



Public Briefing Paper for
FSC® Chain of Custody/Controlled Wood Forest Management Audit of
Samartex Timber & Plywood Ltd in SAMREBOI, GHANA

7th May 2019

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting controlled wood forest management and chain of custody certification audit at Samartex Timber & Plywood Ltd (SAX) located in SAMREBOI, GHANA. The Audit will be implemented from 19th to 23rd August 2019.

Scope of the Certification Evaluation – The controlled wood forest management certification audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the SAX's operations, using the Forest Stewardship Council standard for Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-30-010 v2-0) available at <https://ic.fsc.org/en/certification/requirements-guidance/normative-framework/standards> http. To obtain a copy of the applicable standards and guidelines, please contact NEPCon by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. You may also access the FSC standards at www.fsc.org. NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) and this evaluation process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Evaluation Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by NANA DARKO COBBINA who is a Forester. The other team members will be: ANTHONY PRAH and ERIC OFORI AGYEKUM.

Evaluation Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Evaluation commencement – The NEPCon team will assemble in SAMREBOI on 18th August 2019.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit some of the sites managed by SAX from 19th to 23rd August 2019 at;
 1. Boin River Forest Reserve
 2. Yoyo River Forest Reserve
 3. Tano Anwia Forest Reserve
 4. Tano Nimre Forest Reserve
 5. Suhuma Forest Reserve
 6. Totua Shelter Belt Forest Reserve
 7. Bura River Forest Reserve
 8. Angoben Shelter Belt Forest Reserve
 9. Fure Headwaters Forest Reserve
 10. Fure River Forest Reserve
 11. Draw River Forest Reserve
 12. Nueng South Forest Reserve
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding SAX's operations. This may include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Final evaluation briefing – Prior to departure, the team will meet with SAX's managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.

- ◆ Draft report production – The evaluation team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to SAX. This should occur after 21 days of completion of the audit.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from SAX's certification managers and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur within 60 days after completion of the evaluation.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the controlled wood forest management assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on SAX's sourcing practices in relation to conformance with the requirements of the relevant FSC Controlled Wood standards referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the evaluation process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the evaluation, during the evaluation, or prior to 30th September 2019 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision within 60 days after the assessment. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon evaluation team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Eric Ofori Agyekum, the NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification evaluation from Kumasi. If Eric Ofori Agyekum is not in the office, please give your comments to Sandra Razanamandranto.
3. Submit written comments by email to Eric Ofori Agyekum. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the controlled sourcing practices of SAX.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential and available to only the FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at <https://www.nepcon.org/dispute-resolution-policy>.

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Eric Ofori Agyekum, egyekum@nepcon.org
- ◆ Sandra Razanamandranto, srazanamandranto@nepcon.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website – <https://www.nepcon.org>.
- ◆ Telephone – +233 (0) 23 300 8813
- ◆ Mail address – PMB CT 435, CANTONMENT ACCRA