



Environment,
Energy and Forestry

FORESTRY

CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

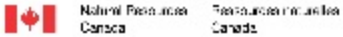
SUMMARY DOCUMENT

**FOREST CERTIFICATION FOR
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

An Information Summary for
Woodlot Owners & Operators

Prepared by:

Department of Environment, Energy & Forestry
PEI Model Forest Network Partnership Ltd.



Canada

Background

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At the 1992 UN Conference of the Environment, the issue of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was recognized as one of global importance. In 1993, the Canadian Forestry Certification Coalition was formed by consumers, environmental groups, woodlot owners and industry in response to the growing awareness of the importance of managing Canada's forests sustainably by consumers, environmental groups, woodlot owners and industry. Their main objective is to encourage the implementation of SFM certification standards.

Thirteen years later, there are a number of certifying organizations at work worldwide. This booklet will help woodlot owners and operators understand what certification is and describe the systems and programs used in Canada.

Why is Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) so important?

- air purification
- climate regulation
- oxygen production
- soil conservation
- water protection
- habitat requirements
- production of timber, fuel and other wood products

What is Forest Certification?

Forest certification is a mechanism for identifying, auditing and crediting well managed forests on a voluntary basis. Certification systems have been developed in response to public concerns about how forests are harvested, managed and conserved, and are based on a range of ecological, social and economic principles.

Certification Systems and Programs

This field book will address the following third party certification systems (3) and programs (2):

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI)

Pan-Canadian Woodlot Certification Program (PCWCP)

Atlantic Master Logger Certification Program (AMLCP)

The following topics will be explored to provide an explanation of each Certification System and to identify the commonalities and differences of each system.

- Principles or Requirements
- Status by Area in Canada
- Targeted Participants
- Management Criteria
- Management Plan Requirements
- Inspections and Inspection Frequencies
- Regional Specifics
- Eco-labelling
- Product Chain of Custody

Definitions

Forest Management Certification is the process by which an assessment of a forest management unit is undertaken to determine if standards are met.

Chain of custody Certification is the process of tracking a forest product (ie anything from plywood to wooden bowl to furniture) from the forest management unit to the consumer.

Third Party Certification is an on-the-ground evaluation conducted by an accredited certifying body, to determine if completed work has met the recognized national and/or international standards. They may also follow locally developed and approved standards.

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

**December 31, 2005= 69.2 Million Hectares Certified.
Participants (land based certification) - Individuals and organizations with large land holdings.**

Canadian Standards Association is a non-profit association which serves industry, government and consumers all over the world. Since its inception in 1919, CSA has developed more than 2000 recognised standards. CSA has been working to heighten environmental and forest management practices for the past ten years.

The CSA system standard was developed by a technical committee which included representation from the forest industry, woodland owners, scientists, various levels of governments, environmental, aboriginal, and consumer groups. In 1996, a Canada-wide public review of the standard created interest regarding revisions to the CSA system. A continual process of improvement in forest management is a requirement for both the participants and the CSA certifying organization.

There are **three key CSA requirements** set out in the standard.

- Public Participation
- Performance
- Achieving the Desired Results

1) Public Participation: In order to obtain approval, CSA requires certifying organizations to implement a communications process between the certifying body and the local community, including the Aboriginal community when present, to seek ongoing public input into a range of social, economic, and environmental concerns when developing standards. This public participation requirement is probably the most rigorous in the world.

2) Performance: CSA works with the public to identify local values, goals, indicators and objectives that reflect national criteria and incorporates them into forest management planning and practices. Decisions are made together with the public during this process.

3) Achieving the desired results:

Systems: CSA develops and sets requirements that are specific to each local forest area. This system allows organizations using CSA to implement, track, and monitor their activities through a "*Checking and Corrective Action*" management system review.

Continual Improvements: In order to address society's changing environmental, social, and economic values the CSA system requires participants to undertake an annual review to evaluate their performance and identify areas for continual improvement.

Third Party Audit: To become certified under CSA, the company or community must have a third party audit completed by an appropriate independent organization which is registered with the Canadian Environmental Auditing Association. A full re-registration audit is required every three years.

CSA specifications

Targeted Participants: This certification system is aimed at the forest industry, communities, and individuals and organizations with large land holdings.

Management Criteria: CSA recognizes and supports the Canadian Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) objectives and criteria.

Management Plan Requirements: CSA requires local communities and interest groups to participate in the planning process. The plan must follow all SFM standards and criteria.

Inspections and Inspection Frequencies: An annual review is required, including both a document review and an on - ground check, to ensure progress is being achieved towards set goals.

