



**BUREAU  
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**Bureau Veritas Certification  
North America, Inc.  
SFI Forest Management Audit Report**

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PQC Code	E06E – Wood and wood products
Contract Number	CA.2976183

Certification Audit:		Re-Certification Audit:		Surveillance Audit:	3	Scope extension audit:	
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Audit Summary
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Weyerhaeuser Company Limited. (Weyerhaeuser Canada) was the subject of a third surveillance audit to the SFI 2015:2019 forest management and fiber sourcing standards. The audit was lead by Brian Callaghan RPF EP(EMSLA) a forester with more than 30 years’ experience in planning, operations, and quantitative analysis. Sarah Bros RPF participated in the audit as well. Ms. Bros has spent more than 30 years in the forest industry working as a logging contractor, silvicultural specialist and forest planner.</p>
<p><b>Audit Scope, Objectives and Process</b></p> <p>The scope of the audit was “<i>Land management</i>”. The objective of the audit was to confirm conformance of operations in Pembina, Alberta and Hudson Bay Saskatchewan to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard and verify whether the Program Participant has effectively implemented its SFI Standard program requirements on the ground (in the bush). All relevant Objectives and Performance Measures of the standard were audited. Each audit started with an opening meeting which was followed by document review. A variety of field sites were inspected to determine conformance to the SFI standard. Standard Bureau Veritas Certification protocols and forms were applied throughout the audit as provided by the most recent version of the Bureau Veritas Certification SFI Auditor Handbook available on the auditor access website.</p>
<p><b>Audit Plan</b></p> <p>An audit plan was prepared in cooperation with the client. A total of ten audit days were undertaken with six days in Hudson Bay and eight days in Pembina. A copy of the audit plan is on file with Bureau Veritas.</p>
<p><b>Company Information</b></p> <p>Weyerhaeuser Company Limited’s Canadian Timberlands (Weyerhaeuser Canada) are located in four Canadian provinces; British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The company manages more than five million hectares of Crown lands. Weyerhaeuser’s corporate offices are in Seattle,</p>

Washington. The Canadian Timberlands office is in Princeton, BC and has overall responsibility for meeting Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) objectives. The Company SFI representative and Certification Manager, is located in the Princeton office. Weyerhaeuser Canadian Timberlands have been certified to the SFI Standard since 2010.

Weyerhaeuser Canada manages a variety of forest types and conditions. Even aged management with clear cutting, followed by natural regeneration of hardwoods or planting of softwood species.

### Multi-Site Requirements

Weyerhaeuser Canada has six mills in Canada. Each site has an SFI-EMS manager who coordinates the process. All sites operate an environmental management system (EMS) and are subject to an internal auditing process and a centralized management review. Headquarters of the management system is in Princeton, British Columbia. The company qualifies for multi-site sampling since the management system is controlled and directed by the central office. Each area has procedures applicable to its region of operations, with oversight by the SFI manager. The SFI manager operates an internal audit program across all operating units. Areas are responsible for developing corrective actions and reporting to the central office. The internal audit program is one which Bureau Veritas Certification can place a high degree of reliance to ensure continued conformance with the SFI standard.

Multi-Site	✓	Group Certification	
<b>Sites</b>		<b>Sites Audited During this Event</b>	
HQ – Princeton Timberlands		✓	
Grande Prairie Timberlands			
Pembina Timberlands		✓	
Saskatchewan Timberlands		✓	

### Audit Results

Field sites were examined in both Hudson Bay and Pembina Alberta with 14 days was spent examining forest operations, harvest utilization, forest regeneration sites as well as meeting with more than 30 contractors and operators. Thirty sites were visited during the audit which included 25 harvest sites, ten of which had received a renewal treatment, seven bridges, many timber crossings, all while traveling on forest access roads. Nine active forest operations were visited, all were found to be in conformance to the SFI standard.

