

SBP

Sustainable Biomass Partnership

NEPCon Evaluation of RL Skovservice v/ René Løvborg Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org



Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 1.0

*For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see
www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org*

Document history

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1 Overview

CB Name and contact: NEPCon Certificering ApS, Søren Frichs Vej 38K, 1., 8230 Aabyhøj, Denmark

Primary contact for SBP: Christian Rahbek

Report completion date: 10/May/2017

Report authors: Christian Rahbek

Certificate Holder: RL Skovservice v/ René Løvborg

Producer contact for SBP: René Løvborg, Sepstrupvej 26, Asklev, 8653 Them.
 Email: rene@rlskovservice.dk, Mobile: +45 20 13 84 43

Certified Supply Base: The certified Supply Base covers all of Denmark

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-01-80

Date of certificate issue: 07/Jun/2017

Date of certificate expiry: 06/Jun/2022

Indicate where the current audit fits within the certification cycle				
Main (Initial) Audit	First Surveillance Audit	Second Surveillance Audit	Third Surveillance Audit	Fourth Surveillance Audit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope of this evaluation is based on SBP standards 1; 2; 4; and 5. During the assessment, the exact geographical scope of the Supply Base was confirmed to be the following regions of Denmark: Midtjylland, Syddanmark and Nordjylland. This does not change the risk evaluation or mitigating measures in the Supply Base Evaluation, as these are applicable to all of Denmark.

RL Skovservice v/ René Løvborg is a company under the sole proprietorship of the owner and operator René Løvborg. The company offers forest contractors services to Danish forest and land owners, predominantly in the central part of Jutland. The company buys wood either as standing stock, in stacks in the forest of origin, or very occasionally, in the form of wood chips. The purchased feedstock is always chipped in the forest of origin. The company also occasionally produces wood chips from secondary feedstock in the form of residues from local sawmills. The company actively excludes this material from the scope of the SBP certification.

RL Skovservice v/ René Løvborg is a member of the PEFC CoC group certificate held by industry association Danske Maskinstationer & Entreprenører. This PEFC group certificate is issued by NEPCon Certificering ApS, and has the PEFC CoC certificate number NC-PEFC/COC-025953.

The organization currently purchases its feedstock in the Danish regions Midtjylland, Syddanmark and Nordjylland, with the vast majority coming from the central part of Jutland. The potential Supply Base is all of Denmark. All feedstock is primary feedstock, and can be purchased either as standing volume, as fuel wood in stack in the forest of origin or as fuel wood or chips from other suppliers working and sourcing within the Supply Base. In all cases the stand of origin is known, and when buying wood chips from other companies, the BP will apply all own feedstock classification and risk mitigation measures. The organization can buy wood as PEFC certified, but will mainly rely on sourcing feedstock as SBP Compliant from its own Supply Base Evaluation. The organization is implementing appropriate mitigating measures in relation of the specified risks identified, and rather than implementing a Supplier Verification Program assumes all responsibility classification of feedstock and all necessary mitigating measures in all forests and stands of origin of the supplied feedstock.

The BP is supplying the woodchips produced directly from the forest via truck to the customers, which are combined heat and power plants and district heating plants. However, the organization also maintains a storage yard at its home address at Sepstrupvej 26, Asklev, 8653 Them. The approximate capacity is 5000 tonnes.

Scope description: “Production of woodchips for use in energy production, storage and sale at different energy producers in Denmark. The scope includes supply base evaluation for primary feedstock from Denmark”.

Scope Item	Check all that apply to the Certificate Scope	Change in Scope (N/A for Assessments)
Approved Standards:	SBP Standard #1 V1.0 SBP Standard #2 V1.0 SBP Standard #4 V1.0 SBP Standard #5 V1.0 http://www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org/documents	<input type="checkbox"/>

Primary Activity:	Producer of wood chips;			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Input Material Categories:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SBP-Compliant Primary Feedstock	<input type="checkbox"/> SBP-Compliant Secondary Feedstock		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Controlled Feedstock	<input type="checkbox"/> SBP non-Compliant Feedstock			
	<input type="checkbox"/> SBP-Compliant Tertiary biomass	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-consumer Tertiary Feedstock			
	<input type="checkbox"/> SBP-approved Recycled Claim	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-consumer Tertiary Feedstock			
Chain of custody system implemented:	<input type="checkbox"/> FSC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PEFC	<input type="checkbox"/> SFI	<input type="checkbox"/> GGL	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Percentage	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit		<input type="checkbox"/>
Points of sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Harbour (including own handling of material)	<input type="checkbox"/> Harbour (e.g. FOB incoterms) legal owner is not responsible for handling of material at the harbor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other point of sale (e.g. gate of the BP, boarder, railway station etc.)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide name of all points of sales	- -	- -	SBP Biomass is sold at the power plant: Herningværket Miljøvej 6 7400 Herning		
Use of SBP claim:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/>
SBE Verification Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Low risk sources only		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sources with unspecified/ specified risk		<input type="checkbox"/>
	New districts approved for SBP-Compliant inputs: Denmark				

<p>Sub-scopes</p>	<p>The feedstock is divided in following sub-scopes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary feedstock sourced from coniferous thinning operations • Primary feedstock sourced from areas of first generation afforestation • Primary feedstock sourced from a forest holding with a FM certificate (FSC/PEFC) • Primary feedstock sourced from a forest holding with a Green Management Plan • Primary feedstock sourced from an area without a Green Management Plan • Primary feedstock from non-forest areas, such as windbreaks, city and park areas, nature projects 	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Specify SBP Product Groups added or removed: The BP only produces and sells wood chips as SBP certified.</p>		
<p>Comments:</p>		

3 Specific objective

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Producer's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of specified SBP Standards are implemented across the entire scope of certification. The scope of this evaluation also covered the Supply Base Evaluation, and the mitigation measures describing herein.