Region specifics: While CSA is a national (specific) program, approved by the Canadian National Standards body in 1996, it is also an internationally accepted certification system. At present, CSA certification is not used on PEI.

Eco - labelling: The CSA logo appears on certified end products to provide consumers with confidence that these forest products originate from lands managed in a sustainable manner.



Product Chain of Custody: The chain of custody records the progress of products from the original forest area, through transport and processing, to delivery to the consumer as a finished or end product.

Contact Information

Canadian Standards Association
178 Rexdale Boulevard
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9W 1R3

contact by email
certinfo@csa-international.org

website
www.csa-international.org/product_areas/
follow link for forest products

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

April, 2006 Total= 17.5 Million Hectares Certified Participants (land based certification)- Individuals and organizations with both small and large land holdings

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent international, non-profit and non-governmental organization which supports the environmental, social and economic management of forests. FSC was founded in 1993 in Toronto, Canada to support the development of national and regional (Maritime) evaluation standards for the management and use of forest lands. Membership is open to organizations and individuals with social, economic, and environmental interests in forests.

The following **ten FSC principles** are universal in nature and apply to PEI (Acadian) forests. These principles are used to develop standards at both national and regional level.

1) Compliance with applicable laws and FSC Principles:

Under FSC, forest managers must respect regional, national and international laws and respect FSC's principals and criteria.

2) Rights and Responsibilities: All land use rights and long term tenures must be well defined, documented, and legally established.

3) Indigenous Peoples Rights: The legal rights of indigenous people to own, use and manage their forest resources will be respected and acknowledged.

4) Community Relations and Workers' Rights: Forest operations will maintain and/or enhance the social and economic well being of the forest and the local community.

5) Benefits from the Forest: FSC encourages and promotes the efficient usage of multiple forest products and services in order to enhance and protect economic, environmental and social aspects that benefit the forest and neighbouring communities.

6) Environmental Impact: FSC encourages the conservation of biological diversity for water , soils, ecosystems, and landscapes.

7) Management Plans: FCS requires participants to develop a forest management plan to guide their operations and define long and short term objectives.

8) Monitoring and Assessments: FCS participants must record all activities regarding forest harvest and yield, management activities, and any social and environmental impacts.

9) Maintenance of Natural Forests: FSC requires the conservation of primary forests, well-developed secondary forests, and sites of major environmental, social or cultural significance and that these areas should not be replaced by tree plantations or other land uses.

10) Plantations: Under FSC, plantations have to be planned and managed with respect to all criteria and guidelines mentioned previously. On PEI, plantations must promote the restoration and conservation of the Acadian Forest.

FSC Specifications

Targeted Participants: This is a land certifying system, so any single landowner may participate.

Management Criteria: Supports and uses the ten FSC principles to encourage the development of sustainable forests.

Management Plan Requirements: A detailed forest management plan (prepared by an accredited person) is required to provide the landowner with a guide to conservation approaches, environmental requirements, harvest volumes, and the restoration of the forest that is ecologically appropriate for the region (Acadian Forest in PEI).

Inspections and Inspection Frequencies: To ensure standards are met, independent audits are required including ground checks. The FSC Resource Manager may also inspect the woodlot to ensure compliance with FSC management principles and objectives.

Region Specifics: As of April 2006, five PEI landowners have achieved FSC certification as members of Nagaya Forest Restoration Ltd., located in NB.

Eco-labelling: The FSC logo appears on certified forest products to provide consumers with confidence that these products originate from lands managed in a sustainable and ethical manner.



Product Chain of Custody: As they move into the production stream, all FSC - labelled products must record and prove the chain of custody in order to assure the purchaser that the product came from well managed forest lands.

Contact Information

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FSC Maritimes
website
www.fscCanada.org/Maritimes

Nagaya Forest Restoration Ltd.
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Dieppe, NB, E1A 1K4
phone: 1-506-852-4659
email: nagaya@nbnet.nb.ca

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

December 31, 2005 Total= 36.1 Million Hectares Certified Participants (organization certification) - Industry, environmental, professional, workers and independent harvesters.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) was developed in 1994 by the American Forest and Paper Association. SFI is a system that employs environmental principals and measures harvest levels, to ensure the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, water quality, and other forest values in order to achieve a healthy relationship between harvesting and conservation. This system is based on the belief that responsible environmental policy and sound business practices can be balanced to benefit industry, woodlot owners, and consumers. To ensure development and continued improvements to SFI, a **Sustainable Forestry Board (SFB)** was created to act as an independent body. The SFB oversees and guides the certification processes and has representation from the environmental, conservation, academic and public sectors. The SFI system is administered locally by a regional board.

