



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 19, 2008

Contact: Karen Brandt, VP, Market Affairs
703 875-9500 ext 28

SFI STANDARD MEETS UK PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS

ARLINGTON, VA – The latest assessment by the United Kingdom’s Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) has confirmed the independent Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program once again meets its strict requirements for ‘legality’ and ‘sustainability’.

“Meeting CPET’s rigorous demands is important to SFI Inc.,” SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow said today. “The UK government is viewed as a leader in sustainable procurement of forest products as a result of this process, which is one of the most comprehensive and independent studies conducted to date on forest certification. This is especially important at a time when the demand for certified products is growing, and just 10 percent of the world’s forests are certified.”

Every two years, CPET assesses the certification programs most commonly used in the UK wood chain for their compliance with the UK government’s timber procurement policy. This is the second time the non-profit SFI program has met the tough conditions, which include 26 criteria across four categories related to forest standards, certification, accreditation and chain of custody. As a result, SFI-certified products can be used for the London 2012 Olympic Games, which is committed to breaking new ground in sustainable and responsible sourcing.

“Each CPET assessment is independent, open and rigorous,” said Sofie Tind Nielsen, CPET coordinator and manager. “Certification programs such as the SFI program provide evidence that wood or wood products are from legal and sustainable sources in compliance with the UK government’s criteria, and this is examined by a technical review panel of four experts selected for their certification expertise, independence and international input.”

The SFI program was created to certify forests in the United States and Canada, and has become one of the largest and fastest-growing certification programs in the world. There are about 150 million acres (more than 60 million hectares) of SFI-certified lands across North America. Through SFI’s fiber sourcing requirements, program participants influence millions of additional acres through an auditable procurement process designed to improve management on all suppliers’ lands.

Many government procurement policies and green building rating programs around the world recognize SFI-certified products – including the UK’s Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for commercial buildings and The Code for Sustainable Homes for new housing. SFI Inc. is also endorsed by the world’s largest forest certification umbrella organization, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), which has also met CPET’s requirements.

- more -



... 2/2

CPET is funded and operated by ProForest, an independent company with wide experience in responsible purchasing. The technical review panel makes its recommendations to the CPET Reference Board, and scores are reviewed by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which makes the final decision. The SFI program's assessment results are posted at the CPET website, www.proforest.net/cpet/documents.

-30-

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program (www.sfiprogram.org), that is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. It is one of the fastest-growing forest certification programs with 150 million acres (60 million hectares) of SFI-certified forests across North America. The SFI Standard also includes unique fiber sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands and a chain-of-custody certification, which can communicate to buyers how much certified fiber is in a specific product. The SFI forest standard is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, a global umbrella organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.