



# AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

Responsible forest management for private landowners and family-owned forests

## What is it?

Certification under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) helps family forests and private landowners in the United States to credibly demonstrate upholding the highest environmental standards. ATFS is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), which enables supply chains and companies sourcing products from ATFS certified woodlands to receive recognition in international markets. ATFS certified woodlands are a principal source of fiber for chain-of-custody programs under PEFC internationally and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) in the US and Canada.

With millions of acres of ATFS certified forests in the US, ATFS is the largest and oldest family forest certification program. To achieve certification, landowners must undergo an independent assessment by a third-party certification body to ensure they have met the Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification under ATFS. The system recognizes landowners that demonstrate sustainable management of the forest, for the the wood, watersheds, healthy wildlife habitats, and recreation those working lands provide.

## Why get certified with SCS?

With SCS Global Services' expertise in third-party forest management certifications since 1994, our thorough audits will reduce risk and instill confidence in the sustainable management of your forest. You will receive a customer-focused experience at SCS with an accessible account manager, prompt and helpful responses to questions, and a dedicated team of experts to guide you through the certification process.

We are headquartered in the US and have a record of accomplishing quality work with long-term knowledge and continuity, auditing for responsible forestry and chain-of-custody certifications such as Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®), SFI, and PEFC.

## FAQ's

### What are the certification options for ATFS?

ATFS provides three options to achieve certification: via an individual third-party certificate, an independently managed group program, or a State Tree Farm Program.

### What do I need to get started with ATFS certification?

Before seeking certification, forest owners must have a management plan in place that addresses air, water, soil quality, wildlife, special sites, invasive species, and integrated pest management as described in the ATFS Standards of Sustainability.

### How many acres of woodlands do I need in order to get ATFS certified?

The eligibility requirements are between 10 and 10,000 acres of woodlands to be considered for certification.

### How can I pass along ATFS claims down the supply chain?

To pass on claims for products sourced from ATFS certified forests, a chain of custody certificate from SFI or PEFC is required. SCS provides chain of custody audits under these standards. Please contact us for more information.

### How much does ATFS certification cost?

Prices for SCS auditing services vary depending on the location, size, and complexity of your operation. To obtain a quote, please contact SCS.

### How long does the ATFS certification process take?

At SCS, customer service and responsiveness is a priority. We typically are able to send our auditors to your woodland, provide you with an audit report, and make a certification decision within 6 to 8 weeks of starting the project. Larger or more complex projects may take longer.

### How long is my ATFS certificate valid?

An ATFS certificate is valid for three years. Annual surveillance audits are required to maintain your certificate.



### For more information contact:

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