



CAN/CSA Z809-2008 External Audit Report Summary
Re-registration Assessment of Vancouver Island and Powell River Operations
January 17-27, 2017

Western Forest Products (WFP) underwent a Re-registration Assessment of their Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) system to the CAN/CSA Z809-2008 Sustainable Forest Management Standard from January 17 - 27, 2017. The audit was conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) on a portion of the Defined Forest Area (Tree Farm License TFL6, Managed Forests MF29, MF31, MF61, Forest License FL A94737, T0860, T0592 at WFP’s North Island operations; TFL 37 at WFP Englewood operation; TFL 39 Block 2 at WFP’s Mid-Island operation; TFL 44 at WFP’s Port Alberni operation; and TFL 39, Block 1 at WFP’s Stillwater operation). A total of 849,714ha are included in WFP’s CSA SFM forest area with an annual allowable cut of 4,485,279m³. Activities assessed include the following forest management activities: planning (office review), harvesting (4 active sites, 2 completed sites), road construction/ maintenance (3 completed sites), bridge construction/maintenance (1 completed site) and planting/silviculture (4 completed sites). In some cases, single field sites reviewed had multiple activities occurring and/or completed activities which have been included in sample numbers presented. The objective of the audit was to confirm the management system complies with the applicable elements of the Standard; to confirm the organization complies with its own SFM policies and procedures; to confirm the management system is suitable and effective for the organization; and to confirm the management system enables the client to achieve its own SFM objectives.

The audit team included Jeff Koch, RPF, EMS LA, (Lead Assessor), Shawn Ellsworth, RPF, EMS LA, (Assessor), Nate Ryant, RPF, EMS LA, (Assessor) and James Lucas, RPF, EMS LA (Assessor). The WFP SFM representative was Will Sloan, RFT. The audit involved field tours and office visits (interviews and file reviews) of the Mid-Island operation as well as interviews with 23 WFP staff, 5 contractors, 5 public advisory group members and 1 local First Nations representative. Requirements assessed included the scope of the WFP’s 2017 Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

SFM REQUIREMENTS ASSESSED

Defined Forest Area (DFA) – Mid-Island TFL 39 Block 2 (Sampled)

Element Audited	Indicator Reviewed	Office/Field
Indicator 1.1.1:	Ecosystem by Site Series	Office
Indicator 1.1.2:	Forest Area by Species	Office
Indicator 1.1.3:	Age Class	Office
Indicator 1.1.4:	Forest Strategy Retention	Office/Field
Indicator 1.2.3:	Regeneration of Native Species	Office/Field
Indicator 1.3.1:	Trees Planted	Office
Indicator 1.4.2:	Cultural Features	Office
Indicator 2.1.1:	Free Growing	Office/Field
Indicator 2.1.A:	Regeneration Delay	Office

Element Audited	Indicator Reviewed	Office/Field
Indicator 2.2.1:	Permanent Access (PAS)	Office
Indicator 3.1.1:	Soil Disturbance	Office/Field
Indicator 3.1.2:	CWD	Office/Field
Indicator 3.2.1:	Watersheds	Office
Indicator 4.1.1:	Carbon	Office
Indicator 4.2.1:	DFA Changes	Office
Indicator 5.2.2:	Training	Office/Field
Indicator 5.2.4:	Aboriginal Employment	Office
Indicator 5.2.A:	Recreation Trails & Sites	Office/Field
Indicator 6.1.1:	Treaty	Office
Indicator 6.1.3:	FN Special Sites	Office
Indicator 6.2.1:	Monumental & Large Cultural Cedar	Office
Indicator 6.2.A:	FN Donations	Office
Indicator 6.3.1:	Other Uses in DFA	Office
Indicator 6.3.2:	Safety Committee	Office
Indicator 6.4.1:	Satisfaction Survey	Office
Indicator 6.4.2:	MIFLAG Meetings	Office
Indicator 6.4.3:	MIFLAG & First Nations	Office
Indicator 6.5.2:	MIFLAG Website	Office
Indicator 6.5.B:	Herbicides	Office/Field

Previous Year's (2016) Results

The assessment reviewed the previous year's (2016) assessment results and there were 3 Nonconformities relating to CSA:

