



## MAJOR ENHANCEMENTS TO THE DRAFT SFI 2015-2019 STANDARD AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### BACKGROUND

This document is a summary of the major enhancements to the SFI 2015-2019 Standard.

Using comments submitted during the first public comment period the SFI 2015-2019 Standard revision task groups have developed the draft SFI 2015-2019 Standard and Program Requirements under the direction of the SFI Resources Committee. A final draft of the SFI 2015-2019 Standard and Program Requirements will be presented to the SFI Board of Directors for their approval during the summer of 2014. Stakeholders can submit comments online regarding the working draft of the SFI 2015-2019 Standard and participate in person at one of the 9 public Standards Review workshops across the U.S. and Canada.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT:

- Page 2 - Section 2 Forest Management Enhancements (Objectives 1-8)
- Page 3 - Section 2 Fiber Sourcing Enhancements (Objectives 9-14)
- Page 4 - Section 2 Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing Enhancements (Objectives 15-21)
- Page 5 – Section 3 Chain of Custody Enhancements
- Page 5 – Section 4 SFI On-Product Label use Rules Enhancements
- Page 6 – Section 13 – SFI Definitions - New and Revised
- Page 8 – Summary Chart of Enhancements from 2010-2014 SFI Standard to 2015-2019 SFI Standard

[Click Here](#)   
to Submit Comments on the Draft  
SFI 2015-2019 Requirements

[Click Here](#)   
to view the Drafts of Sections in  
the SFI 2015-2019 Requirements

[Click Here](#)   
to Read About the SFI 2015-2019  
Requirements Review Process

[Click Here](#)   
for Information on the SFI  
Standard Revision Workshops  
and to Register



## Section 2 – Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing Enhancements

### A. FOREST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (OBJECTIVES 1-8)

SFI Standard land management objectives 1-8 provide measures for evaluating Certified Program Participants' conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standard on forest lands they own or control through long-term leases.

#### CONVERSION OF FOREST TYPES

New Performance Measure 1.2 addresses conversion of one forest type to another forest type. The Performance Measure incorporates the existing SFI interpretation that

- i) requires compliance with relevant national and regional policy and legislation related to land use and forest management;
- ii) prohibited conversion of native forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the landscape level or
- iii) put any native forest types at risk of becoming rare

The interpretation specifies that any conversion of forest types does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on FECVs, old-growth forests, forests critical to threatened and endangered species or Special Sites. (This revision aligns SFI forest management requirements with PEFC endorsement requirements.)

#### CONVERSION TO NON-FOREST

New Performance Measure 1.3 addresses the conversion of forest land to other land uses. This Performance Measure states that forest lands that are converted to another land use are no longer eligible for SFI certification. (This revision aligns SFI forest management requirements with PEFC endorsement requirements.)

#### CHEMICALS

New Indicator 2.2.4 expands existing requirements on chemical use by prohibiting the use of [World Health Organization 1A and 1B list of prohibited chemicals](#). (This revision aligns SFI forest management requirements with PEFC endorsement requirements.)

#### WATER QUALITY

New Performance Measure 3.2 was expanded to include requirements for protection of wetlands and riparian areas and now has specific reference to state BMPs, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors.

#### CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Indicator 4.1.3 was revised and requires a spatial and temporal assessment at the ownership or management unit level and where applicable at the landscape level.

Performance Measure 4.1 requires that Certified Program Participants consider Indigenous peoples planning and priority setting efforts as well as credible priority setting efforts such as state wildlife action plans, state forest action plans or provincial wildlife recovery plans.

#### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

A new Objective called *Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights - To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge*. This is a new objective which reflects existing SFI forest management requirements regarding respect for Indigenous rights and values on public lands and also has provisions for private lands.





## **B. FIBER SOURCING REQUIREMENTS (OBJECTIVES 9-14)**

SFI Standard fiber sourcing objectives 9-11 provide measures for evaluating Certified Program Participants' conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standard through their fiber sourcing programs within the United States and Canada. SFI Standard fiber sourcing objectives 12-14 provide measures for evaluating Certified Program Participants' conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standard through their fiber sourcing programs outside the United States and Canada.

Because a new Objective was added to the forest management section, the numbering for the following Objectives have changed:

- Objectives 9-11 and 15-21 apply to Certified Program Participants in the United States and Canada that purchase fiber. In the SFI 2010-2014 Standard these were Objectives 8-10 and 14-20
- Objectives 12-14 now apply to those Certified Program Participants that purchase fiber from outside the United States and Canada. In the SFI 2010-2014 Standard these were Objective 11-13

## **BIODIVERSITY IN FIBER SOURCING**

New Objective 9 is called *Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity*. The intent of this Objective is to enhance the existing requirements for conservation of biological diversity within a Certified Program Participant's wood and fiber supply area.

