

# Environmental Topic

## Comparison of SFI and FSC Certification



	Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
<b>Origin</b>	Both methods emerged from concepts of sustainable development that grew out of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.	
	Founded in 1994, began with a strong forest industry focus.	Founded in 1993, developed with a strong tie to non-governmental organizations
<b>Scope</b>	A North-American program	Developed as an international initiative, with various sets of regionally specific standards.
<b>Goal</b>	Both methods seek to improve sustainable forest management practices that result in well-managed sustainable forests.	
<b>Objectives</b>	Establish a baseline of sustainable forestry performance and maintain focus on continuous improvement.	Distinguish exemplary forest management and provide market recognition.
<b>Governance</b>	The Sustainable Forestry Board, representing conservation organizations, academia, industry, and others manages the standards and certification program.	Board split into environmental, social, and economic chambers and has authority for FSC position changes.
<b>Standard</b>	Tiered structure of Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures and Indicators.	Tiered structure of Principles, Criteria, and Indicators.
<b>Standard Applicability</b>	Program embraces state developed Best Management Practices to gain operational feasibility.	Regional standards more prescriptive, requiring more subjective interpretation to reflect diversity of forest conditions.
<b>Audits</b>	Both methods require annual surveillance audits.	
<b>Audit firm accreditation</b>	Third-party audit firms required to be accredited by the Registrar Accreditation Board or its joint National Accreditation Program with the American National Standards Institute.	Internal accreditation process, operating under the jurisdiction of the FSC Board of Directors.
<b>Stand on natural forests</b>	Standard accepts planting as a common and essential component of forest management.	Standards emphasize the value of natural forests and prohibit the conversion of natural forests to plantations.
<b>Non-conformances</b>	Non-conformance issues identified by auditors, program participants propose solutions.	Auditors prescribe very specific solutions to non-conformance issues.
<b>Chain-of-custody (CoC)</b>	Both methods provide CoC Standards for tracking fiber from the origin through the production chain to customers.	
<b>Employee education</b>	Standards place stronger emphasis on training of contractors and extensive efforts to provide educational outreach materials to small private landowners and the public.	Requires a commitment to employee education and training and stewardship advocacy.
<b>Marketplace Symbols</b>	Both methods have options for on-product labels.	
<b>Human rights</b>	Relies upon existing North American social and civil rights laws and regulations.	Recognizes the rights of indigenous people.
<b>Credibility</b>	International recognition by Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). 129.4 million acres certified in North America.	Strong recognition by Environmental Non Governmental Organizations. 13.7 million acres certified in U.S.