



NEPCon Evaluation of GLHU Pruzhanski Ileshoz Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Main (Initial) Audit

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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

Document history

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1 Overview

CB Name and contact:	NEPCon OÜ, Filosoofi 31, 50108 Tartu, Estonia
Primary contact for SBP:	Ondrej Tarabus otarabus@nepcon.org, +34 605 638 383
Current report completion date:	05/Jun/2020
Report authors:	Aliaksandr Zubkevich
Name of the Company:	GLHU Pruzanski leshoz, Woodworking shop building, 61 km, P-128, Lelchitsy district 247841, Gomel region, BELARUS
Company contact for SBP:	Svetlana Ivanovna Naibich, Head of Industrial Production department, +375163221325, pruzany4@lesnoi.by
Certified Supply Base:	sourcing from the forest fund managed by the GLHU Pruzanski leshoz, Belarus
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-08-05
Date of certificate issue:	09/Jun/2020
Date of certificate expiry:	08/Jun/2025

This report relates to the Main (Initial) Audit

2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope of certificate includes production of wood pellets for use in energy production and its transportation by different means of transport to different end points in Belarus. The scope of the certificate does not include Supply Base Evaluation. The scope of the certificate includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data.

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 the evaluation covered:

- Review of the BP's management procedures;
- Review of the production processes, production site visit;
- Review of FSC system control points, analysis of the existing FSC CoC system;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records, calculations and conversion coefficients;
- GHG 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

5 Description of Company, Supply Base and Forest Management

5.1 Description of Company

GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz is a state forest management institution who manages state forests. The area of the forest fund managed by the GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz is 76,2578 thousand ha, including 70.2 thousand ha covered by forest.

In May 2020 the construction of a new pellet plant was finished at the same production site where sawmill plant of leshoz already works. Newly constructed pellet plant uses sawmill residues from their sawmill (sawdust) and roundwood (fuel wood) both for pellet production and for the drier. The production capacity is 20000 tone pellets/year. GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz holds valid FSC FM/CoC certificate covering round wood, firewood, as well as sawmill and pellet plant products.

GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz uses for biomass production FSC 100%-certified secondary feedstock and FSC 100% primary feedstock (fuel wood). All secondary feedstock is from organisation's own sawmill plant, the round wood for sawmill production comes from the forest of GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz only. Feedstock is moved from sawmill to production site of pellet plant by truck of the organisation.

The biomass is expected to be transported by rail to Belarusian/Latvian border, Bigosovo railway station and Belarusian/Lithuanian border, Gudogai railway station, Belarusian/Poland border Brest Central train station as well as sold at factory gate.

Pellet plant was commissioned in 2020.

5.2 Description of Company's Supply Base

As the Supply Base, the GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz has got the area of its own forest fund since the area and structure of the forest fund make it possible to fully supply raw materials for its own sawmill plant and pellet production.

All forestry operations are based on the data of the forest management plan, which was compiled for the period 10 years and is subject to revision every 10 years in the process of basic forest management inventory by employees of RUE "Belgosles". The volume and structure of designated forestry activities and final cutting is regulated in the materials of the forest management plan. Plant species included in CITES Lists do not grow on the territory of GLHU Pruzhanski leshoz.

Coniferous forest predominate in the forest fund of the forest fund of GLHU Pruzhanski Leshoz, which account for 74.2% of the land covered by forests, soft-wooded broadleaved species make up 24.8%, hard-wooded broadleaved species 1.0%. The dominant forest formations are: pine forests 70.4%, birch forests 12.7%. At all clearcuts, natural or artificial forest regeneration is ensured. All established stands are annually taken care of.

Within the leshoz, the distribution by age group is: young growth - 10.654 thousand ha, middle-aged - 25.904 thousand ha, ripening - 24.573 thousand ha, ripe and overripe - 9.069 thousand ha.

Depending on the functions performed, the lands of the forest fund are divided into forests of the first and second groups. The first group includes specially protected natural territories, the share of which is 52%, the second group includes production forests intended for timber harvesting (48%).

