

# REPORT Forest Certification



## BC Timber Sales — Okanagan-Columbia Business Area—2013 CSA Z809 Audit

In July 2013, an audit team from KPMG Performance Registrar Inc. (KPMG PRI) carried out a CSA Z809 surveillance audit of BC Timber Sales – Okanagan-Columbia Business Area (BCTS TOC) operations under the Okanagan SFM plan against the requirements of the CSA Z809-08 sustainable forest management (SFM) standard. To provide for a more efficient audit, an ISO 14001 surveillance audit was conducted at the same time. This Certification Summary Report provides an overview of the process and KPMG’s findings.

### Description of the BCTS Okanagan Columbia Defined Forest Area

The Okanagan defined forest area (DFA) is located in the Okanagan Timber Supply Area (TSA) in the vicinity of the towns of Vernon, Kelowna, and Penticton, BC. In addition to BCTS TOC, Tolko, Gorman Bros. and the Westbank First Nation are signatories to the Okanagan SFM plan. Various non-signatory licensees (some of whom are certified to other SFM standards) also have operations within the Okanagan TSA. BCTS TOC has a total AAC apportionment of 628,402 m<sup>3</sup>/year within in the Okanagan TSA, which equates to a prorated forest area under management of 315,550 hectares.

### Scope of Certification

The scope of BCTS TOC’s CSA Z809 certification includes forestry operations on Crown forest land including planning and performance on active and completed timber sales as well as SFM system conformance by individual participating BCTS licensees, permittees and contractors (LPCs) within the Okanagan DFA.

### Audit Scope

The audit was conducted against selected/all of the requirements of the CSA Z809-08 standard, including those related to:

- The public participation process;
- Development and maintenance of the SFM plan;
- Monitoring of SFM performance, and;
- Implementation of the various management system components (e.g., operational controls, monitoring and inspections, internal audits, etc.) that are required under the CSA Z809 standard.

### The Audit

- **Audit Team** – The audit was conducted by Yurgen Menninga RPF, EP(EMSLA) acting as Lead Auditor, and also Bodo Von Schilling RPF, EP(EMSLA). Yurgen is an employee of KPMG PRI and Bodo acts as a contractor to KPMG PRI, and both have conducted numerous forest management audits under a variety of standards including ISO 14001, CSA Z809, SFI and FSC.
- **CSA Z809 Surveillance Audit** – The audit included an on-site assessment of BCTS TOC’s implementation of their SFM system. Conclusions regarding conformance with the requirements of the standard were based on the collection of sufficient and appropriate audit evidence drawn from the following sources: (1) review of various SFM system procedures and records, (2) interviews with a sample of BCTS staff and LPCs, and (3) visits to several field sites to evaluate conformance with the applicable requirements of the CSA Z809 standard.
- **BCTS TOC’s CSA Z809 Certification Representative** – Darcie Annesley RFT served as BCTS TOC’s representative during the audit.



**BCTS**  
BC Timber Sales

### Audit Objectives

The following audit objectives were included within the scope of the audit:

- A CSA Z809 surveillance audit to evaluate the Operation’s conformance with the requirements of the 2008 version of the CSA Z809 standard.
- Evaluation of the extent to which BCTS TOC has addressed the open findings from previous CSA Z809 audits.

### Good Practices

A number of good practices were identified during the course of the audit. Examples included:

- The operation has a good system of verifying and documenting at the free-growing time that the seed transfer limits have been met.

### Follow-up on Findings from Previous Audits

At the time of this assessment there were a total of two open non-conformities from previous audits. The audit team reviewed the implementation of the action plans developed by BCTS to address these issues, and found that they had been effectively implemented. As a result, all of the non-conformities identified during previous audits have now been closed.

### New Areas of Nonconformance

No new non-conformities were identified.

### New Opportunities for Improvement

The following opportunities for improvements were identified:

- CSA Z809 7.4.3 (communication): For the 2012 audit, the technical report was posted online, rather than the summary report which is intended to made publicly available, as it is in layperson’s language rather technical language. Also, the report that was posted online was not easy to find, and was not posted to the Thompson Okanagan SFM website where other DFA licensees post their reports.
- CSA Z809 @ 7.4.6 (operational controls): Various items were noticed in how some of the operational control activities & documents are completed, such as when inspection forms are completed, operational controls around temporary roads that will be difficult to rehabilitate, and delay in completion of harvesting related activities that may interfere with meeting silviculture obligations.

BCTS Okanagan Columbia Business Area 2013 CSA Z809 Audit Findings	
Open non-conformities from previous audits	0
New major non-conformities	0
New minor non-conformities	0
Now opportunities for improvement	2

### Audit Conclusions

The audit found that BCTS TOC's SFM system:

- Was in full conformance with the requirements of the CSA Z809 included in the scope of the audit, except where noted other wise in this report;
- Continues to be effectively implemented, and;
- Is sufficient to systematically meet the commitments included in the Operation's environmental and SFM policy, provided that the system continues to be implemented and maintained as required.

As a result, a decision has been made to continue to certify BCTS TOC to the CSA Z809 standard.

#### Types of audit findings

##### **Major non-conformities:**

Are pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFM Objectives.

##### **Minor non-conformities:**

Are isolated incidents that are non-critical to the achievement of SFM Objectives.

All non-conformities require the development of a corrective action plan within 30 days of the audit. These will be followed up on to verify implementation at the subsequent audit.

Major non-conformities must be addressed immediately or certification cannot be achieved / maintained.

##### **Opportunities for Improvement:**

Are not non-conformities but are comments on specific areas of the SFM System where improvements can be made.

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