

**Project No. 012115-06**

December 15, 2012

Mr. Gordon Cumming  
Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)  
222 Main Street W.  
Huntsville, Ontario  
CAN, P1H 1Y1

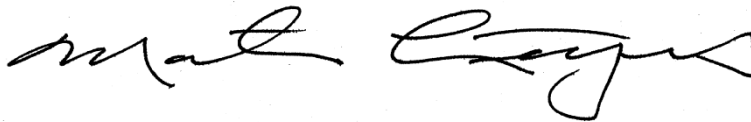
**SUBJECT: REGISTRATION PROGRAM**

Dear Gord,

Please find attached the Audit Report raised as a result of our Re-registration audit of your management system to the CAN/CSA - Z809-2008 standard conducted in your Huntsville facility on November 21-22, 2012.

We thank you and your organization for the support and co-operation given during the audit.

Best regards,  
**SAI Global**



Martin Litchfield RPF

Team Leader  
Encls.

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## SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### CAN/CSA-Z809-2008

**Auditee:** Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)  
**Address:** 222 Main Street W. Huntsville Ontario  
CAN P1H 1Y1

**Contact:** Mr. Gordon Cumming  
**Date(s) of Audit:** November 21, 2012 to November 22, 2012  
**Total Number of Audit Days:** 5 audit days  
**Audit Team Leader:** Martin Litchfield  
**Type of Audit:** Re-registration audit  
**Audit Frequency:** 12 Months  
**SIC / NACE Code:** 0851 A02.0

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- 2.. Description of the Defined Forest Area (DFA)
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### REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)  
SAI GLOBAL File  
Martin Litchfield

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**SECTION 1 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Scope #</b>	<b>Scope Description</b>
1	The sustainable forest management system as it applies to the defined forest area which includes the entire Algonquin Park forest.

**Site:**

Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)  
222 Main Street W.  
Huntsville  
Ontario  
CAN, P1H 1Y1

**Summary of Audit Findings:**

A Re-Registration audit was conducted during the period of November 21-22, 2012 on the Algonquin Forestry Authority, Algonquin Park sustainable forest management system. The audit resulted in no non-conformances, one Area of Concern and five Opportunities for Improvement. The audit team found that the Algonquin Forestry Authority SMF system generally conforms to the requirements of CAN/CSA Z809-2008 and adheres to the company's requirements. In addition, the audit identified three positive attribute

**Recommendations:**

The results of the Re-assessment including the review of the performance of the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) Management System over the past 3 years and the Re-assessment Audit indicate that Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)'s Management System meets the following criteria for maintenance of registration to CAN/CSA - Z809-2008.

**SECTION 2 - DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFINED FOREST AREA (DFA):**

**Geographic Locations, Forest Types, Size, Legal Tenure and SLF Description:**

The Algonquin Park forest is the northern-most forest management unit in the Ministry of Natural Resources southern region for their administrative purposes in Ontario, Canada. The forest contains two basic forest complexes - tolerant hardwoods and hemlock that primarily occupy the Precambrian Uplands on the west, and white/ red pine, poplar and white birch found mainly in the eastern Ottawa Lowlands.

**Area of DFA:** 481,000 hectares – Production forest area

**Legal Tenure / Licence Description:** The entire Algonquin Park forest constitutes the Defined Forest Area (DFA). Forest management activities occur only within the Recreation and Utilization Zone (R/U zone) of the Park as defined in the Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan.

**Volume and Species Harvested):**

Algonquin Park Forest	
Tree Species	Percentage of DFA Area
Pwr	17%
SPF	10%
TOL	49%
INT	8%
OC	8%
MXWD	9%
Total	100 %

Algonquin Park Forest	
	Volume Harvested (m3)
Softwood	120,492
Hardwoods	217,373

**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION:**

**Description of the DFA Workforce:** AFA has 23 permanent employees and approximately 10 seasonal staff. There are approximately 300 people involved in forestry operations in the Algonquin Park forest, most as contractors working directly for AFA

**Management Objectives and Responsibilities on the DFA:** AFA's objective is to ensure the long-term health of Algonquin Park's forest while producing a sustainable supply of forest products for the forest industry of the region. AFA is responsible for forest planning, harvesting, distribution of wood products, renewal and tending.