The main goal of forestry at the State Forestry Enterprise “Pruzhanski Leshoz” is to organize continuous, sustainable, economically efficient, multi-purpose, rational, environmentally responsible, socially-oriented forest management to meet society’s needs for forest raw materials, taking into account conservation and enhancing the ecological functions of the forest and preserving the biological diversity of forest biocenoses.

Table 1. Forest area distribution of the Forestry Sector “Pruzhan Forestry” in accordance with their environmental, economic and social significance

Total area, ha	Distribution of forests depending on their functions, ha			
	Environmental	recreational	protecting	Exploitative
76317	11179,3	1046,4	6783,1	57308,2

On the territory of the GLHU Pruzhanski Leshoz there are specially protected territories: national reserves - Ruzhanskaya Pushcha, Buslovka, local reserves - Vydrenka, Zelvyanka, local monuments of nature - High-aged larch stands Zelenevichsky, Linovsky Fir» for which there are relevant title documents in accordance with national law.

When harvesting wood, according to the forest legislation of the Republic of Belarus, species listed in the Red Book and their habitats are subject to conservation. Felling of valuable, endangered and specially protected tree species is prohibited.

The leshoz also attaches great importance to the conservation of rare and endangered species of plants and animals. For each species of these plants and animals, there are protective obligations. Data on rare species indicating their habitat are recorded in the exploration passports. The leshoz takes all necessary measures to ensure the safety of rare and endangered species of plants and animals

5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

- Total Supply Base area (ha): 76257,8 ha
- Tenure by type (ha): public 76257,8 ha
- Forest by type (ha): temperate 76257,8 ha
- Forest by management type (ha): managed natural 76257,8 ha
- Certified forest by scheme (ha): 76257,8 ha FSC-certified forest

Detailed information about BP’s supply base may be found in their Supply Base Report available in Internet: http://pruzany.lesnoi.by/?page_id=2382

5.4 Chain of Custody system

The BP is included as a FMU in the multi-site certificate of Brest Regional Forest Board. Both sawmill and pellet plant are covered by the scope of the certificate.

<https://info.fsc.org/details.php?id=a024000000QgLYYAA3&type=certificate> . In addition to this Organisation is also handling PEFC certificate.

FSC FM/COC certificate covering logging, primary (round timber sawmill processing) as well as secondary (chips and pellets production) wood processing. Secondary feedstock (sawdust) and primary feedstock with FSC 100% claim will be used for pellet production and FSC transfer system of claims is implemented (all pellets have FSC 100% claim). No need in physical segregation of wood material as all material is both FSC and PEFC certified. Currently FSC accounting system is used for SBP material accounting.

6 Evaluation process

6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

Onsite assessment was conducted on 22.05.2020 (8 h). Evaluation activities included documents review at office, inspection of production facilities and staff interviews. The documents review was done during two hours 21.05.2020

Activity	Location	Date/time
Opening meeting and brief documents review.	Office	22/05/2020 9.00-09.20
Documents and procedures review (feedstock inputs, SBR, CoC control system and critical points, compliance with legal requirements, H&S), staff interview.	Office	22/05/2020 09.20-16.00
Chain of custody review (site tour); staff interview	Production facilities	22/05/2020 16.00-16.30
Closing meeting	Production facilities	22/05/2020 16.30-17.00

6.2 Description of evaluation activities

Composition of audit team:

Auditor(s), roles	Qualifications
Aliaksandr Zubkevich Lead auditor Evaluation against all applicable requirements	Mr Aliaksandr Zubkevich has education of engineer-economist in timber industry. He had postgraduate study at the Belarusian State Technological University. A. Zubkevich has passed FSC CoC/ FM lead auditor training course, Legal Source, ISO 14001 and SBP training coursed. Previous experience in woodworking industry and SBP pre-assessment and assessments in Belarus.

The evaluation visit was focused on management system evaluation: division of the responsibilities, document and system, input material classification (reception and registration), analysis of the existing FSC system and FSC system control points as well as GHG data availability.

