SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

SECTION 3



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SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

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1. GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

What the *Fiber Sourcing* Standard Does

The *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* promotes responsible *forestry* based on 13 *Principles*, 11 *Objectives*, 29 *Performance Measures* and 59 *Indicators*. These *fiber sourcing* requirements include measures to broaden the practice of *biodiversity*, use forestry *best management practices* to *protect* water quality, provide outreach to landowners and utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

What the *Fiber Sourcing* Standard Covers

The *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* applies to any organization with a *fiber sourcing* program that acquires roundwood or field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips to support a forest products facility.

Certified Organizations that source all of their *primary sources* from forests certified to the *SFI Forest Management Standard, American Tree Farm Standard* or *CSA Z809 Standard* do not have to certify to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

Certified Organizations that do not own a manufacturing facility but who purchase roundwood for the purposes of reselling without a SFI claim are not required to certify to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard.*

Geographic Application of the *Fiber Sourcing* Standard

The *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* applies to organizations in the United States and Canada that procure wood domestically or globally.

1.2 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Certified Organizations that own or have management authority for forestlands must also conform to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*.

Use of the SFI on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 6 — Rules for Use of *SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks* as well as ISO 14020:2000.

1.3 REFERENCES

This standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative and informative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated and undated references, the latest edition of the publication applies.

Normative References

From time to time, a formal process may be required to interpret the Standard, add new definitions, or incorporate new Board-level policies. These interpretations, definitions, and Board Policies are effective immediately, and SFI certified organizations have one year to implement them. They are normative references to the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard and constitute auditable requirements. Please refer to the SFI website for the most current Interpretations, Definitions, and SFI Board Policies.

i. ISO/IEC 17021:2015 — Conformity Assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
ii. ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary
iii. Section 8 — SFI Policies
iv. Section 10 — SFI 2022 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation
v. Section 11 — Communications and Public Reporting
vi. Section 14 — SFI Definitions
vii. Interpretations for the Requirements for the SFI 2022 Standards and Rules

For the purposes of this standard, the relevant definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 apply, together with the definitions in the SFI Definitions (Section 14).

Informative References

i. ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems — Specification with guidance for use
ii. PEFC ST 1003:2018 Sustainable Forest Management Requirements, November 28, 2018
iii. Section 7 — Guidance to SFI 2022 Standards
iv. Section 9 — SFI Standards Development and Interpretations Process
v. Section 12 — Public Inquiries and Official Complaints
vi. Section 13 — Optional Modules



1.4 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD PRINCIPLES

Certified Organizations believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable commercial, family forest, and *conservation* forest land bases. They support *sustainable forestry* on forestland they manage and promote it on other lands. They support efforts to safeguard private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably. In keeping with this responsibility, *Certified Organizations* shall have a written *policy* (or *policies*) to implement and achieve the following *principles*:

1. *Sustainable Forestry*

To practice *sustainable forestry* to meet the needs of the present while promoting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates *reforestation* and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products, and for the provision of *ecosystem services* such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality and quantity, *climate change adaptation* and *mitigation*, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation and aesthetics.

2. *Forest Productivity* and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest, maintain the health and productive capacity of the forest land base, and to *protect* and maintain *long-term* soil health and *productivity*. In addition, to *protect* forests from economically, environmentally and socially undesirable impacts of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive species*, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health* and *productivity.*

3. *Protection* of Water Resources

To *protect* and maintain the water quality and quantity of water bodies and *riparian areas* and to conform with forestry *best management practices* to *protect* water quality, to meet the needs of both human communities and ecological systems.

4. *Protection* of *Biological Diversity*

To manage forests in ways that *protect* and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats, ecologically and culturally important* species, *threatened and endangered* species (i.e., *Forest with Exceptional Conservation Values*) and native *forest cover types* at multiple scales.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. *Protection* of *Special Sites*

To manage lands that are geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and *local forestry* and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

8. Research

To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science, and technology.

9. Training and Education

To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs*.

10. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility, and respect for Indigenous Rights

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of *Indigenous Peoples*' rights and *traditional forest-related knowledge*.

11. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

12. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry*.

13. Responsible *Fiber Sourcing*

To use and promote *sustainable forestry* across a diversity of ownership and management types in the United States and Canada that is both scientifically credible and socially, environmentally, and economically responsible and to avoid sourcing from *controversial sources* both domestically and internationally.



1.5 SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING OBJECTIVES

A summary of the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard Objectives* follows:

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

Why it Matters: Conserving *biological diversity* protects *wildlife habitat* and ensures heathy forests.

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

Why it Matters: Protecting water quality and quantity helps ensure safe and abundant drinking water for all.

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*.

Why it Matters: Training logging professionals helps landowners implement effective forest management practices.