External Review Panel (ERP) is a group of experts representing conservation, environmental, professional, academic and public organizations. This volunteer board provides an independent review of the SFI system and makes recommendations on how the program can improve.

Program participants must support and implement sustainable forest practices on the lands they manage and/or work on. Participants must work with the ERP to ensure verification objectives are achieved by providing the verification team with accurate and timely information (records and/or field information) about their harvest activities.

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There are **nine SFI principles** that participants must support in order to receive certification.

1) Sustainable Forestry: The intent of sustainable forestry is to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations, by practising good land stewardship. SFI participants are required to integrate the management and harvest of trees with the conservation of air, soil and water quality, as well as wildlife, aquatic habitat, and recreation.

2) Responsible Practices: SFI promotes sustainable forestry as outlined in accepted best management practices (BMP's) for a specific region, that are economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

3) Reforestation and Productive Capacity: SFI participants must work to ensure the renewal of harvest sites by natural regeneration or replanting .

4) Forest Health and Productivity: SFI participants must work to protect forests from wildfire, pests, diseases and other damaging agents and improve the long term health and productivity of the forest.

5) Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity: SFI participants must work to protect and maintain the long-term productivity of the forest and soil.

6) Protection of Water Resources: SFI participants must work to protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7) Protecting Special Sites: SFI participants must work to manage forests and lands of special significance in a responsible manner.

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8) Legal Compliance: SFI participants must comply with all applicable provincial and/or federal legislation.

9) Continual Improvement: SFI participants must work to continually improve their forest management practices by monitoring and measuring these management activities.

SFI Specifications

Targeted Participants: Environmental, professional, and academic groups, industry, workers and independent forest contractors.

Management Criteria: SFI supports the **Sustainable Forest Initiative Systems (SFIS)** principals, objectives and performance measures.

Management Plan Requirements: A SFI verification plan is required in order to identify and guide all program participants with on-the-ground conformance objectives.

Inspections and Inspection Frequencies: Periodic on-the-ground activity checks are completed to ensure all practises comply with the SFI standards, requirements, and objectives as outlined in the verification plan.

Region Specifics: SFI is an international program which has been recognized in Canada since 1994. Presently, there is interest in SFI certification from the Island's forest sector/industry.

Eco-labelling: The SFI label is available in two categories, based on two different forest operation types. The first is for primary producers or those that receive most of their raw product directly from a certified forest. The second is for secondary producers or those that secure at least 2/3 of their materials from third party certified sources



Product Chain of Custody: Information on geographic origin and transportation are not recorded under the SFI system.

Contact Information

Sustainable Forestry Initiative
American Forestry and Paper Association
1111-19th St NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC, 20036, USA

website
www.aboutsfi.org

The Pan Canadian Woodlot Certification Program (PCWCP)

December 31, 2005 Total = 0 hectares certified

Participants - woodlot owners, municipalities, foundations, churches, government agencies and other organizations that own less than 4,000 ha.

The Pan Canadian Woodlot Certification Program is dedicated to the promotion of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) by private woodlot owners across Canada. It has been developed in response to public expectations about forest management and the desire of woodlot owners to improve the management of their lands and strengthen their position in a market that increasingly demands forest products from lands whose management has been certified.

The PCWCP program is designed for small scale private woodlots but may be used on other small forests up to 4,000 ha., that are owned by municipalities, foundations, church, social organizations, and government. Unlike CSA, FSC and SFI, PCWCP is not a full certification system. Rather it is designed to meet the requirements of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification. Requests have been made to the administrators of the three certification systems for their endorsement of PCWCP, including a common audit protocol (third party). As of April, 2006, CSA is funding 5 project audits nationwide.

Nine Values of Participating Woodlot Owners are as follows:

1) Private property rights and the woodlot owner's management objectives are of fundamental importance.

2) Participation in the Pan Canadian Woodlot Certification Program is strictly voluntary.

3) Private woodlot owners wish to receive a fair financial return from their management efforts and to contribute to the economic prosperity of their communities.

4) Private woodlot owners strive for continual improvement in the management of their woodlots.

5) Private woodlot owners believe in improving the condition and value of the forest stands on their properties and in reducing the negative environmental impacts of past operations where practical.

6) Private woodlot owners recognize the value of good water quality to aquatic habitat and community water supplies. They also recognize the role forests play in maintaining air quality and conserving soil productivity.

7) Private woodlot owners recognize the value of the wide variety of plants and animals on their properties and include the conservation of forest biodiversity as one of their management objectives.

