



Tolko Industries Ltd.
Sustainable Forest Management System
High Level Lumber Division (Alberta)

Audit Coverage

- During the period January 8th to January 10th, 2008 inclusive, QMI conducted the annual surveillance audit of Tolko High Level Lumber Division Sustainable Forest Management System to the CAN/CSA Z809 Standard. The audit took 3.0 audit-days to complete.
- The Audit Team consisted of Nate Ryant, RPF., EMS(LA) as the Lead Auditor .
- The audit assessed pre and post harvest operations in the High Level Lumber Division operating area. This entailed site visits with Tolko Woodlands 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 High Level Lumber Division office and a review of the applicable SFM Indicator documentation.

Background

- The High Level Lumber Division SFM system has been registered to the CAN/CSA Z809 Standard since 12/04/04. This registration is supported by an Environmental Management System registered to the ISO 14001 Standard since 02/06/04.
- The High Level Lumber Division SFM system and EMS system have undergone annual 3rd party surveillance audits by QMI since the date of initial registration.
- The High Level Lumber Division SFM Define Forest Area is located in and around the community of High Level Alberta.



Photo #1: Feller buncher working along the face of the block opening. Note that the snow acts as a cushion for the machine and leaves no site disturbance.

Positive Aspects

The Audit Team observed the following positive management practices:

- An excellent field and operational expectation booklets for all contractors and their operators.
- The SARA presentation provided in the Woodlands manual given to contractors.
- Numerous documents and letters sent to First Nations with a statement that “Aboriginal participation in the public involvement program will not prejudice” their Aboriginal and treaty rights.
- Friesen Industries complete MSDS manual with a table of contents and the revision dates for the controlled products at their operations.
- The recycling program at the Friesen camp.
- The EMS/SFM Process and Procedures document is a good site specific EMS manual supplement.

Areas of Non-conformance

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

Audit Recommendation

The High Level Lumber Division is recommended for continued registration to CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Standard.



Photo #2: Tree length logs being loaded out using a hydraulic log loader with a butt n top attachment.

CAN/CSA Z809 :2002 Surveillance Audit

Non-conformances..... 0
Opportunities
for Improvement17
Positive Aspects..... 6

Non-conformances

Non-conformance:

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

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

Opportunities for Improvement

Are isolated observations that are non-critical to the achievement / maintenance of EMS/SFM objectives and does not indicate a systemic failure to consistently meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

Positive Aspects

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

Opportunities for Improvement

- 5.2 Ensure new and effective efforts are made to bring new PAC and First Nations members into the public participation process.
- 7.4.2 Ensure the operator awareness of the SFM/EMS requirements is improved on active operations, eg. cutting of trees outside the delineated boundaries.
- 7.4.7 Ensure the fueling area at the Friesen camp has the required collision protection.
- 7.5.2 Ensure PIFs and EIRs are associated with indicator targets that have not been achieved in the annual report and all non-compliances self reported to the government.
- 6.1 Ensure the management committee meeting agenda documents all of the requirements of the CSA standard, eg. discussions regarding changing legislation, internal audit findings, corrective action plans etc..
- 5.3.1 Consider including the PAC approval date of the Terms of Reference and having them reviewed annually.



Photo #3: An active harvest block. Note the retention of individual and grouped deciduous and conifers as well as the dispersed coarse woody debris. Decks are piled at roadside ready for loadout.

Opportunities for Improvement

- 5.3.1 Consider revising the PAC meeting quorum number to include only voting members.
- 5.5 Consider sending copies of the SFMP, annual report and meeting minutes to the First Nations communities on the contact list for their reference.
- 7.3.6.1 Consider proofing the annual report to ensure the correct indicator numbers match those that are listed as not being met.
- 7.4.6 Consider providing the new protocols for tree retention to the feller buncher operators.
- 7.4.2 Consider providing more training to staff who have new reporting responsibilities on the indicators.
- 7.4.6 Consider adding criteria for what constitutes soil disturbance in the falling and skidding sections of the Operational Expectation booklet.
- 7.3.4 Consider adding the First Nation protocol as Other Requirements the company subscribes to in the EMS/SFM Process and Procedures document.
- 7.3.4 Consider retaining a copy of the Friesen camp TFA at the camp site.
- 7.4.2 Consider new methods of delivering EMS/SFM training to contractors and company checks to ensure operator awareness is adequate on the operations.
- 7.5.1 Consider reviews of all incidents at staff meetings to ensure they are being entered into the system.
- 7.5.1 Consider adding more detail to the tailgates with contractors to ensure company due diligence is maintained.



Photo #4: Old trapper's cabin / heritage feature that has been protected during logging.

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.com for more information.

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