



Control Union Certifications B.V. Evaluation of FORESTAL SOLIVA SL Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

First Surveillance 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

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1 Overview

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Current report completion date: 12/Mar/2021

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Name of the Company: Forestal Soliva SL

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Certified Supply Base: Aragon, Catalunya, Castilla-La Mancha, Valencian Community, Murcia and Andalusia Autonomous Communities of Spain

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-06-29

Date of certificate issue: 02/Aug/2019

Date of certificate expiry: 01/Aug/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 a remote audit to assess the CH's conformance to SBP standards 1, 2, 4, and 5 and respective Instruction Notes and Documents for use in woodchips production, at Forestal Soliva S.L., in Girona, SPAIN, with an on-site visit as soon as conditions permits. The Organisation has been audited against PEFC Chain of Custody and holds a valid certificate. The scope of the certificate does include a Supply Base Evaluation.

Scope of certificate: Chipping activity in the forest and office in Sta. Coloma de Farners, GIRONA, Spain., purchase the feedstock in the forest already chipped logs, in such case outsourcings the chipping activity in the forest. Feedstock used in the biomass production originates from Spain. The scope of the certificate does include a Supply Base Evaluation. The scope includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data
SBP certificate: SBP-06-29

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, including requirements designated in applicable SBP Standards and Instruction Documents;
- Review of the production processes, production site visit;
- Review of the updated Supply Base Report;
- Review of the risk assessment results;
- Review of SBP system control points, analysis of the existing PEFC CoC system;
- Evaluation of mitigation measures implemented for primary feedstock
- GHG data collection analysis
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records

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

Forestal Soliva SL is a biomass producer located in Catalunya and performing harvesting operations in Spain. The company defined six Autonomous Communities as its Supply Base:

1. Aragon
2. Catalunya
3. Castilla-La Mancha
4. Valencian Community
5. Murcia
6. Andalusia

Forestal Soliva is a 70 years old, vertically integrated company specialised in the production and delivery of wood chips. It has a multidisciplinary staff of around 30 people. Its harvesting teams are equipped with forwarders, skidders, forestry tractors and chipping machines. Forestal Soliva has a team of engineers, responsible for the technical processes in the company. They are organizing the harvesting, chipping and transportation processes. Forestal Soliva is mainly engaged in **thinnings** with the following objectives: forest maintenance, improvement, sanitary solutions, fire protection, etc. In total, Forestal Soliva harvests over 100 000 tons of wood per year. Regionally, Forestal Soliva is considered a large company in the forest sector, in terms of economic turnover and the production of G100 wood chips (industrial quality). However, Forestal Soliva is not the largest in the country, there are companies harvesting much more. In Andalusia there are many companies with a vertically integrated process from harvesting, to sawn wood production. They utilize their own residues, for example, by producing wood pellets.

5.2 Description of Company's Supply Base

Country level description of the Supply base

Spain has approximately 27.7 million ha of forests and woodlands, representing 56% of total land cover. Of this area 18.0 million ha is considered 'Forested land' (36%) and 9.5 million (19%) falls in the category of 'Other wooded land'. Of the forested land, approximately 90% is considered seminatural; 10% are plantations. Spain has the third highest forest cover in the European Union, after Sweden and Finland.

According to the National Forest Inventories, over 80% of forests in Spain consist two or more tree species. The most common is holm oak (which represents 15.3% of the tree covered area, around 2.8 million ha), followed by pine forests.

There are four biogeographical regions in Spain: the Boreoalpina (high mountain areas); the Eurosiberian (areas associated with the Atlantic climate), Mediterranean (the other areas of the Peninsula) and the Macaronesia region (Canary Islands). The last three regions include a varied amount of exceptional forest habitats and species.

56% of the country is covered by forest, plantations and areas with a function important for nature conservation. Of these areas 13% is protected area and reaches 28% when the Natura 2000 Network is included. Spain is the country that contributes most to the Natura 2000 Network. The protected areas cover both public and private forests.

The Forest Law (Law 43/2003, '*Ley de Montes*') forms the legislative basis for forest management in Spain. Additionally, the Autonomous Communities have their own forestry laws regulating the protection, management and harvesting of forests in their territory.

Article 33 of the Forest Law establishes the necessity for public forests and protected forest areas to have a Forest Management Plan and an Operational Scheme or another equivalent Management Instrument. These documents are elaborated by forest management units and must always be approved by the regional forestry organization. Regional forestry organizations regulate in which cases it is mandatory to have a management instrument for regular private and public forests (not catalogued as protected). Multiple laws in each Autonomous Community regulate the specific technical forestry operating constraints of forest management.

