



NEW CANADIAN STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

KEY CHANGES

OUR FORESTS

Canada is home to 10 distinct major Indigenous language groups, 9 major forest types, and is one of the largest exporter of forest products in the world. As a country with over 10% of the world's forest, stretching across the northern hemisphere from sea to sea, it is essential that our forests continue to meet the social, ecological and economic needs of present and future generations.

To help achieve this, FSC Canada's regional forest management standards were recently updated to a new national Forest Management Standard after years of rigorous consultation with industry, environment, social stakeholder and Indigenous groups. The new standard integrates new science and research, as well as best practices as informed by FSC interpretations and lessons learned. It addresses the most pressing issues facing Canadian forests, including Woodland Caribou, Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Workers' Rights including Gender Equity, Landscape Management and Conservation.

STANDARD REVISION PROCESS

Canada's new Forest Management standard was developed by representatives of economic, environmental, social interest and Indigenous groups – with agreements and solutions equally balancing the views and knowledge of each group. The development process included extensive consultations, expert input and rigorous field testing. Draft 1 of the standard was released for public consultation in 2015 and a second draft was released in 2016 for a 60-day public consultation. The draft standard was then field/desk tested in the spring of 2017.

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 updated the international Principles and Criteria – the guiding framework for developing regional forest stewardship standards. FSC Canada was also required to use FSC International Generic Indicators (IGIs), and as such, used IGIs as the foundation for Canadian indicators.

FSC has certified 200 million hectares globally, with over 50 million hectares in Canada. It offers the world's most respected and recognized standard for sustainable forest management, in part because it solicits and equally balances input from a diverse membership to achieve solutions to complex challenges, including recognition of Indigenous rights, along with the balance of conservation and economic opportunity.

NEW OR SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED REQUIREMENTS

NEW OR CHANGED REQUIREMENT	WHAT'S DIFFERENT
<p>ABORIGINAL RIGHTS (3.1 & 3.1.2)</p> <p>THE NEW STANDARD ENHANCES AND CLARIFIES "FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT" AS DEFINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES</p>	<p>Previous regional standards included requirements for free, informed consent but were less clear and precise about what was expected.</p> <p>The new Standard includes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better alignment with international laws • Clearer guidance for how to apply Free, Prior and Informed Consent within the Canadian context • New indicators in Principle 3 which facilitate constructive and process-oriented actions that promote relationship building and engagement in order to reach agreements. <p>No significant changes were made between Draft 3 and the Final version of the Standard.</p>
<p>WOODLAND CARIBOU (6.4.3 & ANNEX H)</p> <p>THIS NEW INDICATOR DIRECTLY ADDRESSES THE MANAGEMENT OF WOODLAND CARIBOU AND ITS HABITAT.</p>	<p>Previously, woodland caribou was addressed in the indicators of Criterion 6.2 of regional standards (Boreal and BC) via a generic indicator that dealt with the management all species at risk. Past audits and interpretation requests demonstrated the need for a more consistent application of the requirement.</p> <p>The new standard includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive and clear approach that aligns with species at risk legislation and provides consistent and clear expectations.

NEW OR CHANGED REQUIREMENT	WHAT'S DIFFERENT
<p>CONSERVATION AREA NETWORKS (6.5)</p> <p>CONSERVATION AREA NETWORKS REQUIRE A RIGOROUS APPROACH FOR IDENTIFYING AND SETTING ASIDE CONSERVATION AREAS.</p>	<p>While several elements for developing protected area networks are addressed in some of the regional standards, the new standard offers a more coordinated, sequential, consistent and comprehensive approach.</p> <p>The new standard includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly expanded requirements to include a sequential and structured framework, including prompting stakeholder and Indigenous involvement in identification of gaps and reaching agreements • Distinguishes between public and private lands, with a new concept introduced for private lands - 'secondary conservation lands'. <p>Since Draft 3, the globally significant target of 10% was reintroduced to better align with FSC requirements.</p>
<p>DISPUTES (1.6, 2.6, 3.2.5, 3.3.3, 4.6, 7.6)</p> <p>A CONSISTENT APPROACH HARMONIZES THE STRUCTURE, DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS - WITH THE AIM OF CREATING A MORE USER-FRIENDLY STRUCTURE FOR CERTIFICATE HOLDERS TO APPLY AND A MORE ACCESSIBLE PROCESS FOR GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO HOLD A COMPLAINT, TO USE.</p>	<p>While disputes are addressed in the regional standards they are more limited in the type of dispute, and there is variation in the approach used between standards.</p> <p>The new standard includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More concise and better requirements that are matched to the type of dispute that now also includes culturally appropriate engagement • Modified or new definitions for 'complaints', 'disputes' and 'dispute of substantial magnitude' are better matched to the Canadian context • A new structure for Criteria (and Indicators) which addresses disputes throughout the standard (1.6, 2.6, 4.6, 7.6 and 3.2.5 and 3.3.3) and is designed to address the various types of concerns raised by individuals or groups of interest to ensure the appropriate level of response and action is taken by the Organization.

NEW OR CHANGED REQUIREMENT	WHAT'S DIFFERENT
<p>LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (6.1, 6.8)</p> <p>LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS HELP SHAPE THE DIRECTION OF PRINCIPLE 6 AND HOW THE 'NATURAL' STATE OF A FOREST IS IDENTIFIED.</p>	<p>While managing landscapes is previously addressed, especially in the National Boreal Standard, there is now greater precision and consistency in moving expectations beyond stand management and considering ecological significance outside of the boundaries of the management unit.</p> <p>The new Standard includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets be set based on appropriate landscape-scale analysis (e.g. Range of natural variation, Pre-industrial condition). • This type of analysis is required for all forest types.
<p>GLOBALLY RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>IN 2012, FSC INTERNATIONAL REVISED ITS PRINCIPLES & CRITERIA. THE FSC PRINCIPLES & CRITERIA DESCRIBE THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OR RULES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY APPROPRIATE, SOCIALLY BENEFICIAL AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACROSS THE GLOBE.</p> <p>WHILE THESE NEW REQUIREMENTS DO NOT REPRESENT A GREAT RISK IN THE CANADIAN CONTEXT, INCLUDING THEM ENSURES CONSISTENCY OF FSC STANDARDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.</p>	<p>While several of these issues were addressed in some of the regional standards, many concepts and requirements are now upgraded to meet best practices globally.</p> <p>The new Standard includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An entire Principle dedicated to local communities; • An entire Principle dedicated to workers; • Globally relevant requirements for corruption and bribery; • Gender equity; • Externalities; and • Risks from natural hazards.

NEW OR CHANGED REQUIREMENT	WHAT'S DIFFERENT
<p>CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>CLIMATE CHANGE IS ADDRESSED WITHIN THE STANDARD ACROSS PRINCIPLES ON VARIOUS WAYS.</p> <p>ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES ALLOW ORGANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE REACTIVELY AS WELL AS PLAN FOR ITS EFFECTS PROACTIVELY</p>	<p>The new standard includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and carbon value considerations are in some indicators; • Some other indicators were designed to allow Organizations to introduce adaptation strategies into their management activities; • Other indicators work toward maintaining forest resiliency.
<p>ECOSYSTEM SERVICES</p> <p>FSC INTERNATIONAL HAS DEVELOPED AND EXPANDED CONCEPTS AND TOOLS FOR IDENTIFYING, MANAGING AND AUDITING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.</p>	<p>The new standard includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An optional indicator (5.1.3), that provides the opportunity for certificate holders to expand their certificate to include ecosystem services and tools for identifying, managing and auditing ecosystem services.