#### Objective 1-Forest Management Planning:

Weyerhaeuser Canada has forest management plans in place in both Hudson Bay and Pembina. A new Detailed Forest Management Plan is in place in Pembina which was approved in 2018. In Alberta planning process the tenure holder is responsible for developing and maintaining their forest inventory, undertake a timber supply analysis, set an allowable cut and protect landscape and habitat values. In Hudson Bay a new plan was approved in 2016 which incorporates a new (2007) forest inventory. Annual updates of disturbance areas is undertaken using tracking devices on feller bunchers and satellite imagery to update forest access and harvest blocks.

Forest conversions are not allowed on any of the Company licenses. Stands must be regenerated to

native species and often it must be similar to the stand being harvested. Conversions to non-forest lands is limited to the area of new primary roads and log landings. Conversion to other land uses is strictly prohibited.

**Objective 2-Forest Health and Productivity:**

Regeneration prescriptions are based on site assessments at the post-harvest stage. The prescription declares either a natural or artificial regeneration. Harvest blocks are typically regenerated within two years of harvest. Most of the silviculture is even-aged. Harvests were found to well planned and implemented. Throughout the field visits auditors were impressed with the quality of the regenerating forest. Thriving forests of young aspen, spruce and pine were found throughout both forests (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Thriving regenerated forests of pine, spruce and poplar were found throughout both forests.

Operations in both forests were found to be undertaken with diligence and care. Minimal site damage was evident on all sites. Leave tree retention was excellent on all sites (Figure 2). Operators were well versed at determining where to provide leave trees and residual patches.



**Figure 2.** Site harvested in 2018 and planted in 2019 with both grouped and single tree retention.

The Company is working to reduce the use of forest chemicals. Strategies to reduce use to chemicals

include

- increasing the area being planted within one year of harvest,
- plant larger stock,
- undertaking competition surveys to assess need for herbicides, and
- use ground application over aerial where herbicides are needed

All herbicide applications are advertised publicly, and all sites are signed to warn the public about herbicide use.

### **Objective 3-Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada follows the applicable land use and forest management plans that guide forest operations, including provisions for management of water quality and riparian zones. The Company complies with applicable laws and regulations and follows guidelines where applicable. The Company's environmental management system addresses environmental risks related to water quality. Contractor agreements differ between the two regions, but all include requirements for conforming to "best management practices" and for contractor monitoring.

All the operators interviewed understood the requirements when operating near water or wetlands. An inspection of contractor equipment found them in good repair, and fully equipped with safety equipment.

All riparian areas are protected to relevant provincial standard. Riparian buffers are required by law on most waterways. The audit team saw many good examples of temporary water crossings on a variety of streams. Wetlands and wet areas within harvest blocks are protected with a standing buffer of trees. The audit team saw where on one harvest site an unmapped wet area was identified and buffered by the operator when they shifted a residual patch to cover the wet area. Over the course of the audit more than 20 water crossing structures were inspected, all were in compliance with regulations and met or exceeded best management practices (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** This temporary crossing will be removed once regeneration activities have occurred.

Forest access is a priority for Weyerhaeuser and it was evident in the audit. Roads were found to be in good conditions and grading practices were found to be superior. Auditors had difficulty finding fault with road construction and maintenance on either forest.

#### **Objective 4-Conservation of Biological Diversity:**

Weyerhaeuser's Sustainable Forest policy addresses the conservation of biological diversity through the application of adaptive management and sound forestry practices. Site plans and prescriptions, compliance monitoring forms, and training documents reviewed during the field audit confirm programs are in place and operating at both regions and at all levels. Operating procedures are in place through the EMS for providing stand-level wildlife habitat, as well as, in the various planning documents.

Weyerhaeuser Canada recognizes and protects the habitat for species at risk. They are participating in recovery efforts for Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), Road densities are strictly monitored and road decommissioning is undertaken extensively.

Through its various planning processes the Company monitors trends in forest composition, age and growth. Unique or rare sites are identified and protected through the planning process and then monitored during operations.

#### **Objective 5-Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada address aesthetics within their management plans in accordance with provincial guidelines. When developing operating areas visual impact assessments are undertaken to ensure that disturbances blend into the landscape. In the spatial planning process considerations are

made for maximum opening size, green up delays and adjacency. Average clear cut size is less than 40 hectares in both regions. Areas of fire salvage will be much larger given the nature of the disturbance and merchantability of the wood.

