



Harden Furniture, Inc - SFI Summary Audit Report

The SFI Program of Harden Furniture, Inc., includes the procurement operations which supply their sawmill and manufacturing operations in Central New York, has demonstrated continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition (SFIS), according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

The re-certification audit was performed by NSF-ISR on September 8 - 10, 2014 by an audit team headed by Gerald Grossman, NSF Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ) 2010-2014 Edition. This is the third re-certification audit since the initial certification audit in 2003. The objective of the audit was to assess continued conformance of Harden Furniture Inc. SFI program to the SFIS requirements to the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition.

Harden Furniture procures wood for a saw mill in Mc Connellsville, New York. Wood is procured from a five county region between the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Ontario in central New York. The primary species utilized are black cherry and red maple, although other species, such as hard maple, are sawn in the mill. The Company's SFI program is managed by Cindy Arquette, SFI Program Coordinator and AJ Reber, Mill Manager and Forester.

None of the indicators were modified. Several of the SFI performance measures were outside the scope of Harden Furniture's SFI program for the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition and were excluded from the scope of the SFI surveillance audit as follows:

- Objectives 1-7 Land Management (Organization no longer has fee lands)
- Core Indicator 8.5/8.6 Procurement from sources outside the United States and Canada
- Core Indicator 11.1.4 Adherence to protocols for use of trees derived from biotechnology
- Objective 13 Avoidance of controversial sources including fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws
- Core Indicator 14.2.2 Forestry enterprises
- Objective 18 Public land management responsibilities

SFIS Audit Process

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team to determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided to the auditor in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was designated by the auditor for review.

The possible findings for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that

exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS. Surveillance Audits generally focus on conformance issues and do not generally address exceptional practices.

During the audit, NSF-ISR reviewed the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance to the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition. Field sites were selected for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence of special features and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-Procedures. NSF-ISR also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers and employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

Overview of Audit Findings

Harden's SFI Program was found to be in overall conformance with the SFIS Standard. The NSF-ISR SFI Audit Process determined that there are one (1) minor non-conformances and two (2) opportunities for improvement as detailed below:

The one (1) one minor non conformance issued during this audit:

EMSSFI14 10.2 Program Participants shall monitor the use of best management practices. Harden has an internal monitoring field checklist that includes BMP's. Obsolete field observation forms are being used that do not include check box for bridge inspection and condition.

Two (2) opportunities issued during this audit:

EMSSFI14 8.1 There is an opportunity to improve the distribution of the tri-fold brochures to include gatewood landowners and producers.

EMSSFI14 8.1.2 Harden (AJ) checks the New York Environmental mapper system for all purchased stumpage (including from consultants). This is documented in the sale file and confirmed. There is an Opportunity for Improvement to formalize this process into a better documented program.

2013 (1) Minor non conformances was closed in 2014:

EMSSFI14 10.2 Program Participants shall monitor the use of best management practices. Harden has an internal monitoring field checklist that includes BMP's. On 1 site during the 2013 surveillance audit a BMP installation (temporary bridge) failed primarily due to normal deterioration and/or a lack of maintenance (broken decking panels). It was not clear on site if usage was stopped at the time of failure. This was closed as enough supporting objective evidence was found. Bridge maintenance was completed and monitoring procedure developed.

The next surveillance audit is scheduled for September 2015 to the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition (or as expected the new standard). General Description of Evidence of Conformity

NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance. A general description of this evidence is provided below, organized by SFI 2010-2014 Objective.

Objective 8. Landowner Outreach - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by forest landowners through fiber sourcing programs.

Summary of Evidence – Interviews with staff and stakeholders and review of programs with Tri fold brochures on forest certification programs.

Objective 9. Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging forest landowners to utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

Summary of Evidence – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with open market harvest sites audited with logger training, and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective.

Objective 10. Adherence to Best Management Practices - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations and review of BMP monitoring records were the primary evidence used to assess adherence to BMPs

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance -

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Summary of Evidence – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence.

Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology - To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Summary of Evidence – Financial records were confirmed, and field sites were visited.

Objective 16. Training and Education -To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Summary of Evidence – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and logger and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective.

Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry -

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

Summary of Evidence -- Mailing lists, agendas for meetings, and selected summaries of comments were sufficient to assess the requirements.

Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

Summary of Evidence – Reports filed with SFI Inc. and the SFI Inc. website provided the key evidence.

Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement - To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Summary of Evidence – Records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed. The SFI Team provide components of management review; minutes of meetings supplemented by interviews served to confirm compliance.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising 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 ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality, carbon, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Forest Productivity and Health

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

3. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones, and to conform with best management practices to protect water quality.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types.

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 forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing

To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws.

9. Legal Compliance

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

10. Research

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

11. Training and Education

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

12. Public Involvement

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on public lands through community involvement.

13. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

14. Continual Improvement

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

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2010-2014 Edition

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