



Tolko Industries Ltd. Sustainable Forest Management System Thompson-Nicola Woodlands

Overview of Tolko Thompson-Nicola Woodlands

Tolko's Thompson-Nicola Woodlands operates in two Timber Supply Areas, Merritt and Kamloops. Tolko's Defined Forest Area (DFA) is located in south central British Columbia in the Cascades and Kamloops Forest Districts within the Southern Interior Forest Region. It is part of a multi-licensee SFM process that covers three TSA's.

The Tolko DFA includes the mountainous terrain and steep river valleys of the Cascade Mountains in the west, the relatively dry, flat Thompson Plateau in the east and the wet, steep North Thompson. The DFA encompasses portions of three major river systems: the Thompson, the Similkameen and the Nicola. The DFA ranges from Manning Park south of Merritt to the North Thompson and includes areas in the vicinity of Douglas Lake, Pimainus Ridge and Stoyoma Mountain. Major communities are Kamloops, Merritt and Princeton.

Lodgepole pine stands dominate the forests in the DFA. Douglas-fir, spruce, ponderosa pine, trembling aspen and subalpine fir are also common. In addition, minor components of western red cedar and hemlock occur.

Tolko's portion of the DFA based on AAC apportionment is 10.6%, or an equivalent of 210,830 ha's of the THLB.

Background

During the period of June 20-24, 2011, Tolko Industries Ltd, Thompson Nicola Woodlands underwent a re-registration audit to the CAN/CSA Z809 Standard. The registration cycle is over 3 years with surveillance audits conducted annually. This report summarizes the audit process and results of the QMI-SAI Global re-registration audit.



Scope of Certification

The sustainable forest management system as it applies to the woodland operations on the DFA (Forest Licenses - A18686, A84658, A81385, A81370, A83410, A18696, A18697, A74911, A88052, A84497, A87236, A85450 and 86065) including the integration of forest planning, harvesting, loading, delivery of forest products to processing facilities, as well as silviculture activities.

Summary

The CAN/CSA Z809:2008 third-party surveillance audit was undertaken by QMI-SAI Global. QMI-SAI Global is an independent third party registrar that is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) for registrations to the CAN/CSA Z809:2008 standard. This ensures the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

The audit assessed completed harvest operations through interviews with 8 Tolko staff and 3 contractors. A total of 9 field sites were assessed, and included active and completed operations. The audit also assessed the SFM and supporting EMS documentation and records at the Tolko Merritt office. There were no non-conformances from the last audit to verify implementation of action plans.

For this re-registration audit, the on-going effectiveness of the SFM system to deliver the intended outputs was assessed against all elements of the CAN/Z809 2008 Standard. Based on the results of the audit, it was identified that Tolko Industries Ltd, Merritt SFM, has continued to commit the time, resources, and effort necessary to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an effective SFM system.

One public advisory group member and two provincial Compliance and Enforcement officers were interviewed for the audit. First Nations were also invited but were unable to participate.

No non-conformances were identified during the audit; however 1 area of concern and 6 opportunities for improvement were noted as detailed in this report.



Tolko staff discuss active harvesting on a cable show in the North Thompson with the public advisory group member. The inset picture shows the cable grapple yarder in use.

CAN/CSA Z809:2002 Re-Registration Audit

Non-conformance (NCR)	0
Areas of Concern (AOC)	1
Recommendations(OFI)	6
Positive Aspects	5

Non-conformances

Non-conformance (NCR):
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-conformance must be addressed by the operation or registration cannot be achieved / maintained.

Area of Concern (AOC):
An isolated lapse in EMS/SFM system implementation which does not indicate a systemic failure to consistently meet an EMS/SFM objective, performance measure or indicator.

Opportunity for Improvement (OFI):
Are isolated observations that are non-critical to the achievement / maintenance of EMS/SFM objectives.

Positive Aspects

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

The auditors

The QMI audit team who performed the audit consisted of Will Sloan, RFT, EMS(LA), SFM(LA). The auditor is a Forest Professional and certified lead auditor.

Key Areas of Non-conformance

- No areas of non-conformance were identified during the audit.

Key Area of Concern

The following Area of Concern was identified during the audit:

- 7.5.4 Internal audits to the SFM requirements states the organization shall establish and maintain procedures for annual internal audits to ensure that they conform to the SFM requirements of this Standard. The audit found that the Tolko internal audit procedure EMS 5.4 has been established but not maintained. Review of the internal audit of March 2, 2011 and audit checklist that was scheduled for a full audit of the SFM did not cover all the Z809 Elements.

Also, neither the audit checklist nor the audit report provide sufficient detail to determine that the internal audit was able to ensure all the indicators are in conformance to the SFM Requirements. 12 of the indicators were noted only that they were “reviewed” with no further detail.



Active harvest site showing retention of deciduous trees and establishment of wildlife tree patches

Key Opportunities for Improvement

- 5.2 Interested Parties: The audit found that Tolko holds regular meetings with First Nations in regards to harvest planning. Consider using these meetings as an opportunity to provide information on the SFMP and extending an invitation to participate in the process.
- 5.2 Interested Parties: Consider recruiting more PAG members by using personal contact rather than relying on the other methods that have been used in the past.
- 7.4.7 Emergency Preparedness and Response/7.5.1 Monitoring and Measurement: The audit found some weakness in spill response with one contractor in that there was insufficient material to respond to spills of anti-freeze and a possible weakness in the monitoring of contractors by Tolko. Consider a more detailed inspection process to ensure contractors are in conformance with the Tolko emergency response procedures.
- 7.4.7 Emergency Preparedness and Response: The audit found one MSP contractor who has worked consistently with Tolko for many years has not had an emergency preparedness and response drill since 2005. Consider undertaking more frequent tests and drills with regular contractors.

- 7.5.2 Corrective and Preventive Action: The audit found 2 instances of possible non-compliances that had been identified as the result of the Tolko Post Harvest Audit process that had not been reported to the appropriate government agencies. Consider revising the Tolko EMS 5.2 Process Improvement procedure to require that potential non-compliances be reported to appropriate government agencies.
- Indicator Specific:
 - 6.3.2, Evidence of co-operation with DFA-related workers and their unions to improve and enhance safety standards, procedures, and outcomes in all DFA-related workplaces and affected communities (Core Indicator): The audit found that the target chosen only deals with SAFE certification and makes no reference to unions, DFA related workplaces such as mills, and affected communities. Consider reviewing and revising the target to better meet the intent of the Indicator.

Positive Aspects

- Good relationships with C&E was noted. They appreciate the self-reporting of potential issues; and the level of detail provided. They also noted the application of GPS technology to equipment such as bunchers as being a good practice.
- The audit found the upper management to be well informed of issues with the SFM such as the lagging PAG interest and to be engaged in the system.
- The audit noted good integration of EMS, SFM and SMS processes. This helps to reduce the amount of paper work and duplication of efforts.
- Excellent interaction between the public advisory group member, Tolko staff and contractors during the Heffley field day was noted.
- The audit noted creative use of grapple yarding in conjunction with ground based skidding at 995-E9 that resulted in less road built and more retention able to be maintained, including along an S3 riparian.



Utilization of both cedar and pine is illustrated above

QM-SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 SFM, FSC FM & CoC, SFIS, SFI CoC and PEFC. The group, led by Sylvain Frappier F.Eng., Product Manager, Forestry Sector, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts. Contact marketingservices@qmi.com for more information.

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