

STATEMENT ON FOREST CERTIFICATION STANDARDS IN CANADA



Introduction

In Canada, each jurisdiction's forest laws, policies and administrative requirements comprise an over-arching framework that fully characterizes what sustainable forest management (SFM) means in that jurisdiction, and what actions may take place on public and/or private forest land. Governments in Canada support third-party forest certification as a tool to demonstrate the rigor of Canada's forest management laws, and to document the country's world-class sustainable forest management record.

The forest management standards of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) are all used in Canada. Governments in Canada accept that these standards demonstrate, and promote the sustainability of forest management practices in Canada. The CSA and SFI have been endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). PEFC and FSC are independent non-profit, non-governmental organizations that support sustainable forest management globally.

Governments in Canada take the position that, if forest certification standards are to evaluate forest management, the standards should:

Reflect a balance of forest interests

Forest certification is a tool for demonstrating to customers and consumers that forests are being well-managed and that key local, regional and national forest values are being taken into account in the management of forests. While procedures may vary, certification processes should be open, inclusive and endeavour to take into account the concerns of all major domestic forest sector interest groups.

Be objective and scientifically-based

Forest ecosystems are complex and diverse. Certification approaches should be objective and based on scientific principles and ensure that they are applicable to a broad range of forest types.

Be implementable, practical and cost-effective

Demonstrating sustainable forest management is a broadly held goal, shared jointly by both the public and private sectors. Forest certification systems are evolving and becoming increasingly relevant to a broad

range of forest owners, managers and operators. Forest certification systems should be affordable and cost-effective to those seeking certification.

Be consistent with national and international agreements related to sustainable forest management

National and international agreements and processes help to bring clarity, definition and measurement to forest management issues. Certification systems should be consistent with and complementary to such forest management related agreements and processes.

Conclusion

Canada is proud to have more certified forests than any other country. Governments in Canada continue to provide technical and policy support to the ongoing development of certification in Canada. The forest management standards of the CSA, FSC, and SFI all meet the above criteria. Customers can be assured that these forest certification standards are complementary to and demonstrate each Government's sustainable forest management regime.