Performance Measure 9.1 -This performance measure includes a program to address conservation of biodiversity, individually or collaboratively for fiber sourcing from certified and non-certified lands within the United States and Canada.

## **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN FIBER SOURCING**

New Indicator 10.1.2 requires the use of written agreements for the purchase of all raw material sourced directly from the forest not just from purchased stumpage. These written agreements must include provisions requiring the use of best management practices.

## **AVOIDANCE OF CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES INCLUDING ILLEGAL LOGGING**

Indicator 13.1.1 was revised and requires a process for assessing risk of acquiring fiber from illegal logging and encourages the use of tools such as the World Resources Institute Risk Information Tool, a tool developed with assistance from an [SFI research grant](#).

## C. FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FIBER SOURCING ENHANCEMENTS (OBJECTIVES 15-21)

SFI Standard land management and fiber sourcing objectives 15-21 provide measures for evaluating all Certified Program Participants' conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standard for research, training, legal compliance, public and landowner involvement, management review, and continual improvement.

### LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

New Indicator 15.1.4 has additional requirements that address assessing the potential of sourcing from illegal logging from within the United States and Canada. Indicator requires a process to assess the risk of acquiring material from illegal logging by considering some of the following: i) communications with suppliers; ii) independent research; iii) contract documentation; and iv) records. Performance Measure 15.1 requires a program to address any significant risk identified under Indicator 15.1.4.

### FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Indicator 16.1.2 was revised to clarify that only international protocols for forest tree biotechnology ratified by the US and/or the Canadian governments are applicable.

The new **SFI Policy on Forest Tree Biotechnology** – approved by the SFI Board of Directors on December 5, 2013 - is incorporated in *Section 7 – SFI Policies*. This policy builds upon SFI's strong existing measures regarding research on genetically engineered trees via *forest tree biotechnology*. SFI Inc. will proactively review and update the SFI Standard language and this policy as necessary.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

### Logger Training

Indicator 17.1.5 now has a requirement for use of written agreements which stipulate the use of certified logging professionals (where available) or wood producers that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals.

Performance Measure 17.2 was strengthened with the addition of a continuing education requirement for Qualified Logging Professionals (QLP) and Qualified Resource Professionals (QRP).

Section 6 Guidance to SFI 2015-2019 was revised to establish a limit of 5% for de minimis deliveries by untrained loggers to SFI certified program participants. Certified program participants should strive to limit their deliveries from untrained loggers to no more than 5% of their raw material with allowances for turnover in the logging workforce, availability, timing and length of training programs, other wood suppliers and availability of trained logging professionals locally.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LAND OWNER OUTREACH IN THE PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Landowner outreach requirements from SFI 2010-2014 Indicator 8.1.1 are now in the draft SFI 2015-2019 Performance Measure 18.1.



## Section 3 Chain of Custody Enhancements

### GENERAL ENHANCEMENTS:

- Pre-consumer recycled content is now considered under the definition of certified content. Certified content currently consists of post-consumer content and certified forest content (SFI, CSA & ATFS). This change will allow pre-consumer content to count under the calculation of certified content. This will require revised labels as the labels currently only reference post-consumer content. Timing is to phase out old labels one year after the new 2015-2019 Standard is approved.

- 2.4.2, 3.2.1 and 3.6.2 – SFI Official Claims: A revised set of standardized SFI Claims for input materials was developed to clarify communications between chain of custody users. These claims are:

#### 2.4.2 and 3.2.1

- SFI *Certified Forest Content*
- SFI *Recycled Content*
- SFI *Pre-consumer recycled*
- SFI *Post-consumer recycled*
- SFI *Certified Sourcing*

(Note: Percentages of any combination of the above are permissible.)

- SFI at Least X% *Certified Forest Content*

#### 3.6.2

- SFI Certified Content - 100% as calculated under the volume credit method.
- SFI Recycled Content - 100% as calculated under the volume credit method.

- 3.7 - Process to Avoid Controversial Sources: Definition of controversial sources expanded to include: Forest activities which are not in compliance with applicable state, provincial or federal laws, particularly as they may relate to:
  - legally required protection of threatened and endangered species
  - requirements of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

- legally required management of areas with designated high environmental and cultural values,
- labor regulations relating to forest workers,
- indigenous peoples' property, tenure and use rights

Fiber supplied from outside the United States and Canada, with a valid PEFC chain of custody and claim, can be accepted as being free of controversial sources.

