

SECTION 8.

SFI STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATIONS PROCESS



SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE

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SFI STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATIONS PROCESS

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1. SFI STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Broad public and stakeholder involvement is important to the *SFI* program. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard setting process shall be on a five year cycle, which is consistent with international protocols for forest certification standard revision cycles. The process shall begin in the fall preceding the year when the existing standard expires. The *SFI* Standard setting process shall begin with a 60 day public comment period. For example, the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* setting process (the *SFI 2005-2009 Standard* expires on December 31, 2009) began with a 60-day open comment period beginning June 2 of 2008.

During the open comment period, *SFI, Inc* also convenes meetings of various committees, including *SFI* customers, the External Review Panel (ERP), *SFI* Supporters, and others to provide initial input into the review process. At the close of the 60-day comment period, *SFI, Inc* organizes the comments and presents them to the *SFI* Standards Review task group (typically a subset of the Resources Committee (RC) which has balanced representation from all sectors of the Board-Economic, Environmental and Social) and publishes them to the *SFI* website. The RC shall determine if additional ad hoc task groups are needed and populate them for specific review topics. The independent ERP shall meet and review the comments received as well to ensure that all comments are given appropriate consideration by the *SFI* Standards Review task group.

The first draft of the proposed changes to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* were released in the January of 2009 and published to the *SFI* website. An additional 30 day public comment period allows all stakeholders additional comment and input into the proposed changes. The *SFI* Standards Review task group shall maintain records regarding all comments and their disposition for review by the independent External Review Panel. The goal is to have the comments posted in an easy to use spreadsheet on the *SFI Inc.* website.

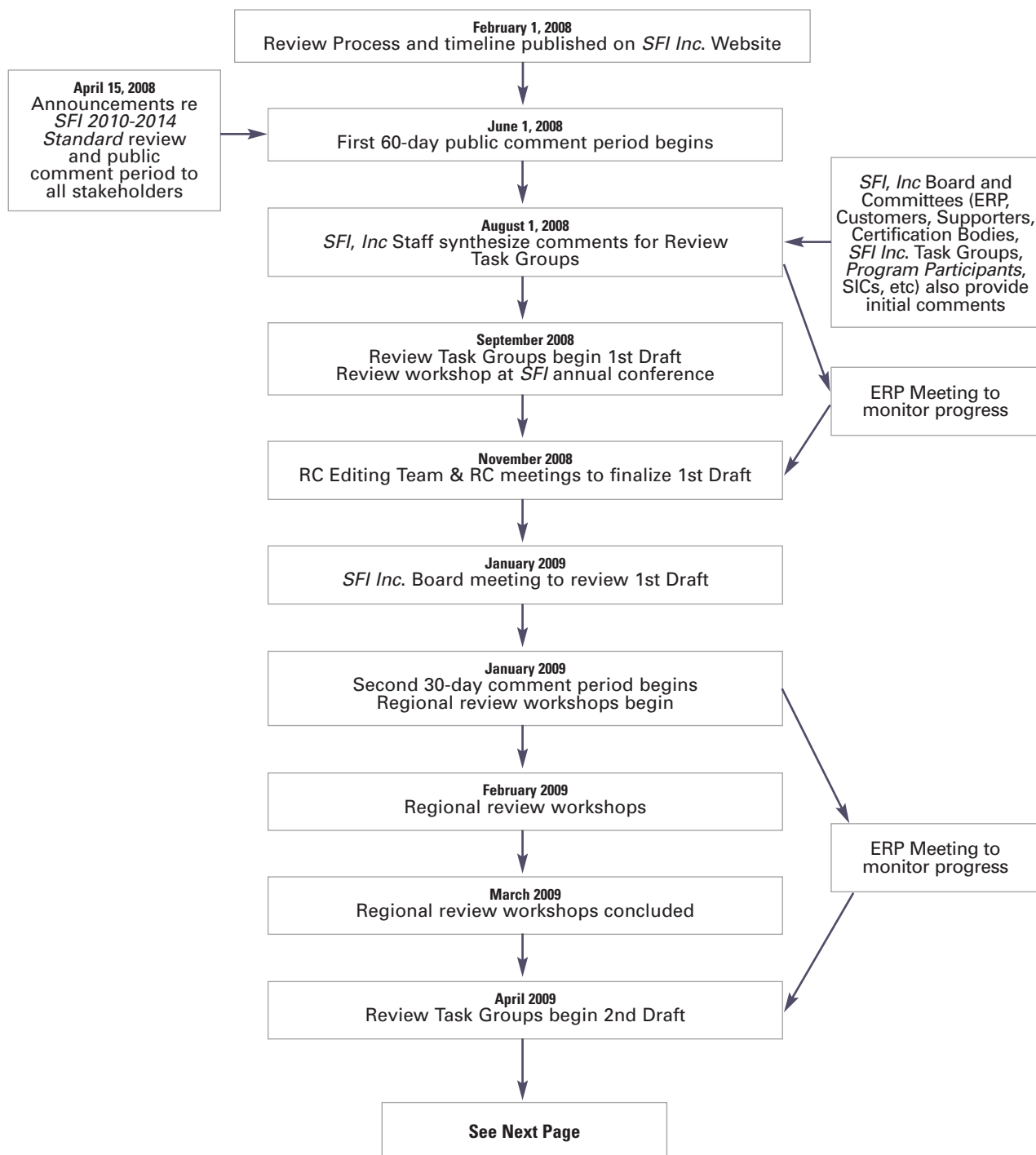
A second draft of the proposed changes to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* will typically be released during the first quarter of the review year and posted to the *SFI* website. This draft will then be presented and discussed with *SFI Program Participants* and all other stakeholders at regional workshops conducted by *SFI, Inc* throughout the U.S. and Canada. All stakeholders who have commented on proposed changes or who have proposed changes to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* shall use this opportunity to raise any concerns regarding their comments and the manner in

