



Scotch Plywood Company

2014 SFI Re-Certification Audit Report

The SFI Program of the Scotch Plywood Company, Inc. (SPC) of Fulton, Alabama has demonstrated continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®, 2010-1014 Edition, according to the NSF SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF-ISR initially certified SPC to the SFIS on March 6, 2008 and recertified it to the 2010-2014 SFI Standard on October 5, 2011. This report describes the third Re-Certification Audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. In addition, SFI requirements were subject to a detailed review.

Scotch Plywood Company operates two primary manufacturing veneer mills in Waynesboro, Mississippi and Beatrice, Alabama. The company also manages a secondary veneer and plywood facility in Fulton, Alabama. Scotch Plywood Company's SFI Program is managed by Gray Skipper.

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on August 6-7, 2014 by an audit team headed by Tucker Watts, 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). The objective of the audit was to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-1014 Edition.

The scope of the SFIS Audit included procurement operations in southwestern Alabama and southeastern Mississippi. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been conducted since the previous field audit conducted in August, 2013. A sample of procurement operations since that time was also reviewed to ensure that SFI Procurement Standards were met. In addition, SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were reexamined during the audit. Use of the SFI logo and the requirement to provide a public summary of audit reports were also reviewed.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of the SPC's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Objectives 1 - 7 Land Management
- Objectives 11 - 13 Fiber Sourcing outside Canada and the US
- Core Indicator 14.2.2 Forestry enterprises
- Core Indicator 15.1.2 Research on genetically engineered trees
- Core Indicator 16.1.5 Forestry Enterprises
- Core Indicator 16.2.2 Logger Certification
- Objective 18 Public land management responsibilities

No indicators were modified.

SFIS Surveillance Audit Process

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team 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.

Overview of Audit Findings

Scotch Plywood Company's SFI Program was found to be in Full Conformance with the SFIS Standard.

The NSF-ISR SFI Certification Audit Process determined that there were no minor non-conformances identified.

The next surveillance audit is tentatively scheduled for the week of August 3, 2015.

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 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 offered (SIC brochures) were used to confirm these requirements.

Summary of Evidence – Lists of qualified logging professionals are maintained by the Alabama a state agency of associations.

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 and interviews 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 by contacting the recipients of research support.

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 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 – Confirmed audit reports will be filed with SFI Inc.

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, internal audits and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

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 with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Responsible Practices

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

3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base.

4. Forest Health and Productivity

To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity

To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

6. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity

To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

8. Legal Compliance

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

9. Continual Improvement

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

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2005–2009 Edition

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