



**NEW CANADIAN STANDARD
FOR SUSTAINABLE
FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS**

GENERAL

WHY ARE YOU LAUNCHING A NEW STANDARD?

FSC Canada is launching a new standard because it is important that our sustainable forestry practices are current and properly reflect the changing needs of our forests and the people and wildlife that depend on them. It is also important that our standard incorporate up-to-date, expertly developed, field-tested procedures and protocols to sustainably harvest and care for our Canadian forests.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT THAN THE OLD STANDARD?

The new Canadian national standard knits together the existing four regional standards (National Boreal, Maritime, BC and Great Lakes St Lawrence).

It has been updated with new field-tested and approved procedures and protocols to sustainably cultivate and care for our forests and the people and wildlife that depend on them. More specifically, the new standard has been updated to help address our forest's most pressing issues, including the woodland caribou crisis; the rights of Indigenous Peoples; workers' rights including gender equity; conservation and landscape management.

And finally, the new standard also incorporates FSC's global [Principles and Criteria](#) & [International Generic Indicators](#) which act as the guiding framework from which all regional standards are developed.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

HOW DID YOU DEVELOP THE NEW STANDARD?

Canada's new Forest Management standard was developed over five years, by representatives of economic, environmental, social interest and Indigenous groups—equally balancing the views and knowledge of each group. The development process included extensive consultation, expert input and rigorous field testing.

Together we identified the most pressing issues facing Canadian forests now including the woodland caribou crisis; the rights of Indigenous Peoples; workers' rights including gender equity; conservation and landscape management.

As the world's strongest and most trusted forestry standard, FSC also ensured that the new Canadian standard reflected the international expertise of our FSC network, which recently updated the international [Principles and Criteria](#)—the guiding framework for developing regional forest stewardship standards.

WHO WAS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING THE NEW STANDARD?

FSC Canada convened an eight-member [Standards Development Group](#) who provided strategic and technical direction for the new Forest Management Standard in Canada. The group was comprised of two members from each stakeholder group or chamber (Indigenous, Social, Environmental and Economic) with consideration for regional representation, gender balance and diversity of experience.

In addition, FSC Canada assembled [technical expert panels](#) to assist with the development of the Canadian Forest Management Standard in six key thematic areas including:

- Intact Forest Landscapes;
- High Conservation Value;
- Ecological and operational considerations;
- Species at risk;
- Pesticides, Conversion and invasive species;
- Indigenous Peoples' rights;
- Community and stakeholder rights;
- Scale, intensity and risk

The panels provided technical guidance and recommendations to FSC Canada to be considered when developing measures e.g. indicators and supplementary materials (where needed) for the new standard.

TRANSITION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EXISTING CERTIFICATE HOLDERS?

As of the effective date of January 1st, 2020, certificate holders will have one year to transition to the new standard.

Within the transition period, certificate holders can choose to be evaluated to the current forest management regional standards or the revised National Forest Management Standard for its first evaluation. But all certificate holders will be evaluated against the revised National Forest Management Standard within that 12-month period (see questions below for further clarification)

FSC Canada will support certificate holders and certification bodies with the transition and implementation of the revised standard once additional information has been provided by FSC International. A series of webinars and other support documents will be released in the coming months to help prepare for the transition.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

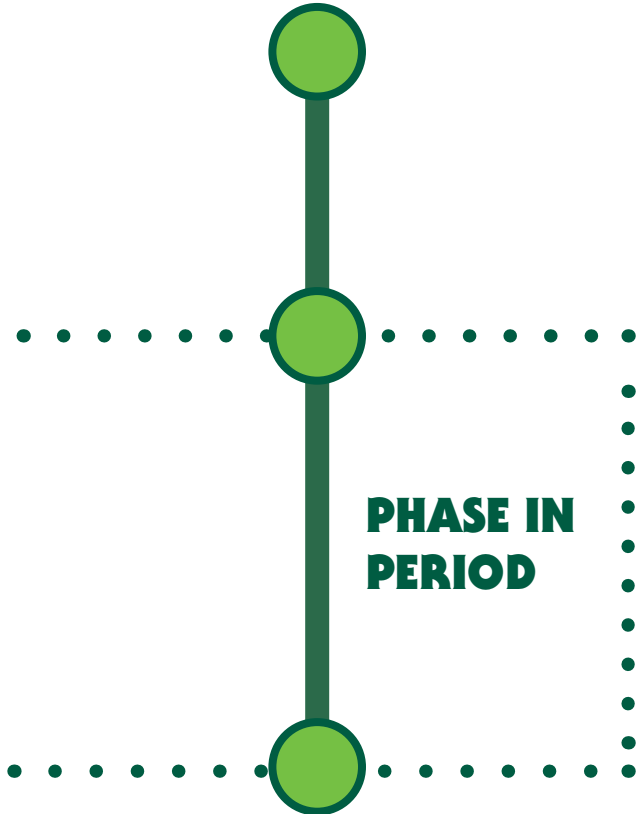
NEW STANDARD LAUNCH
JUNE 3, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE
JANUARY 1, 2020

FSC Forest Management Certificate Holders have 12 months to implement the new National Stewardship Standard from this date.