Objective 4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance
To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including international, federal, provincial, state, and *local.*

Why it Matters: Compliance with all laws ensures the protection of the environmental and social values of forests.

Objective 5. *Forestry* Research, Science, and Technology
To invest in research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Why it Matters: Investing in forest research means healthier, more productive forests.

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

Why it Matters: Training and educating foresters means forest management plans are more accurately implemented, ensuring the well-being of our forests.

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.*

Why it Matters: Outreach and education improves the public's understanding of how important *sustainable forestry* is to local and global issues.

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

Why it Matters: Protects the environmental, social, and economic values of public forests.

Objective 9. Communications and Public Reporting
To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing* Standard.

Why it Matters: Reporting the results of third-party audits increases the public's understanding of forest certification.

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.

Why it Matters: Encouraging continual improvement of *sustainable forestry* practices, a cornerstone of *sustainable forestry*.



Objective 11. Avoid *Controversial Sources.*
To manage the risk of sourcing fiber products from *controversial sources.*

> **Why it Matters:** A due diligence system minimizes the risk of sourcing from *controversial sources.* whether in the United States, Canada or offshore.

1.6 SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING REQUIREMENTS

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

Performance Measure 1.1. Promotion and *conservation* of *biological diversity.*

Indicators:

1. *Certified Organizations* shall address c*onservation* of *biodiversity*, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, through a *program* that includes one or more of the following:
    a. promotion of *biological diversity* concepts utilizing information from organizations such as the World Resources Institute, The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe, Conservation International, State Wildlife Action Plans, State Forest Action Plans and assessments;
    b. conducting local and regional level *landscape* assessments;
    c. involvement with local or regional *conservation* efforts;
    d. use of relevant information on *biological diversity* from credible sources (such as those noted above) in approved training and education *programs*; and
    e. other credible approaches.

Performance Measure 1.2. Promotion and *conservation* of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*.

Indicators:

1. *Certified Organizations* shall conduct an assessment, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*, *defined as critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and ecological communities, within their *wood and fiber supply area(s)* and make the summary of the assessment available to *wood producers*.
2. *Program* to address *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and ecological communities) for all harvest operations through *fiber sourcing* activities such as:
    a. use of *qualified logging professionals, certified logging companies* (where available), and *qualified resource professionals*; or
    b. training *program* for *qualified logging professionals* on how to recognize and *protect Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*; or
    c. through in-the-forest verification by *certified logging companies*; or
    d. forest landowner outreach; or
    e. *SFI Implementation Committee* involvement in the assessment of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*, and development of recommendations for *conservation*.
3. *Certified Organizations* shall conduct and incorporate the results of a *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and ecological communities) assessment to promote *conservation* of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* for *purchased stumpage.*

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

Performance Measure 2.1. *Certified Organizations* shall clearly define and implement *policies* to ensure that facility inventories and *fiber sourcing* activities do not compromise adherence to the *principles* of *sustainable forestry.*

Indicators:

1. Use of written agreements for the purchase of raw material sourced directly from the forest is required and must include provisions requiring the use of *best management practices.*
2. *Program* to address adverse weather conditions.
3. *Certified Organizations* shall clearly define their *fiber sourcing policies* in writing and make them available to *wood producers.*



Performance Measure 2.2. *Certified Organizations* shall, individually or through cooperative efforts monitor the use of *best management practices* relative to scale.

Indicators:

1. A *verifiable monitoring system* to:
    a. confirm that harvests of *purchased stumpage* comply with *best management practices;*
    b. monitor the use of *best management practices* by *wood producers* supplying the *Certified Organization*; and
    c. evaluate use of *best management practices* across the *wood and fiber supply area*.
2. Use of information from the *verifiable monitoring system* to maintain rates of conformance to *best management practices* and to identify areas for improved performance.

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 4. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including international, federal, provincial, state, and *local.*

Performance Measure 4.1. *Certified Organizations* shall comply with all applicable federal, provincial, state, and *local forestry* and related and environmental laws and regulations.

Indicators:

1. Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.
2. System to achieve compliance with applicable international, federal, provincial, state, or *local* laws and regulations.
3. Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through *available regulatory action information.*

Performance Measure 4.2. *Certified Organizations* shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state, and *local* levels in the country where the *Certified Organization* operates.

Indicator:

1. Written *policy* demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, gender equality, diversity inclusion, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, *Indigenous Peoples*' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety which meet the spirit and intent of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998).

Objective 5. *Forestry* Research, Science and Technology.

To invest in research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Performance Measure 5.1. *Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.



