

# SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

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## Frequently asked questions about International Paper and sustainable forestry

### **What is "sustainable forestry" – and why is it so important?**

Sustainable forestry means that every acre of trees harvested must be regenerated so forests continue to provide opportunities for use and enjoyment of current and future generations. Sustainable forestry is a critical component of natural resource conservation and good environmental practice. International Paper is committed to all three concepts: sustainability, conservation and environmental stewardship. Our commitment is reflected by participation in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program, which establishes uniform standards, practices and certification that companies and consumers can understand and is mutually recognized by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

### **What do you mean by "forest certification" and "chain-of-custody certification?"**

Certification is the process by which an independent auditing body conducts an inspection and awards (or does not award) a certificate using independent standards and objectives. For instance, our wood purchasing system or 'procurement system' is SFI certified.

Chain-of-custody is an accounting system that maps our fiber supply chain. It is the process of tracking and recording the transfer of wood from the forest through the different areas of production – primary manufacturer, secondary manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor or printer – all the way to the end consumer. In June 2007, International Paper achieved SFI and PEFC chain-of-custody certification at all of our 16 primary paper mills.

### **Why is it important to our customers that International Paper is third-party certified?**

Third-party certification assures our customer that our fiber supply chain is compliant with relevant standards (SFI, ISO) as evaluated by an outside party. Because our wood fiber procurement system has been third-party certified, the products from all our company paper mills in the United States are certified as sustainable to the SFI standard. The SFI program is applicable to the United States and Canada, and we support national standards that are mutually recognized worldwide by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). We have also certified our U.S. fiber procurement system to ISO 14001 guidelines to assure our customers that we are serious about sustainability.

### **What is the Forest Stewardship Council, and why doesn't International Paper use its standard?**

Like the SFI program, the FSC standard is designed to demonstrate good stewardship of forest resources. Our company has chosen to pursue SFI certification because we deem it to be more effective in achieving sustainable forestry in the social, political, environmental and economic context of North America and to the host of wood suppliers and family forest owners who provide us with wood. In particular, the SFI program's unique emphasis on broadening the practice of sustainable forestry has a significant positive outcome on natural resource management in the United States. Additionally, the diversity of stakeholders in the governing body of the SFI program ensures that environmental, social, and economic benefits will always be considered during the creation or revision of certification standards.

### **Is all the fiber in our products certified? Are our products made from 'controlled wood?'**

International Paper no longer owns and manages forestland, but we continue to purchase certified fiber from the new forest land-owners and other wood suppliers. The SFI-certified fiber content of our products varies by production facility.

Under the SFI chain-of-custody, the non-certified portion of the wood fiber must come from legal sources and forests that are not endangered. FSC calls this non-certified fiber "controlled wood." FSC additionally includes globally applicable requirements that preclude the use of fiber from areas where traditional and civil rights are not respected; fiber from genetically modified trees; or fiber from natural forests that have been converted to plantations or non-forest uses.

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

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