

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management

Standard – Public Summary Report

EACOM TIMBER CORPORATION

PINELAND & SPANISH FORESTS

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

EACOM Timber Corporation is a major Eastern Canadian wood products company formed in 2008. Its head office is located in Montreal, Quebec, with regional offices located in Timmins, Ontario and Val d'Or, Quebec. In 2010, EACOM acquired Domtar Forest Products Division. As a result, its operations include the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of lumber and wood-based value-added products, and the management of forest resources.

EACOM currently owns seven sawmills (5 in Ontario, 2 in Quebec), a remanufacturing facility (Quebec) and a partnership operation in an engineered I joist plant (Ontario) for a total of 800 employees. Many of these mills have a long, rich history having been part of their communities for over 100 years.

EACOM has a production capacity of approximately 900 million board feet of lumber and holds Crown logging rights of approximately 3.5 million cubic meters annually.

The scope specific to this certification covers the **Spanish and the Pineland Forests in Northeastern Ontario**.

The company SFI representative for the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management standard is Jennifer Tallman RPF.

AUDIT

During the period of December 8 to December 10 2015, Eacom Timber Corporation underwent an initial audit to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits to be conducted annually. The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The sites visited were on the Spanish forest Blocks 3051, 3075, 3172 and on the Pineland forest Blocks 538, 661, and 663. Time spent for this activity was 3 man days.

The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company's regional office in Timmins, Ontario. Time spent for this activity was 6 man days.

TYPE OF REGISTRATION

Single site certificate	x
Multisite certificate	
Group certificate	

FOREST LAND AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Pineland Forest Management Unit is divided up into two discrete portions: Foleyet and Gogama. The main portion of the forest is located east of Chapleau, encompassing the community of Foleyet. The smaller section is located north of Hwy 11 west of Gogama. The Pineland Forest is licensed to Pineland Timber Company, under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) No.5508161. The shareholders of Pineland Timber Company delegated all responsibilities for the management and supervision of Pineland Forest to EACOM Timber Corporation.

The Pineland Forest encompasses a total area of 391,325 ha. Of this, the managed production forest area is 312,664 ha (80.5%). The remaining 75,871 ha is not managed for timber production. The Pineland forest falls entirely within the Boreal Forest.

The Spanish Forest Management Unit is located along Highway 144, north of the city of Sudbury, and south of the town of Gogama. The town of Sultan is located at the northwest corner of the Forest, at the end of Highway 667. The towns of Cartier and Bicoasting are located within the Forest, as well as the hamlet of Benny. The Spanish Forest is licensed to EACOM Timber Corporation, under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) No.542391.

The Spanish Forest encompasses a total area of 1,226,610 hectares. Of this, the managed production forest is 1,087,670 hectares (89%). The remaining 133,085 ha, or 10% are not managed for timber production. The Spanish Forest is located both the Boreal and Great Lakes St. Lawrence forest.

Under the terms of the two SFLs, EACOM Timber Corporation is responsible for all forest management activities, including: forest management planning, the functions of harvesting, silviculture, renewal, delivery of fibre, monitoring and reporting on compliance, proactive management of policy issues and key relationships with forest stakeholders. EACOM is also responsible for monitoring and reporting on compliance, and gathering information for the area covered by the licence in accordance with the current Forest Information Manual. MNR is responsible for FMP review and approval, auditing reports to ensure that forest operations are in compliance with the approved plan, and for maintaining consultation with First Nations communities involved in the planning process.