### **Objective 6-Protection of Special Sites:**

Special sites have been identified in both regions as part of their forest planning processes. All known First Nations, heritage, archeological, unique areas and geologic values and protected with forest buffers (Figure 4). In areas where potential historic values may occur archeological surveys are undertaken prior to harvest.



**Figure 4.** Auditors visited a trappers cabin which was found during preharvest surveys and protected with a 30 m no-cut buffer.

### **Objective 7-Efficient Use of Fiber Resources:**

Harvest utilization was good with little merchantable fibre found on harvest sites or at landings.

### **Objective 8: Recognize and Respect Indigenous People’s Rights:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada has a policy “Aboriginal Relations in Canada” describing their commitment to First Nations. The Company is committed to developing and maintaining positive relationships with First Nations wherever they operate. The Company has annual communications with local first nations annually by seeking their input into proposed harvest blocks.

Weyerhaeuser has excellent relations and communications with First Nations. With some First Nations they participate in traditional ceremonies with elders prior to starting operations on traditional lands. They also provide materials such as teepee poles and fuelwood for band use, and as, hosting annual meetings to discussing proposed operations.

### **Objective 9: Legal and Regulatory Compliance:**

The Company’s environmental management system provides guidance in accessing legislation and regulations using a commercial service which maintains legislation resources. This service is monitored continually for new or revised legislation. A variety of systems are in place to ensure regulatory compliance including: Company site inspections, contractor performance assessments, forest audits (internal and external), regulatory audits/inspections, and an environmental incidence reporting system.

### **Objective 10-Forestry Research, Science and Technology:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada participates in a variety research and technology projects related to forestry in the areas for Forest Productivity, water quality protection and forest biodiversity. Projects include (but are not limited to):

- CBFA research into caribou populations on the Pasquia-Porcupine FMA.
- Support for Government of SK caribou research.
- Proposed moose research in Pasquia-Porcupine region
- Climate Change – Northern Prairie Forest Integrate Regional Assessment
- Duck Mountain Provincial Park renewal response research
- Foothills Research Institute – Grizzly Bear research
- Ecological Management Emulating Natural Disturbance

Weyerhaeuser Canada through the WCSIC makes funds available for programs that promote forest certification and sustainable forest management.

#### **Objective 11-Training and Education:**

A statement of commitment to the SFIS 2015-2019 standard has been communicated to all employees. A matrix has been developed and training records verified training has occurred as required by the matrix. Weyerhaeuser requires that all loggers to be trained in compliance with the WCSIC Training Policy, the auditors verified that 100% of the contractors supplying wood and all their employees have received the appropriate training as per their EMS - Competence, Training and Awareness Policy. EMS booklets are available in each location which provide an excellent reference. All loggers interviewed had access to their EMS books and were found to be well trained.

#### **Objective 12-Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada is a participating member of the WCSIC and actively implement its training policy. Logger training is extended to contractors who are involved in their purchase wood program.

The Company participates in a range of public planning efforts related to Crown lands and land use. In all regions the Company participates with communities and citizens in public planning processes.

Weyerhaeuser participates in a variety of community activities such as;

- Annual school visits to further forestry education
- Periodic field tours from visiting classes educational institutes
- Occasional field tours for the local community

*The Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund* supports local community sustainability projects

#### **Objective 13- Public Land Management Responsibilities:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada participates in public planning efforts for their licensed Crown lands and for as part of regional land use planning efforts. In these processes the Company consults with a wide range of stakeholders including Government, First Nations, communities, etc). Weyerhaeuser consults with other licenced stakeholders (ranchers, trappers, guides) to assess the potential impacts of proposed activities on their interests.

#### **Objective 14-Communications and Public Reporting:**

A review of the SFI, Inc. website provided evidence that Weyerhaeuser Canada submitted its previous audit report as required for public review. The Company has procedures in place to provide for all the pieces of information needed to complete the SFI annual progress report. Weyerhaeuser Canada submits its annual report information in January to the corporate office for submission to SFI

Inc.

