

Forest Certification Matrix

The Basics	Governance	Standardization	Accreditation	Verification	Product Tracking & Claims
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Updated Oct. 11, 2010

This guide is intended solely as a brief introduction to various forest certification systems.

Inclusion in this matrix does not suggest endorsement or preference by GreenBlue.

Criteria	American Tree Farm System	Canadian Standards Association	Forest Stewardship Council	Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
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The Basics

Website	www.treefarmssystem.org www.forestfoundation.org	www.csasfmforests.ca	www.fsc.org , www.fscus.org	www.pefc.org	www.sfiprogram.org
Basis for participation	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Scope	Family woodland owners in the US.	Focus on all forest types in Canada.	Focus on all forest types throughout the world.	PEFC is a mutual recognition body that endorses national systems throughout the world.	Primarily focused on medium and large-scale forests in the United States and Canada.
Number of participants	Over 90,000 Tree Farmers in 41 states	There are 51 Forest Management certificates.	There are 1022 Forest Management certificates and 18,882 Chain of Custody certificates in 101 countries.	PEFC Council has formally endorsed 28 national systems. These cover 481,898 forest owners and 7,143 chain of custody certificates.	In the United States and Canada, there are 883 chain of custody certificates.
Total area	9.7 million hectares (24 million acres) in the U.S.	72.8 million hectares (179.9 million acres) in Canada	134.34 million hectares (331.9 million acres) globally.	223 million hectares (551 million acres) globally.	72.7 million hectares (179.7 million acres) in North America.

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Governance: Managing The System

Oversight	Woodlands Operating Committee of the American Forest Foundation.	A Standards Policy Board is accountable to the CSA Group Board of Directors for the principles and policy governing standards development for the Canadian Standards Association. A CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Technical Committee, made up of people with balanced interests, is responsible for the technical content of the CSA SFM Standards.	A General Assembly organized in three equally weighted chambers (social, environmental, and economic) sets primary standards and policies. Members also elect a 9-person Board of Directors. There are also National Initiatives in more than 50 countries across the world. Each National Initiative has their own Board of Directors with the same make-up as FSC-International (3 chambers).	A General Assembly and a Board of Directors consisting of a chairman two vice chairman and between 2 and 10 members.	The 18 member Board of Directors made up of three chambers: environmental, social and economic.
Representation	Tree Farmers, academicians, forestry associations, state foresters, forest industry, national conservation organizations, forestry extension agencies.	The Standards Policy Board consists of a Chair and up to 15 voting members balanced across 4 interest categories: Industry/ Provider, Government/ Regulator, Consumer/ User, General Interest. Representation on the CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Technical Committee is divided into four categories: Aboriginal Peoples, Governments & Regulatory Authorities Interest; Producer Interest, Environment & General Interest, and Academic & Professional Practitioners Interest.	Environmental and social NGOs and individuals, forestry industry, manufacturers, retailers, academic.	The General Assembly consists of representatives from the 34 member countries reflecting major interest parties supporting PEFC, geographical distribution of members.	The BOD is made up of environmental, conservation, professional and academic groups, independent professional loggers, family forest owners, public officials, labor and the forest products industry.

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Standardization: Developing the Standard

Development	Set by independent panel of stakeholders including landowners, labor representatives, logging representatives, state and federal natural resource agency representatives, academicians, environmental non-profit representatives, forest product customer representatives and forest industry representatives.	Set by a technical committee with representatives from: producers, environmental and general interests, academic and professional practitioners, aboriginal peoples, government and regulatory authorities.	Proposed by national or sub-national working groups under the direction of a National Initiative office. Working groups are made up of social, environmental and economic perspectives.	PEFC national governing bodies coordinate the standard setting process, which is set by invited parties including forest owners, industry, nongovernmental groups, unions and retailers.	Set by the SFI Standards Review task group (typically a subset of the Resource Committee).
Scope	Environmental and silvicultural issues.	Environmental, silvicultural, social and economic issues.	Environmental, silvicultural, social and economic issues.	Environmental, silvicultural, social and economic issues.	Environmental, silvicultural, social and economic issues.
Public Input	Subject to public review.	Subject to public review.	Subject to public review.	Subject to public review.	Subject to public review.
Approval	American Forest Foundation Board of Trustees.	Standards Council of Canada.	FSC International Board of Directors.	PEFC Council assesses for purpose of endorsement.	SFI Board of Directors.
Updating	Every 5 years.	Every 5 years.	Every 5 years.	Every 5 years.	Every 5 years.

