



## BC Timber Sales — TFL 48 – 2017 CSA Z809 Re-certification Audit

Between July 15-28, 2017 KPMG Performance Registrar Inc. (KPMG PRI) carried out a CSA Z809 Re-certification audit of B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS) Peace Liard Business Area's Dawson Creek Field team's operating areas within the Tree Farm Licence 48 Defined Forest Area (DFA), which is managed through the TFL 48 Sustainable Forest Management Plan. This certification summary report provides an overview of the audit process and KPMG's findings.

### Description of the TFL 48 Defined Forest Area

TFL 48 is located in northeast B.C. near the communities of Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope and Tumbler Ridge. The TFL encompasses just over 643,200 hectares and has an allowable annual harvest of 900,000 cubic meters. BCTS manages its operations on the TFL from its field team offices located in Dawson Creek BC. In addition to BCTS, Canfor is also a signatory to the TFL 48 SFM plan.

### Scope of Certification

BC Timber Sales CSA Z809 certification covers the organization's operating areas within Tree Farm Licence 48, and have been certified to the CSA Z809 standard since the year 2000.

### Audit Scope

The audit was conducted against selected elements of the CSA Z809-08 standard, including those related to:

- The public participation process;
- Development and maintenance of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) plan;
- Monitoring of SFM performance, and;
- Implementation of the various management system components (e.g., operational controls, monitoring and inspections, internal audits, etc.) that are required under the CSA Z809 standard.

### The Audit

- **Audit Team** – The audit was conducted by Dennis Lozinsky, RPF, EP(EMSLA), a contractor to KPMG PRI who has conducted numerous forest management audits under a variety of standards including ISO 14001, CSA Z809, SFI and FSC.
- **CSA Z809 Re-certification Audit** – The audit included an off-site review of selected SFM system documents and an on-site assessment of BCTS's implementation of their SFM system. Conclusions regarding conformance with the requirements of the standard were based on the collection of sufficient and appropriate audit evidence drawn from the following sources: (1) review of various SFM system procedures and records, (2) interviews with a sample of staff and contractors, and (3) visits to several field sites to evaluate conformance with the applicable requirements of the CSA Z809 standard.
- **BCTS's Certification Program Representative** – Andrew Cosens, RFT, served as the BCTS representative during the audit.



### Audit Objectives

The following audit objectives were included within the scope of the audit:

- A CSA Z809 re-certification audit to evaluate the Operation’s conformance with the requirements of the 2008 version of the CSA Z809 standard.
- Evaluation of the extent to which BCTS has addressed the open findings from previous CSA Z809 audits.

### Good Practices

A number of good practices were identified during the course of the audit. Examples included:

- A potential moose lick had been identified in a harvest block, and the harvest contractor had taken steps to protect the site by stubbing trees around the perimeter. This effectively kept equipment out.
- Planning checklists for harvesting and silviculture were found to be used, which provide detailed documentation regarding First Nations Consultation and commitments. The practice provides clear communication to ensure First Nations concerns are addressed.

### Follow-up on Findings from Previous Audits

At the time of this assessment there were two open non-conformities from previous audits. The audit team reviewed the implementation of the action plans developed by BCTS to address these issues, and found while actions for one finding was completely implemented, for the other finding (which related to an SFM target around % of harvest by ground-based equipment) actions had not been completely implemented. As a result, this one non-conformity remains open.

### New Areas of Nonconformance

The following non-conformity was identified during the combined audit:

- *CSA Z809 element 7.4.6 (operational controls)*: The audit found that in one harvest block the site plan prescribed removal of log-fill drainage structures on roads prior to the spring freshet, but this did not occur and the log-fills were plugged.

### New Opportunities for Improvement

No new opportunities for improvement were also identified during the audit.

### Corrective Action Plans

Corrective action plans designed to address the root causes of the non-conformities identified during the audit have been developed by BCTS and reviewed and approved by KPMG PRI. The next audit will include a follow-up assessment of these issues to confirm that the corrective action plans developed to address them have been implemented as required.

BCTS TFL 48 2017 CSA Z809 Audit Findings	
Open non-conformities	1
New major non-	0
New minor non-conformities	1
Now opportunities for improvement	0

### Audit Conclusions

The audit found that BCTS SFM system on TFL 48:

- Was in full conformance with the requirements of the CSA Z809 standard included in the scope of the audit, except where noted other wise in this report;
- Continues to be effectively implemented, and;
- Is sufficient to systematically meet the commitments included in the organization’s environmental and SFM policy, provided that the system continues to be implemented and maintained as required.

As a result, BCTS—Peace Liard Business Area’s Dawson Creek Field team has been re-certified to the CSA Z809 standard on TFL 48.

### Focus Areas for the Next Audit

The following issues/topics have been identified as focus areas for the next audit:

- BCTS timber development program, including planning to maintain targets regarding harvest method over the 5-year cut-control period .
- BCTS field training for technicians with respect to road maintenance and deactivation .

**Types of audit findings**

**Major non-conformities:**  
Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFM Objectives.

**Minor non-conformities:**  
Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of SFM Objectives.

All non-conformities require the development of a corrective action plan within 30 days of the audit. Corrective action plans to address major non-conformities must be fully implemented by the operation within 3 months or certification cannot be achieved / maintained. Corrective action plans to address minor non-conformities must be fully implemented within 12 months.

**Opportunities for Improvement:**  
Are not non-conformities but are comments on specific areas of the SFM System where improvements can be made.

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