



# VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION VERSUS REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

CEAA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE  
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# PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- MNR regulatory framework for SFM
- MNR & certification of SFM
- MNR'S involvement in certification
- Role of regulatory vs. voluntary requirements

# MNR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SFM

- Legislated requirements – CFSA & EA Declaration Order
  - policy development/review, scientific research
  - forest management plan, monitoring, **independent auditing & reporting**
- Voluntary certification requirements (example)
  - SFM Plan, policy, training, communication and 3rd party audit
- Considerable duplication



# FOREST CERTIFICATION

- Third party assessment of forest mgmt against established criteria or standards
- International, marketing tool
- Voluntary and independent of government
- ISO EMS 14001, FSC, CAN/CSA-Z809 SFM Standard, SFI



# CERTIFICATION POSITION

- Ontario MNR committed to ensuring forest sustainability  $\Rightarrow$  legislation, regulation, policy, monitoring, auditing, training and reporting framework
- Support for certification - commitment through CCFM
- Chosen not to endorse any particular system or standard of certification





## MNR'S INVOLVEMENT

- Provide technical and policy advice during development of certification systems
- Encourage systems to utilize scientific knowledge, consider efficiency and provide fair market access
- Be proactive in facilitating successful voluntary certification



# CAN/CSA-Z809 SFM STANDARD (EXAMPLE)

- MNR - member of technical committee that developed original and revised standard
- 1999 KPMG completed comparison between ISO, CSA and MNR requirements
- Concluded  $\Rightarrow$  strong overlap, especially at forest level



# MOU BETWEEN MNR AND SCC

- Signed Nov. 2002
- Agreement to recognize each other's requirements and work toward more efficient processes
- Joint Management Committee & Technical Working Group
- Provides for development of 2 guidance documents - auditee & auditor





# GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

- Purpose
  - facilitate successful certification for Ontario companies
  - more efficient processes and auditing
- Mechanism
  - compare existing regulatory requirements to specific registration/certification requirements
  - provide guidance for capturing duplication
- One audit is not intended to replace the other

# VOLUNTARY VS. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS - 1

- Profound differences in mandate
- Independent Forest Audit
  - legally mandated audit of Management Unit
  - minimum 5 year cycle
  - compliance, effectiveness & assessment of SFM
  - tied to licence extension
  - mandatory action plan
  - reports to and accountable to Ontario public



# VOLUNTARY VS. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS - 2

- Certification audits
  - voluntary - scope set by standard and auditee
  - delivered by SCC (or FSC) accredited registrar or certifier
  - CSA
    - Focus on requirements of CAN/CSA-Z809
    - 3 year cycle with annual surveillance audits
    - Non-conformances must be resolved to be certified

# CONCLUSION

- Regulatory cannot be replaced by voluntary due to legislative requirements & public accountability
  - Recognize commonalities/ differences  $\Rightarrow$  more efficient processes
- Quote - former minister
  - “At the end of the day, the people in Ontario will not hold CSA, FSC or anyone who seeks to certify responsible for the proper management of their forest, they will hold the government and the Ministry of Natural Resources to account. We cannot abdicate that responsibility, we cannot transfer it, we are compelled to it by law and are compelled to it morally.”



