



CANADA'S NATIONAL FOREST CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Canadian Standard Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management Standard

The World's Largest National Standard 72.8 million hectares of Canadian forests were third-party certified to CSA as of January 2010. That's more than any other national standard in the world.

Recognized Nationally and Internationally CSA was established in 1919 and has a long, rich history in the development of consensus-based standards using internationally recognized and accredited standards development processes. The CSA forest standard is endorsed by PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes), which verifies that it a) meets a common, internationally accepted performance level, and b) was developed in a multi-stakeholder process.

Substantial Supply of Wood Products from Certified Lands The amount of third-party certified forest land in Canada has grown rapidly. Virtually every major forest company has now achieved third-party certification, and third-party certification is becoming a priority for small forestry operators and private land owners. CSA certified forests now cover Canada from coast to coast.

Continuous Public Dialogue Over 55 public consultation groups operate in CSA certified forests across Canada. They participate at the local community level in the development and monitoring of CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plans and ongoing forestry discussions. Additionally, they often participate in the development of various forestry plans required under provincial regulations. Committee members represent a variety of interests, including other land users (trappers, fishermen, gatherers, recreationalists etc.), local communities, businesses, forest workers, Aboriginal people, environmental groups, technical experts, researchers and academia, government agencies, and forest managers. This high degree of public involvement reflects the Canadian context the CSA standard was developed for, where 94% of the forests are publicly owned.

Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Six broad criteria must be met under the CSA standard. They were established by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers as part of intergovernmental processes to develop global criteria for sustainable forest management:

1. Conserving biological diversity
2. Conserving the productivity of forest ecosystems
3. Maintaining the quantity and quality of soil and water resources
4. Maintaining forest conditions that safeguard global ecological cycles
5. Providing multiple benefits to society
6. Accepting the role of the public in making forest management decisions

Core indicators that will consistently measure performance against specific elements of each these criteria the have been established.

Aboriginal People Aboriginal forest values, knowledge and uses are incorporated into forestry plans, mutually beneficial opportunities for employment and other economic benefits are sought, and participation in planning is encouraged through Aboriginal input processes. Current requirements related to Aboriginal rights and title must be understood and complied with.

Transparent Sustainable Forest Management Plans developed under the CSA standard, Annual Reports on progress against those plans, and the results of independent certification and surveillance audit reports are all publicly available -- a benchmark in transparency and accountability.

Balanced A volunteer Technical Committee develops and maintains the standard in an inclusive, consensus-based process. Interests represented on the Technical Committee include forestry academics and researchers, forest companies, environmental groups, consumers, labour unions, Aboriginal people and government regulators.

Independent The CSA system provides independence and transparency between the process of developing the standard, the approval of the standard and accreditation of the certifiers.

Current, Relevant and Evolving Performance goals are achieved, then continuously improved upon through a system of planning, implementing, checking, corrective actions and management reviews...then the cycle begins again. Required core indicators of sustainable forest management (such as reforestation success), and the targets established for each of them, are regularly assessed using this system, and the information used to modify forecasts, activities and plans. In this way new knowledge and changing environmental, social and economic values are incorporated into forest management.

Continual improvement of the standard itself also occurs through a regular 5-year review and re-approval to ensure it remains current and relevant.

Forest Products with Integrity The CSA forest certification program includes Chain of Custody and product marking components that link the CSA forest management standard to forest products and consumers. This provides a measure of the portion of a wood product that has been sourced from a certified forest and assurance that any uncertified portion is from legal and non-controversial sources.

Your Assurance of the Highest Standard in Sustainable Forest Management in Canada

