

SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard

Workforce Development and Training

July 1, 2022

Why It Matters

A resilient forest sector must be composed of a diverse and trained workforce. Loggers and other resource professionals who are aware of their role as responsible professionals are better equipped to steward our forests.

How The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard Addresses Workforce Training

Small landowners, not certified to a forest management standard, represent the majority of the forest fiber supply in the U.S. While SFI continues to grow forest management certification, it is critical SFI pays special attention to these non-certified landowners. The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard distinguishes SFI from all other certification programs in that it governs how SFI-certified organizations procure fiber from non-certified forestland to ensure the sustainability across entire landscapes.

The SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard requires the training of personnel and contractors and requires the use of trained logging professionals to deliver raw materials.

SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard Requirements

Objective 3. Use of Qualified Resource Professionals, Qualified Logging Professionals and Certified Logging Companies.

To promote and utilize qualified logging professionals, qualified resource professionals and certified logging companies.

Performance Measure 3.1. Certified Organizations shall promote the use of qualified logging professionals, qualified resource professionals and/or certified logging companies to improve sustainable forestry through their relationships with wood producers and landowners.

Indicators:

1. Program to promote the use of qualified logging professionals, qualified resource professionals and/or certified logging companies where available.

Performance Measure 3.2. Certified Organizations, through their relationships with wood producers and landowners, shall maximize the delivery of raw materials from qualified logging professionals and/or certified logging companies.

Indicator:

1. List of qualified logging professionals and/or certified logging companies maintained by an Certified Organization, state or provincial agency, loggers' association, or other organization.
2. Certified Organizations shall have written agreements for the use of qualified logging professionals or wood producers that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals and/or certified logging companies.

Objective 6 - Training and Education

To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Performance Measure 6.1. Certified Organizations shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard.

Indicators:

1. Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters.
2. Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard objectives.
3. Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
4. Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

Performance Measure 6.2. Certified Organizations shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers specific to qualified logging professionals.

Indicators:

1. Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producer core training courses that allow individuals to attain qualified logging professional status. These criteria must address at least the following:
 - a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and SFI's work;
 - b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement;
 - c. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities), and other measures to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat;
 - d. logging safety;
 - e. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state, and local employment laws, and
 - f. other topics identified by Certified Organizations and/or SFI Implementation Committees that improve their responsibilities in meeting the SFI 2022 Standards.
2. Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producer continuing education training courses that shall be taken by qualified logging professionals at least once every two years to maintain their status. The continuing education training course(s) shall address one or more of the following topics:
 - a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI's work;
 - b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement;
 - c. reforestation, invasive species management, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites;
 - d. awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe or The Nature Conservancy;
 - e. transportation issues;
 - f. business management;
 - g. public policy and outreach;
 - h. awareness of emerging technologies;
 - i. logging safety; or
 - j. other topics identified by the Certified Organization and/or SFI Implementation Committees that improve their responsibilities in meeting the SFI 2022 Standards.

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.