



## Fort St. John Pilot Project – 2013 Surveillance Audit

From October 7-11, 2013, an audit team from KPMG Performance Registrar Inc. (KPMG PRI) carried out a CSA Z809 surveillance audit of the Fort St. John Pilot Project (FSJPP) Participants' woodlands operations against the requirements of the 2008 version of the CSA Z809 sustainable forest management (SFM) standard. This Certification Summary Report provides an overview of the process and KPMG's audit findings.

### Description of the FSJPP Participants' Defined Forest Area

The FSJPP area encompasses the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area (TSA) in the Peace region of northeast BC. The combined assessment on the FSJPP area applies to a defined forest area (DFA) of approximately 4 million hectares with an allowable annual harvest of over 2 million m<sup>3</sup>.

### Scope of Certification

The FSJPP was implemented across the Fort St. John TSA in 2001 as a pilot project for an improved regulatory framework for forest practices. The main components of the project include regulatory flexibility to facilitate adaptive approaches to forest management, landscape level planning through an SFM plan, ongoing public involvement through a Public Advisory Group (PAG) and the adoption and implementation of certification systems as surrogates for the existing administrative process.

The FSJPP Participants include BC Timber Sales (BCTS), Cameron River Logging Ltd., Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor), Peace Valley OSB, Dunne-Za Ventures LP, Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. and Tembec Inc. However, all field operations along with planning are carried out by Canfor and BCTS. All of the participants have consented in writing to take part in the pilot project and be subject to the terms and conditions of the FSJPP Regulation.

### Audit Scope

The audit was conducted against selected requirements of the CSA Z809-08 standard, including those related to:

- The public participation process;
- Development and maintenance of the SFM plan;
- Monitoring of SFM performance, and;
- Implementation of the various management system components (e.g., operational controls, monitoring and inspections, compliance evaluations, internal audits, management reviews, etc.) that are required under the CSA Z809 standard.

### The Audit

- **Audit Team** – The audit was conducted by Yurgen Menninga, RPF, EP(EMSLA) and Michael Alexander, RPF, EP(EMSLA). Yurgen, who acted as the lead auditor on this engagement, is an employee of KPMG PRI and has conducted numerous forest management audits under a variety of standards including ISO 14001, CSA



## Findings: FSJPP Participants' Woodlands Operation — October 2013

Z809, SFI and FSC. Michael Alexander is an independent consultant who also has extensive experience in conducting forest management certification audits against ISO 14001, CSA Z809 and SFI.

- **CSA Z809 Audit** – The audit included an on-site assessment of the FSJPP Participants' implementation of their SFM systems. Conclusions regarding conformance with the requirements of the standard were based on the collection of sufficient and appropriate audit evidence drawn from the following sources: (1) review of various SFM system procedures and records, (2) interviews with a sample of Participant staff and contractors and (3) visits to several field sites to evaluate conformance with the applicable requirements of the CSA Z809 standard.
- **Surveillance Audits** – Annual surveillance audits are conducted by the audit team to ensure that CSA Z809 requirements continue to be met.
- **FSJPP Participants' Certification Program Representatives** – Andrew Tyrrell, RPF, Forestry Supervisor at Canfor and Jason Pederson, RFT, Certification Standards Officer at BCTS served as the FSJPP Participants' representatives during the audit.

### Audit Objectives

The following audit objectives were included within the scope of the audit:

- A CSA Z809 surveillance audit to evaluate the FSJPP Participants' continuing conformance with the requirements of the 2008 version of the CSA Z809 standard.
- Evaluation of the extent to which the FSJPP Participants have addressed the open findings from previous CSA Z809 audits.

### Audit Conclusions

The audit found that the FSJPP Participants' SFM systems:

- Were in full conformance with the requirements of CSA Z809-08 included in the scope of the audit, except where noted otherwise in this report;
- Continue to be effectively implemented, and;
- Are sufficient to systematically meet the commitments included in the Participants' environmental and SFM policies, provided that the systems continue to be implemented and maintained as required.

As a result, a decision has been made that the FSJPP Participants continue to be certified to the 2008 version of the CSA Z809 standard.

### Good Practices

A number of good practices were identified during the course of the audit. Examples included:

- CSA Z809 element 6.2.1: Canfor has made good effort in working with one of the First Nations in regards to avoiding herbicide use in areas identified by the First Nation, and in developing a communication agreement (Canfor).
- CSA Z809 elements' 6.3.1: The application of stubbed trees across the blocks was found to have been well applied (Canfor and BCTS).

### FSJPP Participants' 2013 CSA Z809-08 Audit Findings

Open nonconformities from prior audits	0
New major non conformities	0
New minor non-conformities	0
New opportunities for improvement	5

### Follow-up on Findings from Previous Audits

At the time of this assessment there was a total of one open nonconformity from previous audits. The audit team reviewed the implementation of the action plans developed by the FSJPP Participants to address these issues, and found that they had been effectively implemented. As a result, all nonconformities identified during previous audits have now been closed.

### New Areas of Nonconformance

No new non conformities were identified.

### New Opportunities for Improvement

Five new opportunity for improvement was also identified during the audit, as follows:

- CSA Z809 element 5.5: on the FSJPP website a few outdated items were noted. (all participants)
- CSA Z809 element 7.4.6: On one harvest block, it was noted that instruction in regards to habitat debris piles and a seasonal restriction on crossing a non-classified drainage were not carried over from planning to operational documents, and personnel were not familiar with the items (though harvest was not complete and no environmental impact had occurred). (Canfor)
- CSA Z809 element 7.4.6: It was noted the Canfor GIS had not been updated for areas recently declared as caribou habitat by government. However as there has been no planning activity in these areas there has been no impact to date. (Canfor)
- CSA Z809 element 7.3.3: A field assessment of a herbicide treatment on a block found that more area had been treated than was required to manage competing vegetation. (BCTS)
- CSA Z809 element 7.5.2: It was noted that there were weaknesses in incident tracking, as well as root cause analysis. (Canfor)

### Focus Areas for the Next Audit

The following issues/topics have been identified as focus areas for the next audit:

- The status of incorporation of the results of a new biodiversity strategy into the Sustainable Forest Management Plan. (all participants)
- The status of completing the mapped identification of draft Old Growth Management Areas on the DFA. (all participants)
- Herbicide use. (all participants)

#### Types of audit findings

##### Major nonconformities:

Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFM Objectives.

##### Minor nonconformities:

Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of SFM Objectives.

All nonconformities require the development of a corrective action plan within 30 days of the audit, which must be fully implemented by the operation within 3 months.

Major nonconformities must be addressed immediately or certification cannot be achieved / maintained.

##### Opportunities for Improvement:

Are not nonconformities but are comments on specific areas of the SFM System where improvements can be made.

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