

A Quick Guide to the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard

What is SFI Inc.?

Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.® (SFI®) is a fully independent, charitable organization that manages the largest single forest certification standard in the world. The SFI certification program requires third-party audits to maintain an internationally recognized and trusted standard of practice.

What is SFI chain of custody?

Chain of custody is an accounting system that tracks fiber content through production and manufacturing to the end product. Companies can make claims about how much of their product comes from certified lands, certified sourcing and/or post-consumer recycled content. SFI-labeled products must avoid fiber from controversial sources — such as illegal logging and fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws.

What are the benefits of SFI chain-of-custody certification?

SFI chain-of-custody certification helps companies address the growing demand from governments, customers, and consumers for forest products from responsible sources.

Who is eligible for SFI certification?

Any company that processes or trades SFI-certified forest products, including manufacturers of forest products, paper merchants, converters, wood dealers, wood yards, wholesalers, brokers and printers, can seek SFI chain-of-custody certification. They must have processes such as inventory control, employee training, reporting and invoicing so they can track raw materials from certified forests, certified sourcing and, when it applies, post-consumer recycled content, through production and

manufacturing to the end product.

Does certified content mean SFI certified only?

The SFI certified chain-of-custody on-product label can be used to identify forest products with certified forest content that has been certified to SFI and/or two other credible North American certification standards — the American Tree Farm System and the Canadian Standards Association. These three standards (SFI, CSA and ATFS) encompass more than 75 percent of all certified lands in North America.

How do I certify my operation to SFI chain of custody?

1. Review the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard to see if your company can meet its certification requirements. The standard can be downloaded from www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/Section3_sfi_requirements_2010-2014.pdf.
2. Implement the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard (www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/Section3_sfi_requirements_2010-2014.pdf).
3. Contact an accredited certification body (www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/Certification%20bodies.pdf) to schedule an audit.
4. The certification body will complete an on-site audit and, if the operation meets the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard, the company will receive a certificate from the certification body.
5. The certification body will send a completed report to SFI Inc. so the certified company can be registered with SFI Inc.
6. SFI Inc. will send the certified company a welcome kit with marketing materials so it can promote its new certification and artwork and, once approved, start using SFI on-product labels.
7. An audit is needed every 12 months to maintain the chain-of-custody certification.

How much does SFI chain-of-custody certification cost?

There is no fee that needs to be paid to SFI Inc. for chain-of-custody certification. However the certification body will charge around \$2,000 to \$3,000 per site for the audit. Contact a SFI-accredited certification body for a cost estimate.

Once my company is certified, am I allowed to use SFI on-product labels?

Yes, once your company receives a chain-of-custody certificate from an



accredited certification body and you meet the requirements in the Rules for SFI On-Product Labels, you can apply to Jason Metnick at SFI Inc. (Jason.Metnick@sfi-program.org) to use the SFI on-product label. A copy of the Rules for SFI On-Product Labels can be downloaded from www.sfi-program.org/files/pdf/Section4_sfi_requirements_2010-2014.pdf.

Who is eligible to perform an SFI chain-of-custody certification?

The list of certification bodies accredited to perform SFI chain-of-custody certification is posted at www.sfi-program.org/files/pdf/Certification%20bodies.pdf.

Where can I get more information about SFI chain-of-custody certification or on-product label use?

You can contact:

Jason Metnick

Senior Director, Market Access and Product Labeling

Phone: 602-374-6539

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program (www.sfi-program.org). More than 180 million acres/73 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard across North America, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers how much of the fiber in a product is from certified lands, certified sourcing and/or post-consumer recycled content. Unique SFI fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