The scope of the evaluation covered:

- Review of the BP's management procedures;
- Review of PEFC system control points, analysis of the existing PEFC CoC system;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records, calculations and conversion coefficients;
- GHG data collection analysis.
- Evaluation of mitigation measures implemented

4 SBP Standards utilised

4.1 SBP Standards utilised

Feedstock Compliance Standard, SBP Standard 1, Version 1.0, March 2015

Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock, SBP Standard 2, Version 1.0, March 2015

Chain of Custody, SBP Standard 4, Version 1.0, March 2015

Collection and Communication of Data, SBP Standard 5, Version 1.0, March 2015

Instruction-Document-5A-Collection-and-Communication-of-Data-v1-1-Oct16

Instruction-Document-5B-Energy-and-GHG-Data-v1-1-Oct16

Instruction-Document-5C-Static-Biomass-Profiling-v1-1-Oct16

<http://www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org/documents>

4.2 SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment

N/A

SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark was not endorsed yet at the time of the assessment. The BP has used the last available version of RRA and this is considered as organization's own risk assessment.

5 Description of Biomass Producer, Supply Base and Forest Management

5.1 Description of Biomass Producer

RL Skovservice v/ René Løvborg is a forest contractor owned by René Løvborg and located in Asklev, near Them in central Jutland, Denmark. The company offers forest contractors services to Danish forest and land owners, predominantly in the central part of Jutland. The company buys wood either as standing stock, in stacks in the forest of origin, or very occasionally, in the form of wood chips. The purchased feedstock is always chipped in the forest of origin. The organization also provides a sales channel for the forest owner's forest products, including timber and wood chips.

RL Skovservice is a member of the PEFC CoC group certificate held by industry association Danske Maskinstationer & Entreprenører. This PEFC group certificate is issued by NEPCon Certificering ApS, and has the PEFC CoC certificate number NC-PEFC/COC-025953.

In relation to the SBP certification, the main activity of the BP is the production and sales of wood chips. The wood chips are produced in the forests of origin, either in the stands by self-propelled wood chippers or from a log pile by a truck mounted chipper. All SBP wood chips are produced from Primary Feedstock, and the BP actively excludes any secondary or tertiary feedstock from the scope of the certification.

The organization currently purchases its feedstock in the Danish regions Midtjylland, Syddanmark and Nordjylland, with the vast majority coming from the central part of Jutland. The potential Supply Base is all of Denmark. All feedstock is primary feedstock, and can be purchased either as standing volume, as fuel wood in stack in the forest of origin or as fuel wood or chips from other suppliers working and sourcing within the Supply Base. In all cases the stand of origin is known, and when buying wood chips from other companies, the BP will apply all own feedstock classification and risk mitigation measures. The organization can buy wood as PEFC certified, but will mainly rely on sourcing feedstock as SBP Compliant from its own Supply Base Evaluation. The organization is implementing appropriate mitigating measures in relation of the specified risks identified, and rather than implementing a Supplier Verification Program assumes all responsibility classification of feedstock and all necessary mitigating measures in all forests and stands of origin of the supplied feedstock.

The BP is supplying the woodchips produced directly from the forest via truck to the customers, which are combined heat and power plants and district heating plants. However, the organization also maintains a storage yard at its home address at Sepstrupvej 26, Asklev, 8653 Them. The approximate capacity is 5000 tonnes

5.2 Description of Biomass Producer's Supply Base

General description of Danish forests and forestry

Forests cover approx. 620,000 ha in Denmark, corresponding to approx. 14.4% of the country's total area. This area is expected to increase over time. Total standing timber in Danish forests is 130 million m³.

Standing timber in the forests has been increasing rapidly from the 2000 statement until today. This is a result of the steadily increasing forest area and probably an increase in standing timber per hectare.

Generally, Danish forests include a wide variety of wood species of which the most common species are: Norway spruce 15%, beech 14% and oak 10%. The numbers for the other wood species are: pine 11%, silver spruce 6%, Nordmann fir 5%, noble fir 2%, other fir species 10%, Sycamore maple 4%, birch 7%, ash 3% and other broadleaves 9%. In addition to this, unstocked areas are 4%. Broadleaves make up 47 per cent of the total wooded area whereas conifers make up 49 per cent. The rest is unstocked areas and areas where a particular wood species could not be determined. None of the wood species belong to the CITES or IUCN species.

