

Date of notice : August 5, 2019



Public notification

FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-assessment

Syndicat des Producteurs Forestiers du Sud du Québec (SPFSQ)

And

Syndicat des Producteurs de Bois de la Gaspésie (SPBG)

In

Sherbrooke and New Richmond, Québec, Canada

Introduction

NEPCon is conducting an FSC® forest management and chain of custody re-assessment audit of SPFSQ and SPBG located in Sherbrooke and New Richmond, Québec, Canada. The evaluation will be conducted during the week of September 16 and October 14, 2019.

Scope of Evaluation

The FSC® re-assessment audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest tracts managed by SPFSQ and SPBG using the FSC Great Lakes St. Lawrence Standard (2010) [\)https://ra.secure.force.com/SWPubDocs/PublicFiles?folder=Interim_Standards](https://ra.secure.force.com/SWPubDocs/PublicFiles?folder=Interim_Standards)

NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® and this evaluation must follow procedures which have been approved.

Team Composition

The audit will be conducted by Ugo Lapointe, biologist, with Mylène Raimbault, ing. F.

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Steps and Schedule

Following is a short description of the evaluation process and a tentative agenda:

- Field visits - The on-site portion of the evaluation, including field visits of recent and active forest management operations, will be conducted during the week of September 16 and October 14, 2019.
- Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding the forest management activities of SPFSQ and SPBG in communities surrounding the forest area. This can include private interviews and discussions as well as public meetings.
- Final evaluation briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with the SPFSQ and SPBG and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- Draft report production – The audit team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to the SPFSQ and SPBG. This should occur within one month after completion of the evaluation.
- Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the SPFSQ and SPBG forest managers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by January 1st, 2020.

Your Input Sought

As a part of the audit process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on the SPFSQ and SPFBG forest management activities in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard 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 process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior or during the on-site audit so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating FSC® your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly prior to fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to the NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment or submit written comments by mail or email.

Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential, available only to FSC and NEPCon staff and are solely for the purposes of assessing the certificate holder. The source of any information provided will be kept confidential.

Contacting Audit Team

Ugo Lapointe

- ◆ Email: lapointe.u@gmail.com
- ◆ Telephone: +1 (514) 715-6606

Contacting NEPCon

Yves Bouthillier

- ◆ Email: ybouthillier@nepcon.org
- ◆ Telephone: 438-830-2434
- ◆ Worldwide Website: www.nepcon.org

Mailing address NEPCon Canada Inc. PO box 1771, Chelsea QC, J9B1A1

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