



2014 SFI Public Summary Report

Cogent Fibre Inc Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Standard [2010-2014]

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) completed a SFI Re-registration Assessment of Cogent Fibre Inc's ("Cogent") procurement activities conducted at the Savannah, GA and Morehead City, NC Wood Chip Export facilities. The on-site assessor was James Lucas, EMS (LA) and the Lead Assessor was Bruce Eaket, EMS (LA).

The primary objective of the assessment was to assess Cogent's SFI management system and to evaluate Cogent's implementation of the SFI Standard in the field.

Indicators

The scope of the assessment was Objectives 1-20 with the exception of Objectives 11, 12, 13 and 18. Cogent does not manage public lands, and they do not source fiber from outside of North America. There were no substitute indicators.

Assessment Process

The assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of SFI program requirements. The report was dated September 18, 2014.

Summary of Conformance and Good Management Practices

Cogent conducts onsite inspections at a minimum of 10 percent of their purchased Gatewood tracts. Cogent's foresters visit field sites to supervise Gatewood suppliers harvest operations and have a good level of communication with the contractors. Cogent only purchases fiber from certified logging professionals who have received logger training that covers key issues such as fire preparedness, spill preparedness, endangered species, BMPs and SFI principles.

Cogent has a policy for operating in Adverse Weather Conditions, and foresters monitor weather and encourage their suppliers to develop Wet Weather Procurement Plans. Cogent's export facilities maintain adequate inventory in the mill yard to ensure that loggers can shut down deliveries if necessary during wet weather events.

A specific good management practice noted during the assessment was that Cogent has developed a sophisticated database that has the ability to track every incoming load of chips and each log from receiving, to production through to shipment and billing. The database is capable of calculating conversions, losses, removals, as well as producing phytosanitary certificates, purchase orders, bill of lading, and invoices.

Summary of Findings

There was one minor non-conformity identified during the assessment relating to a documented policy and procedure to address Forests of Exceptional Value.

Cogent has recently begun purchasing stumpage from an SFI certified company, but does not have a program in place to address Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Cogent should document the program in their policies and procedures, particularly as they may purchase stumpage from other landowners in the future which are not SFI certified.

Opportunities for improvement were identified in the following areas:

- Consistently documenting the tract information for each delivery; and,
- Participation in SIC meetings to support ongoing SIC efforts.

Conclusion

The Group has maintained conformance with the requirements of the SFI Standard. The Certificate can be can be obtained by contacting Robert Mantrop of Cogent Fibre Inc at 203-323-1280 or can be found at <http://cogentfibre.com/index.php>.