Indicators:

1. Financial or in-kind support of research, collaboratives, or knowledge transfer to address key themes of relevance in the region of operations as identified by *Certified Organizations local stakeholders*, communities and/or *Indigenous Peoples*. Examples could include, but are not limited to, the following topics:
    a. *climate change adaptation* and *mitigation*;
    b. water quality and quantity;
    c. *biodiversity*, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*, and species maintenance and recovery;
    d. *landscape* ecology;
    e. Indigenous *traditional ecological knowledge*;
    f. *ecosystem services* or *non-timber forest products*;
    g. community engagement;
    h. *forest health* and *productivity*;
    i. support for Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA)
    j. SFI sponsored *conservation* research;
    k. the role of forests in the bioeconomy, and
    l. or similar themes which build broader understanding of the benefits and effects of sustainable forest management or sustainable supply chains.
2. Ensure that knowledge gained through research is shared, to the extent possible, to positively influence sustainable forest management.

Performance Measure 5.2. *Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners develop, contribute to, or use national, state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their *sustainable forestry programs*.

Indicator:

1. Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development of information such as:
    a. regeneration assessments;
    b. *growth and drain* assessments;
    c. *best management practices* implementation and conformance;
    d. *biodiversity conservation* information for family forest owners; and
    e. social, cultural, or economic benefit assessments.

Performance Measure 5.3. *Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife*, and *biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on *long-term forest health, productivity*, and *economic viability.*
2. *Certified Organizations* are knowledgeable about *climate change* impacts on *wildlife, wildlife habitats* and *conservation* of *biological diversity* through international, national, regional, or local *programs*.

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*.

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.*

Performance Measure 7.1. *Certified Organizations* shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, *conservation* organizations, *Indigenous Peoples* and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the *American Tree Farm System*® and/or other landowner cooperative *programs* to apply *principles* of sustainable forest management.

Indicators:

1. Support, including financial, for efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees.*
2. Support individually or and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, education and outreach to forest landowners describing the importance of and providing implementation guidance on:
    a. *best management practices*;
    b. *reforestation* and *afforestation*;
    c. *visual quality management*;
    d. *conservation objectives*, such as of critical *wildlife habitat* elements, *biodiversity*, *threatened and endangered* species, and *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*;
    e. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social, environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;
    f. control of *invasive species*;
    g. characteristics of *special sites*;
    h. reduction of *wildfire* risk;



i. use of *qualified logging professionals, qualified resource professionals* and/or *certified logging companies*;
j. awareness of SFI, and
k. reporting of inconsistent practices.

3. Participation in efforts to support or promote *conservation* of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, *Forest Legacy Program, conservation* easements, federal, state, or provincial cost share programs, or SFI Conservation Grants.
4. *Certified Organizations* are knowledgeable about credible regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of *stakeholders* and have a *program* to take into account the results of these efforts in planning.
5. *Certified Organizations* with *fiber sourcing programs*, either individually or collaboratively with *SFI Implementation Committees*, encourage forest landowners to participate in forest management certification *programs.*

Performance Measure 7.2. *Certified Organizations* shall individually or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committee(s)* support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.

Indicator:

1. Periodic educational opportunities for the public promoting *sustainable forestry*, such as
    a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
    b. educational trips;
    c. self-guided forest management trails;
    d. publishing articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters;
    e. support for national, state, provincial, and local *forestry* organizations and soil and water *conservation* districts, and
    f. engaging and supporting teachers and/or students though initiatives such as Project Learning Tree.

Performance Measure 7.3. *Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, *stakeholders*, the public or other *Certified Organizations* regarding *practices* that appear inconsistent with the SFI standards *principles* and *objectives*.

Indicators:

1. Support for *SFI Implementation Committees* (e.g., toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconformance.
2. Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. *SFI Implementation Committees* shall submit data annually to *SFI Inc.* regarding concerns received and responses.

Objective 8. *Public Land* Management Responsibilities.

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands.*

Performance Measure 8.1. *Certified Organizations* with forest *management responsibilities on public lands* shall participate in the development of *public land* planning and management processes.

Indicators:

1. Involvement in *public land* planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.
2. Appropriate contact with local *stakeholders* over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal, or independent collaboration.

Objective 9. Communications and Public Reporting.

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard.*

Performance Measure 9.1. An *Certified Organization* shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the *certification body*, to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of a certification, recertification, or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard.*

Indicator:

1. The summary audit report submitted by the *Certified Organization* (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,
    a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
    b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
    c. the name of the *Certified Organization* that was audited, including its SFI representative;
    d. a general description of the *Certified organization's* forestland, fiber procurement and/or manufacturing operations included in the audit;
    e. a summary of the *Certified Organization's* assessment for *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values* within its *wood and fiber supply area*.

f. the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and the *Certified Organization*);
g. the dates the audit was conducted and completed;
h. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and
i. the certification decision.

The summary audit report will be posted on the *SFI Inc.* website (www.forests.org) for public review.

Performance Measure 9.2. *Certified Organizations* shall report annually to *SFI Inc.* on their conformance with the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

Indicators:
1. Prompt response to the *SFI* annual progress report survey.
2. Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for *SFI* annual progress report surveys.
3. Maintenance of copies of past survey reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the *SFI 2022 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.

