



## SFI Lacks Elements of Credible Certification Systems

Forest certification should help consumers choose wood and paper products from forests managed to exemplary environmental and social standards. However, the American Forest & Paper Association's *Sustainable Forestry Initiative* (SFI) lacks many important elements needed for credible forest certification, including elements found in the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) program. The FSC represents the minimum threshold for meaningful forest certification systems.

<b><i>Independent From Timber Industry? Balanced Governance?</i></b>	<b>FSC:</b> ✓	<b>SFI:</b> <i>no</i>
<b><i>Strong Forest and Environmental Protection Standards?</i></b>	<b>FSC:</b> ✓	<b>SFI:</b> <i>no</i>
<b><i>Strong Community Protection Standards?</i></b>	<b>FSC:</b> ✓	<b>SFI:</b> <i>no</i>
<b><i>Strong Truth-in-Labeling and Product Content Monitoring?</i></b>	<b>FSC:</b> ✓	<b>SFI:</b> <i>no</i>
<b><i>Strong Certification and Accreditation Process?</i></b>	<b>FSC:</b> ✓	<b>SFI:</b> <i>no</i>
<b><i>Transparency and Public Participation Consistently Required?</i></b>	<b>FSC:</b> ✓	<b>SFI:</b> <i>no</i>

### Independence and Balance

**FSC: SFI:**

○ System's governing bodies predominantly independent of the companies being certified and other forestry interests?	yes	no
○ System governed at all levels by an equal balance of environmental, social, and economic interests?	yes	no
○ System predominantly funded by independent sources without vested interests?	yes	no
○ Certification process sufficiently independent from the companies being certified?	yes	no

### Forest and Environmental Protection Standards

**FSC: SFI:**

○ Requires management for natural forest attributes and ecosystem function at meaningful levels?	yes	no
○ Prohibits replacement of natural forests by ecologically-impooverished plantations?	yes	no
○ Establishes meaningful limits on large-scale clearcutting?	yes	no
○ Requires protection measures for old growth forests?	yes	no
○ Consistently requires protection of other high conservation value forests?	yes	no
○ Requires on-the-ground protection of all imperiled, threatened, and endangered species?	yes	no
○ Encourages forest practices that reduce the need for routine, intensive chemical use?	yes	no

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○ Bans use of the most toxic chemicals, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons?	yes	no
○ Prohibits replacement of forests by sprawl and other non-forest land uses?	yes	no
○ Requires restoration of natural forests on significant portions of larger existing plantations?	yes	no
○ Clearly prohibits logging levels that exceed forest growth levels?	yes	no
○ Prohibits use of genetically modified trees and other genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?	yes	no
○ Standards address differences in forest types and regions?	yes	no
○ Recognizes the need for more conservation-oriented standards for public forests?	yes	no

### **Community Protection Standards**

**FSC: SFI:**

○ Explicitly protects indigenous peoples' rights?	yes	no
○ Requires workers to be paid competitive wages, and protects their right to organize?	yes	no
○ Requires reinvestment in local communities?	yes	no
○ Explicitly requires verification of compliance with social and international laws and policies?	yes	no

### **Procurement and Truth-in-Labeling**

**FSC: SFI:**

○ Requires chain-of-custody monitoring and tracking of certified products from the forest to point of sale, to verify their origins?	yes	no
○ Requires labels and other claims to disclose any non-certified content in products?	yes	no

### **Certification and Accreditation Process**

**FSC: SFI:**

○ Standards emphasize "on-the-ground" requirements, rather than existence of company plans/procedures that can have varying objectives?	yes	no
○ Consistently uses rigorous field audits of on-the-ground forest management practices?	yes	no
○ Prohibits companies from modifying the standards used to certify them?	yes	no
○ Consistently requires stakeholder notification and consultation during certification audits?	yes	no
○ Requires annual forest certification audits, and annually monitors certifiers for quality control?	yes	no

### **Transparency**

**FSC: SFI:**

○ Requires peer review of all certification decisions?	yes	no
○ Adequate requirements for the content and availability of certification reports?	yes	no
○ Governance is transparent?	yes	no

*Comparison based on FSC and SFI provisions applicable to the U.S. as of March, 2004. The SFI also lacks other important elements of the FSC.*

**For more information, see the reports and other resources available at [www.dontbuysfi.com](http://www.dontbuysfi.com).**

*Brought to you by: American Lands Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Co-op America, Dogwood Alliance, Environment California, Environmental Protection Information Center, ForestEthics, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace, National Forest Protection Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Natural Resources Defense Council, Rainforest Action Network, Sierra Club, US Public Interest Research Group.*