

THE SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT OF ALL FIBER SOURCED DIRECTLY FROM THE FOREST

The SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard requirements include:

- **Measures to Broaden Biodiversity**
- **BMPs to Protect Water Quality**
- **Trained Harvesting Professionals**
- **Forestry Research**
- **Landowner Outreach**
- **Avoidance of Controversial Sources**

The SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard distinguishes SFI from all other forest certification programs in that it sets mandatory practice requirements for the responsible procurement of all fiber sourced directly from the forest, whether the forest is certified or not.

One of the major enhancements to the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules was to separate the SFI fiber sourcing certification requirements into their own stand-alone standard - the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.



The standard is also a key tool to promote the legal and responsible sourcing of forest products. The standard holds the individual mills and manufacturers, who bear all the costs to certify, accountable for promoting responsible forestry.

Given that about 90% of the world's forests are uncertified, there need to be strong mechanisms to promote responsible procurement from these lands. SFI fiber sourcing certification encourages the spread of responsible forestry practices. The SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard is purposefully designed to influence millions of additional landowners through promotion, education, training, and outreach. Because of SFI requirements for logger training, 96% of the fiber delivered to SFI Program Participant mills is delivered by harvesting professionals who have been trained in sustainable forestry practices.



**BETTER CHOICES
FOR THE PLANET**

WHO BENEFITS FROM SFI FIBER SOURCING?

In the United States, approximately 10 million family forest owners account for more than 60 percent of private forest lands, and in Canada, family forest owners in many regions provide a significant share of the raw materials used by SFI Program Participants.



While large tracts of public and industrial forest lands are certified in North America, many family forests are not because timber harvesting is often not the primary management activity. SFI fiber sourcing certification helps landowners achieve economic value from their forests while considering the

environmental benefits and encourages family forest owners to maintain their forests as forests. SFI fiber sourcing certification delivers benefits to every link of the supply chain — from the forest to the consumer — and beyond.

THE SFI RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

Investing in research is a requirement of both the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management and SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standards. Since 1995, SFI Program Participants have directly invested \$1.6 billion in forest research. In 2016, nearly 80% of these investments were allocated to conservation-related objectives. SFI Program Participants must also develop verifiable monitoring systems to evaluate the use of best management practices across the wood and fiber supply area.

AVOIDING CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

For all wood fiber, regardless of the country of origin, the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard has requirements to avoid controversial sources, including fiber sourced from illegal logging and fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws.

Definition of Controversial Sources:

- Forest activities which are not in compliance with applicable state, provincial or federal laws, particularly as they may relate to:
 - conversion sources,
 - legally required protection of threatened and endangered species,
 - requirements of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
 - legally required management of areas with designated high environmental and cultural values,
 - labor regulations relating to forest workers,
 - Indigenous Peoples' property, tenure and use rights.
- Fiber sourced from illegal logging.
- Fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws.



SFI FIBER SOURCING'S GROWING GLOBAL RECOGNITION

The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard has been globally recognized for providing supply chain assurances of legal and responsible procurement:

- The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) recognizes the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard as a tool that meets PEFC requirements for the avoidance of controversial sources in the PEFC Chain of Custody standard.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2016 called out SFI's standards for having "made important contributions to improved BMP implementation through logger training, landowner outreach, and water quality requirements".
- The U.S. Green Building Council recognizes the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard as a way to meet the responsible sources category under the LEED alternative compliance path.
- The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Forest Solutions Group recognizes and supports the assurance of management performance and fiber flows provided by SFI Standards.
- The Sustainability Consortium, which works to improve consumer products sustainability, calls out the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard as a way to report on non-certified forest content in its Key Performance Indicator around virgin fiber sourcing.
- SFI's Fiber Sourcing Standard is listed as a resource in WRI/WBCSD Guide to Sustainable Procurement of Forest Products. The Guide seeks to promote the demand of sustainably produced wood and paper based products and support procurement managers in making informed choices.

