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## **Audit Summary for Public Disclosure Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard**

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## **Executive Summary**

This report summarizes the results of surveillance audit #2 on Sustainable Forest Technologies' (SFT's) SFI program for management of Black Bear Forest, Inc. Richard Boitnott, Bureau Veritas Certification Lead Auditor conducted the audit 10/16/2007 through 10/18/2007.

One minor non-conformance was issued during the audit, and one notable practice identified.

With this report, the two SFI audit objectives were attained. The non-conformance was cleared on 11/24/2007, at which time the lead auditor made a recommendation for continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009 edition.

The contents of this report are strictly confidential and the property of SFT. Bureau Veritas Certification will not distribute this information without written permission from SFT.



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## **Audit Scope Summary**

**Contract Number: HQ 15877**

**Audit Team: Richard Boitnott; CF, RF, EMS (LA)**

**Country: U.S.**

**States: Maine**

**Total Land Base: 690,000 acres**

**Facilities: N/A**

**Audit Dates: October 16-18, 2007**

**Audit Recommendation: Continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009**

**Date of Completion of  
Corrective Actions: 11/24/2007**

**Duration of Certificate: Five (5) years**



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## SECTION 1.0

### AUDIT BACKGROUND

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This report summarizes the results of surveillance audit #2 on Sustainable Forest Technologies' (SFT's) SFI program for management of Black Bear Forest, Inc. Richard Boitnott, Bureau Veritas Certification Lead Auditor conducted the audit 10/16/2007 through 10/18/2007.

The objectives of the audit were to review SFT's SFI program documentation in accordance with the requirements of the SFI 2005-2009 standard and verify the effective implementation of SFT's SFI program in the way it conducts its on-the-ground management activities. Specifically, two objectives of the SFI audit were to:

1. Verify that the Program Participant's SFI Program is in conformance with the SFI Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators, and any additional indicators that the Program Participant chooses, and
2. Verify whether the Program Participant has effectively implemented its SFI Standard program requirements on the ground.

SFI objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 13 were reviewed during the audit. An audit plan was developed and is maintained on file by Bureau Veritas Certification. Standard BVQi protocols and forms were applied throughout the audit as provided by the most recent version of the SFI Auditor Handbook located on the auditor access website. The scope of the audit was verified as *"Forest and land management activities conducted by Sustainable Forest Technologies (SFT) on Black Bear Forest, Inc."*

SFT is the management company for Black Bear Forest, Inc. The ownership is divided into two regions; the East forest, consisting of approximately 300,000 acres, and the West forest, consisting of approximately 706,000 acres. This surveillance audit was conducted on the West Forest, headquartered out of Stratton, Maine. A surveillance audit plan has been developed and is maintained on file by Bureau Veritas Certification. The surveillance plan consists of auditing one of the two regions each year, ensuring that all applicable SFI indicators are audited within a 5 year period.

The audit began with an opening meeting on 10/16/2007. The audit consisted of a review of SFI program documentation, followed by a field audit. Use of the Bureau Veritas logo was reviewed during the document review. SFT does not use the logo on any promotional material or products.

A closing meeting was held on 10/18/2007 at the Stratton, Maine office. The non-conformance and notable practice was reviewed. Confidentiality of audit results was assured. A recommendation for continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009 was issued pending development of acceptable corrective and preventative actions for the nonconformity. Acceptable corrective actions were presented and the non-conformance cleared on 11/24/2007, at which time a recommendation for continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009 edition was issued. Implementation of the actions will be verified during the next surveillance audit.



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## SECTION 2.0

### AUDIT RESULTS

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#### 2.1 General Findings

The field audit consisted of a review of three timber harvesting tracts, three road construction/reconstruction projects, and one herbicide application. Harvesting tracts demonstrated excellent implementation of state water quality BMPs and requirements of the Maine Forest Practices Act on harvest tracts. However, there were deficiencies observed in culvert installation, resulting in a minor non-conformance being issued during the audit. No non-conformances had been issued during the previous audit.

#### 2.2 Non-conformances Issued

One minor non-conformance issued:

1. SFIS 2005-2009 PM 3.1 Ind. 1 requires the organization to have a program to implement BMPs during all phases of management activities. PM 3.2 Ind. 3 requires the organization to implement plans to manage or protect streams, lakes, and other water bodies.
  - Of the culverts installed on road construction/reconstruction projects observed during the audit, approximately 50% had outlets placed above the stream level. The Maine BMP manual states (on page 49); “Set the culverts with the bottoms slightly below the bed of the stream, and at a 2-3% slope. Avoid hanging culverts where the bottom of the outlet is above the low water level”. While most of the crossings observed were on streams that probably did not contain fish, one crossing was on a stream that was probably fish-bearing, where the hung culvert could have prevented fish passage
  - Observed one crossing with inadequate slope stabilization, resulting in potential sedimentation of the stream.

#### 2.3 Opportunities for Improvement

No opportunities for improvement were identified.

#### 2.4 Notable Practices

One notable practice was observed:

1. PM 2.4 Ind. 2: The clearcut on the Crowley Brook tract represented a commendable effort to address a forest health problem. The effort required going through the permit process to conduct one of the few category 3 clearcuts in the state of Maine since enactment of the FPA. SFT put forth the effort despite an onerous permitting process and potential negative publicity.



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## **SECTION 3.0**

### **CONCLUSION**

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With this report, the two SFI audit objectives were attained. The findings and conclusions of this surveillance audit are the results of a constructive and cooperative effort between SFT and Bureau Veritas Certification

A closing meeting was held on 10/18/2007 at the Stratton, Maine office. A recommendation for continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009 was issued pending development of acceptable corrective and preventative actions for the nonconformity. Acceptable corrective actions were presented and the non-conformance cleared on 11/24/2007, at which time a recommendation for continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009 edition was issued. Implementation of the actions will be verified during the next surveillance audit.