SFI® Works to Ensure the Health and Future of Our Forests with the Launch of the New *SFI 2015–2019 Standards and Rules*

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
SFI-00001

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI) works to ensure the health and future of our forests, because forests are a critical part of our everyday lives. The new SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules further enhance the vital link that exists between healthy forests, responsible purchasing and sustainable communities.

SFI is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. SFI Inc. is governed by the SFI Board, which sets SFI's strategic direction and is responsible for overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI program and SFI Standards. The Board has three chambers, representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Endorsement by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) increases SFI's international recognition.

The SFI Standard Revision Process

The SFI Standards are revised and updated every five years. As part of this process for the SFI 2015-2019 Standards, SFI held 12 public workshops across the U.S. and Canada. About 10,000 stakeholders were invited to submit comments. Participants included public and private landowners, forest sector representatives, indigenous communities, conservation groups, industry, academia and government officials.

Independent oversight of the revision process was provided at each stage by the SFI External Review Panel, a distinguished group of independent experts representing conservation, professional, academic and public organizations, operating at arm's length from SFI and the forest industry.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW SFI 2015–2019 STANDARDS

IMPROVING FORESTRY PRACTICES

Species of concern: Program Participants must develop a program to address conservation of known sites with viable occurrences of significant species of concern.

Water quality: SFI mandates the use of best management practices that are comprehensive and go well beyond legal requirements to protect water quality. Program Participants must implement protection measures to protect all water bodies including rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands.

Fiber sourcing: The new 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, even if it is sourced from non-certified lands.

Forestry research, science and technology: Unique to the SFI program is the requirement that Program Participants invest in forestry research, science and technology.

SFI: ONE FUTURE, THREE STANDARDS

Forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard cover more than a quarter-billion acres/100 million hectares, stretching from Canada's boreal forest to the U.S. South. A major change to the structure of the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules was to establish **three stand-alone standards**. No matter where you sit in the supply chain, SFI has a relevant standard to support responsible forestry.

The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 Principles, 15 Objectives, 37 Performance Measures and 101 Indicators. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with exceptional conservation value.

The SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard promotes responsible forestry practices based on 14 Principles, 13 Objectives, 21 Performance Measures and 55 Indicators that address the 90 percent of the world's forests that are not certified. These fiber sourcing requirements include measures to broaden the conservation 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. Because it directs how SFI Program Participants procure fiber from non-certified land, this standard encourages the use of responsible forestry practices.

The SFI 2015-2019 Chain-of-Custody Standard tracks the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and recycled content through production and manufacturing to the end product. Organizations can use physical separation, average percentage or volume credit methods to track and communicate their chain of custody claims. The SFI Chain of Custody standard is applied globally.

REDUCING RISK TO FUTURE FORESTS

Forest conversion: SFI prohibits conversion of one forest cover type to another type except in justified circumstances, such as dealing with disease

Illegal logging and controversial sources: All non-certified forest content must be either from certified sourcing, recycled content or from non-controversial sources.

Chemicals: SFI requires the minimization of chemical use and the use of only government-approved chemicals. Pesticides listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants are banned and World Health Organization type 1A and 1B pesticides are prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.

Biotechnology and genetically modified trees: The use of fiber from genetically engineered trees via forest biotechnology is not approved for use in SFI-labeled products.