

MAJOR ENHANCEMENTS IN THE SFI FIBER SOURCING STANDARD ADDRESS KEY SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

Working together is critical to ensuring the sustainability of our planet. People and organizations are seeking solutions that go beyond limiting negative impacts to make positive contributions to the long-term health of the planet. Sustainable forests, and products sourced from those forests, are a great tool to move towards shared sustainability goals such as climate action, reduced waste, clean water, and economic development.

SFI standards, when leveraged with our three other pillars of work—conservation, community, and education—provide practical, scalable solutions for markets and communities working to pursue this growing commitment to a sustainable planet. When companies, consumers, educators, and community and sustainability leaders collaborate with SFI, they are making active, positive choices to achieve a sustainable future.

Through SFI standards, more forests are sustainably managed, which means more effort is put into conserving healthy wildlife, providing clean water, and making more sustainable wood, paper, and packaging products available for consumers and companies. Choosing SFI is a practical choice that helps combat climate change, conserve nature, and increase the number of products in the marketplace that have a positive impact on the planet.

SFI Standards are made up of Objectives, Performance Measures and Indicators. An Objective is a fundamental goal an organization must achieve for sustainable forest management. The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard has 11 Objectives and covers a diversity of Objectives which are highlighted on the next page.



BETTER CHOICES FOR THE PLANET

SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1. BIODIVERSITY IN FIBER SOURCING



OBJECTIVE 2. ADHERENCE TO BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



OBJECTIVE 3. USE OF QUALIFIED RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS, QUALIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONALS AND SFI-CERTIFIED LOGGING COMPANIES



OBJECTIVE 4. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE



OBJECTIVE 5. FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



OBJECTIVE 6. TRAINING AND EDUCATION



OBJECTIVE 7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH



OBJECTIVE 8. PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES



OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING



OBJECTIVE 10. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT



OBJECTIVE 11. AVOID CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES



MAJOR ENHANCEMENTS IN THE SFI FIBER SOURCING STANDARD ADDRESS KEY SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

A regular, transparent process for revision of the SFI standards is a critical part of SFI's commitment to continual improvement. By leveraging expertise across our network through focused engagement, and by including open comment periods, SFI creates standards that are grounded in science, include diverse perspectives, and benefit consumers, communities, and ultimately forests across the U.S. and Canada. This commitment to collaboration strengthens the positive impact of our standards in addressing sustainability challenges.

The goal for the SFI standards revision process is to create standards that are grounded in science, include diverse perspectives, and benefit consumers, communities, and ultimately forests across the U.S. and Canada. To achieve this goal SFI ensured strong participation from a diverse group of individuals representing forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, governments, and universities.

Starting in October 2019, SFI officially launched a two-year process that included two public comment periods, a dozen webinars, and over 30 task group meetings. Nearly 2,300 individuals and organizations participated in webinars and/or submitted comments on the draft SFI 2022 standards.

From this two-year process, major engagements in the SFI standards were made to address key sustainability challenges. The following pages highlight those major enhancements.

BIODIVERSITY



CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES



SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES



LOGGER TRAINING



SFI SOLUTIONS NOW, MORE THAN EVER

MAJOR ENHANCEMENTS IN THE SFI FIBER SOURCING STANDARD



FOREST CONSERVATION

LANDSCAPE BIODIVERSITY IN FIBER SOURCING. FIBER SOURCING STANDARD—OBJECTIVE 1, PERFORMANCE MEASURE 1.2



Non-certified landowners represent the majority of the fiber supply in the U.S. SFI pays special attention to these landowners through requirements in the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard.

A new requirement was added to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard for SFI-certified organizations to conduct an assessment on FECVs across their wood and fiber supply area. This strengthens the standard's requirements for addressing conservation of biodiversity at both the local and landscape level.

Further edits ensure that the use of qualified logging professionals contributes to the recognition and protection of FECVs and ensures the promotion of conservation of FECV for purchased stumpage.

DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS



CUSTOMERS WANT TO KNOW THAT FIBER IN PRODUCTS DOES NOT COME FROM CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

When procuring fiber, avoiding controversial sources is critical to achieving sustainability targets. Recognizing this, SFI developed a new definition of controversial sources along with expanded requirements for a due diligence system to assess the risk of controversial sources entering a certified organization's supply chain. SFI also has a unified approach to controversial sources and due diligence across all standards. This new requirement is in the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard, and the new SFI Certified Sourcing Standard.

Guidance was developed for use by certified organizations when assessing the risk of controversial sources in their supply chain.



MAJOR ENHANCEMENTS IN THE SFI FIBER SOURCING STANDARD



LOGGER TRAINING

FIBER SOURCING STANDARD—OBJECTIVES 3 & 6



LOGGERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE ON THE GROUND IMPLEMENTING THE SFI STANDARDS. LOGGER TRAINING HAS BEEN A KEY COMPONENT OF SFI SINCE 1995

Loggers who are aware of their responsibility as professionals are better equipped to protect the environment, underscoring the importance of logger training as a core requirement in both the SFI Forest Management Standard and SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. By the end of 2019, 214,000 loggers and foresters had completed training programs approved by SFI Implementation Committees.

Requirements for promotion and use of qualified logging professionals, qualified resource professionals and certified logging companies are now in Objective 3 of the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. A new performance measure (3.2) ensures certified organizations maximize the delivery of their raw materials from qualified logging professionals or certified logging companies.

All requirements for logger training are now in Objective 6. Performance Measure 6.2 is reorganized into two indicators, with Indicator 6.2.1 detailing the core training requirements needed to attain qualified logging professional status. Indicator 6.2.2 has the continuing education requirements needed to maintain qualified logging professional status. These enhancements add more structure to the qualified logging professional training requirements and raise the overall quality and impact of logger training.

The definition of “certified logging company” was updated to ensure the requirements for a certified logging company build on the already high level of training provided by qualified logging professional training programs. Specifically, key personnel are required to complete a SFI Implementation Committee approved qualified logging professional training program. Certified logging companies are required to hold independent, in-the-forest verification of conformance with a logger certification program.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS INVOLVING SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

Using a cooperative approach where appropriate could result in efficiencies and consistency of application for the certified organizations. As such, the new Fiber Sourcing Standard stipulate several requirements that could be effectively addressed through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees. Examples include working cooperatively to address conservation of biological diversity, forest research, improvement in logger training, outreach to landowners, and implementing a risk assessment for the avoidance of controversial sources.

