

## **Huber Engineered Woods, LLC 2015 SFI Summary Surveillance Audit Report**

The SFI Program of the Huber Engineered Woods, LLC operations in Broken Bow Oklahoma, Commerce Georgia, Crystal Hill Virginia and Easton Maine has demonstrated continuing conformance with the SFI Standard<sup>®</sup>, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF-ISR initially certified Huber Engineered Woods to the SFIS on December 20, 2002. This report describes the second surveillance audit since the second recertification audit. This audit was designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. In addition, a subset of SFI 2010-2014 requirements and all new or significantly revised requirements in the 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard were selected for detailed review.

Huber Engineered Woods, LLC procures wood in the resident state of each mill as well as adjacent states. A variety of wood is procured based on mill location and includes pine and soft hardwoods. Huber Engineered Woods, LLC's SFI Program is coordinated by Brad Fuller.

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on November 16-17, 2015 at the Crystal Hill, VA facility and on November 18-19, 2015 at the Broken Bow, OK facility by an audit team headed by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of "Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation" contained in Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> Standard, 2010-2014 Edition and new or significantly revised requirements in the 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.

The scope of the SFIS Audit included procurement operations. A sample of procurement operations were reviewed to ensure that SFI Procurement Standards were met. In addition, a subset of 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 of audit reports were also reviewed.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI 2010 – 2014 Performance Measures were outside of the scope of the Huber Engineered Woods, LLC SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Surveillance 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
- 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.

During the audit NSF-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

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.

### **Overview of Audit Findings**

Huber Engineered Woods, LLC's SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard. One Transitional Minor Corrective Action was identified. The NSF-ISR SFI audit process did not identify any non-conformances or opportunities for improvement and no adverse findings during the 2014 surveillance audit.

- Corrective action plan is not required.
- Minor Nonconformities:** Corrective action plan should be provided within thirty (30) days of this visit. NSF may suspend the certificate if the plan is not received within sixty (60) days. Effectiveness of implementation of corrective actions will be verified during the next regularly scheduled visit.
  - Written agreements for the use of qualified logging professionals have not been developed. (SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard, Indicator 6.1.5)
- Major Nonconformities:** Corrective action plan should be provided within thirty (30) days of this visit. The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented. All major nonconformities must be closed by a special verification audit or by desk review. NSF may suspend the certificate if the corrective action plan is not received within sixty (60) days and/or if evidence verifying the corrective action is not provided within 120 days.

At the conclusion of this audit, the following number of NCs was communicated:

Major: 0      Minor: 1 (1 Transitional)

In addition, 0 opportunities for improvement (OFIs) were identified)

Corrective actions and supporting documentation should be submitted to NSF through the NSF Online Customer Portal. For assistance, please contact your NSF Certification Project Manager.

The next audit is scheduled for the Fall of 2016 at the Maine and Georgia facilities.

### **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 were used to confirm these requirements.

**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 harvest sites audited, and landowner 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** – Review of Huber Engineered Woods LLC Employee Handbook confirms this is covered.

**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 review of check requisitions and thank you notes.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Confirmed by Huber's financial and physical support of the SICs and its development of education and logger training programs.

**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** – Confirmed these items are covered via support of the SICs.

**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.

### **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*

**For Additional Information Contact:**

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