

Q: Why was SFI certification added to the RACG certificate?

A: The RACG Board wanted to bring additional value to the certificate, without raising costs, and SFI is something that a few of our members ask about every year.

Q: What are the benefits of adding SFI to the current RACG FSC certification?

A: While FSC is certainly the global leader in almost every wood/paper market, one area that SFI holds a clear lead is in North American packaging. With so many small printers starting to do more packaging work, the Board felt it was a good opportunity to make sure they stay ahead of possible demand from group members. The decision was based on what should be done to continue to make the group successful as a whole.

Q: What if I don't want or don't plan to use SFI Certification, do I still have to participate?

A: After reviewing a number of different options, including letting members pick and choose what certifications they participate in, the Board and certificate management team concluded that there was no fiscally reasonable way to do anything other than have the entire group be in or be out with regard to FSC and SFI. Creating multiple options added complexity and would have impacted group certificate management activities, from the training of our audit team to creating and maintaining multiple document templates and reports. Offering varying certification options would have also significantly impacted the choice of certification bodies we could work with and how many sampling visits by them would be required each year.

Q: What is my SFI Certification Code?

A: The RACG group SFI certification code is SGSNA-SFICOC-US20/819943801.

Q: Is the addition of SFI costing me more for my certification and annual audits?

A: No. There is no additional cost to members. When the certification body contract for the next five years was sent out for rebid one of the deciding factors was that there be no additional costs to members for adding and maintaining SFI certification in addition to FSC. No additional audits are required.

Q: What do I need to do for the addition of SFI to my RACG certification?

A: The requirements of SFI are met, or exceeded by FSC requirements, in every instance, so there really should be limited changes in your actual processes. You will have to update to the most recent document set that includes SFI standard references and procedures, but that process is no more involved than any other time we have made updates to a document set to keep up with standard changes. The sole item that is unique to SFI Chain of Custody Certification is conducting internal audits at the member level. But this is actually addressed because you are part of a group certificate and the certificate management team will do those internal audits for you as part of your annual FSC audit.

Q: How do I find SFI-certified paper/packing materials suppliers?

A: The SFI Certification database lets you look for wood building and paper, print, and packaging products. Visit and search the SFI certification database:

<http://www.sfidatabase.org/PublicSearch/MainSearch.aspx>

Q: Who do I contact with questions about SFI as it relates to my RACG certification?

A: Just as you do now for FSC concerns, contact Jess Gillen ([jess@americangreenconsulting.com](mailto:jess@americangreenconsulting.com)) or Ted Hendrickx ([ted@americangreenconsulting.com](mailto:ted@americangreenconsulting.com)) with any questions about SFI processes and requirements.