Approx. 2000 species are listed on the Danish Red List, and many of these species are related to forests, old forests in particular. Areas in which one or more red list species have been identified are often registered as Natura 2000 areas, protected by the Danish Forest Act and/or the Danish Nature Protection Act.

The estimated total number of forest estates in Denmark is 24,000. 89% of the total number of forest estates has a size between 0.5 and 20 ha.

Most of the forest area is privately owned, either by individuals (59%) or by companies (10%) and foundations (6%). The Danish state forests make up 19% of the total forest area, while the area owned by municipalities and public institutions is 6%. This means that the Danish forest structure includes many private owners with forest areas of less than 20 ha.

Atypically, Danish forestry legislation has no requirements as to how each estate plans forestry, nor does the forest owners have to apply for or report cutting in their forests.

Danish forest owners are well-organised in various local and national associations. Dansk Skovforening (Danish Forest Association) is the trade organisation of private forest owners.

Moreover, up to 6,000 owners of small forests are organised in local forest owner associations which help owners with advice and management of their forests and are also involved in forest policy. Similarly, many private forest owners also work with HedeDanmark and other forestry consultancies.

Two certification options exist in forest management: PEFC and FSC. The areas owned by the Danish states have been certified according to both standards. In private and municipal forests, some 56,000 ha have been certified according to PE and 20,161 ha according to FSC.

Total income in the production of forest products in Denmark is approx. DKK 1 billion. The sale of energy wood amounted to DKK 300 million in 2015.

General description of Danish windbreaks

Planted windbreaks are a tradition in Denmark. The systematic planting of windbreaks started in the 1930s. The first major windbreak planting guilds were set up in 1967 and windbreaks with mainly 3 and 6 rows of broadleaves were introduced. Since then, various subsidies have existed to establish windbreaks and most have been established with subsidies. Today, Denmark is estimated to have some 80,000 km of windbreaks.

Windbreaks planted with subsidies must be maintained and cannot be removed.

Description of the supply base

RL Skovservice's supply base is Danish forests, windbreaks, scenic areas and urban plantations, mainly in Mid-Jutland. In a few cases, biomass is harvested in South and North Jutland.



Figure 1 Supply Base

RL Skovservice is a forest contractor that produces and sells wood chip. Wood chip production is approx. 25,000-35,000 tonnes a year; 80% of the wood chip is produced in areas outside forests, mainly windbreaks and small plantations and in connection with nature projects. The base also includes clearing of trees and shrubs in connection with developments and expansion of infrastructure in Denmark.

In the forests, the base is thinning in conifers and roundwood from conifer deforestation while the rest is branches and tops from both broadleaves and conifers.

Description of jobs

Thinnings:

In windbreaks, the base mainly consists of the removal of nurse trees and pollarding of shrubs but in order to keep the sheltering effect of the windbreak. The work is carried out using feller bunchers and feller forwarders. In the forest, thinnings are carried out by feller bunching in connection with the running of tracks and thinning of younger standing crop. The subsequent chipping is carried out using an off-road chipper or a truck chipper.

Tree tops:

Chipping of tops and branches from conifers and broadleaves in connection with the deforestation of middle-aged or old broadleaves and conifers. Tops are often interconnected in stacks and chipped by the roadside.

Round timber:

Produced as a by-product from the felling of conifers where timber is also produced. The chip utilised timber of a low quality which cannot be used for products of high quality, such as timber. Felled using a harvester, forwarded to a solid road, chipped by the roadside or transported to a storage yard where the chipping is carried out.

Clearings:

Carried out by manual felling and subsequent forwarding or using a feller forwarder. Wood is often interconnected in stacks and chipped by the roadside. Clearing of tree regeneration in connection with Nature projects carried out in dialogue or in direct collaboration with the specific authorities.

Table 1 Distribution raw material input in %

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Mixed
Controlled feedstock			
SBP-Compliant primary	60	30	10
SBP-Compliant Secondary			
SBP-Compliant Tertiary			
SBP non-compliant			

5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

RL Skovservice is defining the Supply Base as Denmark: Feedstock is currently sourced in the administrative regions of Midtjylland, Syddanmark and Nordjylland, but could potentially be sourced in all of Denmark. Hence, data is presented for all of Denmark from the National Forest Inventory (2014):

- a. Total Supply Base area (ha): app. 620.500 ha of forest
- b. Tenure by type (ha): 430.509 ha privately owned, 27.696 owned by foundations, 150.298 ha public owned, 11.997 ha unknown.
- c. Forest by type (ha): 0 ha boreal, 620.500 ha temperate, 0 ha tropical
- d. Forest by management type (ha): 483.844 ha is plantation or planted forest, 100.584 ha natural forest, including protective forest and historical management types, 36.072 ha with other management types or unknown.
- e. Certified forest by scheme (ha): 265.047 ha PEFC forest and 213.976 ha FSC-certified forest. Note that many forests hold both FSC and PEFC certificates.

The Qualitative description of the Supply Base can also be found in the Biomass Producer’s Public Summary Report

5.4 Chain of Custody system

RL Skovservice is a member of the PEFC CoC group certificate held by industry association Danske Maskinstationer & Entreprenører. This PEFC group certificate is issued by NEPCon Certificering ApS, and has the PEFC CoC certificate number NC-PEFC/COC-025953.

