



**BUREAU  
VERITAS**

**Bureau Veritas Certification  
North America, Inc.  
SFI 2005:2009 Audit Report**

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Contract Number:	HQ18151	Certification Audit:		Re-Certification Audit:		Surveillance: (Indicate visit # or Pre-Assessment)	1
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**Audit Summary**

This report summarizes the results of the first surveillance audit conducted on Red River Forest Management’s SFI program for forest management operations. Richard Boitnott, Bureau Veritas Certification Lead Auditor, conducted a document review at the organization’s headquarters in Shreveport Louisiana, and a field audit in the Louisiana forest.

A document review was conducted at the organization’s headquarters in Shreveport Louisiana on 8/18/2008. Red River’s audit scope of Forest management activities on Red River Forest Management fee and long-term leased land, and harvesting activities on purchased stumpage tracts was reviewed and confirmed. There was no substitution or modifications of SFI indicators. Mr. Boitnott then conducted a field audit of the Louisiana forest on 8/26/2008 through 8/28/2008. An audit plan was developed and is maintained on file by Bureau Veritas Certification.

The audit was conducted against the SFIS 2005-2009 standard. SFI objectives 3, 4 and 13, and portions of objectives 1 and 5 were reviewed during this audit. Specifically, two objectives of the SFI audit were to:

1. Verify that the Program Participant’s SFI Program is in conformance with the SFI Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators, and any additional indicators that the Program Participant chooses, and
2. Verify whether the Program Participant has effectively implemented its SFI Standard program requirements on the ground.

Standard Bureau Veritas Certification protocols and forms were applied throughout the audit as provided by the most recent version of the Bureau Veritas Certification SFI Auditor Handbook available on the auditor access website.

Red River Forest Management was formerly TimberStar Southwest, which had purchased land from International Paper in 2006. Hancock Forest Resources Group purchased TimberStar Southwest in early 2008, currently operating it as Red River Forest Management until it is fully integrated into the Hancock system. Red River has continued to operate the same SFI management program as it did under TimberStar.

Red River is divided into 3 regions, referred to as “forests”. This surveillance audit was conducted on the Louisiana forest, with a main office in Mansfield Louisiana, and remote offices in Toro and Castor. As TimberStar, the organization operated a purchased stumpage program, whereby it purchased timber from private landowners, then administered the harvest and delivered the wood to a receiving facility.

However, this program is being phased out under the ownership of Hancock. Portions of Objective 8 were included in the surveillance audit plan, but were not covered during the audit due to limited activity and future plans to eliminate this program.

The focus of this audit was on Objective 3 due to a non-conformance issued during the certification audit. Objective 4 was also a focus area due to an opportunity for improvement issued. Fourteen timber harvesting tracts were visited during the audit. One of the harvest tracts was active at the time of the visit. The contractor was interviewed to determine level of training and awareness of BMPs, petroleum spill response requirements, and other Red River procedures. In addition, one chemical site preparation tract was visited to monitor corrective actions instigated by Red River in response to off-site application of herbicides. Personnel interviewed during the audit are identified on the SF61 evidence matrix maintained on file by Bureau Veritas Certification. Results of each field visit were recorded on a field audit form, and maintained on file.

The findings made by Bureau Veritas Certification are listed below:

Responses to previous non-conformances are shown below. An opportunity for improvement was issued during the certification audit relative to the organization's program to implement stand-level wildlife habitat elements. Improvement in this area was observed during the surveillance audit. However, there were still some inconsistencies in implementation, although some of the inconsistencies may be due to sales that were planned before the certification audit. Another opportunity for improvement was issued during this audit to ensure consistency of implementation. No non-conformance was issued since improvement in this area was observed.

The organization has made a concerted effort to close roads following harvest activities. This represented a commendable effort to reduce potential sedimentation from road systems, and resulted in the issuance of a notable practice.

