Independent forest certification provides a stamp of approval that shows customers that they are buying products from forests managed to comprehensive environmental, social and economic standards. A certificate is issued only after a thorough review by third-party auditors determines that, among other things, long-term harvests are sustainable, there is no unauthorized or illegal logging, wildlife habitat is preserved, and soil quality is maintained.

Canadian forest managers certify their lands to forest management standards offered under three internationally recognized programs: Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). All three set high thresholds that forest companies must clear, above and beyond Canada’s tough regulatory requirements. Both the CSA and SFI standards, developed as Canadian and American standards respectively, are accepted globally under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world’s largest forest certification system. FSC is accepted globally using regional standards. SFI is the largest forest certification system in North America.

Certification standards are tailored to take into account global forestry issues as well as circumstances specific to the Canadian landscape such as the livelihood of local communities and the interests of Aboriginal people. A sample list of values for the standards is outlined on the reverse page.

Chain-of-custody and product labelling are also common features of each of these programs. Chain-of-custody is a set of administrative and technical requirements (including inventory control) for tracing wood sources from their origins to the first mill through to the end user.

FOREST CERTIFICATION SENDS A STRONG MESSAGE ON SUSTAINABILITY

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers recognizes CSA, FSC and SFI as being consistent with national and international agreements related to sustainable forest management and meeting criteria for balancing interests and being objective, science-based, implementable and practical. Looking for suppliers that use certification to prove they are committed to sustainability is an easy and effective way to choose responsible wood, pulp and paper products.
FPAC advocates on behalf of the forest sector. FPAC is also working to realize the ambitious goals of Vision2020 to help the industry transform with innovative new products, diversified markets, enhanced environmental credentials and a skilled workforce. FPAC is proud to represent Canada’s largest producers of forest products.

All FPAC members are signatories of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. Our members are responsible for 66% of certified forest lands in Canada. Third-party certification of member companies’ forest practices is a condition of membership in the Association — a world first.