

# HOW WE DO IT: Forest Management & Wood Procurement Certification



We are proud of our long history managing our forests sustainably and advancing responsible wood procurement throughout our supply chain. We verify this work through companywide certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Forest Management, Fiber Sourcing and Certified Sourcing standards, as well as certification of select sites to the SFI® and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Chain-of-Custody standards. These standards outline the requirements certified companies must meet when managing timberlands and procuring wood materials. Requirements cover a range of activities such as protecting biodiversity, soil health, water and special sites, providing recreational access, conducting forestry research and using professionally trained loggers. Certification to credible certification standards provides our customers and stakeholders with an objective, third-party determination that we implement sustainable forestry practices and make products that come from legal and responsibly managed sources.



## KEY POINTS

- Certification standards are determined by independent organizations, such as SFI, and cover three main areas: sustainable forest management, wood procurement practices and supply chain assurances.
- Our conformance to SFI and PEFC standards is measured and verified by external, third-party auditors through annual, on-site audits.
- All our timberlands are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, which contains more than 140 different indicators of sustainable forest management. Certification to this standard requires that we:
  - Promptly reforest after harvest and protect our forests from damaging agents such as wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive species.
  - Manage our forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity and protect water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies.
  - Ensure our forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and that we limit the susceptibility of our forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire.
- Across our wood products manufacturing facilities, we certify all our sites to either the SFI Fiber Sourcing or Certified Sourcing standards. Certification to these standards require that we:
  - Verify whether our wood originates from a certified or non-certified land base.
  - Collect and confirm the location of origin (e.g., county or municipality) for all wood we procure.
  - Assess the risk of procuring wood from controversial sources and implement mitigation action where risk is identified.
  - Have the systems and controls in place to credibly pass certified forest content claims to our customers.

## SUPPORTING RESEARCH

- The SFI Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing standards are unique in that they require certified organizations to invest in research, science and technology and integrate the best available science into forest management practices.
- Our internal teams conduct and collaborate on research to improve our understanding of topics such as biodiversity, forest health and productivity, restoration after wildfires and climate change impacts. We conduct research internally and collaboratively by partnering with organizations including universities, environmental non-governmental groups, government agencies and other forest product industries.
- In 2023, we invested over \$11 million toward these research activities and collaborative efforts.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How does a company become certified?

The process is slightly different for every company, but generally the first step is to develop procedures and processes that comply with all the requirements of a standard. Then we work with functional teams to implement these procedures and processes across all our operations. To ensure actions taken on the ground align with standard requirements, companies must conduct internal audits. These audits allow companies to self-identify any gaps between on-the-ground outcomes and standard requirements and put corrective actions in place, such as enhanced training, site visits or changes in operational guidance. Finally, conformance with the standard is verified through third-party auditing of a company's operations; if successful, that results in the issuance of a certificate.

### How often do you get externally audited against standard requirements?

Every year, auditors visit different portions of our land base and mill operations to determine whether we are meeting standard requirements. The audited operations change each year and are scheduled to provide a representative sample of our forest management and mill operations. During visits, auditors conduct staff interviews, review documentation and directly observe forest management and fiber procurement outcomes.

### How often do you conduct internal audits?

Our internal audit schedule depends on the certification standard. For sites with Chain-of-Custody and Certified Sourcing certification, every site is internally audited every year. Sites with Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing certification are internally audited on a cycle that aligns with our external audit schedule, meaning these sites are internally (and externally) audited once every four to five years. Just like our external audits, our internal audits include staff interviews, documentation review and extensive field time to observe the outcomes of our certification programs (we also report internal audit findings of non-conformance and corrective actions to external auditors to demonstrate effective internal controls). Internal audits are a key part of how we ensure our operations meet standard requirements and how we help our teams get comfortable presenting their work to auditors.

### How did you choose SFI as your primary certification standard?

There are multiple internationally recognized forest certification standards — such as SFI, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, the American Tree Farm System and the Forest Stewardship Council — that provide sustainability assurance to customers and stakeholders. Each of these programs provides its own set of requirements that are best suited for different types of landowners and managers. No matter which standard a company or landowner chooses, all credible standards help raise the bar of sustainable forest and procurement practices.

At Weyerhaeuser, we choose to certify our timberlands and operations to SFI's standards because they are strong, science-based standards that have effectively pushed forestry in a more sustainable direction. The SFI standards are designed specifically for operations in North America and in a way that is scalable to the large scope of our operational footprint. We value SFI's collaborative approach to both standard development and standard implementation, especially around logger training and the requirement to invest in research and apply it to our operations. Recent updates to the SFI standard include an increased focus on protecting biodiversity, engaging with Indigenous peoples, promoting fire resiliency and mitigating and adapting to climate change. After implementing the SFI standards across our land base and procurement program, we've seen firsthand the positive effect the SFI standards have had on sustainable forestry outcomes. We are proud to directly contribute to this work.

### Does certification cover only environmental factors?

No, the SFI and PEFC standards include several different types of social requirements, which vary based on the part of the supply chain the standard influences. As part of certification requirements, we follow:

- SFI Forest Management standard requirements to protect culturally sensitive areas in our care, provide recreation access to the public when aligned with management objectives, and maintain written policies acknowledging a commitment to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples and to respond to Indigenous peoples whose rights may be affected by our forest practices.

- SFI Fiber Sourcing and SFI Forest Management standards' requirements that companies broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, community engagement and involvement.
- SFI Fiber Sourcing, Certified Sourcing and the SFI & PEFC Chain of Custody standards' requirements that companies conduct a risk assessment and due diligence system of sourcing wood from areas without effective social laws or from activities where the spirit of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples are not met and to implement mitigation actions where risks are identified.

### **How do we know if a product is covered by a sustainable forestry standard?**

The easiest way to tell is to look for an on-product certification logo. On our wood products, we use the SFI Certified Sourcing logo. Any time you see a logo like this on a product, it means the wood fiber in the product comes from legal, responsible and non-controversial sources. Next time you're at the hardware store picking lumber or at the grocery store buying anything in a carton or a box, look for a forest certification logo.

