

SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

ELEVATING RESPONSIBLE SOURCING ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE



WHY IT MATTERS

The SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard distinguishes SFI from all other forest certification systems in that it governs how SFI-certified organizations procure fiber from non-certified forestland. While all major certification systems (SFI, PEFC, and FSC) have a Chain of Custody Standard and mechanisms to avoid unacceptable sources, only SFI has a standard that promotes responsible forestry practices across the entire landscape.

The Fiber Sourcing Standard applies to primary manufacturers, such as sawmills, oriented strand board mills, and pulp mills, that purchase or harvest trees directly from the forest. It applies to organizations in the United States and Canada that procure wood domestically or globally. By placing the responsibility on the mill, rather than on individual landowners, the standard ensures consistent implementation of requirements across the landscape. This is an approach that is especially critical given the hundreds of thousands of small landowners in the U.S. and Canada.

The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard is purposefully designed to influence millions of additional acres through promotion, education, training, and outreach. For sources originating from within the United States and Canada, SFI-certified organizations must address the conservation of biodiversity for Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and utilize the services of qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals, and resource professionals. SFI-certified organizations must also invest in forestry research, science and technology, and monitor and evaluate best management practices to protect water quality across the landscape.

THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

- All requirements are audited by independent, accredited certification bodies on an annual basis.
- Certification bodies conduct field audits to verify conformance.
- Public audit summaries are posted to the SFI Database, ensuring full transparency and accountability., ensuring full transparency and accountability.



SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD OBJECTIVES

<p>OBJECTIVE 1. BIODIVERSITY IN FIBER SOURCING</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 2. ADHERENCE TO BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 3. USE OF QUALIFIED RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS, QUALIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONALS AND SFI-CERTIFIED LOGGING COMPANIES</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 4. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE</p> 
<p>OBJECTIVE 5. FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 6. TRAINING AND EDUCATION</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 8. PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES</p> 
<p>OBJECTIVE 9. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 10. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT</p> 	<p>OBJECTIVE 11. AVOID CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES</p> 	

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

13 principles, 11 Objectives, 29 Performance Measures, and 59 Indicators collectively drive responsible forestry outcomes in:

- Biodiversity conservation, including protection of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECVs)
- Water quality and soil protection
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Ensuring the use of qualified and certified logging professionals, as well as other resource professionals.
- Investment in forestry research, science, and continual improvement

IMPACT OF THE SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

The impact of the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard has been documented in peer-reviewed journals such as [Forest Policy and Economics](#). One study examined the sustainability of forest management practices related to water quality across the Southern Coastal Plain of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. The authors concluded that *“the role of the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard becomes instrumental, as this standard is helpful in promoting sustainable forestry practices on uncertified forestlands, typically owned by families who do not have sufficient financial and technical resources for certifying their forestlands.”*



AVOIDING CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

The SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard requires SFI-certified organizations to assess the risk of sourcing forest fiber from controversial sources including conversion sources originating from regions experiencing forest area decline (Objective 11). If an SFI-certified organization determines that it is sourcing from such areas, they must mitigate the associated risk or cease procurement from these sources.

SFI defines controversial sources as:

- Forest activities which are not in compliance with applicable state, provincial, federal, or international laws.
- Forest activities which 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).
- Conversion sources originating from regions experiencing forest area decline.
- Forest activities where the spirit of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work (1998) are not met.
- Forest activities where the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) are not met.
- Fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws
- Illegal Logging including trade in CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed species.
- Conflict Timber.
- Genetically modified trees via forest tree biotechnology.

The SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard requires organizations to conduct a five-step risk-based due diligence system (DDS) process to avoid controversial sources

1. Access to Information – Collect data on the source of forest-based materials.
2. Conduct a Risk Assessment – Determine whether sourcing regions are low or high risk of being controversial sources.
3. Address Substantiated Concerns – When presented with credible evidence about a supplier.
4. Manage High-Risk Suppliers – Implement a program to mitigate the risk from controversial sources
5. Avoid High-Risk Sources – Cease sourcing from regions where risk cannot be effectively mitigated.

TAKING A FIRM STANCE AGAINST DEFORESTATION, DEGRADATION, AND CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

The European Union has identified the United States and Canada as low-risk countries for deforestation, and still SFI has taken action to further reduce risk in Canada and the United States through our SFI standards.