8) Private woodlot owners believe in being good neighbors and responsible members of the community.

9) Private woodlot owners accept their responsibility to comply with all applicable legislation and regulations in the management of their woodlot.

PCWCP Specifications

Targeted Participants: The PCWCP system is designed for Canadian woodlot owners who own less than 4,000 ha forest land but it may also be applicable to municipalities, foundations, churches, social organizations and government.

Management Criteria: The PCWCP supports the Woodlot Management Standards and the associated indicators.

Management Plan Requirements: A forest management plan is required for each woodlot in the owners' holdings. This plan should be appropriate to the size and history of the property, the owner's management objectives, the type of forest, as well as stand, habitat and environmental conditions.

Inspection and Inspection Frequencies: The buyer's certification system (CSA, FSC, SFI) determines the level of verification and on ground activity checks. Audits are valid for three years, and subsequent re-certification audits are valid for a period not to exceed five years.

Region Specifics: PCWCP is a national program developed primarily for private woodlots.. CSA is currently funding 5 projects nation-wide, two of which are taking place in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Eco - labelling: The PCWCP does not include a labelling program. Claims and labelling will conform to the requirements of the certification system used by the forest products companies purchasing the owner's wood.

Product Chain of Custody: The PCWCP does not have a chain of custody process. Product claims will be supported by the chain of custody process used by the forest products companies purchasing the owner's wood.

Contact information

The Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners
180 St. John Street, Fredericton, NB
E3B 4A9

Atlantic Master Logger Certification Program (AMLCP)

April, 2006 Total =13 Contractors from NS and NB certified under pilot program.

Participants - Independent Harvest Contractors and Company Operations in AtlanticCanada

The Master Logger Certification Program was developed in the state of Maine by harvest contractors to recognize those in the logging profession that excel in best management practices. In 2004 the Canadian Woodlots Form (CWF) decided to endorse and promote the Atlantic Master Logger Certification Program (AMLPC) as the harvest contractor certification program for Atlantic Canada. This volunteer employer driven program promotes those harvest companies that do professional work. A twelve member volunteer certification board has been established to objectively review all certification applications make decisions on eligibility and react to changes in regulatory requirements and industry practices. Different sectors will be represented on the board to ensure a balanced approach. NFLD and NB will have separate certification boards while NS and PEI will be represented by one.

Nine Objectives of the AMLCP are as follows:

- 1) To provide a third-party verification process for acknowledging the sustainable practices of harvesting contractors in Atlantic Canada.
- 2) To provide the general public with a degree of assurance and confidence in the knowledge, skill, proficiency and competency of professional contractors recognized under the program.

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- 3) To establish and provide a universally accepted regional standard for wood harvesting companies.
- 4) To provide a degree of confidence and accountability with the companies that a quality job is being done, thus reducing the level of supervision required.
- 5) To promote professionalism and foster personal development among the logging sector by improving the knowledge, skills, proficiency and competency of the professional contractor.
- 6) To provide the contractor with an opportunity to improve the profitability of their logging business by qualifying for potential benefits and cost savings on business expenses such as (but not limited to) workers' compensation and equipment insurance premiums.
- 7) To instil a sense of pride among the logging profession through professional recognition, thus fostering greater activism with the general public.
- 8) To serve as a mechanism for public awareness and outreach for forest certification schemes, e.g., SFI, CSA, and FSC.
- 9) To contribute to the success and growth of the Canadian Woodlots Forum.



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AMLCP Specifications

Targeted Participants: Independent Harvest Contractors and Companies in AtlanticCanada.

Management Criteria: Support the nine AMLCP objectives to encourage harvest companies to develop high performance standards.

Management Plan Requirements: A harvest operations plan, outlining woodlot owners objectives, must be created if there is no management plan prepared for the specific property. The harvest operations plan will comply with all federal, provincial and municipal laws and regulations.

Inspection and Inspection Frequencies: On ground inspections of harvest sites identified by the contractor, are completed to ensure all practises comply with the programs standards.

Region Specifics: The AMLCP is being established for Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Pilot projects are being conducted in all four Atlantic provinces. As of April 2006, thirteen companies, the majority from Nova Scotia, have achieved Atlantic Master Logger certification.

Eco-labelling: At this time AMLCP does not include a labelling program. Labelling conforms to the requirements of the certification system used by the forest products companies purchasing the wood.

Product Chain of Custody: The AMLCP does not have a chain of custody process. Product claims will be supported by the chain of custody process used by the forest products companies purchasing the owner's wood.

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follow link for Atlantic Master Logger

