



BCTS
BC Timber Sales

Sustainable Forest Management

Certification Strategy

Revised November 2017

1.0 Introduction

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) was founded in April 2003 with a mandate to auction Crown timber in order to generate data to support government's market-based pricing system (MPS). BCTS currently manages approximately 18% of the provincial allowable annual cut (AAC). BCTS auctions this timber via Timber Sale Licences (TSLs) to independent operators (aka licensees) registered with the program. The licensees in-turn sell the harvested timber and wood fibre to log brokers and timber processing facilities throughout the province. In exercising their harvesting rights, licensees are responsible for compliance with all applicable legislation, including the province's *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). Since TSLs are non-replaceable and typically have a one or two-year term (maximum of four years), BCTS carries out strategic level planning, operational and block level planning, and, upon completion of harvest, reforestation activities.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification provides assurance to the public and customers that timber originates from legal and well managed sources. The BCTS SFM Certification Strategy articulates the BCTS approach to SFM certification on operating areas subject to BCTS forest management responsibilities.

2.0 Key Drivers for BCTS SFM Certification Goals

SFM certification is consistent with the BCTS commitment to demonstrating sound forest management.

2.1 Commitment to Sustainability

BCTS is committed to the principles of sustainability and believes that SFM certification is a strong indicator of this commitment by:

- Demonstrating that BCTS meets and exceeds British Columbia's and Canada's rigorous and comprehensive forest management legislative framework;
- Conducting its operations in accordance with internationally accepted and endorsed standards for SFM; and
- Providing First Nations, stakeholders, and the public with credible, independent, third-party verification that the forests in BCTS operating areas are well managed.

2.2 Environmental Management

BCTS maintains an Environmental Management System (EMS) across all Business Areas. The program's licensees, permittees and contractors are required to comply with the BCTS EMS and this systematic and continuous improvement approach to environmental management provides credible and independent validation of all BCTS operations. It is also an important foundation for the due diligence required under the forestry legislative framework in B.C. and for SFM certification.

2.3 Safe Forest Practices

BCTS is committed to continually improving forest safety and having safe work sites. In 2008 BCTS achieved Safe Company Certification. All TSLs and BCTS contracts specify requirements

for Safe Company Certification. BCTS considers SFM certification to be consistent with our overarching goals and objectives for worker safety and safe work sites.

The SFM standards all have worker safety components and BCTS views Safe Company Certification as a key contribution to the achievement of SFM safety elements.

2.4 Stakeholder and Public Expectations

BCTS has the largest operational footprint of any forestry operator in British Columbia (currently at approximately 18% of the provincial AAC). BCTS recognizes First Nations, public and stakeholder expectations for sustainably managed public forests. Third party verification provides these parties with independent assurance that BCTS is meeting this responsibility and expectation.

2.5 Market Access

Third-party certification of forestry activities is broadly accepted as a best practice for sustainable forest and resource management, and as an important tool for market access. In response to customer demands for independent and credible verification that timber originates from legal and well managed forests, wood purchasers prefer or require forest certification in their corporate procurement policies and/or in meeting certain regulated building code requirements. Further references on market trends towards certification of wood products can be found through Forestry Innovation Investment (FII). Source: <https://www.naturallywood.com/sustainable-forests/certified-forests>

2.6 Benchmarking Costs and Value

Since the majority of BC forestry operations are certified and other operators and major licensees experience the costs associated with SFM certification, SFM certification for BCTS is consistent with its mandate for providing a credible reference point for costs and pricing of timber harvested from public land in B.C.

3.0 SFM Certification for BCTS

Three internationally recognized and endorsed SFM certification standards are currently used in British Columbia – *Canadian Standards Association Z809 (CSA)*, *Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)* and *Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)*. Each of the three standards has their own unique advantages and characteristics. A comparison of all forest certification standards currently recognized in North America can be found through FII. Source: <https://www.naturallywood.com/resources/forest-certification-bc>

In choosing which specific certification standard to pursue, BCTS considers:

- Customer/market preferences and acceptance;
- Costs and benefits;
- Alignment of the standard with current and future forest management initiatives and government land use decisions such as Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) on the coast; and
- MPS representation and other factors.

BCTS will continue to monitor, analyse, adapt and respond to changes in SFM certification standards that are applicable to British Columbia.

BCTS SFM Certification Target:

Performance Measure	Target
Percent of BCTS timber volume certified under an SFM standard	100%

4.0 Implementation of the SFM Strategy

Responsibility for implementation of the BCTS SFM certification strategy rests individually with the twelve Timber Sales Offices (TSOs), located throughout the province. Timber Sales Managers are encouraged to update the BCTS Timber Sales Leadership Team with respect to any noteworthy developments in their respective business areas regarding SFM implementation, particularly those relating to multi-site (i.e. provincial) certifications.

The TSO staff are supported by BCTS provincial SFM teams, the Certification Standards Officer team, the Planning Working Group and Headquarters staff.

5.0 Public Enquiries on BCTS SFM Certification Initiatives

For information about specific SFM certification initiatives and certification progress in the 12 BCTS Business Areas, contact the Timber Sales Manager. Contact details are available on the BCTS public website: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/>.

For general enquiries regarding this strategy or for help in finding further information on SFM certification, please contact:

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