



# EMS Auditing in the BC Forestry Sector

An exercise in keeping up with Continual  
Improvement...

# Presentation Overview

- **Certification in BC Forestry**
- **BC Forestry Activities and Aspects**
- **Challenges for BC Forestry EMS's**
- **Audit Focus – The Early Years (ie: 2001)**
- **Continual Improvement Initiatives**
- **Audit Focus – Currently**
- **What's Next**

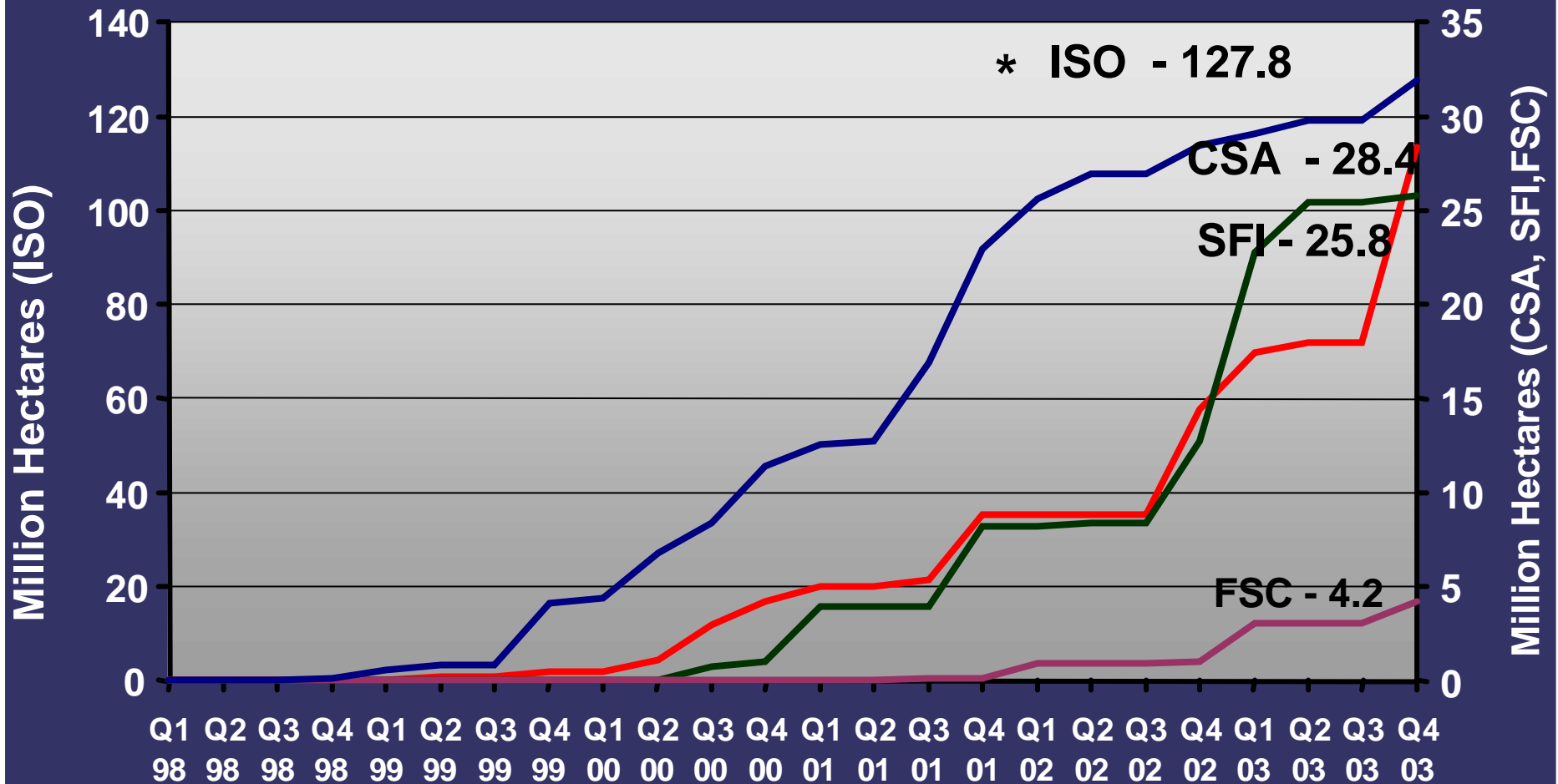
# Certification Drivers

- **Large buyers of wood products – eg: typical wood procurement statements:**
  - End sourcing from endangered forests
  - Promote sustainable forest management
  - Give preference to products from forests 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified to sustainable forest management standards
- **Peers – eg: Forest Products Association of Canada requires all members to have certification by end of 2006**

# Certification in BC Forestry

- **ISO 14001**
  - describes the necessary elements of an effective environmental management system (EMS)
- **CSA Z809(2002)**
  - describes how a sustainable forestry management plan (SFMP) should be developed, implemented, and maintained
- **SFI**
  - similar in scope and application to CSA Z809, American
- **FSC**
  - similar in scope and application to CSA Z809, International
- **PEFC**
  - mutual recognition?

## Forest Management Certification Status in Canada (Q1-1998 to Q4-2003)



**Source:** \* Note ISO is represented by a different scale than CSA, FSC and SFI. ISO, CSA, SFI stats tracked by Kathy Abusow for FPAC, and FSC stats from FSC International web-site. Prepared by Kathy Abusow - December 2003

# BC Forestry – Activities

- **Planning**
  - long term, short term
- **Roads**
  - construction, maintenance, deactivation
- **Harvesting**
  - conventional, cable, helicopter
- **Silviculture**
  - preparation, planting, tending

# BC Forestry - Aspects

- **During “Operational” activities (ie: harvesting, roads, and silviculture):**
  - slope / terrain stability
  - soil degradation
  - water quality / drainage patterns
  - fire
  - fuel / chemical spills
  - wildlife habitat / rare and endangered species
- **During Planning activities:**
  - None?

# Challenges in BC Woodlands EMS's

- **Activity takes place in the woods...**
- **Reliance on Contractors**
  - Preworks
  - Inspections
- **Little-known and/or un-enforced regulations**
- **“Systems-deprived” cultures in many companies**



# Audit Focus – the Early Years

- **Field staff and contractors engaged in roads- and harvesting-related activities**
  - Adherence to plans
  - Training and awareness
  - Fuel storage
  - Emergency preparedness
- **Ignored Planning Activities / Impacts**

























# Where is BC Forestry Now?

- **Change in Regulatory Approach**
  - prescriptive Forest Practices Code replaced with results-based Forest and Range Practices Act
- **Addressing planning-related aspects (e.g.: biodiversity, ecosystem management, forest productivity, land conversion)**
- **Moving towards Sustainable Forestry Management certifications – CSA, SFI, and FSC**
- **Addressing social and economic aspects (e.g.: First Nations, recreation/other users, employment)**



# New Audit Topics

- **Public Advisory Group / First Nations communication and input into planning processes**
- **Ability to monitor and report on all indicators**
- **Accuracy of monitoring and reported performance**
- **Relevancy of indicators regarding SFM**











# Where to next?

- **More ISO certifications – BC Timber Sales, small licencees**
- **More SFM certifications – Licencee groups representing forest management areas**
- **Some companies to drop ISO 14001 certification?**
  - FPAC requires CSA, SFI or FSC
- **Changing needs for auditor skills:**
  - Forestry / environmental expertise required, in addition to general systems auditing skills