Exceptional practices

Areas that are deemed to be of outstanding practices.

Appendix 2: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	X
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	
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	
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach (12.3 only)	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
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	Government compliance records	X
Written policies	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Utilization records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other)	X	Annual management review records	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Internal audit records	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Corrective action logs	X
Reforestation plans	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Standards for seed use	X	SFI and company websites	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Planting program records	X	Research and discussion papers	X

Harvest inspection records	X	Support for research and science	X
Road and bridge inspection records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Pre-harvest inspection records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Post-harvest inspection records	X		

Appendix 4: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Fiber Sourcing Within the United States and Canada		
Objective 1	Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing	
Objective 2	Adherence to Best Management Practices	X
Objective 3	Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals	X
Objective 4	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 5	Forestry Research, Science, and Technology	X
Objective 6	Training and Education	
Objective 7	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 8	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
Objective 9	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 10	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Fiber Sourcing Outside the United States and Canada		
Objective 11	Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas	N/A
Objective 12	Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging	N/A
Objective 13	Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws	N/A

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Written policies	X	External audit field inspections	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Education/community involvement records	X
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)		Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Best management practices monitoring records	X	Wood producer information package	X
Laws, legislation, regulations records	X	Policies provided to wood producers	X
Corrective action logs	X	Education and outreach to forest landowners	X
Support for research and science	X	List of qualified logging professional/certified logging professional	X
SFI Annual Report	X	Program to assess and address risk of Illegal logging	X
SFI and company websites	X	Research and discussion papers	X
SFI brochure	X		

Black spruce seedling planted in 2016



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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