

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

ISLAND TIMBERLANDS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Island Timberlands LP is a private timberlands business focused on growing, harvesting and delivering high quality timber and other forest products from coastal British Columbia for a broad customer base. The company SFI representative is Ms. Morgan Kennah, RPF, Manager, Sustainability.

AUDIT

During the period of January 23 and January 25 to January 27, 2016, Island Timberlands LP underwent a 24-month surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard and the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing (FS) Standard.

The registration cycle is over three years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed harvest operations through onsite observations, documentation reviews and 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 SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Ms. Julie Stangell CF, acting audit team leader, and Mr. Ken Hall RFT, EP(EMSLA) audit team member. The auditors are forestry professionals and certified auditors.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard
Single site	012735-08	102735-10

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

Island Timberlands woodlands comprise an area of approximately 254,000 hectares (628,000 acres) of Private Managed forest land on Vancouver Island, the mainland coast of British Columbia and Haida Gwaii. Forests are made up of coastal species: Douglas fir, western hemlock, balsam, western red cedar, yellow cedar, sitka spruce and red alder. A range of silviculture practices are applied including regeneration harvest and partial cutting in more sensitive areas.

Island Timberlands manages their forests sustainably through the balancing of timber production with the protection of key values such as water, soils, wildlife, ecological diversity, and community needs. This balance is met through their internal policies, certification standards, and legal obligations.

Island Timberlands allows public access for the purpose of recreation and other approved uses when compatible with forest management policies (e.g., active operations, concerns related to safety, fire protection, environmental protection or protection of assets). Island Timberlands reaches out to First Nations, neighbours and other stakeholders to understand their values and concerns.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on managed forest lands across Vancouver Island and in isolated parcels on the mainland coast, Gulf Islands and Haida Gwaii (MF74, MF19, MF21). The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard meets and exceeds the requirements of the earlier SFI 2010-2014 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 3, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 3, 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.

The audit assessed active and completed harvest, road construction and silviculture operations through interviews with Island Timberlands staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFIS and supporting EMS documentation and records at the Island Timberlands office at Northwest Bay.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

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

SITES INSPECTED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation and on-site office review:	.5
Field review:	2
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	7
Harvesting Blocks	13
Silviculture Sites	4
Operations visited: Haida Gwaii, Cameron, Ash, China Creek Dry Land Sort	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2016-001	Minor	11.2.2	There currently is no SIC approved training program in place.	<p>2016.02.26</p> <p><i>Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit</i></p>

Opportunities for improvement

The following Opportunities for Improvement were identified:

- An Opportunity for Improvement exists to create a more permanent catchment to ensure water, sediment and debris will not enter the adjacent creek and ocean at the China Creek Dry Land Sort.
- An Opportunity for Improvement exists to create catchment on bridges to ensure water, sediment and debris will not enter the adjacent creek, stream or river, noted in several locations.
- An Opportunity for Improvement exists to implement a more permanent solution to reduce or contain siltation on Ash Main, km 34.

Exceptional practices

The following Exceptional Practices were identified:

- Road construction quality and attention to detail exhibited by Roc-star Enterprises.
- Outstanding application of BMPs related to sediment control on Haida Gwaii.

Status of previous audit non-compliances

The status of previous audit non-conformances is as follows:

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Status (closed/upgraded to major)
SFI 2015-001	Minor	SFIS 2010-2014 PM 5.1.2	Closed on March 11, 2015

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.

SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S FIBER PROCUREMENT AND/OR MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

Island Timberlands purchases logs from private landowners, First Nations, Crown licensees and contractors logging private timber sales. The audit used site visits and interviews with logging and road construction contractors to assess the Island Timberlands procurement system. Fiber is sourced from British Columbia, generally from Vancouver Island but fiber could also be procured from other areas through the BC coast.. Island Timberlands brings logs into dry land sort yards or log dumps where they are sorted for prior to sale. They do not own manufacturing facilities.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Sourcing of fiber from British Columbia. The Appendix 1: Rules for Use of SFI Certified Sourcing Label is not covered by the scope of this certificate.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Appendix 4, Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Appendix 4, Table 2.

A sample of field review sites were chosen from a list of active sites and sites where activities were completed 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.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

No official complaints have been received related to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard however a documented complaints process is in place and was verified.

MANUFACTURING UNITS SUPPLIED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation and on-site office review:	.5
Field review:	2
Sites	Number inspected

Roads; Lake Cowichan area (1)	1
Harvesting Blocks; Port Alberni area (1) Nanaimo City area (2) Lake Cowichan area (1)	4
Silviculture Sites	0

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1.

Areas of non-conformance

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Corrective Action Plans
2016-001	Minor	2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard, 2.1.2	Fiber sourcing contracts not all signed.	2016.02.26 <i>Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit</i>

Opportunities for improvement

No opportunities for improvement were noted.

Exceptional practices

No exceptional practices were noted.

Status of previous audit non-compliances

No non-conformities were raised during the previous audit.

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 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.

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.

Appendix 2: MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

This is not a multi site / group registration

Appendix 3: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	X
Objective 2	Forest Health and 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	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	X
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	NA
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

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	
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	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards	X	Education/community involvement records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, 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	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	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 plan		SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan		SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use	NA	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Research and discussion papers	X

Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	X
Green-up records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records	X		
Harvest inspection records	X		
Road and bridge inspection records	X		
Pre-harvest inspection records	X		
Post-harvest inspection records	X		
Government compliance records	X		

Appendix 4: EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Fiber Sourcing Within the United States and Canada		
Objective 1	Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing	X
Objective 2	Adherence to Best Management Practices	X
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	X
Objective 6	Training and Education	X
Objective 7	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 8	Public Land Management Responsibilities	NA
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	NA
Objective 12	Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging	NA
Objective 13	Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws	NA

Table 2 Evidence Observed

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



Modified equipment traditionally used for loading set up to allow for log yarding, as well. Photo by Jim Sears.

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.

Company Contact:

Ms. Morgan Kennah, Manager, Sustainability
1420 East Island Highway
Nanose Bay, British Columbia V9P 9A3
CANADA

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