The organization implements a PEFC CoC system based on physical segregation. Therefore, SBP claims can only be made for material that is delivered directly from the wood chipper in the forest, or via the storage yard at the BP’s home address, where physical segregation is ensured, and no uncontrolled material (“other biomass”) has been added.

All relevant information with regards to volume tracking and verification of origin is handled in the BP's system for tracking projects and storage yard volumes, and production orders and in the system from in- and outbound sales documents.

6 Evaluation process

6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

The SBP assessment was carried out on February 21st, 2017 (office audit), February 23rd (field audit) and March 20th (CVA) and it included audit the RL Skovservice main office in Asklev near Them, Denmark, and of visits to a total of 8 sites where there have been or currently are being sourced feedstock and produced wood chips.

Total of 3,2 days were used for this evaluation – 1 day of preparations, 1,2 day at the BP main office site (including the follow-up audit) and 1 day for audits at the forests / stands of origin: 8 sites in Region Midtjylland. Time used for reporting and administration is not included in these figures.

The SBP assessment was conducted in accordance with the plan below; please note that the field visits were conducted after consulting the Biomass Producer’s records of ongoing and recent wood chip production engagements. The field visits started and ended in the field, including a summary of the observation from the field visits. A Correction Verification Audit was conducted in the main office in the morning of March 20th, 2017; here the BP presented improvements to documentation and management system. During this meeting a summary of the findings from the field visits was provided to the owner-operator who manages all wood chip operations.

21. February 2017

Time	Activity	Location
9.00 – 9.30	Opening Meeting. Introduction of participants. Review of the agenda.	RL Skovservice Main office
9.30 – 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply Base Report and SBE, and stakeholder comments • Documented procedures (Management system), including risk minimization measures and Supplier Verification Program • Training activities and registration of completed training Interview with staff Planning the field trip	RL Skovservice Main office
12.00 – 12.30	Break	
12.30 – 17.00	Review of the traceability system Review of the system for the collection and reporting of energy and emissions data Review of procedures for the use of SBP logos and trademarks	RL Skovservice Main office
17.00 – 17.30	Preliminary Closing meeting. Auditor summarizes preliminary conclusions. Program for field visits confirmed.	RL Skovservice

		Main office
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23. February 2017

Field visits are conducted on the basis of the inventory of ongoing, planned and completed projects. Auditor is responsible for selecting projects for field visits, taking into account the number of projects, as well as the type of project, size and geographical location.

Activity	Location	Auditor(s)	Approximate Time (Feb 23, 2017)
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: John Danielsen, Rustrupvej 22, 8652 Them	CAR	8.00-9:00
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Forsorghjemmet Godrum Hedevej 2, 7369 Hampen	CAR	9.30-10:00
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Karin Larsen Tranholmvej 7, 8765 Klovborg	CAR	10.00-10:30
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Peter Lindved Tjørnevej 66, 7442 Engesvang	CAR	10.30-11:30
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Bruno Hedegaard Kollerhus 5, 8600 Silkeborg	CAR	11.30-12:30
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Gråmose – Flemming Christensen Kong Knuds Vej 53B, 8620 Kjellerup	CAR	13.00-13:30

Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Karl Birk Sørensen Harbovad 23 8600 Silkeborg	CAR	14.00-15:00
Evaluation at forest of origin of primary feedstock, evaluation of relevant mitigation measures.	Supplier site: Finn Damgaard Vroldvej 192 8660 Skanderborg	CAR	15.30-16:30
Closing meeting Auditor summarizes audit conclusions.	Same as above	CAR	16:30 – 17:00

20. March 2017

Correction Verification Audit. BP demonstrated improvements to Management systems and documentation.

App. Time Mar 20, 2017	Activity	Location	Auditor(s)
8.30-10:00	Main office: BP presenting improvements to documentation and management system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply Base Report and SBE, and stakeholder comments • Documented procedures (Management system), including risk minimization measures • Closing meeting 	RL Skovservice Main office	CAR

6.2 Description of evaluation activities

Composition of audit team:

Auditor(s), roles	Qualifications
Christian Rahbek, Lead Auditor	M.Sc. (Forestry) from University of Copenhagen. Has passed NEPCon Lead Auditor Training for FSC and PEFC FM and CoC certification. Experience from more than 200 FSC and PEFC CoC and FM audits in Denmark and Europe. Christian is an approved SBP Lead auditor and has partaken in several SBP assessments in Denmark.

6.3 Process for consultation with stakeholders

Stakeholder consultation processes were carried out by both the Biomass Producer and the Certification Body

The BP conducted a stakeholder consultation process that took place in a 30-day period from December 7nd, 2016 to January 7th, 2017. 17 stakeholders were notified by e-mail, this included associations, national NGOs, Copenhagen University, and umbrella organizations for recreational and labour organizations. The full list of stakeholders is available at BP and in the exhibit of this report. The BP received one stakeholder response as a result of the stakeholder process, and documented both response to the stakeholder and effect on the mitigating measures during the audit.

