

**White Paper on Logger Training – 2006**  
**Guidelines for State Logger Training and Education Programs to Ensure Consistency with**  
**The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program**

**Background**

The logger training and education components of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program, specifically Objective Number 8\*, have generated several common questions from many of the SFI Implementation Committees, Professional Loggers and others since the program's inception in late 1995. Given the frequency of the questions, an ad hoc task group developed this white paper in 1995 to outline some guidelines for training to ensure consistency with the SFI program. This white paper was circulated for review to the SFI Task Force, SFI Implementation Committees(SICs), American Loggers Council, Forest Resources Association (formerly the American Pulpwood Association), and allied forestry associations. This paper has been updated periodically as new information or changes to the program have developed.

**Training Program Content**

Objective 8 of the SFI Standard (SFIS) identifies several components of logger training programs. As with any performance measure contained in the SFI program, flexibility is allowed to adopt measures which achieve the same goals, but are most appropriate for a specific state or province, provided the result is consistent with the spirit and intent of the original measure. A logger training program complies with the SFI program once the SIC determines that it meets the spirit and intent of the performance measure under Objective 8. This means programs may be at different levels of development, however each SIC should have a plan in place to meet all components identified in the written performance measure. Consistency with the spirit and intent of the SFI program suggests that state or provincial logger training programs should aim to perceptively improve the performance and professionalism of loggers, foresters, and/or landowners with respect to all aspects of forest management, including timber harvesting.

**Determining When a Logger is Considered “Trained and Educated”**

Recognizing that all of the components of a training program could take several years to carry out, determining the point at which a logger is “trained & educated” should be based on an individual logger's commitment to the program. That is, if a logger completes all the components or modules offered in a given year, that logger should be considered “trained”. If all available components or modules are not completed, then the logger is no longer considered trained until all available components are complete.

SICs are encouraged, where appropriate, to adopt mutual recognition agreements for education and training programs with adjacent states. A logger trained and educated in a state or province which has a training program addressing each of the issues listed in SFI Objective 8, should be considered trained and educated in all the states or provinces in which he/she operates.

**Determining if Programs Conducted Prior to the SFI program “Count”**

If the SIC determines that modules conducted prior to the SFI program are key components of the logger training and education under the SFI program, then these classes “count.” As such, any logger who has completed these programs can be considered “trained” for the purposes of the SFI program. If previous components or training needs to be fine-tuned to meet SFI program requirements, then it is recommended that the SIC develop refresher courses rather than require total retraining.

**Determining the Initial Priorities of a New Logger Training and Education Program**

The initial priorities of a new program should be safety, BMPs, and awareness of all applicable state, provincial, and federal laws. New programs should also provide information on the SFI program.

**General Guidelines**

Any SIC efforts to develop a new or build on an existing logger training and education program should always include active participation by loggers. While commonly referred to as “logger training and education,” these programs should include procurement and landowner assistance personnel, other contractors, landowners and suppliers to meet the spirit and intent of this performance measure.

\*Objective numbers refer to the 2005-2009 edition of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard.

## **Additional Information Added to the Original White Paper**

### **Source: SFI Summer Conference-Recommendation to the SFI Executive Committee.**

The SFI Task Group recommended that in-house [logger and forester] training "counts" if recognized by the SFI State Implementation Committee.

– Pittsburgh, PA August 6-7, 1996

### **Source: SFI National Forum Recommendations to AF&PA Board.**

Reaffirm to State Implementation Committee Chairs that logger and procurement foresters training programs goals under the SFI program include:

1. Training for key employees in logging firms
2. Training for independent logging contractors supplying fiber to wood dealers and wood yards in addition to training for the owners of such operations.

Also, direct AF&PA staff to include clear instructions with the annual SFI program progress report to ensure AF&PA member companies are consistent and accurate in reporting the percent of volume delivered by trained loggers where fiber is obtained from independent wood dealers and woodyards.

– Natchez, MS October 22, 1996

### **Source: AF&PA Board of Directors Meeting.**

AF&PA adopts the goal that 100 percent of the loggers supplying fiber to member company mills and procurement foresters working for member companies in the U.S. receive sustainable forestry training by the year 2000.

– Washington, DC October 25, 1996

### **Source: October 1997 SFI National Forum Recommendation to AF&PA Board.**

To assist in implementing Objective 8, Performance Measure 8.3 (*formerly Objective 8; formerly Performance Measure 4.2.1.1.7*) of the Sustainable Forestry Principles and Implementation Guidelines, each AF&PA member company that sources raw material directly from the forest will clearly define in writing, and distribute to loggers, chip suppliers, dealers, and other raw material suppliers, its company specific procurement policy, program or plan, recognizing that development of these policies, programs, or plans is solely an individual company matter. Companies will certify compliance with this action to AF&PA by June 1, 1998.

– Adopted by AF&PA Board Washington, DC December 4, 1997

### **Source: SFI Executive Committee Response to the National Forum Logger's Task Group appointed June 1999 at the request of the National Forum.**

The SFI Executive Committee interpreted the statement, "AF&PA adopts the goal that 100% of the loggers supplying fiber to member company mills and the procurement foresters working for member companies in the U.S. receive sustainable forestry training by the year 2000," to mean that "loggers supplying fiber" includes all fiber harvested from fee lands, contract stumpage and gatewood.

The Committee further stated "that it is the goal of the SFI program to have loggers who are in the business of providing wood to participating company facilities and their suppliers be SFI trained." For a logging crew to be considered SFI trained, the intent of the SFI program is to have at least one "in woods" person on each crew SFI trained.

The Committee recognizes the importance of continuing education to keep abreast of technological and management advances. The Committee urges all State Implementation Committees to consider the need and plan for continuing education programs.

The Committee requested that the Forest Resources Association redesign their survey to collect separate data on both logger and procurement forester training.

– SFI Executive Committee Response to the National Forum Loggers Task Group, October 1999.

### **Source: SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) Review Task Group - White Paper Recommendations**

The AF&PA Forestry Executive Committee affirmed that a core mission for all SFI Implementation Committees (SICs) is to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for logger and forester training to define what it means to be "SFI trained." Where training programs do not adequately address SFI program needs, a secondary SIC mission is to provide delivery mechanisms.

SICs should serve mostly in a training program "accreditation" capacity by defining objective criteria and identifying appropriate delivery mechanisms; SICs that directly deliver training should strive for self-sufficiency through grants, fees, or other means. SICs should make every effort to coordinate training regionally and incorporate feedback from audit processes.

-- Approved by AF&PA Forestry Executive Committee, September 12, 2003