

SFI 2015-2019 Public Summary Report

Timiskaming Forest Industry Alliance

The company SFI representative is Yves Vivier.

AUDIT

During the period of October 17 to 20, 2016 Timiskaming Forest Industry Alliance underwent a surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard.

The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or 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 including stakeholder and First Nations communication.

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 audit team consisted of Laird Van Damme, R.P.F., a professional forester and certified auditor with 30 years of experience working in central Canada.

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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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REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard
Single site	Timiskaming Forest

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SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANAGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

The Timiskaming Forest (Management Unit No. 280) was licensed to Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc. in 1998, under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) No.16 542247. The company administers its forest management planning activities and operations from its offices located in Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard, Ontario. Operations follow a forest management plan approved in April 2011 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry consistent with Crown Forest Sustainability Act (1994).

The Forest is located northwest of Timiskaming Shores, a community located near the Quebec Border approximately 500 kilometers north of the City of Toronto. The forest is 1.2 million hectares in area featuring coarse shallow soils over Canadian Shield bedrock in the west and deep clay soils in the east. Common tree species include spruce, pine, fir, aspen and birch typical of the boreal forest. The forests are regenerated naturally or assisted by planting or seeding conifers following clear cut harvests. The harvests are designed to emulate natural patterns following fire, the most common natural disturbance agent in the boreal forests of Canada.

The forest supports many uses by local and indigenous communities and tourists interested. Activities include hunting, foraging mushroom/berries, fishing and boating. Just under a million tonnes of timber is harvested annually to supply forest products mills in the region.

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SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on Timiskaming Forest (Management Unit No. 280), Sustainable Forest License (SFL) No. 542247.

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.

AUDIT PROCESS

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

A sample of field review sites were chosen from a list 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. In addition, observations from a concurrent FSC certification audit team were used to further validate the observations in the field for the SFI audit.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received; therefore, the complaint handling process could not be verified. Nonetheless, a system is maintained by the Company and The Central Canada Implementation Committee (<http://www.sficentralcanada.org/Inconsistent-Practices.html>).

SITES INSPECTED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation and on-site office review:	3
Field review:	1

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Sites	Number inspected
Roads	7
Harvesting Blocks	7
Silviculture Sites	2

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
01/16	Minor	8.1.1	<p>Program Participants will provide a written policy acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>The company operates with respect to the rights of indigenous people but has not yet updated its written policies to reflect this commitment.</p>	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

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Opportunities for improvement

- OFI 11.1 The company should update its written statement of commitment to the SFI program while addressing NC# 01/16

Exceptional practices

Not applicable.

Status of previous audit non-compliances

No non-conformities were raised during the previous audit.

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.

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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.

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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	
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	
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	
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	
Objective 11	Training and Education	
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	X
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X

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Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X
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Table 2 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)	X
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	X
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization 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	
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards	X	Education/community involvement records	
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X

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Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Wood producer training programs	
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	
Pest management plan		SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports		SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	
Standards for seed use		Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification		Research and discussion papers	
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	
Green-up records		External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records			
Harvest inspection records	X		
Road and bridge inspection records	X		
Pre-harvest inspection records			
Post-harvest inspection records	X		
Government compliance records	X		

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Harvest block prepared for planting (foreground), plantation (middleground) and mature forest (background).

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