

Control Union  
Certifications B.V.  
Evaluation of Alameda  
Torrent S.L.U.  
Compliance with the SBP  
Framework: Public  
Summary Report

First Surveillance Audit

[www.sbp-cert.org](http://www.sbp-cert.org)



## Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 1.4

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

### *Document history*

*Version 1.0: published 26 March 2015*

*Version 1.1: published 30 January 2018*

*Version 1.2: published 4 April 2018*

*Version 1.3: published 10 May 2018*

*Version 1.4: published 16 August 2018*

*© Copyright The Sustainable Biomass Program Limited 2018*

# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Overview</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Specific objective</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>SBP Standards utilised</b>
4.1	SBP Standards utilised
4.2	SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment
<b>5</b>	<b>Description of Company, Supply Base and Forest Management</b>
5.1	Description of Company
5.2	Description of Company's Supply Base
5.3	Detailed description of Supply Base
5.4	Chain of Custody system
<b>6</b>	<b>Evaluation process</b>
6.1	Timing of evaluation activities
6.2	Description of evaluation activities
6.3	Process for consultation with stakeholders
<b>7</b>	<b>Results</b>
7.1	Main strengths and weaknesses
7.2	Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation
7.3	Compilation of data on Greenhouse Gas emissions
7.4	Competency of involved personnel
7.5	Stakeholder feedback
7.6	Preconditions
<b>8</b>	<b>Review of Company's Risk Assessments</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Review of Company's mitigation measures</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Non-conformities and observations</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Certification recommendation</b>

# 1 Overview

CB Name and contact:	Control Union Certifications; Meeuwenlaan 4-6; P.O.Box 161, 8000AD Zwolle, Netherlands. certification@controlunion.com
Primary contact for SBP:	Andrea Ferrazzo, +31 (0)657312287
Current report completion date:	01/Apr/2020
Report authors:	Mr. Lennart Holm (Lead Auditor) and Mr. Hubert Jurczynszyn (Certifier)
Name of the Company:	Alameda Torrent S.L.U. VEINAT DE MONT-ROIG 3717244GIRONA, Spain
Company contact for SBP:	Rosa Lloveras, +34972461824
Certified Supply Base:	Catalunya, Spain
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-06-27
Date of certificate issue:	25/Apr/2019
Date of certificate expiry:	24/Apr/2024

This report relates to the First Surveillance Audit

## 2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

**Scope of evaluation:** Surveillance evaluation by means of an Desk audit to assess the CH's conformance to SBP 2, 4, and 5 and respective Instruction Notes and Documents for use in woodchips production, at ALAMEDA TORRENT on VEINAT DE MONT-ROIG 37, 17244, GIRONA, SPAIN. Due to the COVID-19 virus, this evaluation will not include an on-site visit.

**Scope of certificate:** Production and sales of woodchips for use in energy production at ALAMEDA TORRENT plant on VEINAT DE MONT-ROIG 37, 17244, GIRONA, SPAIN. The scope of the certificate does not include Supply Base Evaluation

### 3 Specific objective

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that Alameda's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of the specified SBP Standards are implemented across the entire scope of certification.

The scope of the evaluation covered:

- Review of Alameda's management procedures;
- Review of SBP system control points and an analysis of the existing PEFC CoC system;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records, calculations and conversion coefficients;
- SAR data collection analysis.

## 4 SBP Standards utilised

### 4.1 SBP Standards utilised

Please select all SBP Standards used during this evaluation. All Standards can be accessed and downloaded from <https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards>

- SBP Framework Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)
- SBP Framework Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)
- SBP Framework Standard 4: Chain of Custody (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)
- SBP Framework Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)

### 4.2 SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment

Not applicable - No SBP endorsed Regional Risk Assessment was used for this assessment

## 5 Description of Company, Supply Base and Forest Management

### 5.1 Description of Company

Alameda Torrent S.L.U. is a small size company specialized in the production and delivery of wood chips. It has its own harvesting team that annually harvests more than 800 hectares of forests of all kinds, doing all kinds of forestry work: pruning, clearing, selective cutting and regeneration. The company adapts to each forest type using the proper machinery and necessary work techniques. The company performs opening and maintenance of fire protection strips at the perimeters of urban areas, industrial areas in order to minimize the risk of forest fires, electric lines cleanings, maintenance cutting and clearcuts for restoration of the land use to pastures. Forest work is performed using manual cutting as well as forwarders, skidders, forestry tractors, crawler and chipping machines. In total it harvests more than 30.000 t of wood per year. Regionally, Alameda Torrent S.L.U. is not a big company in terms of harvesting volumes. There are bigger companies harvesting more wood for biomass purposes, mainly in conifer forests.

