

# INTO THE BUILDING

## THE WOOD PATH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018

G L Y

Think. Plan. Build.



# SOURCING WOOD PRODUCTS

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest with a thick canopy of green trees. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a clear sky. The text 'SOURCING WOOD PRODUCTS' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the upper portion of the image.

# PROCUREMENT PROCESS

- Rough Carpentry/ Blocking + Backing
- Millwork
- Doors + Frames
- Finishes

# PROCUREMENT PROCESS

What questions do we ask about the wood being supplied to our projects?

What questions should we be asking?



# FSC VS SFI

## BOTH ARE CERTIFICATIONS – WHATS THE DIFFERENCE?

Wood-based products can be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council ([FSC](#)) or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative ([SFI](#)), if they meet the organization's sustainability and certification criteria.

“FSC is an independent, non-profit organization that protects forests for future generations. Started in 1993 after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio failed to come to an agreement to stop deforestation.....(sic) Begun by a group of businesses, environmentalists and community leaders.”

“**About SFI:** The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. As a solutions-oriented sustainability organization, SFI® works at the intersection of sustainable forestry, thriving communities and responsible procurement.” The SFI was initiated by the American Forest & Paper Association in 1994 “as one of the U.S. forest sector's contributions to the vision of sustainable development established by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.”



# What These Forestry Labels Really Mean

You've seen FSC and SFI labels on wood products. Most often, you've seen no label at all. Here's a green guide to each one.

Standards for forestry products are complicated: they cover not only the management of the forest itself but also the handling of the raw materials all along the supply chain. This *chain-of-custody* tracking helps ensure that non-certified wood does not get mixed in with—or replace—certified wood in the final product.

TRANSPARENCY: A  
RIGOR: A



The label says it all: 100% of this product was harvested from Forest Stewardship Council-certified forests. The operant word in this standard's name is "stewardship," reflecting a core mission of **conserving natural forest ecosystems**.

- On-the-ground auditing
- Chain-of-custody tracking
- Publicly available management plans
- Science-driven decision-making and monitoring
- Regionally sensitive treatment of ecosystems
- Protection of indigenous peoples' rights
- Fair employment practices
- Consideration of other industries that rely on a healthy forest
- Conservation of habitat
- Strict limits on pesticide use
- Prohibition of genetically modified trees
- Consultation with local experts about high-conservation-value forests
- Strict limits on conversion of forests to non-forests

TRANSPARENCY: C

RIGOR: C



SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE

Certified Chain of Custody  
Promoting Sustainable  
Forest Management

[www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org)

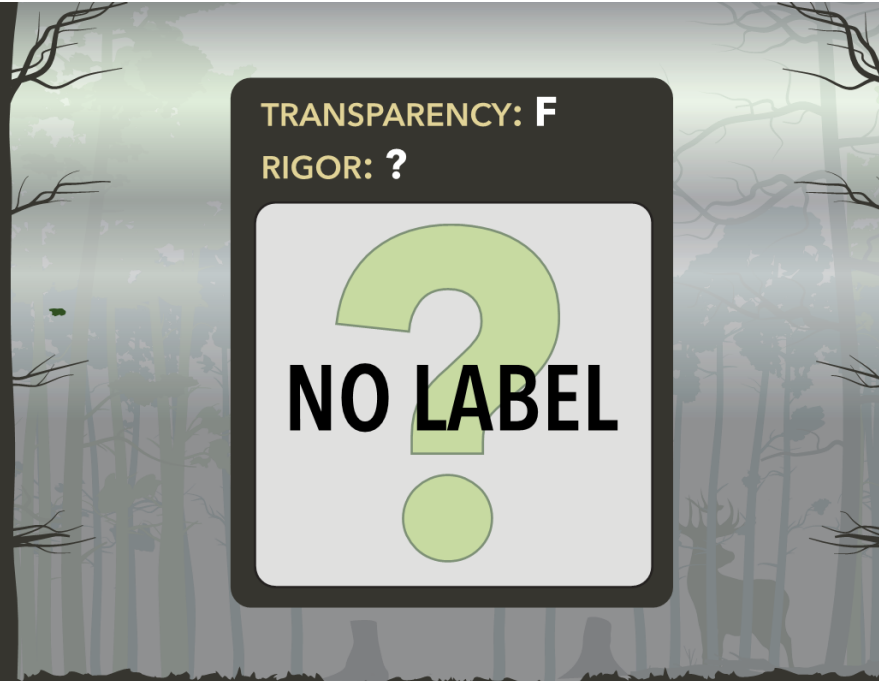
This label indicates that the content was harvested from SFI-certified forests (or forests certified under similar programs recognized by SFI). The SFI Forestry Standard itself has many of the same elements as FSC, but its requirements are less prescriptive, companies are less transparent about their practices, and audits are arguably less rigorous. Much is **left to the forester's discretion**.

