

SFI Chain of Custody Standard

Biodiversity and Species Protection

July 1, 2022

Why It Matters

According to the United Nations' [State of the World's Forests report](#), our world's forests are home to the majority of all wildlife, with 80 percent of amphibian species, 75 percent of bird species, and 68 percent of the world's mammal species. Maintaining this biodiversity is critical for a healthy planet, and biodiversity conservation has become a priority for customers, brand owners, and the ESG community.

Sourcing fiber from certified lands gives consumers, customers and the ESG community certain assurances, but it is equally important to ensure the sustainability of the non-certified forest fiber in forest-based products and ensure this fiber does not come from controversial sources. This can be defined as the deforested areas, converted areas, illegal logging, or other risks associated with forest products.

How The SFI Chain of Custody Standard Addresses Biodiversity and Species Protection

The SFI Chain of Custody Standard requires SFI-certified organizations to assess the risk of sourcing forest fiber from controversial sources including forest activities that are contributing to regional declines in habitat conservation and species protection. If an SFI-certified organization determines they are sourcing from such areas, they will need to mitigate this risk of sourcing this forest fiber.

SFI Chain of Custody Standard Requirements

Part 7 - DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL

7.3 Develop and Implement a Due Diligence System

- 7.3.1** The SFI-certified organization shall develop and implement a Due Diligence System (DDS) to assess and manage the risk of sourcing forest-based products from controversial sources in accordance with the requirements of this standard.
- 7.3.2** The DDS risk assessment shall classify material into low- and high-risk categories
- 7.3.3** The risk assessment shall be carried out at the regional level unless risk is consistent at the national level.
- 7.3.4** The SFI-certified organization shall review, and if necessary, revise its risk ratings on at least an annual basis.
- 7.3.5** The SFI-certified organization shall conduct a risk assessment before the first time of delivery for each new region of supply.

DEFINITION OF CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

- b. Forest activities that are contributing to regional declines in habitat conservation and species protection (including biodiversity and special sites, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and key biodiversity areas, threatened and endangered species).
- g. Illegal Logging including trade in CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed species.

SFI's Standard Development Process

As part of SFI's commitment to continual improvement, we revise the SFI standards every 5 years. This last revision process included two public comment periods, a dozen webinars, and nearly 2,300 individuals and organizations commenting on the 2022 Standards. This ensures everyone has a voice in shaping the SFI Standards.

Independent Third-Party Certification

Organizations certified to the SFI Standards are also required to undergo annual audits by independent and accredited certification bodies to deliver ongoing conformance. Third-party independent certification is critical to verify that requirements set out in the SFI standards and supporting documents are met.