

# SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

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We are often asked the difference between the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards. The table below contains key similarities and differences of these standards.

## Key issues addressed by forestland and procurement certification

	Sustainable Forestry Initiative	Forest Stewardship Council
Illegal Logging	All wood harvesting complies with U.S and Canadian laws and regulations.	All wood harvesting complies with governmental regulations.
Endangered or Old Growth Forests	Supports old growth forest conservation through identification and protection.	No management permitted in intact, old growth forests.
Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value (FECVs) or High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs)	Requires biodiversity conservation at stand and landscape level plus protection of threatened, endangered and globally imperiled species and communities based on scientifically designated FECVs.	Requires protection of rare habitats and representative ecosystems based on a nonspecific definition of HCVFs.
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	Allows use according to international protocols for environmental safety. Currently no GMOs are used commercially.	Prohibits Use.
Clearcutting	Allowed, but average size is limited to 120 acres.	Allowed, no size limit but must mimic natural occurrences. Regional standards may have size limitations.
Indigenous Peoples, Workers Rights, and Social Impact	Addressed adequately by compliance with existing regulations. No formal assessment of social impact required.	Separate treatment of rights of indigenous people outside of existing regulations. Formal, periodic assessment of social impact required.
Plantations	Plantation forestry acceptable.	Plantations are acceptable but standard is restrictive in terms of acceptable species and use of generally accepted forest management methods.
Forest Conversion	Conversion to plantations allowed, but an ecological assessment required.	Currently no certification of plantations established in areas converted from natural forest after 1994.
Chemicals & Pesticides	Requires minimum effective rates for use of forest chemicals as part of an integrated pest management plan.	Requires progress toward non-chemical pest controls.
Chain-of-Custody Certification	Available since 2006.	Available since 1994.
Education & Outreach	Very strong emphasis; comprehensive approach reaching landowners and wood suppliers.	Commitment to employee education and training and stewardship advocacy.
Mutual Recognition	Endorsed by Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), a global umbrella organization that certifies national standards.	Resists mutual recognition of competing certification standards

### For more information or materials about sustainable forestry or forest certification systems:

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