

Forest Certification ~ WHAT'S NEW !!



BCTS
BC Timber Sales
Stuart-Nechako
EMS ISO 14001 Registered

FEBRUARY 2011 UPDATE!!

KPMG completed a CSA Z809 surveillance audit during the period October 26-29, 2010. The following is a brief summary of our audit results.

The following items were reorted as good practices during the audit:

1. The Vanderhoof DFA licensee team has made a considerable effort over the past year to address the weaknesses in the previous (2006) version of the Vanderhoof SFM plan.
2. The 2010 BCTS Stuart-Nechako management review was thorough and well documented.
3. Review of a sample of site plans and supporting information found that they were of a high quality, and included clear statements regarding their conformance with FSP management strategies and how other resources values had been addressed in the plan.
4. Inspection of a sample of bridges on the Witch FSR noted a number of examples of the effective use of geotextile re-inforced bridge abutments as an alternative to lock-blocks.
5. All of the LPCs that were working on the active timber sales included in the 2010 audit sample had made timely decisions to shut down bunching and skidding operations in light of the recent wet weather.

No major non-conformities were identified during the audit.

The following 2 minor non-conformities were identified during the audit:

(1) Client Procedure: EFP 06 – Fuel Handling Environmental Field Procedure

Applicability: Fort St. James DFA

- ➔ The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations required that all large (greater than 450 litre) non-specification fuel tanks be taken out of service as of January 1, 2010. This requirement is also reflected in EFP-06. However, inspection of an active MSP site found that two large, skid-mounted fuel tanks were still being used by the site preparation contractor.

(2) Client Procedure: EFP 06 – Fuel Handling Environmental Field Procedure

Applicability: Fort St. James DFA

- ➔ EFP 06 – Fuel Handling Environmental Procedure outlines the requirements for spill kits, including minimum spill kit requirements. However, inspection of an active MSP site found that the spill kits associated with two large, skid-mounted fuel tanks contained significantly less spill kit materials than required under EFP 06. In addition, the excavator operating on the site did not have a spill kit as required under this procedure.

**** Although these minor non-conformances were discovered as isolated events, this note is a reminder to all our clients to please review the requirement in EFP 06 prior to commencement of operations. ****

CNC TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: http://www.cnc.bc.ca/Campuses/Nechako_Campus.htm

NEXT AUDIT! ~ CSA-ISO Internal Audit FEBRUARY 22-24, 2011

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AUGUST 2009 UPDATE!!

July 20, 2009 Correspondence

Stuart-Nechako BC Timber Sales - Licensees, Permittees and Contractors

RE: Forest Certification Communication

Dear Licensee, Permittee or Contractor:

This letter is to communicate important information regarding Stuart-Nechako BC Timber Sales (TSN) Certification Initiatives.

BCTS Single ISO 14001 Forest Certification

TSN is moving towards one single ISO14001 certificate with the rest of the provincial BCTS forestry operations commencing August 4, 2009. Over the last 3 months, provincial working groups have been working on improving the overall framework of the BCTS Environmental Management System (EMS) which resulted in many document changes and improvements to the BCTS EMS. As a result of these changes, the majority of related BCTS EMS document templates will be the same throughout all of BCTS forestry operations regardless of where you may be operating.

NEW! TSN EMS Field Manuals & Booklets

Due to the changes made to the BCTS EMS, TSN will be implementing new EMS Field Manuals and Booklets from August 4, 2009 – September 4, 2009. Please destroy or replace the old red TSN EMS Field Manuals & Booklets (dated January 16, 2006) with the new TSN EMS Manuals & Booklets (dated August 1, 2006). This can be done by the following methods:

1. Upon the completion of a BCTS prework, you will receive new TSN EMS Manuals & Booklets from a BCTS staff representative. Please replace any old TSN EMS Manuals & Booklets from previous projects if applicable at this time.
2. You can bring the old TSN EMS Field Manuals & Booklets to reception at the Ministry of Forests & Range Fort St. James or Vanderhoof forest district offices, where by reception will replace the obsolete documents with the new TSN EMS Manuals & Booklets.

NEW! Public & Client TSN Certification Web Page

The TSN Certification Web Page (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TSN_certification.htm) will be reformatted and updated as of August 4, 2009 as a result of the BCTS EMS document changes as well as web page improvements to better suite our clients' and public needs. You will have full access to important communications of change as well as other Certification related resource materials.

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On Site Managed Documentation

Please ensure that the following documents are kept in the field on site of your project activities and available to all workers including your employees and sub-contractor workers for the duration of your project:

- TSN EMS Field Manual (project supervisors)
- TSN EMS Field Booklets (workers)
- Pre-work & Inspection documentation
- Emergency Preparedness and Response documentation

TSN Certification Audit Program

For your information, TSN forestry operations were audited by KPMG in an important external audit this past April 2009. An ISO14001 (2004) surveillance audit and CSA Z809 (2002) re-registration audit for both Vanderhoof and Fort St. James Sustainable Forest Management Plans were completed.

Although there were a number of constraints due to the timing of the audit and access issues, 9 engineering, 8 TSL and 2 silviculture forestry operations were visited and audited.

There were a number of good practices noted pertaining to external forestry activities including the following items:

~ The audit noted a number of examples of timely seasonal deactivation (installation of crossditches, removal of log-fill culverts) of the on-block roads in winter 2008/09 harvest blocks.

~ The audit found that BCTS Stuart-Nechako continues to work towards maintaining good relations with other resource users. For example, we noted one recently harvested block in the Ocock operating area that included coarse woody debris structures adjacent to block boundaries. The structures had been requested by the local trapper, and are designed to create new habitat for fur-bearers.

I am pleased to inform you that there were no audit findings related to TSN clients' forestry operations.

The overall audit conclusions were stated as follows:

The audit found that BCTS Stuart-Nechako's environmental and sustainable forest management system: was in full conformance with the requirements of the ISO 14001 and CSA Z809 requirements included within the scope of the audit, except where noted otherwise in this report; continues to be effectively implemented, and; is sufficient to systematically meet the commitments included within the Operation's environmental and SFM policy, provided that the system continues to be implemented and maintained as required. As a result, a decision has been reached by the lead auditor to recommend that BCTS Stuart-Nechako continue to be registered to the ISO 14001 and CSA Z809 standards.

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The next audits are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Internal Audit (CSA Z809) – November/December 2009

External Audit (CSAZ809 & ISO14001) – September/October 2009

Please ensure to monitor the following TSN Certification web page for future upcoming information and current status update: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TSN_certification.htm

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter please contact Kyla Pollard, Certification Standards Officer at (250) 567-6363.

Yours truly,

Rick Sommer, RPF
Timber Sales Manager
Stuart-Nechako Business Area
BC Timber Sales