



## What's New in this Revision of CSA/CAN Z809

*(As of August 3, 2015, at the start of Public Review Period)*

**MAJOR CHANGES** in this draft, fourth revision of the CSA Z809 standard are:

**Aboriginal Relations:** A stronger, standalone section specific to Aboriginal people has been created in a new Criterion 7 called "Aboriginal Relations". Requirements in this section highlight the importance of building good relationships, being flexible in ways of involving willing Aboriginal communities in forest management planning, and incorporating Aboriginal and treaty rights into forestry plans.

The CSA Z809 standard is based on the Criteria and Indicators Framework of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). It now also contains an additional criterion specific to Aboriginal people.

**Public Involvement:** Headings in the public involvement section are now more descriptive and accurate, and the content required in reports of audit results has been expanded.

**Water:** A core requirement for meeting prescriptions that protect water features has been added. Public advisory groups will be required to help identify new targets to meet the requirements of this indicator.

**Heritage Values:** Heritage features were added to the list of special sites of geological, biological, or cultural significance. Management strategies for the long-term maintenance of these sites will be developed and implemented.

**Safety:** A separate element has been created for requirements related to the safety of employees, contractors, and affected communities.

**Economic and Social Benefits:** Requirements for management that sustains a mix of timber and non-timber benefits, and for contributing to the sustainability of communities, were clarified.

**Forecasts:** Forecasting of indicators and targets has been clarified. A true measure of success in implementing sustainable forest management requirements is comparing the indicator conditions that evolve over time with those that were forecast (expected), then assessing the acceptability of variances. While a quantitative analysis may be needed to forecast some indicators (such as those found in timber supply models), other indicators will rely more on professional and public judgement.

Volume-based Tenures: There are situations where an organization holds a licence to harvest specific volumes of timber within a Defined Forest Area (DFA), but does not hold overall forest management responsibilities for the area. In that case the organization may now identify analysis units applicable to the DFA that are used to determine objectives, indicators, and targets for each element. The analysis units may be smaller or larger than the DFA.

Group Certification: An alternative approach to forest certification which allows multiple forest managers or owners to certify public or private forest land under a single certificate, has been added.

Annual Internal Audits: The requirement for an annual internal audit has been removed, recognizing that internal monitoring and annual external audits must occur, and that under group certification there are requirements to annually monitor conformance with the Standard.

SFM Plan Implementation – The requirement to demonstrate links between short-term operational plans and the CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan has been removed, recognizing that SFM Plan targets may be implemented through a variety of operational mechanisms (such as standard operating procedures) that may not include short-term operational plans. SFM results continue to be evaluated and reported on annually.

Streamlining Plans: It has been clarified that if the forest management plan and associated reports submitted under provincial requirements meet a CSA/CAN Z809 requirement, the CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plan can refer to where the requirement has already been addressed, reducing redundant planning and reporting.

System Requirements: ISO 14001 management system requirements (such as emergency preparedness and response, training and awareness, communication, document control, and structure and responsibility) are retained, but some of the detailed requirements within each section are removed.

Preventive Action: A separate requirement for preventive action has been removed since preventive action is already part of the system requirements. (One of the key purposes of a management system is to act as a preventive tool). This change helps to maintain consistency with ISO 14001:2015.

Definitions: Several definitions were revised and others were added or deleted, to correspond with the changes made in this draft revision of the standard.

Readability: The standard and the accompany guidance have been kept separate. Previously the requirements of the standard were repeated in the guidance section. This format change will eliminate duplication and potential confusion.

### **IMPORTANT STRENGTHS THAT REMAIN:**

Developed for Canada: The CSA Z809 standard was written specifically for Canada and its publicly-owned forests. It:

- Was built on top of strong legislative frameworks that govern forestry;
- Follows the CCFM Framework for Sustainable Forest Management, which in turn is based on international agreement; and
- Sets the benchmark for community involvement.

Active Community Voice in Forest Management: Local advisory committees are involved in identifying values, objectives, indicators and targets for criteria and indicators of Sustainable

Forest Management. They also participate in annual reviews of performance against targets agreed upon in Sustainable Forest Management Plans written under the CSA requirements, and continual improvement discussions.

Current, Relevant and Evolving: Performance goals are achieved, then continually improved upon through a management system of planning, implementing, checking, corrective actions and management reviews.

Transparency: The following information must be made publicly available:

- CSA Sustainable Forest Management Plans;
- Annual reports on progress against those plans; and
- Results of independent certification and surveillance audit reports.

Independent: Important firewalls in place to provide independence and transparency between the process of developing the standard, the approval of the standard, and accreditation of the certifiers.

Labels for Forest Products with Integrity: The CSA forest certification program includes using the PEFC Chain of Custody. This provides a measure of the portion of a wood product that has been sourced from a certified forest, and assurance that any remaining portion has come from legal and non-controversial sources.

### **Have your say on the revised Z809 standard, beginning on August 3, 2015:**

Please visit [Welcome to the Public Review System | CSA Public Review System](#) to provide your comments

For details on how to comment, please visit: [Providing comments on the upcoming Sustainable Forestry Management Standard \(Z809\)](#)

*For more information, please contact:*

#### **Priya Patel**

Project Manager, Natural Resources, CSA Group

T 416-747-2004 | F 416-401-6779  
178 Rexdale Boulevard | Toronto, ON| M9W 1R3

[priya.patel@csagroup.org](mailto:priya.patel@csagroup.org)  
[www.csagroup.org](http://www.csagroup.org)