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To: BC Timber Sales – All Staff

From: Shawn Hedges, RPF
Director, Sustainability and Forestry
BC Timber Sales - Headquarters

Re: Change to the ISO 14001 Certification of the BC Timber Sales' Environmental Management System

This memorandum is to inform BC Timber Sales (BCTS) staff of a change to the ISO 14001 Certification status of the BCTS Environmental Management System (EMS).

Background

The key role of the BCTS EMS is to help us arrange and focus our management activities into an integrated, functioning system (including administration, planning and operations) with particular emphasis on environmental impacts and risks. Our EMS provides the foundation for and supports the delivery of our Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification. BCTS has maintained ISO 14001 certification of its EMS since 2003.

The ISO 14001 standard was updated in 2015 to include new requirements. In the fall of 2016 a BCTS task team conducted an analysis of the effect the new ISO 14001:2015 standard would have on the program. In conducting the analysis, the team analysed cost implications, potential impacts to BCTS' social licence, whether other forest licensees were certifying their EMS, and whether BCTS would realize meaningful benefits by certifying its EMS to the new ISO standard.

The Change to ISO Certification of the BCTS EMS

Following a thorough review and discussion of the task team's analysis, the Timber Sales Leadership Team decided not to certify the EMS to the new ISO 14001:2015 standard. This decision recognizes that the BCTS EMS is at a state of maturity where separate ISO registration is no longer necessary. By de-certifying the EMS, BCTS will be emulating the behaviour of the majority of major licensees in British Columbia.

The BCTS EMS is an essential part of our business and this change in certification of the EMS does not signal a change in BCTS' emphasis on environmental management. BCTS will continue to demonstrate its commitment to sound forest management:

- through ongoing implementation of its EMS;

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- by maintaining SFM certification of its operations under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards;
- by full compliance with applicable legislation such as the Forest and Range Practices Act and Wildfire Act;
- and, by the actions it takes to address issues such as climate change and forest health.

Next steps

The change to certification of the EMS will take effect in September 2018. BCTS certification staff will be working to have changes to the EMS in place by that date. The most obvious change for staff will be the removal of references to ISO 14001 in EMS documents including signage, checklists, etc.

BCTS will maintain its EMS aligned with the ISO 14001:2004 standard but it will no longer be certified to the ISO standard. External and internal auditors will continue to audit the effectiveness of our EMS program as part of SFM certification audits.

A separate memorandum will be sent to BCTS clients communicating this change to the certification of the EMS, the memorandum will highlight BCTS' continued commitment to implementing its EMS and to sound forest management.

If you have any questions please contact Kerri Brownie, A/Certification Officer (Kerri.Brownie@gov.bc.ca) or the Certification Standards Officer for your Business Area.



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