The SFI Forestry Standard encourages:

- On-the-ground auditing
- Chain-of-custody tracking
- Forest and soil productivity
- Some limits on converting natural forests to plantations
- Preservation of water quality
- Some protections for threatened and endangered species
- Conservation of adjacent and downstream habitats
- Some limits on pesticide use
- Prohibition of genetically modified trees
- Limitations on clearcuts that disrupt visual quality
- Measures to minimize waste

## Local or trackable?

The lack of a forestry label **could mean anything**. You could be dealing with a family-owned logging operation that exceeds FSC standards but hasn't paid to get certified. Or not: the lumber could be traced back to mineral extraction or to other poor forest management practices such as over-harvesting. State laws provide some basic protections but they vary widely. The only way to know what you're dealing with is to find out where the wood came from and learn about their forest practices, using the FSC standard as a guide.



## Untrackable?

If the wood or fiber isn't labeled and isn't trackable, **assume the worst**. Lumber from forests clearcut to make way for strip mining, development, or exploitation of important ecosystems could be involved. These activities occur all around the world, even in the U.S. and Canada, and there is a market for the timber that is generated. Wood products originating from such sources have no place in a green building.



# THE CHALLENGES

## **COST:**

- 10 – 20% Premium for Dimensional
- Lumber
- Many projects will allocate their sustainability dollars to items with a higher Return-on-Investment [Electrical or Mechanical Systems]

## **AVAILABILITY:**

- Many lumber yards have let their FSC Certification go due to lack of demand and added cost to hold certification. [One local company noted it was \$7,000.00/year to carry the certification, not counting the additional labor to track the paperwork.]
- Lumber yards that do carry FSC wood, do not stock it, and it can take 2 – 3 weeks to deliver to the job site.



# FOR DESIGNERS

Do you know the carbon footprint of the materials that you're specifying?

Do you know where the country of origin is?

Do you know if it's responsibly farmed?

Do you know how it is processed?



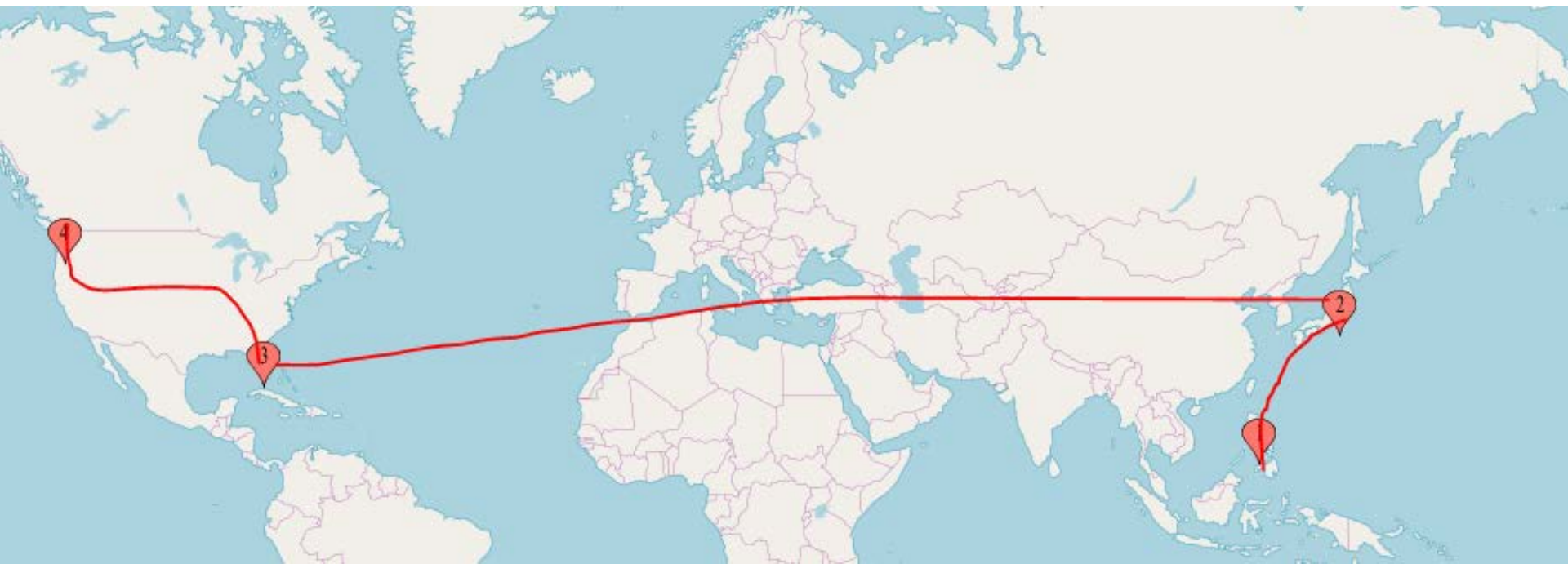
# PALDAO | A CASE STUDY

A beautiful walnut wood wallpaper was specified and installed on a local project. The product failed. Upon ordering the replacement material, it was determined that it was 3 - 4 months out.

The trees used for this wallpaper were not ready to harvest yet.

Upon further questions – it was discovered that this product was:

- Grown in the Philippines
- Then shipped to Japan for processing
- Then shipped to Florida, to the appropriate receiving port



QUESTIONS?  
THOUGHTS?  
IDEAS?

Think. Plan. Build.



# THANK YOU ...

Think. Plan. Build.