SFI CERTIFIED SOURCING LABEL AND CLAIMS

The SFI Certified Sourcing label tells buyers and consumers that fiber comes from a company that is certified to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard, or comes from recycled content, or from a certified forest. All fiber must be from non-controversial sources. Certified sourcing is defined in SFI Definitions (Section 13, SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules)

The SFI requirements define two types of producers — primary and secondary.

- Primary producers:** Manufacturing units that manufacture forest products and source 50 percent or more (by weight) of their woodbased raw materials directly from primary sources. Primary producers can include companies that manufacture roundwood, wood chips, and/or composite products.
- Secondary producers:** Manufacturing units that produce forest products and source 50 percent or more (by weight) of their woodbased raw materials from secondary sources.

Products that carry Certified Sourcing labels may include:

- FIBER THAT CONFORMS WITH THE SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD
- PRE- AND POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT
- CERTIFIED FOREST CONTENT
- NON-CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

Secondary producers can include manufacturers of finished forest products, such as plywood, furniture, windows, magazines, printers or catalogs, and manufacturers using market pulp, recycled content, or from a certified forest. All fiber must be from non-controversial sources.

Any primary producer who wants to use the SFI Certified Sourcing label (shown here) must be certified to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard, Objectives 1-13 and Appendix 1 - Rules for

Use of the SFI Certified Sourcing Label by competent, accredited, independent third-party certification bodies. Secondary producers who want to use the SFI Certified Sourcing Label must be certified to Appendix 1 – Rules for Use of the SFI Certified Sourcing Label. All certification bodies must be accredited by a member of ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, American National Standards Institute or Standards Council of Canada.



Almost all of the fiber **delivered to SFI** Program Participant mills is delivered by harvesting professionals who have been **trained in sustainable forestry practices**.



LOGGER TRAINING: A REQUIREMENT OF FIBER SOURCING

10,965

RESOURCE AND HARVESTING PROFESSIONALS

participated in training in 2019, to ensure understanding of **water quality, biodiversity and other sustainable forest practice requirements**. (Cumulative total since 1995: 213,977*).

*This total may include individuals who have completed training programs more than once.
- Data provided by Forest Resources Association



SFI 2015-2019 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD OBJECTIVES

The SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard promotes responsible forestry practices based on 14 principles, 13 objectives, 21 performance measures and 55 indicators. The Fiber Sourcing Standard applies to any organization with a fiber sourcing program that acquires roundwood and field manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility. *Objectives 11-13 apply to sourcing fiber outside the United States and Canada.*

OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1. Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing: to address the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity.

Objective 2. Adherence to Best Management Practices: to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality.

Objective 3. Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals: to encourage forest landowners to utilize the services of qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified resource professionals.

Objective 4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance: to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Objective 5. Forestry Research, Science and Technology: to invest in forestry research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.

Objective 6. Training and Education: to improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Objective 7. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach: to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

Objective 8. Public Land Management Responsibilities: to participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Objective 9. Communications and Public Reporting: to increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard.

Objective 10. Management Review and Continual Improvement: to promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Objective 11. Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas: to promote the conservation of biological diversity, biodiversity hotspots and high-biodiversity wilderness areas in fiber sourcing programs.

Objective 12. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal logging: to avoid illegal logging in fiber sourcing programs.

Objective 13. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws: to avoid controversial sources in fiber sourcing programs.

WHO WE ARE

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) advances sustainability through forest-focused collaborations. SFI is an independent, non-profit organization that demonstrates our commitment to forests through our work in standards, conservation, education, and community. SFI works with the forest sector, conservation groups, academics, researchers, brand owners, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and governments to achieve a vision of a world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

With more than 370 million acres/150 million hectares certified and tens of millions more positively influenced through fiber sourcing, SFI's forest certification standards provide an important solution to the long-term sustainability of our forests, with requirements to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, rights of Indigenous People, and workers' rights.

LEARN MORE: forests.org



**Better Choices
for the Planet**