### Part 3 – Percentage Based Method

Requirements for calculating Volume Credit was revised to align with those of PEFC volume credit calculations.

### Part 4 – Management System Requirements

Revised 4.6 to include provision for auditing of multi-site organizations, auditing of outsource contractors and provision for remote audits.

### Part 5 – Outsourcing Agreements

New requirements were added outlining what measures must be in place for an outsource contractor to be included in a program participant's chain of custody. This part now has a process for assessing risk for out-source contractors for use when determining internal audit populations.

## Section 4 SFI On - Product Label use Rules Enhancements

### GENERAL ENHANCEMENTS:

- Added the proposed new controversial sources definition to the certified sourcing label requirements.
- Moved exiting SFI Label interpretations into the general rules for use of SFI on-product labels section.



## Section 13 – SFI Definitions - New and Revised

Several definitions were added or revised in Sections 2, 3 and 4. A list of these definitions are below.

- **claim period (new):** Time period for which the chain of custody claim applies.
- **climate change (new):** A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. *Note: taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC).*
- **controversial sources (revised):**
  - a. Forest activities which are not in compliance with applicable state, provincial or federal laws, particularly as they may relate to:
    - legally required protection of threatened and endangered species
    - requirements of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
    - legally required management of areas with designated high environmental and cultural values,
    - labor regulations relating to forest workers,
    - indigenous peoples' property, tenure and use rights
  - b. fiber sourced from *illegal logging*.
  - c. fiber sourced from *areas without effective social laws*

*Note: Conversion sources cannot be included when calculating certified forest content*

- **illegal logging (revised):** The theft of timber or logs and cutting in parks, reserves or other similar areas where otherwise precluded by laws such as the United States Lacey Act, as amended in 2008, the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), or other relevant state, provincial, or federal legislation. The Lacey Act<sup>1</sup> makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of the laws of the United States, a State, an Indian tribe, or any foreign law that protects plants. The EUTR<sup>2</sup> prohibits illegally harvested timber or products derived from such timber to be brought into the EU, and creates obligations for operators who place timber and timber products on the EU market. In addition, see Section 7 in the SFI requirements document, SFI Legality Requirements and Policies for Avoidance of Illegal Logging, for SFI Inc's Policy on Illegal Logging.

<sup>1</sup> The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub.L. 110-234, 122 Stat. 923, enacted May 22, 2008, H.R. 2419, Section 8204. Prevention of Illegal Logging Practices, also known as the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill).

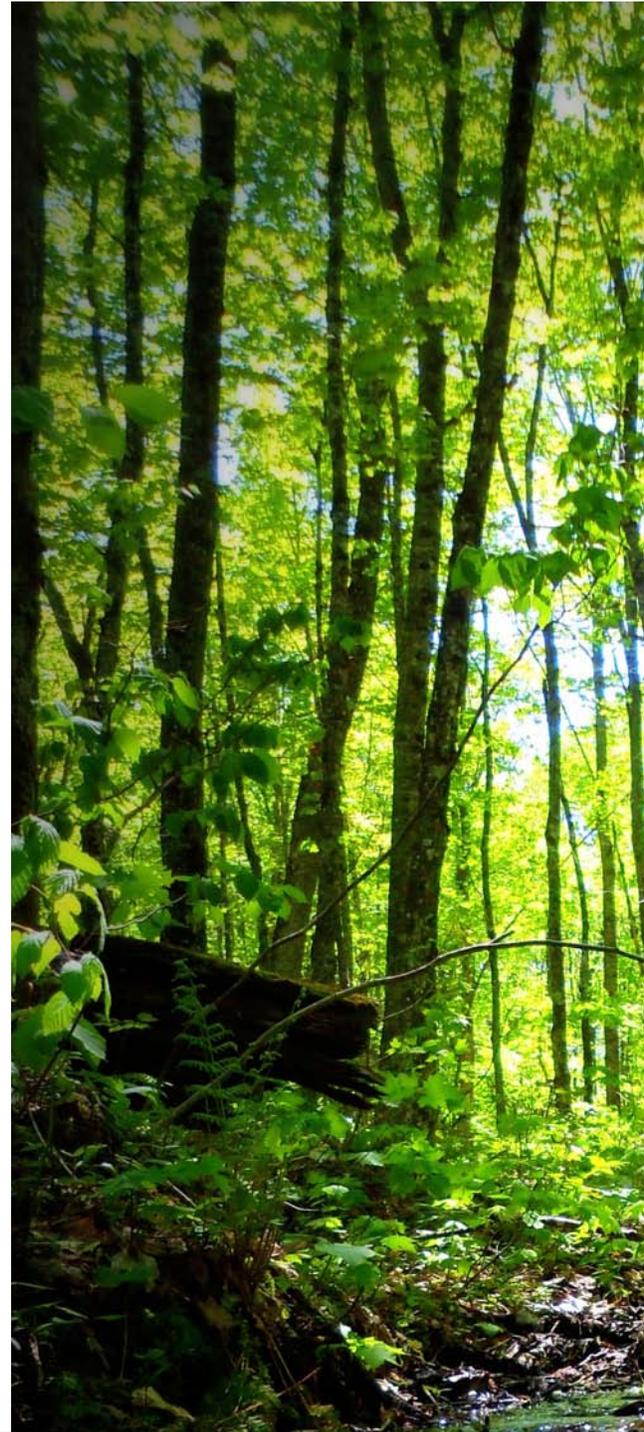
<sup>2</sup> Regulation EU No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010.

