

SFI 2015-2019 – Public Summary Report

AT Limited Partnership

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

AT Limited Partnership (AT) owns and manages approximately 765,000 acres of freehold timberlands in New Brunswick and provides management services to approximately 1.3 million acres of Crown licensed timberlands. Forest products include softwood and hardwood sawlogs, pulpwood, and biomass by-products that are sold to approximately 85 regional customers.

The operations have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®¹ (SFI) standard since 2000. The company’s SFI® representative is Kevin Topolniski, RPF.

AUDIT

During the period of 24-28 August 2020, AT Limited Partnership underwent a surveillance audit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) 2015-2019 Forest Management (FM) Standard.

The registration cycle is over five years with surveillance audits conducted annually. The audit assessed active and completed harvest operations across the management area and verified conformance through interviews with the company staff and contractors. The audit also assessed the SFI documentation and records at the company’s office including stakeholder and First Nations communication.

The SFI program third-party audit was undertaken by SAI Global. SAI Global is an independent third-party registrar that is accredited by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) Standard ensuring the integrity and credibility of the audit process.

THE AUDIT TEAM

The SAI Global audit team who performed the audit consisted of Daniel J. Simonds, CF, audit team leader. The auditor is a Licensed Professional Forester and certified lead auditor.

REGISTRATION TYPE

Certificate Type	SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard	SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard
Single site	x	

MULTI-SITE / GROUP EVALUATION

Not applicable.

¹ SFI Marks are registered marks owned by Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard

FOREST LAND AND MANGEMENT PLAN INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT SCOPE

- Crown Timber License 9 in New-Brunswick.
- Freehold land owned by the Company in New Brunswick

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

Forest management activities - planning, harvesting, transportation and silviculture on the company's private forestland holdings and operations controlled by the company on public land Crown Timber License #9 in New Brunswick. Fiber sold under this certificate counts as 100% SFI and 100% PEFC certified forest content.

AUDIT PROCESS

During this audit, the audit team evaluated the company against the objectives listed in Table 1. The evidence of compliance observed is listed in Table 2. Both tables are found in the section Evidence of conformity to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.

The audit was conducted remotely, via telephone, video conference, and document exchange, due to COVID19 travel restrictions.

A sample of document and records, staff and contractor interview, and review sites were chosen with consideration for forest management activities of the previous year. Subject selection also considered activity type, and risk factors related to the audit objectives selected for review.

SUBSTITUTE INDICATORS

No substitute indicators were evaluated during this audit.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been received; therefore the complaint handling process could not be verified. However, a procedure for receiving and handling complaints is clearly defined.

SITES REVIEWED AND ASSESSMENT TIME

Audit Activity	Duration in days
Remote Audit (ICT, telephone, etc.)	5 days
Sites	Number inspected
Road operations	1
Harvesting Blocks	11
Pre-commercial Silviculture Sites	2
Sites reviewed: 14	

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Areas of non-conformance

none

Opportunities for improvement

- (3.1.3) – Consider regular review and calibration of the point inspection data systems, to ensure they remain effective, efficient, and productive for the whole organization.

Good practices

- The organization's Management Review procedures remain a consistent strength (15.1.1)
- The organization's well-documented system and excellent staff support helped make remote auditing practical

Status of previous audit non-compliances

NC#	Type	Performance Measure #	Status (closed/upgraded to major)
2019-01	Minor	3.1.1	closed

CERTIFICATION DECISION SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Surveillance Audit

Based on the results of this surveillance audit it has been determined that the management system is effectively implemented and meets the requirements relative to the scope of registration and audit criteria, therefore, a recommendation to maintain the registration is made to SAI Global.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY TO THE SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Table 1 Objectives Audited

Objective 1	Forest Management Planning	
Objective 2	Forest Health and Productivity	X
Objective 3	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	X
Objective 4	Conservation of Biological Diversity	X
Objective 5	Management of Visual and Recreational Benefits	
Objective 6	Protection of Special Sites	
Objective 7	Efficient Use of Forest Resources	
Objective 8	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	X
Objective 9	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	X
Objective 10	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	X
Objective 11	Training and Education	X
Objective 12	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	X
Objective 13	Public Land Management Responsibilities	X
Objective 14	Communications and Public Reporting	X
Objective 15	Management Review and Continual Improvement	X

Table 2 Evidence Observed

Environmental management system (EMS) Manual	X	Cut block size calculations	
Written policies	X	Employee observation forms (species at risk, invasive plants, other values)	X
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for best management practices	X	Pre-work discussions/meeting records	
EMS and SFI field handbook	X	Monitoring records for non-timber values	
Training records (staff and contractors)	X	Utilization records	X
SFI/EMS training agenda	X	Laws, legislation, regulations records	X
Health and safety manual and/or employee policy manual	X	Annual management review records	X
Timber supply review	X	Internal audit records	X
Maps (pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, and silviculture)	X	Corrective action logs	X
Timber development standards	X	Education/community involvement records	X
Non-timber values impact assessments (riparian, visual, recreation, biodiversity, cultural heritage, other:)		Records of public inquiries and complaints	X
GIS inventories (soils, forest, land classification, non-timber values)	X	Stakeholder communications records	X
Long term management plans and sustainable harvest level calculation		Agreements and communications with Indigenous communities	X
Cutting/harvesting permits	X	Multi-licensee and/or government meeting minutes	
Operational plans (annual, cut block level)	X	Logging agreements and/or contracts	X
Wet/adverse weather plans or guidelines	X	Wood producer training programs	X
Reforestation plans	X	Wood producer information package	
Pest management plan	X	SFI Annual Report	X
Fire preparedness plan		SFI and company websites	X
Spill prevention and response plan		SFI brochure	X
Silviculture surveys and reports	X	SFI Implementation committee (participation/support)	X
Standards for seed use		Climate change information and/or meeting minutes	X
Chemical use/spray records and applicator certification	X	Research and discussion papers	X
Tree improvement reports		Support for research and science	X
Green-up records	X	External audit field inspections	X
Free to grow records	X	External audit interviews (office and field)	X
Planting program records	X	Pre-harvest inspection records	X
Harvest inspection records	X	Post-harvest inspection records	X
Road and bridge inspection records	X	Government compliance records	X

DEFINITIONS

Major Non-Conformances

Pervasive or critical to the achievement of the SFI objectives

All major non-conformances require an action plan to be implemented by the auditee within 90 days of an initial audit or registration cannot be achieved. Subsequently for surveillance audits, an action plan shall be implemented by the auditee within 60 days for the registration to be maintained.

Minor Non-Conformances

Isolated incidents that are non-critical but must be addressed before the next surveillance audit to maintain compliance to the SFI standard. Non resolved minor non-conformance will be escalated to a major non-conformance.

Opportunity for Improvement

Are not non-conformances but are comments on specific areas where improvements can be made.

Good practices

Areas that are deemed to be mentioned

MULTI-SITE / GROUP SAMPLING APPROACH

N/A – this is a single site certificate.



SAI Global forestry specialist group registers/certifies forest companies to ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, CSA Z809 and CSA Z804 SFM, SFI Forest Management, SFI CoC, SFI Fiber Sourcing, SFI Certified Sourcing Label, PEFC CoC, FSC® Forest Management, FSC® CoC.

The group, led by Sylvain Frappier, Technical Manager - Forestry, consists of a highly qualified team of professional foresters, technical and industry experts.

Contact certification.americas@saiglobal.com for more information.

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