



Apollo Forest Products Ltd. Sustainable Forest Management System Fort St. James Defined Forest Area

Audit Coverage

- During the period August 6, 2008 to August 8, 2008 inclusive, QMI conducted a Re-registration Audit of Apollo Forest Products Ltd. Ft. St. James Sustainable Forest Management System to the CAN/CSA Z809 Standard. The audit took 2.5 audit-days to complete.
- The Audit Team consisted of Ken Hall RFT, EMS(LA), CEA(SFM) as the Lead auditor and William Sloan RFT, EMS(A) as the Team Member.
- The audit assessed pre and post harvest operations in the Fort St. James operating area. This entailed site visits with Apollo Forest Products Ltd. operations staff verifying conformance with operational planning requirements and confirming the status of SFM Indicator performance for forest related Indicators.
- SFM Indicator performance was assessed through interviews with staff at the Apollo Forest Products Ltd. office and a review of the applicable SFM Indicator documentation.

Background

- The Apollo Forest Products Ltd. SFM system has been registered to the CAN/CSA Z809 Standard since January 2006. This registration is supported by an Environmental Management System registered to the ISO 14001 Standard since November 2002.
- The Apollo Forest Products Ltd. SFM system and EMS system have undergone annual 3rd party surveillance audits by QMI since the date of initial registration.
- The Apollo Forest Products Ltd. SFM Define Forest Area is located in the Fort St. James Forest District within the Prince George Timber Supply Area.



Photo #1: Pro active approach. Apollo has been completing Fish Habitat Assessments on suitable candidate creeks and replacing smaller corrugated metal culverts with open bottom plate arch culverts to allow fish passage to habitat upstream. This arch is located on Leo Mainline. Note the dead pine in the background.

Positive Aspects

The Audit Team observed the following positive management practices:

- The use of a Registered Professional Biologist to monitor the installation of a bridge over a fish bearing creek.
- Bio engineering along a creek bank to develop stability and reduce the likelihood of sediment entering the creek.
- Old camp has been decommissioned and the site rehabilitated. Lower level of the former camp site has been left intact to be used by tourists/hunters with trailers and campers.
- Open bottom arch plate culvert replaced CMP on Leo Creek FSR to provide access to upstream fish habitat.

Areas of Non-conformance (NCR):

There were no areas of non conformance identified during the course of this audit.

Audit Recommendation

Apollo Forest Products Ltd. is recommended for continued registration to CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Standard.



Photo #2: A Contractor is visited as part of the audit process. In addition to interviewing Workers to determine their level of environmental awareness, work habits are observed. An operator fuels his machine from a mobile double walled enviro fuel tank. Note the unit has the appropriate signage, posted fueling procedures, an inspected fire extinguisher and adequate spill response kit (blue barrel). There is also containment for the fuel nozzle once the operator is finished.

CAN/CSA Z809 :2002 Re-Registration Audit

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Non-conformance

Non-conformance (NCR):

A systemic failure of the Program Participant's EMS/SFM system to meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

All non-conformance require an action plan within 30 days. Non-conformance must be addressed by the operation or registration cannot be achieved / maintained.

Area of Concern (AOC):

An isolated lapse in EMS/SFM system implementation which does not indicate a systemic failure to consistently meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

Opportunities for Improvement (OFI):

Are isolated observations that are non-critical to the achievement / maintenance of EMS/SFM objectives.

Positive Aspects

Are features of the EMS/SFM system that are considered as enhancements to the expected level of EMS/SFM performance.

Areas of Concern (AOC)

- 5.2(a) - Interested Parties: Ensure that adequate steps are taken to address the declining PAG membership and to encourage First Nations to participate in the process.
- 5.2(c)(d) - Interested Parties: Ensure that the organization documents efforts made to include First Nations in the SFM process, PAG process and opportunity to participate in the audit process. Ensure that efforts made to include First Nations in the development of SFM Values is documented.
- 7.4.1/7.4.4.1 - Structure and Responsibility / SFM Documentation: Ensure the EMS Manual covers all the SFM documentation requirements as required by the Standard. For example, the audit found the EMS Manual had:
 - No reference to the SFM Annual Report;
 - No reference in the Records section on identifying, maintaining and disposing of SFM related records;
 - No reference to the SFM external audits and how they are to be released to the public.



Photo #3: Retention of deciduous trees within the harvested block. Great effort has been undertaken to not remove or damage these trees during the salvaging of pine affected by the Mountain Pine Beetle. This retention provides wildlife habitat, future coarse woody debris recruitment and helps to stabilize the soils now being affected by a rising water table due to the lack of water uptake as a result of the dead pine.

Opportunities for Improvement (OFI):

- 7.3.4(b) - The organization should consider developing a "master list" of First Nations interests and traditional values as part of the organization's planning inventories.
- 7.3.4(d) - The organization should consider including specific language in the SFMP (Section 3.2) to reference woodlot owners.
- 4.3.2 - Consider reviewing the "Other" requirements that Apollo subscribes to. For example, only the ISO 14001 and CSA Z809 standards are identified at this time while the Fort St. James SFM process has not been listed as an "Other" that Apollo is following.
- 7.3.6.1(Indicator 9) - Percent of cutblocks and roads consistent with SAR as identified in operational plans. The indicator refers to both cutblocks and roads, but the monitoring strategy and annual report only references cutblocks. Consider reviewing the VOIT to ensure consistency between the indicator and monitoring/reporting.
- 7.3.6.1(Indicator 14) - It was noted that retention levels were good in the field, however it was also noted that blowdown of these retention patches is an issue. Consider reviewing with the PAG this side effect of retention and reviewing the indicator to see if it should be modified.



Photo #4a & 4b: Stream rehab project underway. A beaver dam located 700m upstream in the riparian zone failed during a heavy spring rain event causing the culvert at this location to fail. A portable 40 meter steel bridge on lock blocks is replacing the culvert. Bio engineering (both banks) has been undertaken to ensure bank stability. A Professional Biologist is on site to oversee the work.

QMI's Forestry Group registers forest companies to ISO 14001, SFI 2005-2009, and CSA Z809 SFM standards. The QMI Forestry Group consists of professional foresters and industry experts located in our Cleveland, Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal offices. Contact marketingservices@qmi-saiglobal.com for more information.

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