**Aboriginals Consultation Process:**

First Nations are consulted throughout the development and implementation of the Forest Management Plan for the Algonquin Park forest. First Nations are either involved through regular public consultation opportunities or through a customized process defined by the community. First Nation members are actively involved with the forest management planning team, the local citizens committee and the forest certification advisory group. There are no identified Metis interests in the Algonquin park forest

**AAC Determination Process:** Allowable harvest levels are determined through the Ontario government's approved Forest Management Plan for the Algonquin Park forest. The computer model used for this calculation is the Strategic Forest Management Model

**Annual Allowable harvest:**

Total = 761,058 m3

**Products Produced and Mills Associated with the DFA Timber:**

The Algonquin Park forest supplies 13 mills with regular volumes & another 5-10 smaller mills with surplus volumes. Products include sawlog material (42%), pulp quality material (57%) and specialty products (veneer/poles 1%)

**SECTION 4 - AUDIT FINDINGS:**

**Scope # Registration Scope Description**

The sustainable forest management system as it applies to the defined entire Algonquin Park forest.

**Audit Objective:**

**Stage 2 – RR Audit to the CSA Z809:2008 standard**

To confirm the management system complies with the applicable elements of the Standard; to confirm the organization complies with its own policies and procedures; to

confirm the management system is suitable for the organization; to confirm that the management system is suitable and effective, and enables the client to achieve its own objectives. s

**Audit Criteria: CSA Z809:2008**

**Audit Scope:**

The sustainable forest management system as it applies to the defined forest area which includes the entire Algonquin Park forest.

**Description of SAI Global and the SAI Global Audit Team:**

SAI Global is a third party management system certification Registrar. Established in 1984, SAI Global has worked with thousands of organizations in North America and around the world, issuing registration certificates to those that meet international and national management system standards.

The SAI Global Sustainable Forest Management audit team members bring with them considerable experience in the area of sustainable forest management and environmental management systems auditing. Audit teams are comprised of certified auditors and registered professional foresters. All audit team members are subject to strict confidentiality and conflict of interest agreements.

The following personnel conducted this audit:

**Audit Team**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Team Leader	Martin Litchfield RPF
Team Member	Rod Seabrook
Observer	Pierre Levac

**Audit Coverage:**

**Noted Deviations from the Audit Plan: None**

**Operations / Cut-Blocks Visited during the field audit include:**

<b>Algonquin Park Forest</b>	
<b>Block / Road Number / Name</b>	<b>Type of Operation Observed</b>
Sunday lake road	Road construction & road maintenance
Blocks 131-2 & 131-6	Conventional harvest
Blocks 1701 & 1610	Feller-buncher harvest
Frog road	Road maintenance
Block 1710	Silviculture; tree marking
Block 1128	Forwarding
Block 1095	Portable bridge
Block 1186	Felling

**Activities Observed**

- Shelterwood prescriptions
- Selection prescriptions
- Stand improvement prescriptions
- Feller buncher harvesting
- Skidding
- Loading
- Trucking
- Road construction
- Road maintenance
- Bridge installations
- Culver installations
- Cross-drainage pipes
  
- Tree marking
- Skid trail layout
  
- Riparian protection
- Wildlife habitat protection
- Wood turtle prescriptions

- Cultural heritage protection
- Boundary identification

**Personnel (Staff/contractors) interviewed in the field:**

Pilgrim Logging  
 Visneskie Logging  
 Jessup Logging  
 AFA staff

**Members of the public participation process interviewed:**

Three members of the Public Advisory Group were interviewed. All were satisfied that the AFA had adequately considered their views and ideas. They were very positive about the role of the facilitator in developing the new SFM plan

**Provincial Government personnel interviewed:**

MNR Compliance Specialist indicated no serious compliance concerns, but there could be improved lines of communication.

**Aboriginal People interviewed:**

Individual letters were sent to nine First Nations requesting their input and comments regarding their involvement in the CSA certification process. There was no response to the letters of invitation. There were no identified Metis groups affected by the DFA.

Telephone contacts with two First Nation offices confirmed participation with the Public Advisory Group, but current priority is the Land Claim negotiation.

