



# **SECTION 11**

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING**

**October 7, 2021**

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## 1. Preparing and Submitting a Public Report — *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*

A *Certified Organization* shall provide a summary audit report (one copy must be in English) to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of certification, recertification, or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*. The summary audit report will be posted on the [SFI Inc. website](#) for public review.

1.1 The *certification body* shall prepare the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* summary audit report, which shall include, at a minimum:

- a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;  
This shall include:
  - the specific SFI objectives that were within the scope of the audit;
  - a description of the sampling approach (consistent with IAF MD-1 and, where appropriate, adopting a risk-based approach) outlining the strata, location and number of sites sampled and the percentage of sites sampled within each stratum;
  - the sampling size, including the number of roads, harvesting blocks and silviculture sites physically inspected during the audit.
- b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
- c. the name of *Certified Organization* that was audited, including its SFI representative;
- d. a general description of the *Certified Organization's* forest land included in the audits;

This shall include:

- **a general** description of the management plan outlining forest management policies and objectives;
- **an outline** of the area of ownership (including the number of acres/hectares under management and provide a description of key ecological features);
- **a general** description of major timber types with a general characterization of management approaches used (natural regeneration vs. planting, thinning regimes, even-aged vs. uneven-aged silvicultural);
- The long-term harvest level and the participant's conformance to this.

**Guidance to Certification Bodies per Section 7 – Long-term Sustainable Harvest Levels – Temporal Scale:**

It is *SFI's* expectation that certification bodies shall audit sustainable harvest levels based on the criteria specified in Performance Measure 1.1, taking into account the maintenance of *landscape level biodiversity*, and confirming that any increases in planned harvest level(s) are consistent with the *SFI Certified Organization's* forest management plan. Additionally, sustainable harvest levels or government regulated allowable annual harvest should not be exceeded for extended periods of time unless a substantive ecological rationale is developed to justify the elevation, examples of which could include a response to forest health emergencies such as beetle epidemics or sanitation logging of forests impacted by catastrophic wildfire, ice storm or wind damage. In instances where harvest levels are exceeded for extended periods, a documented plan must be in place to demonstrate how harvest planning will achieve a return to the long-term sustainable harvest levels over one rotation.

- e. a description of the audit team. This shall include the names and professional qualifications of the lead auditor, all *audit team* members and any *technical experts* who participated in the audit. This may include the names and affiliations of any audit observers and an explanation of their roles;
- f. the dates the audit was conducted and completed. This shall include the number of auditor days spent to conduct the audit, broken down by auditor time spent off and on-site. This shall include the specific woods operations visited if there is more than one operation/region associated with the certificate, and;
- g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of **evidence of conformity and any nonconformities** (reported at the Performance Measure level) and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices.

This shall include:

- a description of the evidence examined for each SFI objective within the scope of the audit.
  - an update on the status of previous non-conformities, if any.
- h. the certification recommendation.

## 2. Preparing and Submitting a Public Report — *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*

A *Certified Organization* shall provide a summary audit report (one copy must be in English) to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of certification, recertification, or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*. The summary audit report will be posted on the [SFI Inc. website](#) for public review.

2.1 The *certification body* shall prepare the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* summary audit report, which shall include, at a minimum:

- a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;

This shall include:

- the specific SFI objectives that were within the scope of the audit
- a description of the sampling approach (consistent with IAF MD-1 and, where appropriate, adopting a risk-based approach) outlining the strata, location and number of sites sampled and the percentage of sites sampled within each stratum;
- the sampling size, including the number of roads, harvesting blocks and silviculture sites physically inspected during the audit.

- b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;

- c. the name of *Certified Organization* that was audited, including its SFI representative;

- d. a general description of the *Certified Organization's fiber sourcing* and manufacturing operations included in the audit.

This shall include:

- **an outline** of the manufacturing operations within the scope of the certificate (including the types of mills and their relative reliance of procurement for their fiber needs);
- **a general description** of the *fiber sourcing* program, specifically indicating whether or not the organization has a *purchased stumpage* program;
- **a general description** of the *verifiable monitoring system* in place and
- **an outline** of the area from which fiber is procured.

- e. a summary of the *Certified Organization's* assessment for *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values* within its *wood and fiber supply area*.

- f. a description of the *audit team*. This shall include the names and professional qualifications of the lead auditor, all *audit team* members and any *technical experts* who participated in the audit. This may include the names and affiliations of any audit observers and an explanation of their role.

- g. the dates the audit was conducted and completed. This shall include the number of auditor days spent to conduct the audit, broken down by auditor time spent off and on-site. This shall include identification of the Organization's manufacturing units (if any) that are supplied from the sites inspected.
- h. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of **evidence of conformity and any nonconformities** (reported at the Performance Measure level) and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices.

This shall include:

- a description of the evidence examined for each SFI objective within the scope of the audit.
  - an update on the status of previous non-conformities, if any.
- i. the certification recommendation.