Forest Management Plans (FMPs) are prepared for a ten-year period with two five-year operational terms. The planning process for the two terms is outlined in the *2009 Forest Management Planning Manual for Ontario's Crown Forests*. A FMP establishes long-term direction and identifies the short-term operational goals for managing forest resources. FMPs determine how much area is available for harvest as well as an estimate of available harvest volume. A FMP is intended to provide the opportunity for desired economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Both forests are composed of conifer, hardwood and mixedwood forest units. The Pineland Forest is composed of 54% conifer dominated forest units, 21% hardwood dominated forest units and 24% mixedwood forest units. The Spanish Forest is composed of nearly identical proportions with 55% conifer dominated forest units, 23% hardwood dominated forest units and 22% mixedwood forest units. The clearcut silviculture system is used predominately across both forests with a minor component of shelterwood silviculture system employed in white/ red pine and tolerant hardwood dominated forest units.

A mix of natural and artificial regeneration strategies are used on both forests. Natural regeneration is employed in hardwood dominated and lowland conifer stands. Artificial regeneration, consisting of site preparation, planting and tending is employed on the conifer dominated stands.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture of the Pineland and Spanish forests. The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard meets and exceeds the requirements of the earlier SFI 2010-2014 SFI Standard (Section 2), therefore fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Sylvain Frappier ing f., audit team leader and Laird Van Damme, R.P.F. and Stephane Audet, R.P.F. audit team members. The auditors are Registered Professional Foresters and certified auditors.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team has evaluated the company against all objectives; those are listed in the Table 1. The evidences of compliance observed are listed in Table 2.

The sampling of sites was based the number of active sites, inactive sites i.e. where activities have been completed since the last audit, activity type and risk factor.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

Accreditation

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (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) for registrations to SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

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.

Positive Aspects

Areas that are deemed to be of best practices.

AREAS OF NON-CONFORMANCE

Type	Performance Measure #	Description	Follow up on action plan
Minor	4.2.1	There is evidence that training on Rare Threatened Endangered species has been inadequate.	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
Minor	9.1.2	There is evidence that WI-07 Fuel Transportation has not been followed by some operators	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit
Major	9.2.1	There is evidence that the lock out procedure is not fully understood and applied by all contractors	Action plan has been accepted evidence of implementation allowed to close the major non-compliance.
Minor	11.1.4	There is evidence that greater SFI training is needed for some contractors.	Action plan has been accepted and implementation will be reviewed during the next surveillance audit

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Nice presentation and explanation of trends of regeneration assessment in the Spanish annual report. Consider using the same format for other forest annual report.
- Consider updating reference to SFI in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy document.
- Since the MSP 14 EMS Management Review and Performance Reviews is used to meet the requirement of objective 15, consider adding a reference to the SFI programs in the procedures.
- Consider reviewing the wording in MSP07 of the EMS documentation or incorporate in other document the requirements of Public Inquiries and Official Complaints (Section 11 of SFI 2015-2019 STANDARDS AND RULES)

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received. This is the initial audit

POSITIVE ASPECTS

- Reporting on silvicultural effectiveness on the Spanish Forest
- Bridges and culvert installations
- SFI Evidence of Conformance Forest Management Pineland and Spanish Forests Document
- Good operational management controls (e.g. GIS, GPS, web access, applications to onsite flagging)
- Contractor web forest access

NON COMPLIANCES FROM PREVIOUS AUDIT

Not applicable since this is the Initial audit

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	X
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	Cut block size calculations	X
Written policies	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Monitoring records for non-timber values	
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual		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	
Timber development standards		Education/community involvement records	
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)	X	Records of public inquiries and complaints	
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation	X	Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	
Operational plans (annual, cutblock level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Wood producer training programs	
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	
Pest management plan		SFI Annual Report	
Fire preparedness plan		SFI and company websites	
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use	X	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Research and discussion papers	
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	X
Green-up records	X	External audit field inspections	
Free to grow records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	
Planting program records	X		
Harvest inspection records	X		
Road and bridge inspection records			
Pre-harvest inspection records			
Post-harvest inspection records	X		
Government compliance records	X		

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Initial

Based on the results of this initial audit it has been determined that the management system of Eacom Timber Corporation (operation on Spanish and Pineland forests) is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria, therefore, a recommendation for registration is made to SAI Global.

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.

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