- **forest type (new):** Classification of a forest stand by the dominant tree species or combination of tree species present (examples include pine, oak-hickory, maple-beech-birch, spruce-fir, douglas-fir, etc.).
- **product group (new):** Set of products manufactured or traded in the specified processes which are covered by the organization's chain of custody.
- **other credible chain-of-custody standards (revised):** Standards capable of tracking fiber back to a forest certified to the SFI 2015-2019 Standard or other acceptable standards recognized by the SFI program. They include:
  - PEFC ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements, May 24 2013



## Section 13 – SFI Definitions - New and Revised

- **qualified logging professional (revised):** A person with specialized skills in timber harvesting gained through experience or formal training who has successfully completed *wood producer training programs* and continuing education requirements recognized by *SFI Implementation Committees* as meeting the spirit and intent of *performance measure* under Objective 17 of the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard*.
  - a. For a logging crew to be considered trained, each crew must operate under the direction of a *qualified logging professional* that is on-site working as a member of the crew, who has completed the *SFI Implementation Committee* approved state or provincial logger training *program*.
  - b. All of the components of a training *program* could take several years to carry out, determining the point at which a logger is considered a *qualified logging professional* should be based on the individual's commitment to the *program*. That is, if a logger completes all the components or modules offered in a given year, that logger should be considered as a *qualified logging professional*. If all available components or modules are not completed, then the logger is no longer considered trained until all available components are completed.
- **recycled content (revised):** recycled content is defined as *pre-consumer recycled content* and *post-consumer recycled content*.
- **riparian area (new):** transition zone characterized by vegetation or geomorphology adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, and other water bodies.
- **vernal pool (new):** a seasonal wetland with sufficient water present during amphibian breeding season, absence of fish, and presence of wetland obligate fauna.
- **Wetland (new):** (1) seasonally or permanently water-logged areas characterized by vegetation adapted for life in saturated /flooded conditions; (2) wetlands can be treed, shrubby or open and include bogs, fens, swamps, marshes and shallow open water areas; (3) wetlands may be stagnant systems (e.g. bogs), slow flowing (e.g. fens, swamps) or have fluctuating water levels (e.g. marshes, shallow open water).