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Accreditation: Auditor Qualifications

Reviewer	IAF accredited auditors (ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and Standards Council of Canada (SCC).	Standards Council of Canada.	Accreditation Services International (ASI).	The relevant national accreditation body which is a member of International Accreditation Forum.	ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) or In Canada, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).
Evaluation Process	Auditors application process which includes a on-site and witness assessment process.	Task group reviews application and forest management audit.	ASI conducts office audits and the witnessing of one trial audit in the field prior to gaining FSC accreditation.	A task group examines documentation, qualifications of reviewers and dispute resolution procedures.	Auditors application process which includes a on-site and witness assessment process.
Approval	ANAB's independent Accreditation Council and SCC procedural approval.	An executive committee makes a decision based on task group findings.	ASI Managing Director approves an ASI Accreditation Committee's recommendations.	A separate group decides based on task group findings.	The ANAB's independent Accreditation Council.
Monitoring	Annual surveillance audits.	Annually assessed.	Annual office and field audit.	Annual office and field audit.	Annual office and field audit.
Renewal	Every 3 years.	Every 3 years.	Every 5 years.	Every 3 years.	Every 5 years.

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Verification: Judging Conformance to the Standard

Reviewer	Accredited third party auditor.	Accredited third party auditor.	Accredited third party auditor.	Accredited third party auditor.	Accredited third party auditor.
Evaluation Process	Audit team reviews the management process of state committees or group managers, including field visits, management plan review and review of internal monitoring procedures.	Audit team discusses scope of assessment with applicant and conducts in field review.	Multidisciplinary audit team reviews documentation, conducts a field assessment and interviews relevant parties including mandatory public consultation and social impact assessment.	Endorsed systems require audits that consist of a documentation review and an on-site assessment.	Audit team reviews documentation, conducts a field assessment and interviews relevant parties.
Approval	Internal monitoring approved by a trained Inspector.	An executive committee decides based on audit findings and assessment team's activities.	A certification committee decides based on profile, feedback from applicant, stakeholder consultation, and peer review.	An executive committee makes a decision based on task group findings.	Audit team grants approval based on resolution of non-compliance issues.
Public Input	Audit team seeks outside stakeholder comments during third party audit. ATFS maintains public dispute procedures.	Any member of the public can file a dispute if there is a disagreement with the decision or ongoing compliance to the standard.	Any member of the public can file a dispute if there is a disagreement with the decision or ongoing compliance to the standard.	Any member of the public can file a dispute if there is a disagreement with the decision or ongoing compliance to the standard.	Any member of the public can file a dispute if there is a disagreement with the decision or ongoing compliance to the standard.
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Product Tracking and Claims

Material Tracking	Fiber from ATFS certified lands is included in SFI and PEFC chain-of-custody systems as certified content.	Fiber from CSA certified lands is included in PEFC chain-of-custody systems as certified content.	Chain of Custody tracks products from forest through each stage of manufacturing and distribution.	Chain of Custody tracks products from forest through each stage of manufacturing and distribution.	Chain of Custody certification to track products from forest through each stage of manufacturing and distribution. Participants required to have auditable monitoring system to account for all wood flows.
On-product label	Fiber from ATFS certified lands is included in SFI and PEFC chain-of-custody systems as certified content.	Fiber from CSA certified lands is included in PEFC chain-of-custody systems as certified content.	Yes, 3 product labels: 1) FSC pure label for 100% certified product group; 2) FSC mixed label for product groups from well managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber 3) FSC recycled label for product groups with 100% recycled content.	Yes, 2 product labels: 1) PEFC Certified with a minimum 70% PEFC certified content; 2) PEFC Certified & Recycled with a minimum 70% comes from a certified source, and/or post-consumer recycled material.	Yes, 4 product labels are available: 1) Certified Content Label for volume based credit; 2) Certified Content Label for average percentage calculations; 3) Recycled Content Claims for including percentage of recycled content, and; 4) Fiber Sourcing/Procurement Label for companies certified under the fiber sourcing requirements.
Use of non-certified sources in labeled products	Fiber from ATFS certified lands is included in SFI and PEFC chain-of-custody systems as certified content.	Fiber from CSA certified lands is included in PEFC chain-of-custody systems as certified content.	Yes, prohibits use of sources that are illegally harvested, harvested in violation of traditional or civil rights, derived from forest practices threatening high conservation values, genetically modified trees and from forest converted into plantations or non-forest uses in areas of loss of natural forest cover.	Yes, but “non-certified” raw material shall not originate from controversial sources.	Yes, but “non-certified” raw material shall not originate illegal sources, and must follow SFI’s fiber sourcing requirements.