

Forest Certification UPDATE



GORMAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

The Gorman Group of Companies constitutes three separate woodlands operating in the southern interior of British Columbia: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd. of Westbank, Downie Timber Ltd. of Revelstoke and Canoe Forest Products of Canoe (Salmon Arm). Between the three sites they produce plywood, high value boards and lumber from a variety of softwood species including western red cedar, spruce and lodgepole pine. The wood is sourced from their own Crown licences and through a procurement program. Across all three operations they manage a cut of 750,000 m³ over an area of 780,000 ha.

BACKGROUND

During the period of August 18 to 21, 2015 Gorman Group of Companies underwent a 24 month surveillance audit to the SFIS 2010-2014 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 including planning, harvesting, road construction, maintenance, transportation, and silviculture activities on Forest Licence (FL) A18671, FL A18670, FL A17644, FL A31102, TFL 33 and T0635.

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 SFIS 2010-2014 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 contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's office.

The assessment covered head office functions at the Gorman Group of Companies office in Westbank, as well as woodlands operations of Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd in Westbank and Downie Timber Limited in Revelstoke.

THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Cindy Hutchison, RPF, audit team leader and Dave Barker, RPF, audit team member. The auditors are Professional Foresters and certified lead auditors.

AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

Type	Indicator #	Description
Minor	Section 2, 5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with green-up requirements.
Minor	Section 5	Rules for use of SFI off-product mark (logo).



OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Consider:

- documenting the concentration of tryclopyr for basal bark applications at Downie Timber.
- updating the Downie Timber Engineering / Layout SOP field-marking procedures to reflect requirements in the memo dated 2014-12-22 regarding boundary painting.
- reviewing refueling and tidy tank requirements periodically with contractors at Gorman Brothers Lumber.
- updating/adding the list of Qualified Logging Professionals (QLPs) to those who are currently being used by Gorman Brothers Lumber and Downie Timber, and providing annual training to listed QLPs to ensure continuous training requirements are met.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS

Gorman Group of Companies 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 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 have been received; therefore the complaint handling process could not be verified.

POSITIVE ASPECTS

Gorman Brothers Lumber Limited:

- Superior installation was observed of a small new bridge at Finlay Creek Site 3.
- There was considerable and ongoing communication with District of Peachland regarding works planned and road and bridge measures to be taken to reduce sediment to the community's water intake.

Downie Timber Limited:

- At the 1000.060 road, the auditor observed excellent sediment control. This included installing culverts as the road was constructed and the soil around the culverts was well rip rapped. There is considerable rip rap at the Greely bridge.
- Wood procurement from private land, regardless of cubic meters, enters the sampling pool for inspections/monitoring (regardless of the WC SIC volume cut-off).

SFIS 2010-2014 Periodic Assessments

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

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 SFIS 2010-2014

Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	
Objective 2	Forest 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	Landowner Outreach	
Objective 9	Use of Forest Management and Harvesting Professionals	X
Objective 10	Adherence to Best Management Practices	X
Objective 11-13	Fibre sourcing outside the United States and Canada	N/A
Objective 14	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 15	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	X
Objective 16	Training and Education	X
Objective 17	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 18	Public Land Management Responsibilities	
Objective 19	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 20	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Cutblock size calculations	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	Monitoring records for non-timber values	
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Health and safety manual/plan 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, terrain 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		Communications with Indigenous communities	X
Cutting/harvesting permits		Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	X
Operational plans (annual, cutblock 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 plans and permits	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan		SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use	X	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Chemical use/spray records, labels, and applicator certification	X	Research and discussion papers	
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	X
Green-up records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records		External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records	X	Phoenix harvest and silviculture record database and queries	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Government reports (RESULTS)	X
Road and bridge inspection records	X	Bridge designs	X
Pre-harvest inspection records	X		
Post-harvest inspection records	X		
Government compliance records			

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFIS 2010-2014

Based on the results of this surveillance audit it has been determined that the management system of Gorman Group of Companies is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria. The action plans related to the non-conformances 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.

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.

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