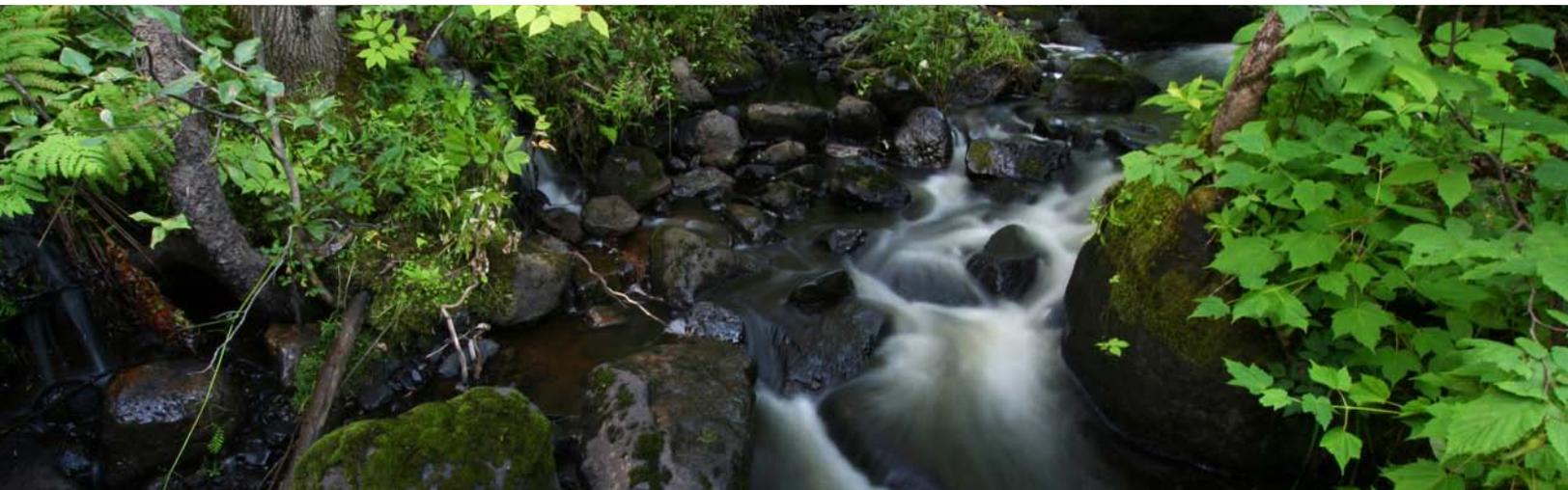
## Summary Chart of Enhancements from 2010-2014 SFI Standard to 2015-2019 SFI Standard

Forest Land Management Objectives		
SFI 2010-2014 Objectives	Draft SFI 2015-2019 Objectives	Key Enhancements
Objective 1 – Forest Management Planning	Objective 1– Forest Management Planning	new requirements for forest conversion of forest types
Objective 2 – Forest Productivity	Objective 2 – Forest Productivity	expanded requirements for chemicals
Objective 3 – Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	Objective 3 – Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	enhanced protection of riparian areas and wetlands (revised)
Objective 4 – Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value	Objective 4 – Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value	new requirement for spatial and temporal assessments
Objective 5 – Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits	Objective 5 – Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits	No change
Objective 6 – Protection of Special Sites	Objective 6 – Protection of Special Sites	Protection of ecologically important sites moved to draft SFI 2015-2019 Objective 4
Objective 7 – Efficient Use of Forest Resources	Objective 7 – Efficient Use of Fiber Resources	Objective now called Efficient Use of Fiber Resources
*****	Objective 8 - Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	New objective for Indigenous Peoples' rights and values on public lands



## Summary Chart of Enhancements from 2010-2014 SFI Standard to 2015-2019 SFI Standard

Fiber Sourcing Objectives		
SFI 2010-2014 Objectives	Draft SFI 2015-2019 Objectives	Key Enhancements
Objective 8 – Landowner Outreach	*****	Moved to other objectives
*****	Objective 9 - Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing	New requirements for conservation of biodiversity for fiber sourcing.
Objective 9 – Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals	Objective 11 - Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals	renumbered
Objective 10 – Adherence to Best Management Practices	Objective 10 - Adherence to Best Management Practices	New requirement for written agreements for the purchase of all raw materials sourced directly from the forest
Objective 11 – Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas	Objective 12 - Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas	renumbered
Objective 12 – Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging	Objective 13 - Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging	renumbered
Objective 13 – Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced From Areas Without Effective Social Laws	Objective 14 - Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourcing from Areas without Effective Social Laws	renumbered





## Summary Chart of Enhancements from 2010-2014 SFI Standard to 2015-2019 SFI Standard

Forest Land Management and Fiber Sourcing Objectives		
SFI 2010-2014 Objectives	Draft SFI 2015-2019 Objectives	Key Enhancements
Objective 14 – Legal and Regulatory Compliance	Objective 15 - Legal and Regulatory Compliance	new requirements for avoidance of illegal logging in US and Canada
Objective 15 – Forestry Research, Science, and Technology	Objective 16 - Forestry Research, Science, and Technology	renumbered
Objective 16 – Training and Education	Objective 17 - Training and Education	new requirements for written agreements and continual education
Objective 17 – Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry	Objective 18 - Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry	Landowner Outreach requirements now in Objective 18
Objective 18 – Public Land Management Responsibilities	Objective 19 - Public Land Management Responsibilities	renumbered
Objective 19 – Communications and Public Reporting	Objective 20 - Communications and Public Reporting	renumbered
Objective 20 – Management Review and Continual Improvement	Objective 21 - Management Review and Continual Improvement	renumbered