



NEPCon OÜ Evaluation of Van Leer Energy BV Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

First Surveillance Audit

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1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	NEPCon OÜ
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Ondrej Tarabus
Primary CB contact email:	otarabus@preferredbynature.org
Audit team leader:	Pilar Gorria Serrano
Audit team members:	Pilar Gorría
Name of the Company:	Van Leer Energy BV
Company legal address:	Jodenbreestraat 152-154, 1011 NS Amsterdam, Netherlands
Company contact for SBP:	Cris Mul
Company contact email:	cris.mul@vanleer.energy
Company website:	N/A
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-07-73
Date of certificate issue:	24 Mar 2020
Date of certificate expiry:	23 Mar 2025
Audit closing meeting date:	23 Feb 2021
Audit cycle:	First Surveillance Audit

2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope Item	Check all that apply to the Certificate Scope	Change in scope (N/A for Assessments)
Primary Activity:	Trader	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved Standards:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE):	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data (DBSD)	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes Group Scheme	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Products	Pellets	<input type="checkbox"/>

Feedstock types:	Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feedstock origin (countries):	Russia	<input type="checkbox"/>
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used:	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public link: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/		<input type="checkbox"/>
Chain of custody system implemented:	FSC: CU-COC-802926	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.1 Description of the company

Van Leer Energy BV (VLE) is a marketing and sales company and supplier of sustainable biomass as a substitute to fossil fuels to the European consumer and industrial markets. The companies trading activities includes both domestic and industrial pellets equally shared. The biomass is purchased in Russia, but might be purchased elsewhere, and going to be delivered to several destinations and customers in Denmark, Belgium, Sweden or Nederland, for use in heat and power plants for production of sustainable and renewable heat and electricity. The traded woody biomass will be sourced from various ports in Europe and possibly also other parts of the world. The point of purchase will, in general, be the same as the point of sale. This means that VLE is not responsible for compilation of GHG data in case of any GHG emissions. However, there are cases where the material will be transported under the ownership of the organization. In such a situation, the organization is responsible for collecting and reporting the GHG data for the transport.

2.2 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system

The organization is a holder of valid FSC CoC certificate (CU-COC-802926). The CoC system is based on the FSC transfer system without physical possession. Until now all material purchased has been claimed as FSC Mix Credit and SBP Compliant biomass. The sales can be made in harbours (exporting and importing) with or without sea transportation. Each purchase of material is recorded including the certification status of the material and the sales always contain the same type and quantity of material as purchased. The SBP claim will be stated on the sales invoices together with the SBP Production Batch ID code. These carries the GHG profiling and batch specific data from the Biomass Producer and GHG data relating to the transport, which is the responsibility of the Biomass Producer, given the INCOTERM used (FOB or CIF).

3 Specific objective

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Trader'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 the evaluation covered:

- Review of the Biomass Trader's management procedures;
- Review of control points in the FSC CoC system that affects the SBP certificate;
- Interviews with responsible staff; and
- Review of the records, including DTS database, procurement/ sales balance

4 Evaluation process

4.1 Timing of evaluation activities

<i>Audit Level of Effort (LoE)</i>		
Activity	Auditors	Auditor hours
1. Preparation	Pilar Gorriá	2,0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Pilar Gorriá	4,0
3. Report writing	Pilar Gorriá	2,0
4. Other	N/A	N/A

Audit Schedule			
Activity	Location	Auditor name	Date/time
<i>Opening meeting</i>	PbN Office. Desk	PGS	23 Feb 2021/10:00
<i>Review of procedures.</i>	PbN Office. Desk	PGS	23 Feb 2021/10.15
<i>Purchase, sales, logistics & DTS management</i>	PbN Office. Desk	PGS	23 Feb 2021/11:00
<i>Energy data collection and calculations</i>	PbN Office. Desk	PGS	23 Feb 2021/12.45

<i>Closing meeting</i>	PbN Office. Desk	PGS	23 Feb 2021/13.45
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Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Pilar Gorría Serrano	Lead auditor	NEPCon SBP lead auditor. He has successfully passed SBP auditor training in UK; previous experience with more than 20 SBP assessments and annual audits in Europe and quality report revisions.

4.2 Description of evaluation activities

The audit started with an opening meeting attended by overall responsible and company director and logistic manager.

Auditor introduced herself, provided information about audit plan, methodology and aim of the audit. CB's approval related issues and confidentiality issues were covered as well.

After, the auditor went through all applicable requirements of the applicable SBP requirements covering management system, recordkeeping requirements and verification of SBP compliant biomass. Chain of Custody implementation was reviewed focusing in the Critical Control Points, in particular it was verified reception of the material and it's classification, identification of feedstock origin, production process with the conversion factors associated, mass balance, final product storage and sales. Furthermore, the purchasing and logistics functions were audited. During the process overall responsible person for the SBP system and staff having key responsibilities within the system was interviewed.

During the closing meeting auditor explained the results of the audit to director and logistic manager further actions were discussed.

4.3 Sampling methodology

Sampling methodology was applicable to the SBP DTS transaction verification. The different supplier sites were used for sampling, different vessels, amounts and some random checks were also selected.

4.4 CB stakeholder engagement

Not applicable for this annual audit

4.5 Stakeholder feedback

Not applicable for this annual audit

5 Results

5.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

Strengths: VLE is involved in biofuels trading activities since 1998 and materialize this long lasting experience. It is only a small group of people that will work with SBP related activities and the responsible staff showed good knowledge about the SBP system and how it will be implemented in the organization.

Weaknesses: Not found

5.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

Not applicable

5.3 Collection and communication of data

The organization is collecting and communicating GHG and energy data when they are involved in transport. The organization has competence for this and will communicate the results via SREG to the customer. During this reporting period no SREG has been applicable.

5.4 Competency of involved personnel

The involved personnel were found competent in implementing the SBP CoC system, making correct claims, managing DTS system and forwarding GHG/Transport data in SREG documents when required.

6 Review of company's risk assessments

6.1 Overview of company's risk assessments and mitigation measures

Not applicable

6.2 Specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country/Area	Indicator	Specified risk description	Mitigation measure
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

7 Non-conformities and observations

NC number NC-000206	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody
Requirement:	6.1.4 SBP certificate holders shall comply with all trade and customs requirements including payment of any fees and duties.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
<p>The company representatives are well aware about the applicable laws and regulations in countries where it conducts business. The interview has revealed that there is good knowledge about the legislation applicable for VLE and the organization has a procedure for compliance with trade and customs law. During the audit, justification about compliance with payment of any fees and duties was requested, the organization request documentation from the tax agency but at the time of the closing meeting the documentation has not been provided.</p>	
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	Justification frm the tax office "Belastingdienst"
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	In the justification provided it is declared that there are no outstanding tax assessments or other claims as per the data known to the Tax and Customs Administration in 9 March 21. Auditor consider the NCR closed
NC Status:	Closed

8 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's quality review, the following certification decision is taken:	
Certification decision:	N/A
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Olesja Puišo
Date of decision:	18 Mar 2021
Other comments:	N/A