The CB conducted a 30-day stakeholder notification process by e-mail message to 20 stakeholders, which were largely the same as contacted by the BP and additionally the Danish Industry Association, on December 14th 2016. No comments were received by CB by February 12th, 2017, but most of the key stakeholders had taken part in the Stakeholder meeting in relation to the Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark.

The BP and CB stakeholder processes ran with a partial overlap. This was in the light to the BP adapting the draft regional risk assessment for Denmark and implementing the suggested mitigating measures. These had all been subject to discussion at a stakeholder meeting were all relevant stakeholder had been invited. The meeting was held on May 20th, 2016, and was attended by most of the key stakeholders, with some providing their input to the process by email in advance. All comments from the previous stakeholder consultations were taken into account by the organization while preparing the final draft of their risk assessment.

7 Results

7.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

Main strengths: The main strengths of the BP lie in the relative simple operation, with all administrative tasks being carried out by the owner-operator René Løvborg and the bookkeeper Jette Fogtmann, and the fact that all SBP feedstock is purchased in forest or stand of origin. The machine operators showed good awareness of best practice in forest machine operation, and all operators have attended a three-day training course in machine operation in near-natural forests, which is a requirement for forest contractors that operate in the FSC and PEFC certified Danish State forests.

The BP has worked closely with the consultant Claus Danefeldt Clemmensen for the industry association Danske Maskinstationer og Entreprenører (also DM&E), who has assisted in creating the Supply Base Report and the documented management system, etc. The BP has an on-going membership with DM&E, and therefore will also have access to support from this source in the future. Furthermore, all interviewed staff had a strong engagement in implementation of SBP system and positive approach.

Weaknesses: The BP does not have in-house staff that are professional foresters, and therefore they are reliant on external staff or partners for conducting field visits and identification and mapping of “key biotopes” prior to starting wood chip production in specified risk stands. The BP also does not have readily available fuel consumption data for the felling, extraction and chipping of biomass, and therefore for now will instead report default values in accordance with Instruction Document 5B.

7.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

At the time of the assessment, the Supply Base Evaluation was implemented only for primary feedstock sourced from 3 administrative regions of Denmark. The BP will carry out the SBE for primary feedstock (forest products) that are originating from Denmark and is sold without SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme claim, SBP-approved Forest Management partial claim or SBP-approved Chain-of-Custody (CoC) System claim. Risk mitigation measures are implemented for material coming from both forest land and from other origin, e.g. landscape maintenance, or residential areas.

The BP has used the draft of the regional risk assessment which has been widely circulated for stakeholder consultation. Based on the “specified risks” in this risk assessment the organization has adapted the mitigation measures which were consulted with relevant stakeholders during a meeting held on May 20th, 2016, and calls/emails which took place prior the assessment.

The BPs stakeholder consultation process started with sending a notification email, including the SBR and SBE to numerous stakeholders. The BP keeps records of all communication with stakeholders.

The supply base evaluation was a rigorous process, and there has generally been acceptance of the defined sub-scopes and the associated risk conclusions.

The BP sources SBP feedstock through two, very similar supply chains: For the vast majority of the sourced feedstock, the BP buys the material as standing stock or in stacks in the forest of origin, where the BP's own staff

classifies the source's sub-scope and has implemented any required risk mitigating measures according to the risk level of the sub-scope. The BP very occasionally buys feedstock from other suppliers. These could be forest contractors that have planned and carried out the felling, extraction and chipping of the feedstock. In these cases the BP will assume all responsibilities for classification of the feedstock is to the correct sub-scope, and if the feedstock originates from a stand belonging to a specified risk sub-scope, the BP will itself ensure that it will either be subject to implementation of all applicable risk mitigation measures, or be regarded as "other biomass" and sold on without any claim of SBP compliance.

7.3 Compilation of data on Greenhouse Gas emissions

Prior to the main assessment the BP has not systematically recorded data on greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore the BP does not have readily available fuel consumption data for the felling, extraction and chipping of biomass, and therefore for now will instead report default values in accordance with Instruction Document 5B.

The BP has opted to use the accepted Default Values from Biograce II for reporting fuel used in forestry used and felling/chipping. Auditor has accepted the justification that actual fuel use records were not available at the time of the main assessment.

7.4 Competency of involved personnel

The BP has a relatively simple operation, with all administrative tasks being carried out by the owner-operator René Løvborg and the bookkeeper Jette Fogtmann. Both administrative staff showed good awareness of their management system, and of the objectives and restrictions in the SBP system.

The owner and the machine operators showed good awareness of best practice in forest machine operation, and all operators have attended a three-day training course in machine operation in near-natural forests, which is a requirement for forest contractors that operate in the FSC and PEFC certified Danish State forests.

The BP has worked closely with the consultant Claus Danefeldt Clemmensen for the industry association Danske Maskinstationer og Entreprenører (also DM&E), who has assisted in creating the Supply Base Report and the documented management system, etc. The BP has an on-going membership with DM&E, and therefore will also have access to support from this source in the future. Furthermore, all interviewed staff had a strong engagement in implementation of SBP system and positive approach.

All involved personal has provided good knowledge in relevant fields, including project management classification to correct sub-scope, and implementation of relevant mitigating measures during the site visits.

