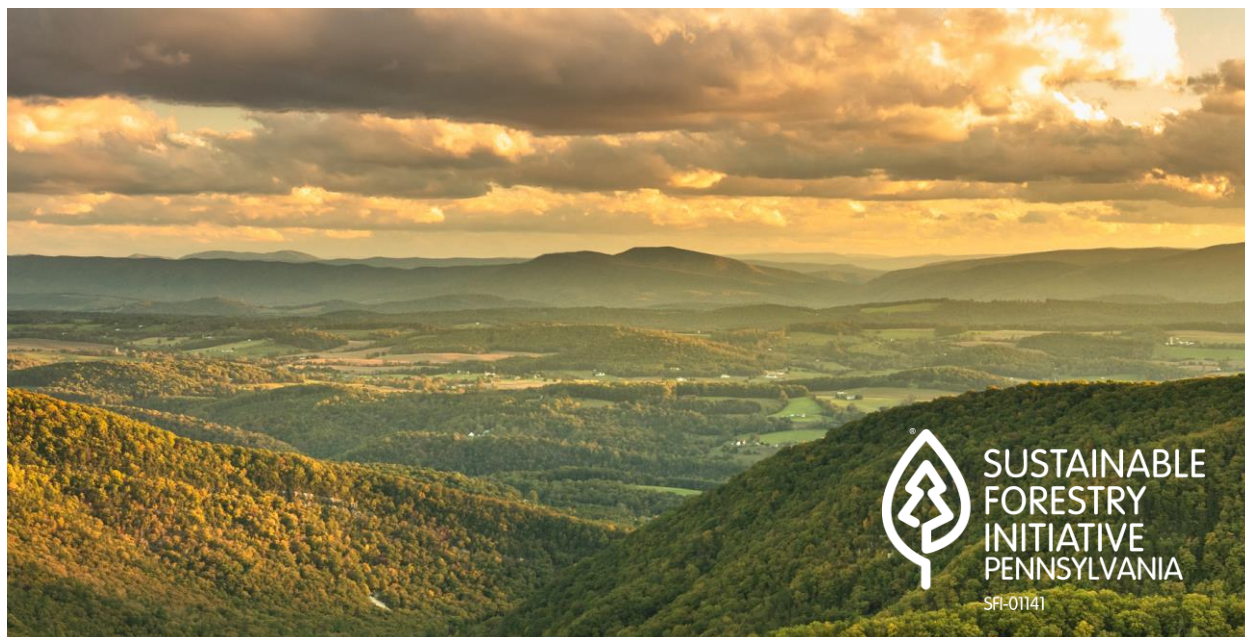


INCONSISTENT PRACTICES REPORTING

Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee



The Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee's Inconsistent Practices Program provides a publicly accessible process for individuals and organizations to bring forward questions and concerns about the management and practices of SFI-Certified Organizations, or other entities engaged with the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee, that appear to deviate from the SFI standards' principles and objectives. By identifying and addressing these deviations, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee aims to ensure that companies adhere to sustainable forestry practices, promoting responsible and environmentally appropriate forest management.

Certified Organizations can be contacted directly to report any activity that does not appear to comply with the SFI Standards. Alternatively, an Inconsistent Practices Report can be submitted to the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee which will forward legitimate complaints to the appropriate Certified Organization(s) or other entity/entities engaged with the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee for follow-up and facilitate a response. A complaint is considered to be legitimate if it is supported by evidence (e.g., photos), violates the SFI Standards, and involves one or more Certified Organizations or an entity they do business with, an SIC Partner or Supporter, or an individual that holds a valid SFI Qualified Logging Professional status. Please refer to the back of this page for further details.

- **SFI-Certified Organizations** are those that have been certified by an accredited certification body to be in conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard, and/or the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. For a listing of Certified Organizations, please visit <https://sfidatabase.org/>.
- **SIC Partners & Supporters** provide financial support to the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee but are not certified to the SFI Standards. For a listing of Pennsylvania SIC Partners, please visit www.sfiofpa.org/program_partners.php. For a listing of Pennsylvania SIC Supporters, please visit www.sfiofpa.org/program_supporters.php.
- **Pennsylvania SFI Qualified Logging Professionals** are individuals that have successfully completed the core and continuing education requirements of the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program. For a complete listing, please visit www.sfiofpa.org/search

INCONSISTENT PRACTICES PROCESS

A complaint must present specific claim(s) of inconsistent management or practices in writing using the Pennsylvania SFI Inconsistent Practices Reporting Form. The form is available online at www.sfiopa.org/inconsistent or by contacting the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (814-355-1010 / pasfi@sfiopa.org). Reports can be filed by any person, but the report must identify the report filer. Anonymous reports will not be accepted; however, individuals can file a report through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Forestry or County Conservation District where the incident occurred, if the agency agrees.

Reports must be specific, supported by evidence (e.g., photos), and identify the SFI Standard(s) being violated. To review the SFI Standards and Rules, please visit <https://forests.org/standards/> (Forest Management & Fiber Sourcing). Reports should be filed within one year of observed non-conformity; however, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee may consider reports of observed non-conformity occurring more than a year prior to a report if adequate justification is provided.

Once a report is received, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee will send a letter of acknowledgement to the filer. The Implementation Committee will then assess the evidence provided in the report and determine the most appropriate course of action, based on an established protocol. This may require asking the report filer to provide additional details. The complaint will be handled according to the specific circumstances of the report and the entities involved. Within 30 days of sending the written acknowledgement, the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee will provide a written response to the individual(s) who filed the report that details how the Implementation Committee addressed the issue. Some issues, like disputes that arise from inadequate contracts or pollution from non-forestry activities, may fall outside the scope of the Inconsistent Practices program. Additionally, The Implementation Committee may not be able to address issues that do not involve one or more of the entities identified on the front of this page. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee will inform the report filer in their 30-day letter if the complaint is unable to be addressed by the Inconsistent Practices program.

The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee is not an enforcement agency. In cases where a violation of law is alleged, the complainant should report the incident directly to the appropriate regulatory authority. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee cannot do this on their behalf. In the event that litigation is involved between the reporter and one or more implicated entities, the Inconsistent Practices process will be suspended pending resolution of the litigation. If non-conformity issues remain, the process can be re-started.