

TECHNICAL FAQ

FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) of
Canada

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**FORESTSTM
FOR ALL
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Version	Description	Date
V1.0	Clarification about 6.4.5b to be released	2022-06-10
V1-1	Clarification about 3.1.2 to be released	2023-06-01

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The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, nongovernment organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC's vision is that the true value of forests is recognized and fully incorporated into society worldwide. FSC is the leading catalyst and defining force for improved forest management and market transformation, shifting the global forest trend toward sustainable use, conservation, restoration, and respect for all.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this “Technical Frequently Asked Questions” document is to share the answers to complaints, comments, questions and request related to the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada (FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018) that can be addressed via a clarification. A “clarification” cannot bring new elements of information to the NFSS, must be based on existing information in the NFSS and related documents and does not have an impact on the normative requirements.

This document is maintained by FSC Canada.

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CLARIFICATIONS

Subject	NFSS Version	Question	Clarification	Date Answered
Indicator 3.1.2	1-0	<p>Question 1: Must an Organization engage directly with all affected rights holders with regards to documenting and/or mapping all elements listed in indicator 3.1.2?</p> <p>Question 2: Given the requirement includes the term “engagement”, does this mean that conformance is dependent upon the Organization having obtained such information directly from the Indigenous Peoples?</p> <p>Question 3: In order to avoid “re-inventing the wheel”, can output from government processes be used as a source of information for the purpose of documenting and mapping rights, when such information is available?</p>	<p>As the definition of “engagement” implies the involvement of “The Organization”, Indicator 3.1.2 requires The Organization to initiate a culturally appropriate engagement process with all Indigenous Peoples affected by management activities. The Standard does not state that the same level of engagement is required across right holders and acknowledges that The Organization and Indigenous communities must act in good faith and share responsibility (see Principle 3 Intent box) during the process.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Standard does not stipulate where or how information is gathered, as long as best available information (BAI) is used, as for example, BAI coming from an existing process or from another information source. Best available information is defined as:</p> <p><i>“Data, facts, documents, expert* opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders* and engagement* with Indigenous Peoples* that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable* effort and cost, subject to the scale* and intensity* of the management activities* and the Precautionary Approach*.”</i></p>	2023-06-01
Indicator 6.4.5b Table 6.4.5	1-0	Are the six (6) "Required Management Strategies" listed in Table 6.4.5 of indicator 6.4.5b to be implemented only for the portions of the Management Unit that are within caribou range, or to the entire Management Unit?	The six (6) "Required Management Strategies" listed at Table 6.4.5 of indicator 6.4.5b are only required to be implemented to the portions of the Management Unit that are within caribou range.	2022-04-28