

# SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

## EACOM Timber Corporation

### 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 an engineered I-joist plant (Ontario) for a total of 1,100 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 Pineland and Spanish Forests under a Sustainable Forest License held by EACOM Timber Corporation to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest management standard and to SFI 2015-2019 Fiber sourcing standard for wood coming from uncertified sources.

The company SFI representative for the certification is Ms. Stephanie Parzei.

### AUDIT

From June 8 to June 19, 2020, EACOM underwent a reregistration audit to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing Standards which does not include the review of Appendix 1 Rules for Use of SFI Certified Sourcing Label.

The registration cycle is over five years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and/or completed harvest operations through 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.

**Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the documentation review has been done remotely and one auditor spent two days on-site auditing on-going forest management activities. MS Teams was used for opening and closing meetings as well as for interviews with the personnel of the organization.

Interviews were also done by phone. Documents were exchanged between the auditees and the audit team members using Dropbox and e-mails.

## THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of François Grimard, audit team leader, and audit team members Laird Van Damme and Stephane Audet. The auditors are Professional Foresters and certified auditors.

## REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard
Single site	Reregistration	Reregistration

# SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

## FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

The Pineland Forest (Sustainable Forest License (SFL) 5508161), 391,325 ha in size, is located east of Chapleau, encompassing the community of Foleyet. The Pineland Forest falls entirely within the Boreal Forest.

The Spanish Forest (SFL 542391), 1,226,610 hectares in size, is located north of the city of Sudbury, and south of the town of Gogama. The Spanish Forest falls within both the Boreal and Great Lakes St. Lawrence forests.

Under the terms of the two SFLs, EACOM Timber Corporation is responsible for all forest management activities, including: forest management planning, harvesting, silviculture, renewal, delivery of fibre, 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. MNRF 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 and Metis communities involved in the planning process.

Forest Management Plans (FMPs) are prepared for a ten-year period. The FMP establishes long-term direction and identifies the short-term operational goals for managing forest resources. A FMP is intended to provide the opportunity for desired economic, social, and environmental benefits, including how much area is available for harvest and an estimate of available harvest volume.

Harvest volumes are reported annually by species and licensee. Volumes reported in the 2018/19 annual reports are the followings:

**Spanish Forest:** 544,032 m3 SPF Harvested (60% of planned annual volume), 60,618 m3 hardwood Harvested (19% of planned annual volume).

**Pineland Forest:** 232,998 m3 SPF Harvested (64% of planned annual volume), 83,749 m3 hardwood harvested (25% of planned annual volume).

On both forests, market driven downtime, limited hardwood markets and lack of demand for tolerant hardwoods, red and white pine restricted the harvest of related forest units during the first term, or 5 years, of the FMPs.

Both forests are composed of conifer, hardwood and mixed wood forest units. The clear cut silviculture system is used predominately across both forests with a minor component of shelter wood silviculture system employed in white/ red pine and tolerant hardwood dominated forest units. Hardwood-dominated and lowland conifer stands regenerate naturally, while regeneration in conifer-dominated stands is assisted on some sites by site preparation, planting/seeding, and tending. These practices combined with residual tree and patch requirements during the harvest are intended to emulate natural conditions, thus conserving wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

## SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities – planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture of the Pineland and Spanish forests. 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 Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Table 2. Both tables are found in the section Evidence of conformity to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest management standard.

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.

## SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

## COMPLAINTS

No 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 documentation review:		7		
On-site		1		
Sites Visited				
Management Unit	Site #	Location	Audited Activities	Indicators Assessed
Spanish Forest	1	Blk 4106	Harvesting Fuel handling	FM Objectives 3,4,5,6,7, 9,11,15, all indicators
Spanish Forest	2	Blk 3079	Silviculture – Tree Planting & Site Preparation Road Construction Trucking Values protection Forest Fire Preparedness	

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### **Areas of non-conformance**

No non-conformance issued

### **Opportunities for improvement**

No specific opportunity for improvement.

### **Good practices**

#### **Commitment**

The whole forest management system, the way it is maintained and monitored, reflect the organization commitment to improve its forest practices on a continual basis.

#### **Management review**

Complete and rigorous review of the management system based on facts.

- 5-year trends and statistics on findings,
- Identification of repeated non-compliances,
- Focus on top issues for coming year,
- Review of objectives
- Etc.

