



forest certification in Canada

Independent forest certification provides a stamp of approval showing customers they are buying products from forests managed to comprehensive environmental, social, and economic standards.

A certificate is issued only after a thorough review by third-party auditors determines, among other things, that long-term harvests are sustainable, there is no unauthorized or illegal logging, wildlife habitat is preserved, and soil quality is maintained.

Canadian forest managers certify their lands to forest management standards offered under three internationally recognized programs: Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI). All three set high thresholds that forest companies must clear, above and beyond Canada's tough regulatory requirements.

Moreover, they are tailored to take into account global forestry issues as well as circumstances specific to the Canadian landscape such as the livelihood of local communities and the interests of Aboriginal people.

Chain-of-custody¹ and product labelling are also common features of each of these programs. Both the CSA and SFI programs have been endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) [see inside], and CSA uses the PEFC chain-of-custody.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers recognizes CSA, FSC, and SFI as being consistent with national and international agreements related to sustainable forest management and meeting criteria for balancing interests and being objective, science-based, implementable, and practical.²

¹A chain-of-custody is a set of administrative and technical requirements (including inventory control) for tracing wood sources from their origins to the first mill or through to the end user. ²Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Statement on Forest Certification Standards in Canada. http://www.ccmf.org/pdf/CCFM_Statement_



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CSA, FSC, and SFI program similarities

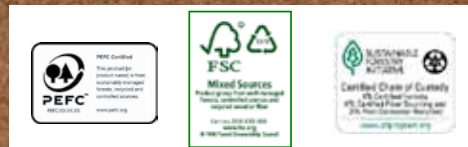
Environmental · Environmental values addressed by each program include conservation of biological diversity; protection of wildlife habitat, special biological sites, and endangered species; maintenance of soil and water resources; and reforestation. Compliance with all applicable laws is required.

Social · Social values protected include sustainability of harvest; public involvement; Aboriginal consultation as well as rights and title, cultural sites, forest tenure, and use rights; worker health and safety; and mechanisms for resolving conflicts.

Economic · Long-term economic viability of forest products companies and forest communities results when fibre comes from legal and sustainable harvesting and customers use their purchasing power to support those responsible sources.

Chain-of-Custody · All programs include a chain-of-custody (CoC) certification that verifies products purchased by consumers originate from certified forests and other responsible sources. These CoC standards require screening of any non-certified wood sources.

Labelling · Organizations that have valid CoC certification can opt to label products covered under the certificate, to indicate what they are made of. Examples:



While each program achieves the goal of ensuring well managed forests, some details differ within the three [see page 3].

global forest certification

There are two international certification programs for forest management. Both are independent, global, non-profit programs that recognize national and regional forest certification programs meeting international requirements and developed in a multi-stakeholder process. Each program increases the level of forest management globally but differs in the way it was developed.

main features of the FSC and PEFC global forest certification programs

FSC

Provides internationally recognized standard setting, trademark assurance, and accreditation services for responsible forest management.

Canada has three regional standards accredited by FSC and one that has been field tested.

PEFC

Assesses and provides mutual recognition for certification programs that put into practice internationally agreed-upon sustainable forest management criteria.

The criteria used are the result of intergovernmental processes, an example of which is the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

In Canada the CSA and SFI programs are endorsed by PEFC. CSA uses the PEFC chain-of-custody standard, and companies with CSA forest certification and a PEFC CoC can choose to use the PEFC label on products.

The FSC establishes Principles and Criteria that form an international standard. Local indicators for the Principles and Criteria are then developed at a regional level to form regional standards that are accredited by FSC.

PEFC is a global forest certification program that endorses national forest certification systems that meet criteria developed through intergovernmental processes. Both the CSA and SFI standards used in Canada are endorsed by PEFC. The main features of each program are described above.

Only 10% of the world's forests are certified and over 42% of these are in Canada. Currently, Canada has almost half of the world's PEFC-endorsed forests and almost a third of the forests certified to FSC approved or generic standards. Many of these also have a chain-of-custody certification and use product labels for customer assurance. The tremendous growth of certified forests in Canada is due, in part, to the commitment of Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) member companies to become certified.

program differences	CSA	FSC	SFI
local application	One standard that is applicable across Canada. Contains mandatory core indicators as well as locally developed indicators for each forest area.	Global Principles and Criteria. These are audited through indicators developed individually for each of three forest regions of Canada (with a fourth under development).	One set of requirements for Canada and the United States. These are divided into Land Management and Fibre Sourcing Objectives, and objectives that apply to both.
government involvement	Governments participate in the Technical Committee.	Governments cannot be members or part of governing boards.	Governments participate on the Board of Directors.
aboriginal rights	Recognizes and respects Aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights.	Indigenous peoples control forest management on their lands except when control is delegated with free and informed consent.	Complies with social laws including indigenous peoples' rights.
genetically modified organisms	Ensures reforestation programs are free of genetically modified trees.	Prohibits wood from forests where genetically modified trees are planted.	Research complies with regulations. Genetically modified forest products are not commercially produced in North America.
plantations (lacking traits of natural forests)	All requirements, including conservation of biodiversity, apply to planted areas; e.g., no plantations lacking traits of natural forests.	All requirements apply to planted areas. Generally, plantations (lacking traits of natural forests) in areas converted from natural forests after 1994 cannot be certified.	All requirements, including promoting biodiversity, apply to planted areas.
small woodlots	A separate standard exists for small area forests.	Streamlined requirements used for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF).	Applies to larger forests. Recognizes PEFC endorsed standards for small forests.



feel good about Canadian pulp, paper, and wood.

As concern about their environmental footprint grows, consumers want to know they are making informed buying choices, and living in a way that puts less pressure on the Earth.

Canada's forest sector makes sure its wood, pulp and paper products are the result of responsible forest and production practices. Harvested areas are regenerated promptly, and Canada's tough forest regulations met. Companies welcome outside scrutiny of practices, participate in recovery and recycling, and promote carbon neutrality across the value chain. Buyers can be confident that today's quality products from Canada won't come at the expense of tomorrow's forests.

Looking for suppliers who commit to and deliver on these principles is an easy and effective way to choose responsible wood, pulp and paper products.

resources:

Canadian Standards Association
(Sustainable Forest Management System)
www.csasfmforests.ca

Forest Stewardship Council
www.fscCanada.org

Sustainable Forestry Initiative
www.sfiprogram.org

**Program for the Endorsement of
Forest Certification**
www.pefc.org

Certification Statistics
www.certificationcanada.org

Forest Certification in Canada
The Programs, Similarities & Achievements:
http://feel-good.ca/library/publications-buying/fpac_certificationbrochure_final_forweb_singles.pdf

To learn more, visit feel-good.ca.



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Forest Products
Association of Canada
fpac.ca