

# FSC vs SFI: CERTIFICATION AT A GLANCE

	<b>FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)</b>	<b>SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI)</b>
<b>INDEPENDENCE</b>	The FSC is an independent, non-profit organization that accredits certifiers who evaluate on-the ground performance of forest practices according to FSC's independent standards.	SFI is not independent. It is a program of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), developed as a requirement for AF&PA's member companies to encourage an improvement of their forest practices.
<b>STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT</b>	FSC standards were jointly developed by independent stakeholders, including scientists, academics, industry representatives and environmentalists.	SFI standards were developed solely by the American Forest and Paper Association, the largest timber industry trade association in the U.S.
<b>STANDARDS COMPLIANCE</b>	All FSC standards are requirements that must be met on an ongoing basis. On-the-ground monitoring by independent, accredited certifiers is mandatory.	All SFI standards do not have to be met. For continued participation, companies only need to report progress in each SFI category. On-the-ground monitoring is optional.
<b>PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS</b>	Performance is evaluated against a specific set of field-level indicators that are applied consistently across all certifications.	Performance is not evaluated against a specific set of field-level indicators that are applied consistently across all forest operations.
<b>PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	FSC certification requires information be made available to the public about each certified forest. Reports must include information on the specific guidelines used, strengths and weaknesses, and conditions and recommendations of the certification.	SFI requires no public reporting and no real public accountability. Individual companies may release selective information at their own choosing. AF&PA releases only aggregated data on industry performance trends under SFI annually.
<b>SUPPORT OF NON-PROFIT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS</b>	FSC is supported by the leading environmental groups, including: World Wildlife Fund, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and Greenpeace.	The SFI is not endorsed by World Wildlife Fund, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club or Greenpeace.