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

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Status (closed/upgraded to major)
2019-01	Minor	9.2	closed
2019-02	Minor	4.1	closed

## CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Based on the results of this reregistration audit it has been determined that the management system of Eacom Timber Corporation is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria identified in this report; therefore, **a recommendation for certification will be submitted to SAI Global’s review team for the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.**

**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)	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	X
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		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, cut block 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	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan	X	SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan	X	SFI brochure	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X

Standards for seed use		Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Tree improvement reports	X	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	Pre-harvest inspection records	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Post-harvest inspection records	X
Road and bridge inspection records	X	Government compliance records	X



# SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard\*

*\*This report does not include the review of Appendix 1 Rules for Use of SFI Certified Sourcing Label*

## **PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S FIBER PROCUREMENT AND/OR MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS**

The mills covered by this Fiber sourcing certificate are:

Timmins Sawmill - 267 McChesney, P.O Box 150 Timmins, Ontario, P4N 7C9

Nairn Sawmill - 100 Old Nairn Rd, Nairn Center, Ontario, P0M 2L0

Elk Lake Sawmill - 1 Sixth St., PO Box 9, Elk Lake, Ontario, P0J 1G0

Gogama Sawmill - Ostrom Ontario

Ear Falls Sawmill - 1 Sawmill Rd Off Hwy 105, PO Box 250, Ear Falls, Ontario, P0V 1T0

## **SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION**

Sourcing of fiber from Northwestern Ontario and from Northeastern Ontario.

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 Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Table 2. Both tables are found in the section Evidence of conformity to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing standard.

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 complaints have been received

### MANUFACTURING UNITS SUPPLIED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Off-site preparation and documentation review:	1
Field review:	1
Sites	Number inspected
Roads	0
Harvesting Blocks	3
Silviculture Sites	0
<p>Manufacturing units supplied from the sites visited:</p> <p>Timmins Sawmill - 267 McChesney, P.O Box 150 Timmins, Ontario, P4N 7C9</p> <p>Elk Lake Sawmill – 1 Sithh Street, Elk Lake, Ontario P0J 1G0</p> <p>Gogama Sawmill – Ostrom, Ontario</p>	

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *Definitions for findings can be found in Appendix 1*

#### Areas of non-conformance

No.	Level	Clause	Description	Response Due:
2020-01	Major	SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD 4.1.2	<p>Several legal deficiencies were observed on all of the sites sampled for the SFI fiber sourcing field audit.</p> <p>These would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor did not have a mandatory waste generator number</li> <li>• SDS sheets were not available onsite</li> <li>• Fuel truck did not meet the required certification standard (annual inspection V (visual) and K (leak), expired 2017).</li> <li>• Stationary tanks being transported with fuel and missing 1202 placards on trailer.</li> </ul>	See NC report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire extinguishers were not available in two machines.</li> <li>• Annual inspections are not being completed on several fire extinguishers</li> <li>• Trailer storing a fuel tank did not have a safe means of entry (tire used as a step).</li> <li>• Machine not being parked on mineral soil during fire shutdown.</li> </ul>	
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**Status of previous audit non-compliances**

No non-conformities were raised during the previous audit.

**CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD**

**Reregistration Audit**

The results of this reregistration audit indicate that the management system of Eacom Timber Corporation is suitable and effective with the exception of the areas of non-conformance identified during the audit and documented in the attached Non-conformance report.

As discussed during the closing meeting, please submit a root cause analysis with an action plan within 30 days for the major non-conformance for approval by the Lead auditor. Major non-conformance must be closed within 60 days.

**A recommendation for registration is on hold.** Upon the receipt, review and acceptance of the corrective action taken, and **closure of the major non-conformance**, a recommendation for registration will be submitted to SAI Global’s review team for the **SFI 2015-2015 Fiber Sourcing Standard**.

## EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

**Table 1 Objectives Audited**

<b>Fiber Sourcing Within the United States and Canada</b>		
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	X
Objective 9	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 10	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

<b>Fiber Sourcing Outside the United States and Canada</b>		
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		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		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		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	X	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	X	Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	

# 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.

## ***Good practices***

Areas that are deemed to be mentioned

## **MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH**

This multi-site / group organization maintains an internal audit program determined to be reliable, in this case SAI Global sampling approach is as follow where n = number of sites:

- i.  $\sqrt{(n)}$  for initial certification audits
- ii.  $0.6 \sqrt{(n)}$  for surveillance audits
- iii.  $0.8 \sqrt{(n)}$  for re-registration audits

The central office function is audited annually.

OR

This multi-site / group organization did not maintain its internal audit program. SAI Global applies the following sampling where n = number of sites:

$\sqrt{(n)}$

The central office function is audited annually.

SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809, 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](mailto:certification.americas@saiglobal.com) for more information.

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