

# Forest Certification UPDATE



## TIMISKAMING FOREST ALLIANCE INC.

Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc. (TFAI) holds the Sustainable Forest License (SFL No. 542247) since 1998 and provides forest management services as a condition of the SFL on behalf of its shareholders. The shareholders consist of logging and forest products companies that have traditionally operated on the Timiskaming Forest public (Crown) lands. TFAI has contracted out the forest management services to First Resources Management Group (FRMG).

### BACKGROUND

During the period of October 5-8, 2015; TFAI underwent a 12 month surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Standard 2010-2014. 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 Operations on Timiskaming Forest public lands to the SFIS 2010-2014 standard.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SFI Program third-party initial 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. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations through interviews with FRMG staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFIS and supporting EMS documentation, records at the FRMG office.

The audit determined that operations were consistent with SFIS 2010-2014 requirements. The next surveillance audit is scheduled for October 6, 2016.

### THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Laird Van Damme. The auditor is a Professional Forester and certified lead auditor.



## POSITIVE ASPECTS

All forest operations supervisors (5) interviewed during the audit complemented FRMG's maps and toolkits that are designed to enable compliance with regulations and forest certification standards. FRMG is under contract to TFAI to provide management support services. These tools combined with dedication and skills of the operators and their supervisors produce the good results witnessed during the field portion of the audit.

## EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY

Evidence that was assessed to determine TFAI conformity with the SFIS 2010-2014 standard appears below:

### SFI-01 Forest Management Planning

The approved forest management plan (FMP 2011-2021) supplemental documents, annual plans and reports were reviewed. Ontario requires Independent Forest Audits as a condition of the SFL. The action plan and status report for this audit were also reviewed.

### SFI-02 Forest Productivity

Approved forest management plan (FMP 2011-2021) supplemental documents, annual plans and reports with specific reference to Silvicultural Ground Rules (SGRs) were reviewed. Interviews with FRMG staff were completed during site inspections. Forest renewal and productivity standards are being met.

### SFI-03 Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

Approved forest management plan (FMP 2011-2021) supplemental documents, annual plans and reports with specific reference to the protection of water resources were reviewed. TFAI maintains a website featuring toolkits of training modules and handbooks used by operators as field references. Interviews with FRMG staff were completed during site inspections of reforestation projects. Maps and reports were also reviewed and verified against field observations. Numerous water crossings were observed while traveling to sample harvest blocks. Interviews with several other harvest operators and operations supervisors also demonstrated good awareness of best management practices. This evidence was supported by field observations where these practices are being implemented effectively on all sampled blocks.

### SFI-04 Conservation of Biological Diversity

This objective was not assessed during this audit and is scheduled for assessment next year.

## SFIS 2010-2014

### Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances: 0  
Minor non-conformances: 0  
Opportunities  
for Improvement: 0  
Positive Aspects: 1

### 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

**SFI-05 Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits**

This objective was not assessed during this audit and is scheduled for assessment next year.

**SFI-06 Protection of Special Sites**

This objective was not assessed during this audit and is scheduled for assessment next year.

**SFI-07 Efficient Use of Forest Resources**

Site inspections showed efficient use of forest resources. One block featured biomass recovery for bio-energy plants by grinding slash piles that have been traditionally piled and burned.

**SFI-08 Land Outreach**

Not applicable for public lands.

**SFI-09 Use of Qualified Resource and Logging Professionals**

Not applicable for public lands.

**SFI-10 Adherence to Best Management Practices**

Not applicable for public lands.

**SFI-11 Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and Major Tropical Wilderness Areas**

TFAI does not source fiber from outside North America.

**SFI-12 Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging**

TFAI does not source fiber from outside North America.

**SFI-13 Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Sources without Effective Social Laws**

TFAI does not source fiber from outside North America.

**SFI-14 Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

TFAI website for operators features access to regulations that is also summarized in handbooks featuring decision trees. Annual reports and compliance inspection reports of sample blocks were reviewed. The government compliance reporting database (FOIP) was accessed and summary reports show a high rate of compliance.

**SFI-15 Forestry Research & Technology**

TFAI and its shareholders provided evidence that demonstrated support of forestry research programs. In addition FRMG staff make use of this research and research provided by government agencies in their plans and procedures.

**SFI-16 Training and Education**

TFAI records, interviews with FRMG staff and operators show a strong commitment to education and training. Field inspections attest to the effectiveness of the training programs.

**SFI-17 Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry**

TFAI shareholders and FRMG staff are active on implementation committees. Ontario's forest management planning activities also engage community members in the planning process.

**SFI-18 Public Land Management Responsibilities**

This objective was not assessed during this audit and is scheduled for assessment next year.

**SFI-19 Communications and Public Reporting**

Systems are in place for communication and public reporting of conformance to the SFI Standard.

**SFI-20 Management Review and Continual Improvement**

The FRMG Environment Health Safety Management System (EHSMS) is the vehicle by which improvements to the delivery of forest management programs are made. The system includes a suite of Procedures (PRO), Forms (FOR) and Records (REC). The TFAI Board of Directors is updated on progress regularly by FRMG.



SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFIS, SFI CoC, PEFC CoC. QMI-SAI Global registers/certifies forest companies to FSC FM and 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](mailto:certification.americas@saiglobal.com) for more information.

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