### 5.2 Description of Company's Supply Base

Catalunhya is located within the Mediterranean forest region. Forest types range from coastal forests dominated by Aleppo pine, Maritime pine and cork oak forests, to the continental formations of Scots and black pine and other types of oaks, beech forests in some humid massifs, to the alpine-type of ecosystems in the Pyrenees. The main challenge forests faces here are wildfires, followed by damages caused by wind or snow storms, as well as pests. These forests have been managed traditionally promoting timber and fuel wood extraction, but in the last 40 years forest management has considerably decreased.

Alameda's Supply Base Report is available at <http://www.alamedatorrent.com/#accept>

### 5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

The high diversity of Catalan forests implies many different products; not only timber and firewood, but also non-wood forest products such as mushrooms, truffles, pine cones and cork. Some of these present irregular productions, but all of them have an associated economic value, trade and specific industry. The estimated annual value of forest products coming from Catalan forests is 58,8 million €.

The primary forest sector (silviculture, exploitations and other supporting surveys) represent 0,03% of the Catalan GDP. All the economic activities included in the forest chain represent 1,6% of the total Catalan GDP. Nevertheless, it has to be considered that most of the wood used in the second transformation does not come from local forests. Main destinations of local wood are: biomass, saw timber, fireswood, pulpwood. Biomass industry is the biggest in the region due to increased energy demands.

1,8% of the Catalan workers are within the forest chain. The forest sector presents around 1 700 workers affiliated to social security.

Alameda does harvesting mostly in pine forests. The silviculture of this species is generalized by rotation length about 100 years and thinings should be done every 20-25 years. Most of these forests have been abandoned and the relevant thinings have not been made. Due to the fact that most of forests have not been managed during the last decades, the main purpose of cuts will be stand improvement, reduction of forest fire risk, pasture resoration. Stand improvement cutting consists of practices designed to produce more and better quality wood products by improving the quality and species of the stand and by increasing the rate of growth of the residual trees in the stand. Artificial or natural regeneration is ensured. There are the following species that could be met in Catalan forest:

- Mountain pine - *Pinus Uncinata*;
- Maritime pine - *Pinus pinaster*;
- Skots pine - *Pinus sylvestris*;
- Black pine - *Pinus nigra*;
- Aleppo pine - *Pinus halepensis*;
- Umbrella pine - *Pinus pinea*;
- Radiata pine - *Pinus radiata*;
- Spanish juniper - *Juniperus thunifera*;
- Holm oak - *Quercus ilex*;
- Downy oak - *Quercus pubescens*;
- Cork oak - *Quercus suber*;
- Sweet chestnut – *Castanea sativa*;
- Hybrid plane – *Platanus x hispanica*;
- Black poplar – *Populus nigra*;
- Narrow-leafed ash – *Fraxinus angustifolia*;
- Strawberry tree – *Arbutus unedo*;
- Black locust – *Robinia pseudoacacia*;
- Black alder – *Alnus glutinosa*;
- Eucaliptus - *Eucaliptus spp.*

Introduced species, such as *Eucaliptus spp.* and *Populus spp.* are allowed to use for short rotation forestry, but on a very limited scale.

Alameda Torrens S.L.U. does not harvest or purchase any tree species included in CITES list or IUCN. CITES list does not include any tree species from Spain. IUCN list includes Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) under “Near Threatened” status and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) as “Vulnerable”. Alameda Torrens S.L.U. does not harvest, purchase or sell these species.

Feedstock used by Alameda Torrens S.L.U. for SBP certification is only SBP-compliant Primary Feedstock. It is coming mainly from two PEFC certified properties (2 suppliers, Ajuntament de Llanars and Ajuntament Vilallonga de Ter). Only Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Mountain pine (*Pinus uncinata*) are harvested in these forests for the scope of SBP deliveries.

A quantitative description of the Supply Base can be found in the Company’s Supply Base Report.

## 5.4 Chain of Custody system

The Organisation is holding valid PEFC Chain of Custody certificate system and the person responsible for implementing the PEFC Chain of Custody system and also manages the organizations SBP management system. All feedstock sourced is covered by Alameda’s PEFC Chain of Custody system which, which is third party certified. The PEFC physical separation is applied and covers wood chips as a product group. All input feedstock chipped and sold as SBP-compliant biomass is PEFC certified. The organization has detailed and comprehensive procedures to cover the necessary requirements regarding the SBP-approved Chain of Custody system.

## 6 Evaluation process

### 6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

The audit occurred on March 30, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 virus, this evaluation did not include an on-site visit, but was done remotely. This report is the result of the findings of a certification evaluation carried out by an independent lead auditor representing Control Union Certifications. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the compliance of the client with respect to the standards used within the scope of the certificate.