Description of the audit evaluation:

All SBP related documentation connected to the SBP as well as FSC CoC system of the organisation, including SBP Procedure, SAR and GHG data calculations, Supply Base Report and FSC system description was provided by the company in the beginning of the assessment. Assessment started with an opening meeting attended by deputy director.

Lead auditor introduced himself, provided information about audit plan, methodology, auditor qualification, confidentiality issues, and assessment methodology and clarified certification scope. During the opening meeting the auditor explained CB's approval related issues.

After that auditor went through all applicable requirements of the SBP standards nr. 2, 4, 5 and instruction document 5E covering input clarification, existing chain of custody system, management system, CoC, recordkeeping/mass balance requirements, emission and energy data and categorisation of input and verification of SBP-compliant biomass. During the process, overall responsible person for SBP system and other staff were interviewed.

After a roundtrip around BP's pellet production was undertaken. During the site tour, applicable records were reviewed, staff was interviewed and FSC system critical control control points were analysed and evaluated.

At the end of the assessment findings were summarised and assessment conclusions based on use of 3 angle evaluation method were provided to the management and SBP responsible person.

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6.3 Process for consultation with stakeholders

The stakeholder consultation was carried out on 11.03.20 by sending direct email to different stakeholder categories (more than 120 recipients). No comments from the stakeholders have been received. List of informed stakeholders includes such groups of stakeholders as FSC National Initiative, environmental and social NGOs, FSC-certified companies in the region, scientific and educational entities, indigenous peoples' communities (where applicable), state forestry authorities, trade unions etc.

7 Results

7.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

Strengths: Use of the FSC transfer system with FSC 100% input feedstock. Effective recordkeeping system. Small number of the management staff and clearly designated responsibilities within the staff members.

Weaknesses: No significant weaknesses identified by auditor. See also NCR section of the report

7.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

Not applicable

7.3 Collection and Communication of Data

The following energy sources are used by BP: electricity for pellet production; diesel for feedstock handling, shipping and for biomass transportation to customer. Electricity consumption value is based invoicing from supplier; diesel consumption value is based on accounting system data.

7.4 Competency of involved personnel

Overall, BP staff showed good understanding and knowledge of all applicable SBP requirements. The following key staff members are involved to SBP certification: SBP related staff responsibilities are presented in Section 4 of the SBP Procedure. Generally, very few staff members are involved into SBP certification: SBP responsible/ Head of Industrial Production department (maintaining of the management system, staff training, SAR, trademark use etc), chief of pellet plant (volumes acceptance, checking and recording), pellet shift master (moisture measurements, weight of biomass produced), accountant (performance of outgoing invoices and transport documents). Prior SBP assessment, BP was supported by external consultant.

7.5 Stakeholder feedback

No feedback from stakeholders have been received prior, during and after this assessment.

7.6 Preconditions

None

8 Review of Company's Risk Assessments

Describe how the Certification Body assessed risk for the Indicators. Summarise the CB's final risk ratings in Table 1, together with the Company's final risk ratings. Default for each indicator is 'Low', click on the rating to change. Note: this summary should show the risk ratings before AND after the SVP has been performed and after any mitigation measures have been implemented.

N/A- SBE is not included in the certificate scope.

9 Review of Company's mitigation measures

N/A- SBE is not included in the certificate scope.

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.

NC number 01/20	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Standard #2: Verification of SBP-compliant feedstock, 2C 4.1 The report shall be concise, covering the most important features, and shall be completed using the latest versions of the SBR Template for Biomass Producers downloaded from the SBP website. (2C, 4.1)
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The BP has prepared SBR and submitted both Russian and English versions prior the assessment. Review of reports showed that reports are correct and cover most important data. In section 2.3 of SBR "Final harvest sampling programme" the BP has provided wrong description of the process and results from the sampling programme undertaken to determine the proportion of final fellings which ends up in biomass compared to other end uses	
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:	Updated SBR
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	During the period from closing meeting to report approval the BP has updated SBR. Review of SBR confirmed that information in report is correct and meet standard requirement.
NC Status:	Closed

near

11 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's quality review, the following certification decision is taken:

Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Olesja Puiso
Date of decision:	05/Jun/2020
Other comments:	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>