**Previous non-conformances:** Four minor non-conformances were issued during the certification audit. Evidence observed during the audit indicated the organization continues to implement corrective and preventative actions first developed in response to the nonconformities. The organization has identified unique areas containing old-growth characteristics in response to SF02-CA-01. It has developed a program to provide information to landowners from whom it purchases wood in response to SF02-CA-02, although it is phasing out its purchased stumpage program. A new adjacency procedure is in place in response to SF02-CA-04, and no violations of the green-up requirement were observed during the field audit.

The most serious non-conformance issued during the certification audit was against Objective 3 (SF02-CA-03). The organization has reduced the amount of stream crossings in response to this non-conformance. Those that were installed were removed and well stabilized. In addition, monitoring of BMP compliance during the inspection process, a deficiency identified during the certification audit, was improved, with no instances of problems in the field not being noted during inspections.

**Non-conformances:** There were no non-conformances issued during this audit.

#### **Opportunities for Improvement:**

One opportunity for improvement was issued. This should be considered in light of how it may affect conformance in the future.

1. PM 4.1, Ind. 4: Review program for implementing stand-level wildlife habitat elements to ensure consistent application across the operating area.

#### **Notable Practices:**

In addition, one notable practice was observed.

1. PM 3.2, Ind. 3: Road closures and stabilization efforts represent a commendable program to prevent adverse impacts to water quality from temporary road systems.

**Logo/label use:**

The organization does not use the Bureau Veritas Certification logo.

**SFI reporting:**

The 2007 certification audit report for TimberStar was not found on the SFI website. The organization was instructed that all audit reports must be submitted to SFI, Inc. for posting on its website.

**Conclusions**

The results of this audit indicate Red River Forest Management continues to operate an effective SFI program.

A closing meeting was held at the Castor Louisiana field office. Since no non-conformances were issued, a recommendation for continued certification to the SFIS 2005-2009 was made.

**Surveillance audit**

Red River is on a continuous surveillance cycle. However, the Red River operations will be incorporated into Hancock's system by the end of 2008, and will become a part of the surveillance audit cycle under that organization.

Summary of Audit Findings:						
Audit Date(s):	From: 8/18/2008			To: 8/28/2008		
Number of SF02's Raised:	Major:		0		Minor:	0
Is a follow up visit required:	Yes	No	x	Date(s) of follow up visit:		
Follow-up visit remarks:						
Team Leader Recommendation:						
Corrective Action Plan (s) Accepted	Yes	-	No	-	Date:	
Proceed to/Continue Certification	Yes	x	No		Date:	08/28/08
All NCR's Cleared	Yes	-	No	-	Date:	
Standard audit conducted against:						
1)	SFIS 2005-2009		3)			
2)			4)			
Team Leader (1):		Team Members (2,3,4...)				
Richard Boitnott		2)				
		3)				
		4)				
		5)				
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)						
Forest management in Louisiana (280,269 Acres), Texas (386,440 Acres) and Arkansas (234,390 Acres)						
Accreditation's	ANAB					
Number of Certificates	1					
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event						
Date	August 2009					
Audit Report Distribution						
Red River:						
Bureau Veritas Certification: Karen Rhodes-karen.rhodes@us.bureauveritas.com						

Clause	Audit Report
Opening Meeting	Participants: Morgan Richardson, Chet Hargraves, Ken Smith, Gerald Stoeffels, Mark Discussions: Hebert, Tommy Smith, Barry Cook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions</li> <li>➤ Scope of the audit</li> <li>➤ Audit schedule/plan</li> <li>➤ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor</li> <li>➤ Review of previous nonconformances - 4.</li> <li>➤ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling</li> <li>➤ Confidentiality agreement</li> <li>➤ Termination of the audit</li> <li>➤ Appeals process</li> <li>➤ Closing meeting timing</li> </ul>
Closing Meeting	Participants: Morgan Richardson, Mark Hebert, Al Lyons, Chet Hargraves, Barry Cook Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification.</li> <li>➤ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling.</li> <li>➤ Review of OFIs and System Strengths</li> <li>➤ Nonconformances - 0</li> <li>➤ Date for next audit.</li> <li>➤ Reporting protocol and timing</li> </ul>