

Canadian Standard Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management Standard

Canada's National Forest Certification Standard

The World's Largest National Standard Over 60 million hectares of Canadian forests were third-party certified to CSA as of September 2011. That's more than any other national standard in the world.

Developed for Canada 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 Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) standard was written specifically for Canada and its publicly-owned forests. It was built on top of strong legislative frameworks that govern forestry, and sets the benchmark for community involvement.

Recognized Internationally The CSA standard is endorsed by global PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification). This endorsement verifies that it meets a common, internationally accepted performance level, and was developed in a multi-stakeholder process.

Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Six broad criteria must be met under the CSA standard. They follow the Canadian Council of Forest Minister's framework for sustainable forest management, which in turn is based on international agreement on the many environmental, economic and social factors that need to be taken account when forests are harvested.

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

Core indicators are used to consistently measure performance against specific elements under each these criteria.

Active Community Voice in Forest Management Roughly 40 public consultation groups operate in forests certified to CSA across Canada. They participate at the local community level in the development and monitoring of CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plans and ongoing forestry discussions. They also often participate in the development of various forestry plans required under provincial regulations. Committee members represent a variety of interests, including other land users (such as trappers and fishermen), 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 93% of the forests are publicly owned.

Aboriginal People Current requirements related to Aboriginal rights and title must be understood and complied with. 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.

Transparent A benchmark in transparency and accountability was set by requiring that the following information be made publicly available:

- Sustainable Forest Management Plans developed under the CSA standard,
- Annual Reports on progress against those plans, and
- Results of independent certification and surveillance audit reports.

Independent Important firewalls are in place. The CSA forestry standard is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, and the system provides independence and transparency between the process of developing the standard, the approval of the standard, and accreditation of the certifiers.

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.

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.

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. Forests certified to the CSA sustainable forest management standard cover Canada from coast to coast.

Labels for Forest Products with Integrity The CSA forest certification program includes using the PEFC Chain of Custody, and product labels, to 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.



**Canadian
Sustainable
Forest
Management**

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