The BP has documented qualification requirements for personnel involved in the different aspects of the SBP system, including the qualifications needed for SBE.

According to interviews, review for formal qualifications and the set of procedures and documents that were composed for the SBP system, auditors evaluated the competency of main responsible staff to be sufficient.

7.5 Stakeholder feedback

During the BP's stakeholder consultation, one comment was received from the Danish Society for Nature Protection, the main concerns from the Stakeholder being protection of biodiversity when sourcing wood chips from non-forest areas, and ensuring access to maps or development of maps of key biotopes prior to wood chip production activities in forest areas. During the audit the BP showed communication with stakeholder and the resulting adaptations made in the mitigating measures, i. e. procedures for ensuring access to key biotope maps where relevant and procedures for protection of deadwood. The CB finds that the BP stakeholder consultation was sufficient, but comments that the BP should have contacted municipal authorities. See OBS 01/17

7.6 Preconditions

There are no open preconditions to this certification.

8 Review of Biomass Producer’s Risk Assessments

Table 1. Final risk ratings of Indicators as determined after the SVP and any mitigation measures.

Indicator	Risk rating (Low or Specified)		Indicator	Risk rating (Low or Specified)	
	Producer	CB		Producer	CB
1.1.1	Low	Low	2.3.3	Low	Low
1.1.2	Low	Low	2.4.1	Low	Low
1.1.3	Low	Low	2.4.2	Low	Low
1.2.1	Low	Low	2.4.3	Low	Low
1.3.1	Low	Low	2.5.1	Low	Low
1.4.1	Low	Low	2.5.2	Low	Low
1.5.1	Low	Low	2.6.1	Low	Low
1.6.1	Low	Low	2.7.1	Low	Low
2.1.1	Low	Low	2.7.2	Low	Low
2.1.2	Low	Low	2.7.3	Low	Low
2.1.3	Low	Low	2.7.4	Low	Low
2.2.1	Low	Low	2.7.5	Low	Low
2.2.2	Low	Low	2.8.1	Low	Low
2.2.3	Low	Low	2.9.1	Low	Low
2.2.4	Low	Low	2.9.2	Low	Low
2.2.5	Low	Low	2.10.1	Low	Low
2.2.6	Low	Low			
2.2.7	Low	Low			
2.2.8	Low	Low			
2.2.9	Low	Low			
2.3.1	Low	Low			
2.3.2	Low	Low			

9 Review of Biomass Producer’s mitigation measures

The BP has used the suggested mitigation measures in the final draft of the Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark, which found 4 Indicators with specified risk and suggests mitigating measures. The table below shows the specified risk Indicators and the corresponding mitigation methods that the BP will implement. However, the BP will not implement the suggestion that HCV maps are made publicly available.

The BP has documented and described systematic procedures for implementing the relevant risk mitigating measures according to the sub-scope of the stand of origin. For forests with a green management plan, the relevant maps of HCVs will be used, and for Specified risk stands without the necessary identification and mapping of Key Biotopes, an onsite inspection will be carried out by a trained professional with a minimum of a B.Sc. in Forestry or biology, and maps identifying HVCs including key biotopes will be created.

The BP has also implemented documented procedures for protection of biologically valuable dead wood in the forests. The BP has described a short procedure for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the planned mitigation measures during annual internal audits.

Indicator	Mitigating measure
<p>2.1.1 Forests and other areas with high conservation values in the Supply Base are identified and mapped.</p>	<p><i>The goal of the mitigation measure is to ensure that any HCV in the area within the Supply Base is identified and sufficiently mapped before sourcing begins of feedstock for biomass production, so that the information about any HCVs can be securely passed on to staff carrying out the felling and chipping operation.</i></p> <p><i>The BP creates a map for all wood chip production areas, and all project are assigned a project ID and a checklist is filled in by the owner-operator. This also includes assigning the project to the correct sub-scope. If the area is in a specified risk sub-scope, it is checked if certification or green management plan maps are available, and if this is the case, these are used. This ensures that natural values, including key biotopes can be respected and protected during felling and extraction. If the area is in a specified risk sub-scope, and no maps of key biotopes is available, procedures state that a local expert must be consulted. The online HNV forest map (Map with indication of prevalence of areas of High Nature Value, which available at http://miljoegis.mim.dk/cbkort?profile=miljoegis-plangroendk) is also checked prior to the field survey of HCVs for a calculated indication of the potential for HCVs. If the area is too small to carry the cost of a local expert, the biomass will be classed a “other biomass”. If the project area is in a low risk sub-scope, screening is not conducted. Further consideration for all wood chip production areas include consulting maps of legally protected areas, e.g. wetland, marchland, bog, heath or areas of historical, archaeological or any other legal protection status. Procedures are also in place to ensure that any information the owner might have about nesting trees, fox burrows, special local agreements etc. are registered in the project documents.</i></p>