Performance Measure 10.1. *Certified Organizations* shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*, to make appropriate improvements in *programs*, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:
1. System to review commitments, *programs*, and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.
2. System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard objectives* and *performance measures*.
3. Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard.*

Objective 11. Avoid Controversial Sources.

To manage the risk of sourcing fiber from *controversial sources.*

***Controversial sources* are defined as:**

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

Performance Measure 11.1. The *Certified Organization* shall have a process to access and collect information regarding the sources of its procured fiber.

Indicators:
1. The *Certified Organization* shall collect information on the source of the fiber, through a due diligence system to address the likelihood of sourcing from *controversial sources*. This includes:
    a. Identification of tree species, or list of tree species potentially included, by their common name and or their scientific name where applicable.
    b. Country and region of harvest of the fiber.
    c. If requested by their customer, provide the information required in a. and b.



2. The *Certified Organization* can consider fiber low risk and exempt from due diligence when:
    a. Procured from a supplier with a valid *SFI* Section 2 (*SFI Forest Management Standard*) certificate, or other *acceptable forest management standards*, that clearly indicates that the source is within the scope of the certification; or
    b. Procured from a supplier with a valid *SFI* Section 3 (*SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard*) certificate that clearly indicates that the source is within the scope of the certification and/or the due diligence system; or
    c. Procured from a supplier with a valid *SFI* Section 4 (*SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard*), or *other credible chain-of-custody standard* certificate and/or due diligence system; or
    d. Procured from a supplier with a valid *SFI* Section 5 (*SFI-certified Sourcing Standard*) certificate that clearly indicates that the source is within the scope of the certification and/or due diligence system.

Performance Measure 11.2. The *Certified Organization* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committee(s)* have a process to conduct a risk assessment.

Indicators:
1. The *Certified Organization* shall develop and implement a due diligence system (DDS) to manage the risk of sourcing fiber from *controversial sources* in accordance with the requirements of this standard.
2. The DDS risk assessment shall classify material into low- and high-risk categories.
3. The risk assessment shall be carried out at the regional level unless risk is consistent at the national level.
4. The *Certified Organization* shall review, and if necessary, revise its risk ratings on at least an annual basis.
5. The *Certified Organization* shall conduct a risk assessment before the first time of delivery for each new region of supply.

Performance Measure 11.3. The *Certified Organization* shall have a process to assess substantiated concerns.

Indicators:
1. The *Certified Organization* shall have a *program* to assess any substantiated concern. A substantiated concern is information supported by proof or evidence, indicating that fiber originates from *controversial sources*. Substantiated concerns can be concerns by third parties, as well as concerns of the *Certified Organization* itself.
2. The *Certified Organization* shall update its risk assessment to reflect substantiated concerns associated with a region of origin identified through internal data or public data.

Performance Measure 11.4. The *Certified Organization* shall have a process to mitigate the risk of sourcing controversial fiber from high-risk areas.

Indicators:
1. Where the risk assessment determines high risk, the *Certified Organization* shall implement a *program* to mitigate such risk and require a signed contract and/or self-declaration that the supplied fiber does not originate from *controversial sources.*
2. For each supply source where the risk is high, the risk assessment shall also identify the specific verifiable controls that the supplier has in place to substantially reduce the risk of sourcing fiber from *controversial sources.*
3. Where an *Certified Organization* receives fiber, and then learns the fiber is from *controversial sources*, if possible, the fiber shall be segregated and prevented from entering the supply chain. If fiber has already entered the supply chain and cannot be segregated additional corrective measures shall be implemented to avoid future *controversial sources*. If subsequent verification demonstrates that the risk of this fiber originating from *controversial sources* is low, the fiber can re-enter the supply chain.
4. The *Certified Organization* shall identify the verifiable measures to be implemented across the full supply chain for each source of supply identified as high risk to ensure that the supply is not from *controversial sources* which will include:
    a. assessing the operating effectiveness of verifiable measures, through field-based verification.
    b. for direct sources, include field and document verification of *controversial sources* risk factors back to the forest units from which fiber is sourced.
    c. for indirect sources, include site and document verification of suppliers (such as lumber suppliers, chip suppliers and wood yards) to establish the absence of *controversial sources* risk factors in their inputs and sample-based field verification of their supply sources back to the forest units from which they source fiber.
5. Where sampling is conducted as part of the verification *program*, the sampling *program* should be risk based to draw valid conclusions across all fiber inputs.

Performance Measure 11.5. The *Certified Organization* shall have a process to avoid *controversial sources.*

Indicator:
1. Where the verifiable measures in Performance Measure 11.4 are not considered to be effective in reducing the risk of receiving fiber from *controversial sources* to low, fiber from these sources shall be avoided.