### **Objective 15-Management Review:**

Weyerhaeuser Canada has a management review program which include internal audits of each region/site and an annual review by the Timberlands Leadership Team. The program is a well-established component of the environmental management system and can be relied upon by Bureau Veritas

### **Findings**

#### **Previous non-conformances:**

*None*

#### **Non-conformances:**

*None*

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

The Company should find a more durable solution for containing erosion around bridges and crossings than the current reliance solely on filter cloth and to monitor such sites for riverbank erosion. (PM 3.2 I 1)

#### **Notable Practices:**

4) Weyerhaeuser has excellent relations and communications with First Nations. They participate in traditional ceremonies with elders prior to starting operations on traditional lands. They provide materials such as teepee poles and fuelwood for band use, as well as hosting annual meetings to discussing proposed operations. (PM 8.2, 1)

5) Road construction and maintenance on the Hudson Bay and Pembina woodlands was found to be excellent. Road grading practices and water crossings were found to be well implemented and were preventing erosion and water quality degradation issues on each forest. (PM 3.2)

#### **Logo/label use:**

Weyerhaeuser uses the SFI certified sourcing label with approval from SFI, Inc. During the audit labels were checked on stamped lumber and OSB as well as on bundle labels. All the correct approvals are in place. The SFI logo is used for promotional purposes, also with approval. No unauthorized use of the SFI logo was observed. The company does not use the Bureau Veritas Certification logo.

#### **SFI reporting:**

The 2018 surveillance audit report was posted on the SFI, Inc. website as required for public review.

### **Conclusions**

Given the positive results of the audit Weyerhaeuser's Canadian Timber forestlands continues to operate and implement an SFI program that meets the requirements of the SFI 2015 2019 forest management standard. The company is recommended for continued certification.

**SEE SF61 FOR AUDIT NOTES**

<b>Summary of Audit Findings:</b>										
Audit Date(s):		From: Sept 17 2019				To: Oct. 4 2019				
Number of SF02's Raised:				Major:		0		Minor:		0
Is a follow up visit required:			Yes		No	X	Date(s) of follow up visit:			
Follow-up visit remarks:										
<b>Team Leader Recommendation:</b>										
Corrective Action Plan(s) Accepted		Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:		
Proceed to/Continue Certification		Yes	X	No		N/A		Date:	4/10/19	
All NCR's Closed		Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:		
Standard audit conducted against:										
1)	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing			3)						
2)				4)						
Team Leader (1):		Team Members (2,3,4...)								
Brian Callaghan		2) Sarah Bros								
		3)								
		4)								
		5)								
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)										
<i>Land management</i>										
Accreditation's		Anab								
Number of Certificates		6								
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event										
Date	Sept 2019									
Audit Report Distribution										
Brian Drobe, <brian.drobe@weyerhaeuser.com>,										
Lorisa Love <lorisa.love@bureauveritas.com>,										

Clause	Audit Report
<p>Opening Meeting</p> <p>Sept 17 Hudson Bay</p>	<p>Participants: Brian Callaghan RPF (Lead) Sarah Bros RPF (auditor) Brian Drobe (SFI Manager),</p> <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions</li> <li>➤ Scope of the audit</li> <li>➤ Audit schedule/plan</li> <li>➤ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor</li> <li>➤ Review of previous nonconformances - 0.</li> <li>➤ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling</li> <li>➤ Confidentiality agreement</li> <li>➤ Termination of the audit</li> <li>➤ Appeals process</li> <li>➤ Closing meeting timing</li> </ul>
<p>Closing Meeting</p> <p>Oct 4 2019</p>	<p>Participants: Brian Callaghan (Lead), Sarah Bris (auditor), Norm Denk, Brian Drobe, Jason Carmicheal, Karen Brewer, Robin Dack, Y, Keving Hargrave, PJ Forbes,</p> <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification.</li> <li>➤ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling.</li> <li>➤ Review of OFIs and System Strengths</li> <li>➤ Nonconformances - 0</li> <li>➤ Date for next audit.</li> <li>➤ Reporting protocol and timing</li> </ul>