<p>2.1.2 Potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities are identified and addressed.</p>	<p>For all wood chip production areas the following material is given to the operator(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map of project area - Written instructions from project manager (owner-operator) - Checklist as per 2.1.1 - Any other relevant information <p>This, along with easy access to the project responsible (owner-operator) via mobile phone, ensures that any identified element on the maps requiring protection and any other element requiring protection is respected during felling, extraction and wood chip production processes,</p>
<p>2.2.3 Key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state (CPET S8b).</p>	<p>Risk mitigation measures are the same as for Indicator 2.1.2:</p> <p>For all wood chip production areas the following material is given to the operator(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map of project area - Written instructions from project manager (owner-operator) - Checklist as per 2.1.1 - Any other relevant information <p>This, along with easy access to the project responsible (owner-operator) via mobile phone, ensures that any identified element on the maps requiring protection and any other element requiring protection is respected during felling, extraction and wood chip production processes,</p>
<p>2.2.4: Biodiversity is protected</p>	<p>The goal of the mitigation measure is to ensure that biodiversity is sufficiently protected. This Indicator is seen as being partially covered by Indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, and as such Low risk will be demonstrated or reached through mitigating measures. Required risk mitigation measures are the same as outlined for Indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.</p> <p>Due to the technical requirements that the biomass shall fulfill with regards to humidity and density, it is generally not accepted by Energy Producers that decaying wood is used as input in the chips supplied from Danish Forests. The BP has also established procedures for ensuring that biologically valuable dead and decaying and deadwood on the forest floor is not chipped or removed in connection with production and extraction of biomass. The BP has also established procedures for ensuring that a volume of deadwood is left in the forest after final felling, and for preserving standing dead trees in thinning or afforestation areas.</p>

10 Non-conformities and observations

NCR: 01/17	NC Classification: MAJOR (Precondition)
Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard 2, Instruction Note 2A requirement 1.8
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
<p>According to the draft Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark used by the BP, there are four specified risks - indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 that are related to identification and mapping of HCV, protection of HCVs, conservation of key ecosystem and habitats and protection of biodiversity. In a Danish context these indicators are understood as related, and the key issues is the lack of systematic identification mapping and protection of woodland key biotopes. All other indicators are low risk.</p> <p>The BP has adapted the mitigation measures suggested in the first draft of the Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark. However, the BP will not implement the suggestion that HCV maps are made publicly available.</p> <p>During the field audits, the current level of protection of biologically valuable dead wood during felling and chipping operations was discussed, and good awareness was found on the importance of dead wood to the biodiversity of the forests, but no documented procedures regarding the protection of deadwood had been established.</p> <p>The BP has documented and described procedures both for identifying and mapping "key biotopes" prior to proceeding with felling and extraction operations, and for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the planned mitigation measures. However, at the time of the assessment there was no provision that the identification of key biotopes must be done by personnel with a minimum of a B.Sc. degree in forestry or biology, as per mitigating measures from the Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark.</p> <p>It was auditor's evaluation that these gaps in the documented procedures constituted a system-wide lack, and hence a Major non-conformance (precondition) was issued.</p>	
Corrective action request:	<p>Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	Before issuing of the certificate
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	During the CVA audit on March 20, the BP demonstrated an improved version of the SBR and documented management system, which included procedures for utilization of an external forester (min. B.Sc.) for identification and mapping of key biotopes in stands in specified risk sub-scopes. The improved management system also documented the BP policies for

	dealing with biologically valuable dead wood. See exhibit 1 and 2.	
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Based on review of the documents and the interviews during the main assessment and the CVA, auditor finds that the corrective actions are sufficient to close the non-conformance.	
NCR Status:	CLOSED	
Is the non-conformity likely to impact upon the integrity of the affected SBP-certified products and the credibility of the SBP trademarks?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

NCR: 02/17	NC Classification: Minor	
Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard 2, Instruction Note 2C requirement 4.1	
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:		
The SBR was made available to the auditor prior to the on-site audit and presented by the BP during the audit. It was found that the SBR did not include a final felling sampling programme, that description of the Red List species dependent on forest landscapes was limited and that the Supply Base area forest resource was not sufficiently described.		
Corrective action request:	Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Prior to the next annual audit, but no later than 12 months from closing meeting. (Before March 19, 2018)	
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	The BP forwarded its improved SBR shortly after the on-site CVA and auditor finds that the SBR is now concise and covers most relevant aspects. It has been prepared using the most recent version of the SBR template. The minor NCR has been closed against the updated SBR. See exh 1.	
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The minor NCR has been closed against the updated SBR. See exh 1.	
NCR Status:	CLOSED	
Is the non-conformity likely to impact upon the integrity of the affected SBP-certified products and the credibility of the SBP trademarks?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

NCR: 03/17	NC Classification: MAJOR (Precondition)	
Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard 2, requirement 15.3	
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:		
The BP has, with the support of the external consultant Mr. Claus Clemmensen, prepared documented procedures for most relevant aspects. The documented procedures were reviewed by auditor prior to the on-site audit.		

During the audit it was found that no documented procedures regarding the protection of deadwood had been established, and that there was no provision that the identification of key biotopes must be done by personnel with a minimum of a B.Sc. degree in forestry or biology, as per mitigating measures from the Regional Risk Assessment for Denmark.

It was auditor's evaluation that these gaps in the documented procedures constituted a system-wide lack, and hence a Major non-conformance (precondition) was issued.

