

# SBP Framework Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data

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



## Version 1.0 March 2015

Documents associated with this Standard:

*Instruction Document 5A: Collection and Communication of Data*

*For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see [www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org](http://www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org)*

*Document history*

*Version 1.0: published 26 March 2015*

*© Copyright The Sustainable Biomass Partnership Limited 2015*

# Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>List of abbreviations.....</b>                         | <b>1</b> |
| <b>1 Background.....</b>                                  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2 Scope.....</b>                                       | <b>3</b> |
| <b>3 Normative references .....</b>                       | <b>4</b> |
| <b>4 Glossary of Terms and Definitions.....</b>           | <b>5</b> |
| <b>5 General principles .....</b>                         | <b>6</b> |
| <b>6 The SBP database of GHG and profiling data .....</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>7 Product groups and batch specific data.....</b>      | <b>8</b> |
| <b>8 The Biomass Producer’s Supply Base Report .....</b>  | <b>9</b> |

## List of abbreviations#

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| BP    | Biomass Producer  |
| CPET  | Central Point of Expertise for Timber (run by DEFRA)    |
| CB    | Certification Body                                      |
| CoC   | Chain of Custody  |
| CHP   | Combined Heat and Power                                 |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species |
| DEFRA | UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs   |
| DECC  | UK Department of Energy and Climate Change              |
| EUTR  | European Union Timber Regulation                        |
| FM    | Forest Management                                       |
| FMS   | Forest Management Scheme                                |
| FSC®  | Forest Stewardship Council                              |
| GRI   | Global Reporting Initiative                             |
| GGL   | Green Gold Label  |
| GHG   | Greenhouse Gas  |
| ILO   | International Labour Organisation                       |
| LVS   | Legality Verification Systems                           |
| LAV   | Locally Applicable Verifiers                            |
| PPE   | Personal Protective Equipment                           |
| PEFC  | Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification   |
| RRA   | Regional Risk Assessment                                |
| RA    | Risk Assessment   |
| RSB   | Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials                  |
| SVP   | Supplier Verification Programme                         |
| SB    | Supply Base   |
| SBE   | Supply Base Evaluation                                  |
| SBR   | Supply Base Report                                      |
| SBP   | Sustainable Biomass Partnership                         |
| SFI   | Sustainable Forestry Initiative                         |

# 1 Background

The Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP) was formed in 2013 by European utilities that are using biomass, mostly in the form of wood pellets or chips, in large thermal generating plants. Biomass-fired power and heat generation is seen as an important technology for achieving the EU's 2020 renewable energy targets and EU member states are adopting their own national approaches to ensuring that the biomass used is legally and sustainably sourced.

SBP's objective is to develop the tools necessary to demonstrate that, as a minimum, solid biomass used for energy production meets these national requirements. The SBP Framework is designed as a clear statement of principles, standards and processes necessary to demonstrate such compliance. Wherever possible, the Framework takes into account and builds on existing regulatory mechanisms and on voluntary certification standards already applied to other forest product streams or to other biomass sources.

The SBP Framework provides a means to collect data describing the nature of the feedstock as well as data to be employed in the regulatory calculations of greenhouse gas (GHG) savings from its use. It also provides a means to demonstrate that risks to forest carbon stocks are managed and that forests' carbon sequestration capability is maintained.

Collectively, the six SBP Standards represent a certification framework, or scheme, against which organisations can be assessed for compliance by independent third-party Certification Bodies (CBs). An organisation that satisfactorily demonstrates compliance receives a certificate and is entitled to make SBP claims in relation to its biomass.

The SBP Framework is made freely available for use by all supply chain actors irrespective of whether or not they are members of SBP.

## 2 Scope

This document (SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data) defines the requirements and options for collecting data which must accompany SBP-certified materials through the supply chain including the various greenhouse gas and profiling data required by generators in different EU Member States.

Certification against this Standard is required for all parties that take legal ownership of SBP-certified biomass and that wish to sell the product as SBP-certified with certified energy and carbon and profiling data. Parties that are not certified to this standard cannot make claims regarding the energy and carbon or profiling data of SBP-certified biomass. Service providers which are part of the SBP supply chain but do not take legal ownership of the biomass (e.g. transport companies, storage platforms) may choose whether or not they wish to be certified against this standard.

## 3 Normative references

*SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard*

*SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock*

*SBP Standard 3: Certification Systems. Requirements for Certification Bodies*

*SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody*

*SBP Standard 6: Energy and Carbon Balance Calculation*

## 4 Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Please refer to separate *SBP Glossary of Terms and Definitions*.



## 5 General principles

- 5.1 All data submissions must be supported by appropriate evidence.
- 5.2 This Standard requires the collection of data for the purposes of:
- enabling energy and carbon balance calculations.
  - providing feedstock profiling data which are required by individual regulators.
  - communicating to external stakeholders on sustainability of BPs' feedstock inputs.
- 5.3 There are three methods by which information is communicated.
- 1) The SBP database of GHG and profiling data. These data are accessible by generators and enable them to report to their regulators.
  - 2) Batch specific data which is specific to each delivery of biomass. (A batch is a unit of production with identical energy and carbon, profile and sustainability characteristics data. A delivery can comprise a number of batches.) This information is available to all organisations which take legal ownership of the biomass.
  - 3) The BP's Supply Base Report. This is publicly available on the BP's and the SBP websites.

## 6 The SBP database of GHG and profiling data

- 6.1 It is the ultimate user of the biomass who is responsible for the calculation of energy and carbon balance of the supply chain.
- 6.2 The BP is not responsible for calculating the energy and carbon balance of the supply chain. All legal owners shall provide all necessary data to the accuracy necessary to enable those calculations.
- 6.3 Each organisation which takes legal ownership of SBP-certified biomass shall record any changes in carbon, energy or profiling data that occurs during the period of ownership.
- 6.4 The mechanism for recording data in the SBP database of GHG and profiling data is defined in the SBP Instruction Document 5A: Collection and Communication of Data.

## 7 Product groups and batch specific data

7.1 The BP shall categorise the feedstock into one or more Product Groups. Details of the product groups are found in Instruction Document 5A: Collection and Communication of Data.

7.2. Each legal owner is required to pass information relevant to each batch of pellets to the next legal owner and end-user, including sustainability and carbon and energy data.

7.3 The requirements for these data and the mechanism for communicating these data are defined in the Instruction Document 5A: Collection and Communication of Data.

## 8 The Biomass Producer's Supply Base Report

- 8.1 Each BP is required to publish a publicly available Supply Base Report (SBR).
- 8.2 The requirements for this report are set out in SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock.