

WHAT IS THE CSA SFM STANDARD?

WITH ALMOST 83 MILLION HECTARES OF FOREST CERTIFIED, THE CSA SFM STANDARD IS THE LARGEST NATIONAL STANDARD IN THE WORLD.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management System (SFM) Standard is the leading certification standard in Canada. First released in 1996, it is Canada's official national standard for sustainable forest management.

CSA certified forests provide independent 3rd party assurance of meeting a comprehensive set of biological, environmental and social criteria.

What is the history of the Standard?

The Canadian Standards Association was chartered in 1919 and has developed over 3000 standards for various industries.

The CSA SFM Standard was developed in accordance with national and international initiatives to develop criteria and indicators for SFM. It uses local public advisory committees to assist in the development of indicators and targets for each element. This active and engaged public participation process differentiates CSA from the other more common forest certification standards and reflects the Canadian forest situation where more than 93% of forests are publicly owned.

Development of the CSA SFM Standard is overseen by a Technical Committee comprised of forest producers, scientists, academics, representatives of government, Aboriginal people, labour unions, consumers and environmentalists. The CSA SFM Standard has been maintained in an open public process by the Technical Committee and was first reviewed and revised in 2002. A second review and revision to the Standard was completed in March, 2009.

How extensive is the use of the CSA Standard?

Almost 83 million hectares of Canadian forests were third-party certified to CSA as of January 2009. That's more than any other national standard in the world. In fact, that's roughly a quarter of all the certified forests in the entire world.

How does it compare to other international standards?

One of the most rigorous assessments of forest certification standards is done by the UK government, using a technical review panel of four experts selected for their certification expertise, independence and international input. Their most recent assessment of the CSA Standard (2002 version) indicated that CSA continued to provide evidence of legal and sustainable wood supplies, and meets the UK government's wood products procurement requirements.

Is the registration of certifiers performed by those developing the Standard?

No. There are complete "firewalls" in place to prevent the mixing of these roles and potential conflicts of interest.



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WHAT'S NEW FOR THE STANDARD?

A PRESCRIBED SET OF
35 CORE INDICATORS
BRINGS A NEW LEVEL
OF CONSISTENCY TO
SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT PLANS
DEVELOPED UNDER
THE STANDARD ACROSS
CANADA.

What is new/different with the 2008 version?

Mandatory core indicators now bring a level of consistency to Sustainable Forest Management Plans developed under the Standard. These 35 mandatory indicators cover areas such as:

- Native species, species at risk, and sites of special significance (biological diversity)
- Carbon uptake and storage
- Forest land conversion, and
- Sustainable communities

Other indicators, as well as locally appropriate targets for all indicators, are identified through the local public participation process.

Forest management issues must also be discussed during public consultations. This is part of the two way education and exchange of information that occurs in each CSA certified forest. As an example, topics to be discussed under Conservation of Biological Diversity must include but are not limited to:

- Forest fragmentation and forest loss
- Management in the context of natural disturbance regimes and the natural range of variation
- Maintenance of populations and communities over time
- Local and regional protected areas and integrated landscape management
- Practices to limit the spread of invasive alien species
- Gene pool of native seed stock (breeding program)
- Management of cultural values and resources

Aboriginal interests are addressed through requirements that include:

- Understanding and complying with the current legal requirements related to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights
- Use of Aboriginal knowledge to identify and manage culturally important resources and values
- Respect for traditional Aboriginal forest values and uses identified through the Aboriginal input process
- Capacity development and meaningful participation of Aboriginal communities, including efforts to obtain acceptance of management plans based on a clear understanding of them
- Participation in the forest economy



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HOW IS THE CANADIAN PUBLIC INVOLVED?

**RECOGNIZING THAT 93%
OF CANADA'S FORESTS
ARE PUBLICLY OWNED, THE
CSA SFM CERTIFICATION
DEMANDS ACTIVE PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT BY LOCAL
RESIDENTS.**

What distinguishes the CSA Standard from other standards, why is it the best fit for Canada's forests and forest products?

Recognizing that 93% of Canada's forests are publicly owned, the CSA certification demands active public involvement by local residents. No other forest certification standard used in Canada engages the public like that required by CSA. From coast to coast, more than 50 public advisory groups are involved in frequent discussion each and every year with forest managers to continuously improve their performance.

The CSA SFM Standard was built on top of, and is complementary to, Canada's strong legislative framework for forestry. It avoids repeating legal requirements that are already a "given", and focuses on issues specific to this country. It uses a definition of sustainable forest management developed for Canada by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). This "definition" (made up of a numerous biophysical, social and economic criteria) was an outcome of Canada's involvement in intergovernmental processes for developing global criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

The CSA SFM Standard is accredited to Canada's National Standards System by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and operates in accordance with the disciplines established by the SCC.

Accordingly, it holds the honour of being Canada's official national standard for sustainable forest management.

How transparent is the Standard?

The following information is made publicly available – a benchmark in transparency and accountability:

- Sustainable Forest Management Plans developed under the CSA Standard,
- Annual Reports on progress against those plans,
- The results of independent certification and
- Surveillance Audit Reports



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HOW DO I MAKE INFORMED PURCHASES?

BY SEARCHING FOR
CSA CERTIFIED FORESTS
AND PEFC CERTIFIED
PRODUCTS FROM CANADA
AT www.certifiedwood.org.

How can customers source CSA certified wood?

To search for CSA certified forests or PEFC certified forest products from Canada go to the Forest Certification Resource Center at www.certifiedwood.org. In your search, look for "Certified Forests" or "Certified Products" and fill out the search fields from there (i.e. CSA certified forests or PEFC certified forest products from Canada).

Does the CSA certification offer a chain of custody standard?

Yes, CSA chain of custody certification requires conformance with the internationally recognized PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) chain of custody requirements (as set out in PEFC Annex 4). The PEFC on-product mark is available for organizations that meet the PEFC and CSA Z809 Chain of Custody requirements. This mark is recognized internationally as a sign of sustainable forest management practices.

Can CSA certified wood be used to gain credits in green building rating systems?

Absolutely. Green building rating systems specifying wood certified to CSA and other credible certification standards include: Built Green, Green Globes, National Green Building Standard™ (NGBS), and farther afield, the Timber Trade Federation in the UK.

Where can we go for more information (about the Standard, about the CSA user group)?

Additional information can be obtained by contacting one of the CSA SFM User Group companies directly (list at www.csasfmforests.ca) or by sending us an email: info@csasfmforests.ca

