



Sustainable Biomass Partnership
Standard #3. Certification Systems. Requirements for Certification
Bodies.
Version 1.1. March 2014



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1 Introduction

2 The Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP) was formed in 2013 by seven major European
3 utilities that are using biomass, mostly in the form of wood pellets, in large thermal power
4 plants. The SBP views biomass-fired power and heat generation as a key technology in
5 achieving the EU's 2020 renewable energy targets and curbing climate change and requires
6 the use of sustainable and legally harvested feedstock that avoids potential detrimental
7 effects on the environment and social welfare.

8 SBP's objective is to develop the tools necessary to provide assurance that solid biomass
9 used for sustainable energy production by its member organizations is compliant with
10 regulations on sustainability and biomass legality in European Union countries, and that the
11 sector is recognised as an exemplar of good practice. The SBP Biomass Assurance
12 Framework is designed as a clear statement of principles, standards and processes necessary
13 to demonstrate such compliance. Wherever possible, use is made of credible standards
14 already used by other forest product streams and for other sustainable biomass sources.

15 2 Scope

16 This standard specifies the requirements for all certification bodies operating SBP
17 certification programs. The objective of the standard is to ensure that certification bodies
18 operate in a consistent, reliable and credible manner, thereby facilitating their acceptance
19 on a national and international basis and so furthering international trade and promoting
20 sustainable biomass use.

21 This standard is for use by all Certification Bodies operating schemes for the SBP, including
22 the assessment of Supply Base Evaluations, Chain of Custody systems, Energy and Carbon
23 calculations and certification claims made by organizations.

24 Where reference is made to the requirements of other schemes, such as FSC or PEFC, and
25 the precise wording of the requirement cannot be applied (for example, where it makes
26 direct reference to the FSC or PEFC scheme) then the spirit of the requirements shall apply.
27 In the absence of written SBP requirements, interpretations will be provided on a publically
28 available internet platform managed by SBP.

29 Existing standards shall be reviewed during an 18 month initial implementation phase and
30 revised standards shall be issued within 24 months of the start of the scheme.



31 **3 Normative references**

32 TBC

33 **4 Terms and definitions**

34 TBC

35 **5 Certification Body accreditation requirements**

36 Certification Bodies shall be accredited by Accreditation Services International (ASI) or a
37 National Accreditation Body to provide FSC or PEFC certification. The scope of the
38 accreditation (Supply Chain or Forest Management) will be equivalent to the applicable
39 scope for SBP certification (Supply chain or Supply Base Evaluation).

40

41 Certification Bodies will operate SBP certification in compliance with the requirements of ISO
42 17065:2012 or ISO 17021:2011.

43 Where Certification Bodies are engaged in evaluating GHG calculations, Certification Bodies
44 shall ensure that they are competent for the functions they perform.

45 **6 Certification Body general requirements**

46 For audits undertaken against companies operating an 'FSC' based management system, the
47 certification body will implement all relevant requirements of FSC-STD-20-001 V3-0
48 EN:general requirements for FSC accredited certification bodies: application of ISO/IEC
49 Guide 65:1996 (E)

50 For audits undertaken against companies operating a 'PEFC' based management system, the
51 Certification Body will implement all relevant requirements of PEFC, Annex 6, Certification
52 and Accreditation procedures.

53 For audits undertaken against companies operating a 'SFI' based management system, the
54 Certification Body will implement all relevant requirements of SFI.

55

56 In addition, the following requirements will be implemented. For the evaluation of
57 organizations operating:

- 58 • PEFC Chain of Custody system - Requirements for Certification Bodies operating
59 Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard, PEFC ST
60 2003:2012.



- 61 • FSC Chain of Custody system - Accreditation Standard for Chain of Custody
62 Evaluations, FSC-STD-20-011 (Version 1-1) EN
63 • SFI Chain of Custody System - SFI 2010-2014, Section 9. Audit procedures and
64 auditor qualification and accreditation.

65 For assessment of an organization's Supply Base Evaluation, either:

66 Standard for evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood in Forest Management Enterprises, FSC-
67 STD-20-012 Version 1-1

68 Or

69 PEFC, Annex 6, Certification and Accreditation procedures

70 Or

71 SFI 2010-2014, Section 9. Audit procedures and auditor qualification and accreditation.

72 **7 Basic Principles**

73 An SBP certificate issued by an SBP Certification Body provides a credible assurance that
74 there is no major failure in conformity with the requirements of the applicable SBP Standard
75 across the entire scope of the certificate.

76

77 In order to provide such an assurance, the Certification Body shall:

78

79 a) Analyse and describe any and all of the following that apply to the organization.

80

- The organization's structure, operation, inputs and outputs.

81

- The chain of custody system.

82

- Critical control points.

83

- Green House Gas data collection and calculations.

84

- The Rigour of the Supply Base Evaluation, including the definition of the SBE
85 Scope.

86

- The organization's risk scoring of each criterion at both Risk Assessment and
87 Supplier Validation Program stages.

87

88

- The effectiveness of mitigation measures implemented as part of the SBE.

89

- The organization's staff competence in meeting SBP requirements.

90



91 b) Confirm that there is a management system in place that is capable of ensuring that
92 all the requirements of the standards are implemented across the entire scope of the
93 evaluation.

94
95 c) Carry out sampling of sites, documents, management records, interviews,
96 consultation with stakeholders and direct factual observations sufficient to verify
97 that there are no major non-conformities with the performance thresholds specified
98 in the applicable standards.

99 **8 Stakeholder consultation by the Certification Body during the** 100 **evaluation of the Biomass Producer's SBE**

101 At the main assessment and at the five-yearly re-assessment, the Certification Body will
102 complete a stakeholder consultation process.

103 During the stakeholder consultation process, the Certification Body will identify relevant
104 stakeholders, individuals and organizations affected by and interested in the operation of
105 the applicant biomass producer. The Certification Body will inform the stakeholders of the
106 audit at least one month prior to the audit. Notification will include adequate information to
107 enable stakeholders to make informed comments, but will not include sensitive or
108 commercially confidential information. Stakeholders will be encouraged to submit
109 information relevant to compliance with the SBP requirements to the Certification Body.
110 The Certification Body will review all submissions. The content of submissions that are
111 relevant to compliance with the SBP requirements will be evaluated during the audit
112 process. Certification Bodies are not required to evaluate comments that are not relevant to
113 SBP certification requirements. The audit process will record submissions received, actions
114 taken by the Certification Body in relation to relevant submissions and the conclusion of the
115 Certification Body regarding compliance of the Biomass producer.

116 Certification Bodies are not required to undertake a stakeholder consultation process during
117 surveillance audits. However, all submissions received by the Certification Body regarding
118 compliance of certified biomass producers will be recorded. If submissions contain
119 information relevant to compliance with the SBP requirements, the Certification Body will
120 evaluate the comments as they affect the certification in a timely manner. Subject to the
121 nature of the submission, this may be the next audit. Records of evaluations and outcomes
122 will be maintained.



123 **9 Public Summary of the Certification Body's audit of the SBE**

124 Where a certificate is issued, the Certification Body shall make available a public summary of
125 its assessment of the organization's SBE.