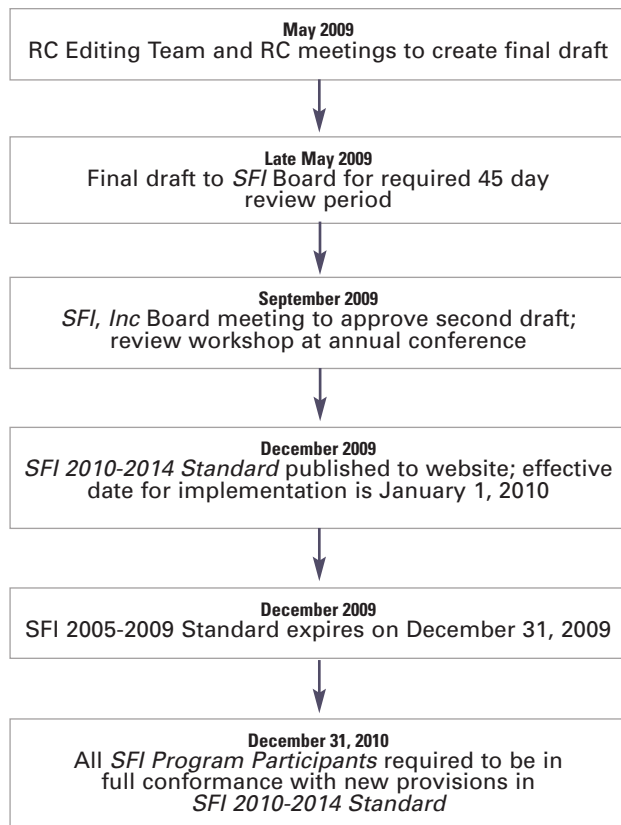
which the *SFI* Standards Review task group addressed their comments or suggested changes.

The final draft of the proposed changes to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* shall be delivered to the *SFI Inc.* Board of Directors by late May and posted to the *SFI* website. The *SFI, Inc.* Board bylaws require a 45-day advance notice to review proposed changes to the standard before Board action can occur. The *SFI Inc* Board will meet in July of the review year to discuss the final *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* draft and vote on the proposed changes. All comments will be considered carefully and records of their disposition maintained and *SFI Inc.* will respond to those who comment as resources allow. As in any review process, it is not necessary to agree to every suggestion, but it is important that they be given consideration. *SFI Inc.* seeks to obtain consensus in the standards setting process and is consistent with PEFC Guideline GL5/2006 (*Interpretation of the PEFC Council Requirements for Consensus in the Standard Setting Process*).

The revised *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* shall be published to the *SFI* program website by December 31 of the review year (in effect as of January 1, 2010) and printed copies will be available during the first quarter of 2010. All *Program Participants* have one year to fully implement new and revised *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* elements adopted by the Board.

PROCESS FOR THE SFI 2010-2014 STANDARD DEVELOPMENT





2. INTERPRETATIONS

From time to time, a formal process may be needed to interpret the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* and its supporting documents. As part of *SFI Inc.*'s commitment to continual improvement of both the *SFI certification* process and the *SFI Standard*, such concerns shall be submitted promptly to the *SFI Inc.* Interpretations Committee by contacting staff at *SFI Inc.* The *SFI Inc.* Interpretations Committee shall respond within 45 days of receipt.

It is neither the intent nor the responsibility of the *SFI Inc.* Interpretations Committee to resolve disputes arising through certification; nevertheless, the committee will provide opinions and direction to assist parties in answering interpretive questions. Through this process, the *SFI* program shall maintain a record of opinions and concerns available to both *Program Participants* and *certification bodies* to assist with certification planning. *SFI Inc.* shall periodically review this record and, where appropriate, recommend changes for inclusion in the *SFI Standard* or *SFI* audit procedures.