**VOITs verified (field & office)**

Indicator	Description	Field and/or Office	Improvement
1.2.1.1.1	Species at risk habitat	Field	In compliance with VOIT
1.2.1.2.1	AOC prescriptions	Field	In compliance with VOIT
1.3.1.1.1	Tree marking	Field	In compliance with VOIT
2.2.1.1.1	Minimize roads	Field	In compliance with VOIT
3.1.1.1.1	Soil Disturbance	Field	In compliance with VOIT
3.2.1.1.1	Water crossings	Field	In compliance with VOIT
3.2.1.1.3	Spills	Field	In compliance with VOIT
5.2.1.2.1	Local facilities	Office	Not in compliance
5.3.1.1.2	Crown Stumpage	Office	Not in compliance
5.3.2.1.2	Aboriginal tree marking	Office	Not in compliance
5.3.3.1.1	Visitor days	Office	Not in compliance
	ALL other VOITS	Office	In compliance with VOITS

The 4 indicators where targets have not been achieved are:



- 5.2.1.2.1 Number of local production facilities (wood supply commitment holders) that utilize wood fibre from the DFA. Establish a benchmark from 2006/07, monitor trends and maintain production facilities over time.
- 5.3.1.1.1 Crown timber stumpage paid to government consolidated revenues
- 5.3.2.1.2 Percentage of tree marking conducted by Algonquin Aboriginal organizations/people
- 5.3.3.1.1 Maintaining the number of Park interior visitor days

### **Review of Changes:**

The only significant change from the last audit was the development of a new SFM plan incorporating the new mandatory VOITS

### **Summary:**

The findings were discussed with Mr. Gordon Cummins. The Audit Team Leader commenced the closing meeting by thanking the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) staff for the cooperation and courtesy extended to the audit team during the audit.

In addition, the Audit Team Leader detailed the registration process, the requirements for future surveillance audits, and the re-assessment process.

The official closing meeting was attended by the personnel listed in Attachment #2.

### **The SAI Global Audit Team recorded the following audit results:**

#### **Documentation Review:**

The audit team reviewed the SFM documentation including the SFM monitoring report, the new SFM plan, the Forest Certification Advisory Group minutes.

#### **Status of any previously recorded non-conformances (NCRs)**

No previously recorded or outstanding NCRs.

All the previously identified Areas of Concern have been effectively resolved.

#### **Positive Aspects of the Management System:**

The Canadian Institute of Forestry recognition of the AFA forest management practices in awarding the 2012 Canadian Forest Management Group Achievement award to the Algonquin Forestry authority

The positive responses to the FCAG satisfaction survey and the comments from FCAG members who appreciated the AFA receptivity to their suggestions and comments during the development of the 2012 SFM plan

The awareness and implementation of wood turtle species at risk protection measures

**Non-conformances:**

No instances of Non Conformity were encountered during the course of this audit.

**Opportunities for Improvement (OFI):**

- Consider specifically explaining why each VOIT target have not been met

**Areas of Concern (AoC):**

- Ensure that the 2011-2012 CSA annual report also discusses how the company is making preliminary progress towards the new SFM VOITS and explain the transition to the new VOITS

Please note that these Areas of Concern will be reviewed as part of the preparation for the next audit.

**SECTION 5 - GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the review of the company's SFM program, and the audit results, the following recommendation is made:

**Re-Assessment/Upgrade:**

The results of the Re-assessment including the review of the performance of the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) Management System over the past 3 years and the Re-assessment Audit indicate that Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA)'s Management System meets the following criteria for maintenance of registration to CAN/CSA - Z809-2008.

An effective inter-action exists between all elements of the management system;  
The entire management system is effective in light of any changes  
Top management has demonstrated a commitment to maintain the effectiveness of the system.

**Next Scheduled Audit:**

**Date(s):** November 20-21, 2013

**Type of Audit:** Surveillance Year One

**No. of Persons:** 2

**No. of Audit Days Required:** 4 Audit days

**Forest Areas for the Next Audit:**

Pembroke and Huntsville Operations

Martin Litchfield RPF

**SAI Global**

Team Leader

Date: December 15, 2012