END OF PHASE IN PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2021

After this date, all audits must be carried out according to the new standard.



IF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER CHOOSES THE SURVEILLANCE AUDIT, WHAT NEEDS TO BE AUDITED?

The certificate holder (CH) needs to be evaluated to all aspects of the new standard within the surveillance cycle (a surveillance cycle is 5 years). Depending to what year of the cycle the certificate is, two scenarios may be possible:

1. The CH will need to meet all the requirements of new standard, divided between the remaining years of his cycle. To this, the annual mandatory requirements (according [FSC-STD-20-007](#)) will need to be also evaluated (refer to question #6).
2. For a certificate that has one or two surveillances left, it may be difficult to evaluate all of them in the remaining period.

The certification bodies shall make a best attempt to cover the remaining criteria in the remaining period of validity of the certificate.

If this is not feasible and there are just one or two surveillance evaluations left, a risk-based approach shall be taken focusing on the most relevant issues in the management unit. The approach taken shall be justified in the certification report. To this, the annual mandatory requirements (according [FSC-STD-20-007](#)) will need to be also evaluated (refer to question #6). In the next certification cycle, the certification body shall monitor all aspects of the Forest Stewardship Standards according to [FSC-STD-20-007](#) Clause 6.3.7.

IF A CERTIFICATE HOLDER CHOOSES TO BE EVALUATED UNDER THE CURRENT REGIONAL STANDARDS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

A certificate holder needs to be evaluated against all aspects of the new standard within the surveillance cycle (a surveillance cycle is 5 years).

If a certificate holder chooses to be evaluated against the applicable regional standard for its first evaluation after the effective date of the new Standard, a second evaluation to the new Standard will be required before the end of the transition period, so within the same year.

After the 12-month transition period the regional standard(s) will expire.

HOW DO I TRANSITION MY CURRENT CERTIFICATE TO THE NEW STANDARD?

Please contact your [certification body](#) for details.

HOW DO I BECOME CERTIFIED TO THE NEW STANDARD?

If you wish to become certified, please visit the FSC Canada [website](#) for details and contact a [certification body](#).

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW STANDARD?

As of the effective date January 1st, 2020, certificate holders will have 1 year to transition to the new standard.

WHAT ARE THE MANDATORY CRITERIA AND/OR INDICATORS THAT WILL NEED TO BE AUDITED AT EACH SURVEILLANCE AUDIT? IS THAT CONCEPT STILL APPLICABLE? IS THE LIST IN FSC-STD-20-007 (V3-0) (CLAUSE 6.3.8) STILL APPLICABLE?

The interpretation [INT-STD-20-007_49](#), published on June 15, 2018, stipulates:

For the following types of operations, the certification body shall at minimum evaluate at each surveillance all indicators of the following sets of criteria from the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard (according to [FSC Principles and Criteria V5-2](#)) in addition to the elements as defined in Clause 6.3.7:

- Plantations larger than 10 000 ha:
Criteria 1.6; 2.3; 4.4; 4.5; 7.6; 10.2; 10.3; 10.6; 10.7 and 10.12.
- All non-plantation forest types larger than 50,000 hectares, unless the whole area meets the requirements for classification as a “low intensity managed forest” (see [FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF eligibility criteria](#))
Criteria 1.4; 1.6; 2.3; 3.2; 3.4; 4.4; 4.5; 5.2; 6.4; 6.6; 7.6; 8.2 and 9.4.
- FMUs containing high conservation value attributes, unless the whole area meets the requirements for classification as a “small forest” (see [FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF eligibility criteria](#))
[Criteria](#) 6.4; 6.6; 9.4 and 10.3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CERTIFICATE HOLDERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED UNDER ONE OF THE SMALL AND LOW INTENSITY MANAGED FORESTS (SLIMF) STANDARDS?

The new Standard does not apply to small-scale forests, low intensity forests and community forests. For these types of forests, the Maritimes SLIMF Standard (2008), the British Columbia Small Operations Standards (2005) or the draft Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Standard (2010) will continue to apply until the new Canadian Smallholder Standard has been approved.

ARE INDICATORS RELATED TO INTACT FOREST LANDSCAPE AND INDIGENOUS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INCLUDED IN THIS STANDARD?

This version of the Standard does not address the requirements related to Motion 65 on Intact Forest Landscapes. In the interim, refer to the [Motion 65 Advice Note ADVICE-20-007-018](#) and to FSC Canada’s [Interim Guidance for the Delineation of Intact Forest Landscapes](#) (May 25, 2017). In the meantime, indicators for intact forest landscapes and Indigenous cultural landscapes will continue to be developed. These requirements will be developed to be aligned with species at risk indicators and other landscape requirements.

FOR PURCHASERS

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BRANDS SOURCING FROM FSC CERTIFIED FORESTS?

We anticipate the transition to the new standard to be smooth and should not impact supply.

WHAT CAN PURCHASERS DO?

Remind your suppliers that FSC is part of your sustainability commitments and that FSC certification is necessary for your business. This will help encourage them to transition to the new standard and maintain their FSC certification.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STANDARD?

If you are an existing FSC certified company, please contact your [certification body](#).
If you wish to become certified, please visit the FSC Canada [website](#) for details and contact a [certification body](#).