

How to Certify to the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard

What is SFI Inc.?

SFI Inc. is a fully independent, charitable organization that manages one of the largest and most widely accepted forest certification programs in the world. SFI certification standards require third-party audits to maintain an internationally recognized and trusted standard of practice.

What is chain of custody?

Chain-of-custody certification is a tool used to track certified wood fiber through the different stages of production to the end user.

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

SFI chain-of-custody certification assures customers they are buying forest products from legal, 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 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 fiber certified to SFI and two other credible North American certification standards – the American Tree Farm System and the Canadian Standards Association. All three standards are endorsed by the non-profit Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), the world's largest independent forest certification umbrella organization. This encompasses more than 80 per cent of all certified fiber in North America.

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

1. Review SFI Chain of Custody Standard (Annex 2) (posted at www.sfiprogram.org) to see if your company can meet SFI chain-of-custody certification requirements, or contact Jason Metnick at Jason.Metnick@sfiprogram.org for assistance.
2. Contact an SFI-accredited certification body (a list is posted at www.sfiprogram.org) and work with them to identify the sections of the standard that apply to your business.
3. The certification body will complete an on-site audit and submit its report to the SFI Office of Label Use and Licensing.

4. The SFI Office of Label Use and Licensing can authorize approval.
5. Once your company receives the certification, the certifier will send the certificate and completed report form to SFI Inc. so it is registered and posted on the website.
6. An annual audit is needed to maintain the chain-of-custody certification.

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

SFI Inc. does not charge for chain-of-custody certification but the cost for the certification body is usually \$2,000 to \$3,000 per site.

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.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/Certification%20bodies.pdf.

Where can I get more information about SFI chain-of-custody certification?

You can contact **Jason Metnick**, Director, Market Access and Product Labeling at 602-374-6539 or Jason.Metnick@sfiprogram.org

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), a sustainable forestry certification program that is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. Across North America, more than 150 million acres (more than 60 million hectares) are certified to the SFI 2005-2009 Standard, which is based on principles and measures that promote sustainability, including measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with exceptional conservation value. The SFI Standard includes unique fiber sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI Inc. also has chain-of-custody certification, which is used to tell buyers how much certified fiber is in a specific product.