

Forest Certification UPDATE



WOODLAND PULP LLC

Woodland Pulp LLC is located on the international border between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. The Woodland Mill produces St Croix Hardwood, utilizing a Kamyr continuous digester and ECF 5-stage bleaching system. St Croix Hardwood is a premium Northern ECF bleached Kraft pulp manufactured using hardwood chips from Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. The primary wood species are maple, birch, beech and aspen. The mill is 100% energy self-sufficient.

The Woodland Pulp mill is situated in The St. Croix River Valley in Eastern Maine, USA. The St. Croix River forms a natural boundary with the Province of New Brunswick, Canada. The mill is also about 40 miles northwest of the deep water Port of Eastport, Maine that handles nearly all of the mill's production destined for the export market.

BACKGROUND

During the period of September 23-25, 2013 Woodland Pulp LLC underwent a re-assessment 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 re-registration audit.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Procurement of fiber from Woodland Mill procurement areas in New England and Canadian Maritimes – Objectives 8-20

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SFI Program third-party re-registration 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 also assessed the SFIS and supporting EMS documentation, records at the Woodland Pulp office. The audit also used site visits and interviews with contractors logging private timber sales to assess the Woodland Pulp procurement system. Field visits during this audit focused on larger-scale wood suppliers.



**SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE**

SFI-01157

THE AUDITORS

The SAI Global audit was conducted by Daniel J. Simonds, CF/FCA and Daniel Martin, ing.f. Mr. Simonds is a Licensed Professional Forester (Maine) and M. Martin is a registered forester in the Province of Québec. Both M. Simonds and M. Martin are Certified Foresters and certified lead auditors.

KEY AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

No new areas of non-conformance were identified.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Three opportunities for improvement were identified in regards to stumpage purchases, purchase and sales agreements signed with all suppliers and communication with regulatory enforcement agencies.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS

No corrective action plans are underway.

POSITIVE ASPECTS

None identified.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY

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

SFI-01 Forest Management Planning

Not applicable

SFI-02 Forest Productivity

Not applicable

SFI-03 Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

Not applicable

SFI-04 Conservation of Biological Diversity

Not applicable

SFI-05 Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

Not applicable

SFI-06 Protection of Special Sites

Not applicable

SFI-07 Efficient Use of Forest Resources

Not applicable

SFIS 2010-2014

Periodic Assessments

Major non-conformances: 0
Minor non-conformances: 0
Opportunities
for Improvement: 3
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

SFI-08 Land Outreach

Landowner Outreach Mailing package (mail list 6/29/12); Various education workshop notes and agenda.

SFI-09 Use of Qualified Resource and Logging Professionals

Interviews with staff, contractors, and logging personnel. Training certification records.

SFI-10 Adherence to Best Management Practices

Wood Supply Inspection Reports; field observations.

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

Woodland Pulp does not source fiber from outside North America.

SFI-12 Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging

Woodland Pulp does not source fiber from outside North America.

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

Woodland Pulp does not source fiber from outside North America.

SFI-14 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Demonstration of online compliance resources; Woodland Pulp Purchase At Plant agreements; interviews.

SFI-15 Forestry Research & Technology

Research funding donation records; various notes and correspondence records.

SFI-16 Training and Education

SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) funding records; SIC participation notes and records.

SFI-17 Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry

Notes supporting local community outreach support.

SFI-18 Public Land Management Responsibilities

Woodland Pulp does not manage public land.

SFI-19 Communications and Public Reporting

2012 SFIS Progress Report and supporting notes.

SFI-20 Management Review and Continual Improvement

QMS/EMS Management Review Meeting Notes.



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 for more information.

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