

Forest Certification UPDATE



TWIN RIVERS PAPER COMPANY

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Twin Rivers Paper Company is a specialty papers business with fully integrated operations comprised of a pulp and energy complex in Edmundston New Brunswick and a paper mill in Madawaska Maine as well as a lumbermill located in Plaster Rock New Brunswick. The Twin Rivers' operations were formerly owned by Fraser Papers. The Twin Rivers Paper Company's fiber procurement is obtained from Crown and private suppliers in New Brunswick, Maine and Quebec. The Twin Rivers' New Brunswick Crown Licence #9 is managed on their behalf through an agreement with AT Limited Partnership.

BACKGROUND

During the period of April 11-13 2016, Twin Rivers Paper Company 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

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as it applies to wood procurement operations for Edmundston and Plaster Rock facilities.

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. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's office.

THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global auditor who performed the audit is Daniel Martin, ing.f.. This auditor is a Professional Forester and is a certified lead auditor.

AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

None identified.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

None identified.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS

Corrective action plans for the NCRs from the previous audit were verified and found to be adequately implemented.

COMPLAINTS

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

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Commitment by the management team to continued certification through the correction of the NCRs as well as implementation of Opportunities for improvement.
- Prevention of illegal logging.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Periodic Assessments

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

SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances:	0
Minor non-conformances:	0
Opportunities for Improvement:	0
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.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

Objectives Audited

Fiber Sourcing Within the United States and Canada		
Objective 1	Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing	
Objective 2	Adherence to Best Management Practices	
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	
Objective 6	Training and Education	X
Objective 7	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 8	Public Land Management Responsibilities	X
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

Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual		SFI Annual Report	X
Written policies	X	SFI and company websites	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	SFI brochure	
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	External audit field inspections	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Cutting/harvesting permits			
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)			
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X		
Reforestation plans			
Best management practices monitoring records	X		
Evaluation of best management practices	X		
Government compliance records			
Pre-work discussions/meeting records			
Monitoring records for non-timber values			
Utilization records	X		
Laws, legislation, regulations records	X		
Corrective action logs	X		
Education/community involvement records	X		
Records of public inquiries and complaints	X		
Stakeholder communications records			
Logging agreements and/or contracts	X		
Wood producer training programs	X		
Wood producer information package	X		
Policies provided to wood producers	X		
Education and outreach to forest landowners	X		
List of qualified logging professional/certified logging professional	X		
Agreements for purchased stumpage			
Program to assess and address risk of illegal logging	X		
Research and discussion papers			
Support for research and science	X		
Climate change information and/or meeting minutes			

Additional evidence for Objectives 11 -13 Sourcing from Outside Canada and USA			
Use of information from sources such as: Biodiversity hot spots, high biodiversity wilderness areas, rare species, habitat information	N/A	When identified, Program to address significant risk for countries without effective laws	N/A
Info about direct supplier's application of principle of sustainable forestry	N/A	When identified, Program to address significant risk of illegal logging	N/A
Program in place to reduce risk of illegal logging	N/A		
Program in place to assess risk for countries without effective laws	N/A		

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 of Twin Rivers Paper Company is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration identified in this report, therefore, a recommendation for continued registration will be made to SAI Global's review team for the following standards:

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	
SFI 2015-2015 Fiber Sourcing Standard	x



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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