

Boise Paper Holdings, L.L.C. and Boise Cascade, L.L.C. Public Summary Report Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard [2005-2009 Edition]

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) completed a SFI Surveillance Assessment of Boise Paper Holdings, L.L.C. and Boise Cascade, L.L.C.’s raw material procurement system at its Mid West Region operations in International Falls, Minnesota on October 7, 2009. The lead assessor was Joann Meyer Cox, CF/FCA, EMS (LA).

The certificate scope includes all procurement operations carried out under Boise’s company-wide Fiber and Wood Procurement System in the states of Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Louisiana and Alabama. The procurement practices for all of Boise’s Mid West Region Procurement groups were assessed against Objectives 8 through 13 of the SFI Standard [2005-2009 Edition].

Boise manages its SFI Program through a centralized management structure that provides a consistent approach to procurement throughout the organization. The primary objective of the audit was to assess the SFI management system at the corporate level and evaluate Boise’s continued implementation of the SFI Standard, using a continuous certification approach.

Indicators

All of the indicators associated with Objectives 8 through 13 in the SFI Standard were included within the audit scope. There were no substitute indicators.

Assessment Process

The assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of SFI program requirements in the field. The report was dated October 30, 2009.

Summary of Findings

There were no major or minor non-conformities identified during the audit.

Opportunities for improvement were identified in the following areas:

- Opportunity to develop a more meaningful and consistent approach to track and document harvest progression and actions taken to address pertinent contract requirements.
- Opportunity to develop additional guidance for procurement personnel to facilitate more consistent contract administration.

- Opportunity to develop an in-woods spill kit policy to provide clarity on Boise's spill prevention and control requirements for contractors.

Good management practices were identified in the following areas:

- Demonstrating leadership on the Minnesota State Implementation Committee (SIC) which resulted in a precedent setting Habitat for Humanity building project which has been adopted by other US and Canadian SICs, and the development of a prototype Minnesota Logger Education program on transportation import/export requirements between Canada and the United States.
- Development of comprehensive harvest plans for private landowners that exemplify the protection of long-term forest and soil productivity and promote the practice of sustainable forestry.
- Demonstrated working relationship with State and County agency personnel to amend the planned winter harvests to well executed summer harvests that minimize harvesting impacts on soils and water resources.
- Commitment to exceed water quality BMPs by locating alternate haul routes to avoid stream crossings and by building "ice bridges" to cross streams to minimize the impact of stream crossings.

Conclusion

Boise's procurement operations continue to be certified to the SFI Standard. The Certificate of Registration can be obtained by contacting Brad Holt, Forest Certification Manager, of Boise Cascade (208-384-7514).