Activity	Date/time	Location	Executed by (role)
Preparation (telephone/email on scope and planning)	15/03/2020 2hours	Remote	Hubert Jurczyszyn (certifier)
<b>Audit</b>			
Opening meeting	30/03/2020 09:00-09:15	Remote	Lennart Holm (lead auditor)
Review of documents and records, Supply Base Report	09:15 – 12:00	Remote	Lennart Holm
Review of COC system/procedures, Business integrity, social, health and safety requirements. Logo/Trademark use	13:00 – 15:00	Remote	Lennart Holm
Interviews key personnel purchase and sales	15:00 – 16:00	Remote	Lennart Holm
GHG paper audit and evidence review	16:00 – 17:30	Remote	Lennart Holm
Closing Meeting	17:30 – 18:00	Remote	Lennart Holm
Report writing	01/04/2020	Remote	Lennart Holm

### 6.2 Description of evaluation activities

This remote audit consisted of an opening meeting, during which the scope was confirmed. The auditor also explained the methods to be employed during the audit.

After this introduction, all relevant requirements of the applicable SBP standard(s) were verified on compliance through the use of a report template and checklists. Interviews with the below mention individuals were made using skype.

The audit was completed by filling in the audit checklist and discussing the audit results. During this closing meeting it was also discussed how evidence can be submitted of corrective action with respect to non-conformities that were identified during the audit.

<b>1. Names and affiliations of people interviewed</b>	
Name:	Affiliation:
Rosa Lloveras	SBP Manager, Alameda
Francesc Alameda	CEO
Simona Ferutta	Consultant

<b>2. Critical control points, summary</b>	
<i>Identified CCP</i>	<i>Evaluation CCP</i>
Sourcing and input check	Check prior to sending the material by supplier and check upon request
Reception and storage	Reception and storage of material based on PEFC physical separation system.
Volume control	Physical separation but with 100% certified input material
Invoicing and shipping	All output materials will be SBP Compliant

### 6.3 Process for consultation with stakeholders

As the company does not have an SBE, they had no obligation to approach stakeholders themselves.

Consultation with stakeholders' was conducted by Control Union on 26/02/2019.

The process for stakeholder consultation consisted of sending direct email to different stakeholder categories: state institutions, local NGOs, authorities, government bodies, forest owners associations, academic and research institutions. All stakeholders are recorded on the stakeholder list.xls.

No comments received.

## 7 Results

### 7.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

The audit of Alameda demonstrated a good level of compliance with the required criteria of Standards 2, 4 and 5. There was reasonable evidence provided to support compliance where a Non-Conformity was not detected. The existence of a PEFC Chain of Custody system is considered a main strength with respect to Alamedas overall conformity with the relevant SBP standards.

No weaknesses were identified.

### 7.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

N/A, no SBE in the scope of the certificate.

### 7.3 Collection and Communication of Data

The organization has in depth procedures for this and supplied the auditor accurate data as they relate to completing the SAR on Energy and Carbon Data for Woodchips with Mobile Chipping.

### 7.4 Competency of involved personnel

The company has one person who has the main responsibility related to the SBP system. All personnel that is involved with SBP have received appropriate training whereby all relevant procedures and requirements have been covered. All training and instructions are based on the procedures as identified in company manuals, and training is provided by internal resources and recorded accordingly. Key personnel showed good knowledge of SBP requirements.

### 7.5 Stakeholder feedback

See 6.3 above

### 7.6 Preconditions

N/A, no preconditions.

## 8 Review of Company's Risk Assessments

Not applicable, the company is not having SBE in the scope of the certificate

## 9 Review of Company's mitigation measures

Not applicable. No SBE in the scope of the certificate.

## 10 Non-conformities and observations

Identify all non-conformities and observations raised/closed during the evaluation (a tabular format below may be used here). *Please use as many copies of the table as needed. For each, give details to include at least the following:*

- applicable requirement(s)
- grading of the non-conformity (major or minor) or observation with supporting rationale
- timeframe for resolution of the non-conformity
- a statement as to whether the non-conformity is likely to impact upon the integrity of the affected SBP-certified products and the credibility of the SBP trademarks.

Main evaluation

<b>NC number 01</b>	<b>NC Grading: Minor</b>
<b>Standard &amp; Requirement:</b> <b>Std 2, 7.1</b>	The BP shall prepare a Supply Base Report (SBR) which shall be made readily accessible on the BP's website. Commercially sensitive and confidential information may be excluded from the SBR.
<b>Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:</b>	
Supply base report is made in English and Spanish but is not yet uploaded and available on the company's website.	
<b>Timeline for Conformance:</b>	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
<b>Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:</b>	email from David Caler.website: <a href="http://www.alamedatorrent.com/">http://www.alamedatorrent.com/</a> (click on text "Informe de la Base de Subministrament")
<b>Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:</b>	Supply Base Reports are now uploaded and available on Alameda's website
<b>NC Status:</b>	Closed

First Surveillance: No Non-conformities identified.

## 11 Certification decision

<b>Based on the auditor’s recommendation and the Certification Body’s quality review, the following certification decision is taken:</b>	
<b>Certification decision:</b>	Certification approved
<b>Certification decision by (name of the person):</b>	Hubert Jurczyszyn
<b>Date of decision:</b>	15/Jun/2020
<b>Other comments:</b>	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>