Corrective action request:	Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.
Timeline for Conformance:	Before issuing of the certificate
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	During the CVA audit on March 20, the BP demonstrated an improved version of the SBR and documented management system, which included procedures for utilization of an external forester (min. B.Sc.) for identification and mapping of key biotopes in stands in specified risk sub-scopes. The improved management system also documented the BP policies for dealing with biologically valuable dead wood. See exhibit 1 and 2.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Based on review of the documents and the interviews during the main assessment and the CVA, auditor finds that the corrective actions are sufficient to close the non-conformance.
NCR Status:	CLOSED
Is the non-conformity likely to impact upon the integrity of the affected SBP-certified products and the credibility of the SBP trademarks?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

NCR: 04/17	NC Classification: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard 2, requirement 12.1
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Biomass Producer has adapted the SBE from the final draft to the regional risk assessment for Denmark. The BP thus relies on the competency of the staff that involved in producing this document. At the time of the audit the BP had not yet defined the competency requirements to involved staff.	
Corrective action request:	Organisation shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.
Timeline for Conformance:	Before issuing of the certificate
Evidence Provided by Organisation:	Prior to the CVA the BP has defined the responsibilities for the implementation of the SBE base on the SBR RRA and

	demonstrates the formal professional qualifications of the staff involved by means of CVs for the owner-operator and the external consultant. See exhibits 2 and 2b.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Based on review of the documents and the interviews during the main assessment and the CVA, auditor finds that the corrective actions are sufficient to close the non-conformance.
NCR Status:	CLOSED
Is the non-conformity likely to impact upon the integrity of the affected SBP-certified products and the credibility of the SBP trademarks?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

OBS: 01/17	Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard 1 Instruction Note 1A requirement 4.3
	Report Section	Appendix A, 1.9
Description of findings leading to observation:	The BP has contacted most of the important stakeholders during the stakeholder consultation, but has not contacted municipal authorities in the municipalities where feedstock is being sourced.	
Observation:	The BP should include all relevant stakeholders when carrying out stakeholder consultations, including municipal authorities. .	

OBS: 02/17	Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard # 2 requirement 7.2
	Report Section	Appendix B p 2.4
Description of findings leading to observation:	The BP was aware of the requirement for sending the SBR to the SBP secretariat, but has not documented procedures for doing this.	
Observation:	The BP should document procedures for sending the SBR to the SBP secretariat.	

OBS: 03/17	Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard 2, Instruction Note 2A requirement 1.3
	Report Section	Appendix B p 8.4
Description of findings leading to observation:	<p>The Biomass producer has defined procedures to carry out monitoring of 5% of the delivered volume under the Supplier Verification program, and specified the procedures for carrying out the verification. See exhibit 2, section 6.</p> <p>Auditor finds that chosen density of sampling of 5% is similar to the recommended square root based sample size, unless the total number of supplied projects is small (<50).</p>	
Observation:	The BP should ensure that the sample size is always sufficient.	

OBS: 04/17	Standard & Requirement:	SBP Standard # 4 requirement 5.1.2
	Report Section	Appendix C p 1.2
Description of findings leading to observation:	<p>The BP has described its SBP CoC procedures in the documented SBP Management system. This system references and relies on the already implemented PEFC CoC system. The scope of the PEFC CoC system trading activities with Logs, Fuelwood and Wood chips under a Physical separation system.</p> <p>The BP has made very few PEFC claims for products sold, and it has been more than one year since the last claims were made</p>	
Observation:	<p>Since the BP has made very few PEFC claims for products sold, and it has been more than one year since the last claims were made, the BP should ensure that the latest version of the instruction for invoicing is used.</p>	

11 Certification decision

Based on Organisation's conformance with SBP requirements, the auditor makes the following recommendation:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Certification approved: Upon acceptance of NCR(s) issued above
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certification not approved:
Based on auditor's recommendation and NEPCon quality review following certification decision is taken:	
NEPCon certification decision: The Biomass Producer has been certified by NEPCon as meeting the requirements of the specified SBP Standard, the certificate can be issued immediately after NEPCon will obtain the approval of the report from SBP technical committee. The expiration of the certificate will be then 5 years.	
Certification decision by: Ondrej Tarabus	
Date of decision: 10.05.2017	

12 Surveillance updates

Not applicable.

12.1 Evaluation details

Not applicable.

12.2 Significant changes

Not applicable.

12.3 Follow-up on outstanding non-conformities

Not applicable.

12.4 New non-conformities

Not applicable.

12.5 Stakeholder feedback

Not applicable.

12.6 Conditions for continuing certification

Not applicable.

12.7 Certification recommendation

Not applicable.

13 Evaluation details

Primary Responsible Person: (Responsible for control system at site(s))	René Løvborg, Owner-operator
Auditor(s):	Christian Rahbek, Lead auditor
People Interviewed, Titles:	René Løvborg, Owner-operator Jette Fogtmann, Bookkeeper Torben Øgaard Laursen, Machine Operator and Health and Safety representative Patrick Sønderskov, Machine Operator Leo Mikkelsen, Machine Operator Lasse Overgaard Pedersen, Machine Operator
Brief Overview of Audit Process for this Location:	Please see the audit overview in section 6.1
Comments:	