



SFI Public Audit Report Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands

The SFI Program of the Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands of Chillicothe, Ohio has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2005-2009 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process. Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands was initially certified on December 4, 2006. This report describes the results of the third annual follow-up surveillance audit.

Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands's SFI Program is managed by Eric Roush, a forester with the company. Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands procures fiber for a pulp and paper mill in Chillicothe, Ohio. The mill uses both hardwoods and softwoods and accepts most trees common to the area. Most of the fiber is sourced from Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia through stumpage purchases or from independent wood suppliers. Small volumes are sourced from adjoining states, with occasional supplies from as far south as Georgia.

Wood procurement operations in southern Ohio and northwestern Kentucky, including the woodyard at Washington, WV, were the focus of the audit, conducted on November 11, 2009 by Norman Boatwright, Lead Auditor for NSF-ISR. Audit team members conducting SFI audits for NSF fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ) 2005–2009 Edition.

The objectives of the SFIS Audit were to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2005-2009 Edition and whether any outstanding corrective action plans were implemented. The scope of the audit included procurement operations conducted since the previous audit. In addition, SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were within the scope of the audit.

The 2005-2009 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard® was used without modifying any requirements. Several of the SFI Indicators were outside of the scope of the company's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Objectives 1 through 7 were excluded, as Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands does not manage land.
- Indicators 8.5 and 8.6 were excluded, as this facility does not purchase wood or fiber from outside the US or Canada.
- Indicator 11.1.4 was excluded, as there is no research or deployment of trees derived from improved planting stock & biotechnology.
- Performance Measures 12.3 and 12.4 were excluded, as this facility does not have forest management responsibilities on public lands.

SFIS Audit Process

NSF-ISR initiated the SFIS audit process with a planning phone call to confirm the scope of the audit, to review the categories of evidence to be used to assess conformance, to verify that Glatfelter Chillicothe

Woodlands was prepared to provide evidence of continuing conformance to the SFIS Certification Audit, and to prepare an agenda and audit plan. NSF then conducted the SFIS Certification Audit of conformance to the SFI Standard. A report was prepared by the lead auditor and reviewed by an independent Certification Board Member assigned by NSF. Final approval was provided by this CB Member.

The actual NSF-ISR SFI Certification Audit was governed by a detailed Audit Plan designed to enable the audit team to determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The plan included detailed provisions for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices.

During the audit, NSF-ISR's audit team reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. The audit team leader also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-Standard Operating Procedure. The lead auditor also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and agency staff, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard. The option for Continuous Surveillance Audits is being used for this certificate. The next Surveillance Audit is tentatively scheduled for November 9, 2010.

Overview of Audit Findings

The possible findings of the audit included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, or Exceeds the Standard.

Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodlands's SFI Program was found to be in conformance with the SFIS Standard. There were no non-conformances. One opportunity for improvement was identified under SFI Indicator 8.3.2 which requires a "Program to ensure that harvests of purchased stumpage comply with BMPs." There is an opportunity to improve the implementation of BMPs on purchase stumpage tracts.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Responsible Practices

To use and to promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally, and socially responsible.

3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base.

4. Forest Health and Productivity

To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity

To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

6. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity

To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

8. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

9. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management and also to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2005–2009 Edition

For Additional Information Contact:

Mike Ferrucci, SFI Program Manager,
NSF-International Strategic Registrations
26 Commerce Drive
North Branford, CT 06471
203-887-9248
mferrucci@iforest.com

Eric Roush, SFI Coordinator
Glatfelter Chillicothe Woodland Group
PO Box 2500
Chillicothe, OH 45601
740-772-3106
eroush@glatfelter.com