Audit Finding	Status
480-A2-NC-02 MINOR - The standards require that WFP staff have all required training and it would be up to date. A review of the training databases at Port McNeill (NIFO) and Englewood (EFO) indicated several SFM trainings were either past due or not completed.	OPEN – WFP has made progress on this finding but it remains open.
480-A2-NC-03 MINOR - The Harvest Plans for two units reviewed during the audit require natural drainage patterns to be maintained. Nonconforming examples were identified in the field for two cut blocks. Natural drainage patterns were not maintained on one unit as numerous culvert inlet and outlets were either plugged with sediment or covered with decked wood. In addition, a S6 stream was also not cleaned concurrently with the operations as per the harvest plan prescription. A S6 creek on another unit was found to have significant introduced debris along the road where wood was decked. This nonconforming status was not noted in the post-harvest inspection as an action item for remediation.	CLOSED – These issues were addressed in the field.

Audit Finding	Status
480-A2-NC-05 MINOR - It was anticipated that actions items associated with identified nonconformities or system improvements would not be past due in the ITS database. PwC requested a report to show the status of corrective actions in ITS. The report showed 159 past due items existed in ITS at the time of the assessment.	OPEN – WFP has made progress on this finding but it remains open.

There were 7 Opportunities for Improvement remaining open from the previous year’s assessment:

Audit Finding	Status
480-A2-OFI-02	OPEN
480-A2-OFI-03	OPEN
480-A2-OFI-05	OPEN
480-A2-OFI-06	OPEN
480-A2-OFI-07	OPEN
480-A2-OFI-08	OPEN
480-A2-OFI-11	OPEN

Results of the 2017 Assessment

There were 2 Nonconformities identified:

480-RA-NC-01: WFP has several mechanisms to evaluate compliance on an ongoing basis, however, WFP was not able to demonstrate that they have evaluated the full range of their compliance requirements over the three audit cycle.

480-RA-NC-02: The version of the WFP EMS manual (September, 2016) reviewed during the assessment was found to have some sections that were not up to date, including:

- 1) the link to the WFP organizational chart;
- 2) roles and responsibilities did not include the new General Manager of Planning position;
- 3) the reference to the ITS SOP is no longer correct as that SOP has been replaced by an ITS Users Guide, and;
- 4) the manual does not describe the role of the newly formed Technical Committee.

Three Opportunities for Improvement were identified:

480-RA-OFI-03: Consider reviewing and updating indicators which could accomplish multiple objectives, report post activity values and those where objectives are constantly exceeded.

480-RA-OFI-04: WFP may wish to ensure all ITS users are aware of the new ITS Users Guide and any changes in procedures are understood. Some instances of uncertainty or inconsistency in completing ITS entries were noted during the assessment.

In addition, WFP may benefit from creating a procedure for extending due dates when WFP knows they will not meet a planned due date.

480-RA-OFI-05: WFP has implemented a system called the Training Manager to manage WFP training requirements. Interviews with staff revealed they could benefit from expanded training on the use of tool.

In addition, it appears that the understanding of reporting capabilities may be limited or the tool may not be able to effectively provide robust reports for WFP's needs. WFP may wish to evaluate the effectiveness of the training and reporting capabilities of the Training Manager.

Good Management Practices

The following good management practices were noted:

- 1) Very knowledgeable contractors with regards to the WFP's SFM program.
- 2) Very detailed Harvest and Road Instruction maps in use by WFP which are well understood by field operators.
- 3) The WFP Public Advisory Groups (PAG) meeting held in September was an excellent venue and chance for PAG members to see what works and what doesn't with the processes.
- 4) The revitalization of the Mid Island Forest & Lands Advisory Group seems to be working well.
- 5) WFP has developed a new procedure where all action items from inspections are to be entered into ITS to confirm they are being actioned and completed.
- 6) Implemented a LEAN initiative around the use of CENFOR to streamline its use and improve its effectiveness across WFP.

Conclusion of the Assessment

Western Forest Products will continue to be registered to the CSA Z809-2008 Sustainable Forest Management Standard. All of the applicable requirements of the standard were considered to be adequately implemented. The next audit will be scheduled for April 2018 and will focus on samples of the Port Alberni defined forest area. For further information on the WFP's SFM system please view the WFP website (<http://www.westernforest.com/>) or contact Will Sloan, RFT at wsloan@westernforest.com