In accordance with Spanish legislation, there are three possible legal documents that prove legality of forest operations:

- Notification for harvesting (in private forests with Forest Management Plan or equivalent). The owner must notify the competent body of the Autonomous Community before harvesting;
- Authorisation for harvesting (in private forests without a Forest Management Plan). It is required to obtain the Authorisation before harvesting;
- Adjudication for harvesting (in public forests).

The three documents are evaluated by forestry technicians of the administration and enhance the legality, sustainability and respect for the environment of the requested harvesting operations. The technicians, in all three cases, make an on-site inspection of the forest to be sure of the best sustainable management of the forest. If the area of harvesting is related to any special protection function, they consult with the competent organisation to make sure that environmental aspects are respected. For example, if the harvesting is within a natural park, the technician of the natural park, can mark restrictions in the cutting permit, for example, as not to interfere with nesting of certain bird species in a certain season. The technician can also prohibit operating in all or in certain areas.

In the case of natural catastrophes, such as forest fires, wind and snowfall damage, or pests, additional cutting authorizations can be issued to mitigate the impact. These operations aim at preventing forest pests and guaranteeing regeneration of the forest area.

According to the 2010 report of the SECF "Spanish Society of Forestry Sciences", the following characteristics of Spanish forests serve as the basis for understanding the situation in forestry today:

- The annual growth (net increment) of wood is three times higher than the amount that is cut and harvested. The increment is 45 million m³ annually and wood extraction is around 15 million m³ a year. The total annual consumption of wood is around 32 to 33 million m³; Spain imports around 15 million

m³ a year. Certain aspects related to the costs of exploitation, the structure of the market for forest products, and the use of current legal, financial and administrative instruments that have become obsolete in today's society, are some of the causes of this disbalance.

- Spanish forest area is expanding, and this trend manifests itself to a greater extent than in other European countries. Spanish forests cover over half the national surface. Regarding total forest area Spain is the third country in the European Union, behind Sweden and Finland, but ahead of France, Germany, and Poland.
- The forested area per inhabitant is higher in Spain than the average in the European Union. Spain has in average 0.4 ha of forest per inhabitant, compared to 0.3 ha per inhabitant in the EU.
- Most of the Spanish forests consists of native species. Contrary to what is often mentioned in various media, the area covered by hardwood species exceeds the area covered by coniferous species.
- Spanish forests are multifunctional. Important is the protective role of forests and their ability to conserve the hydrological cycle, and biodiversity. Its production function of forest products (wood, firewood, biomass for energy, cork, resins, edible mushrooms, pinion, livestock) is not negligible either. Hunting is also practiced in Spain. The role of forests related to carbon fixation and the maintenance of the landscape and its biological wealth is transcendent. Spanish forests play an important role in improving air quality and mitigating of climate change. A study carried out in the CIFOR-INIA shows that at present, Spanish forests accumulate around 87 million tons of CO₂ every year due to their growth. This means that the forests fix more than 24% of the total CO₂ emissions of Spain each year.
- The current average consumption of wood in Spain is 0.8 m³ per inhabitant, in Central Europe it is 1.5 m³ and in Northern Europe 3.0 m³. Everything indicates that Spanish consumption of wood will continue to grow and that there will be a need to extract more wood from the Spanish forests or import more from other countries. The Forestry Sector has a great potential in the creation of rural employment (unemployment is a major problem in Spain, it decreased to 14.55% of the active population in 2018). If harvesting would increase from 15 to 30 million m³ a year, forestry employment could double, from the current 155 000 to around 300 000 jobs. The Forestry Sector has an increasing influence on rural development through forestry, hunting, recreational use and rural tourism.
- More than 2/3 of the Spanish forest area is privately owned, what must be taken into account when encouraging certain forest policies.
- Spanish forests are to a large extent abandoned. The forests are accumulating fuel biomass in excess, which increases the risk of large forest fires, and yet the use of its biomass for energy purposes is not considered an attractive business by energy companies.

Region level description of the Supply Base

In the Supply Base are Mediterranean broadleaved and conifer forests (in the south-central region), however, Forestal Soliva is mainly working in the conifer forests, mostly formed by Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*).

Aleppo pine is the most common tree species in the six areas of the Supply Base. Other native tree species within the Supply Base are:

- Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*);
- Maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*);
- Umbrella pine (*Pinus pinea*);
- Black pine (*Pinus nigra*);
- Downy oak (*Quercus humilis*);

- Cork oak (*Quercus suber*); and
- Spanish juniper (*Juniperus thurifera*).

In Spain, introduced species, such as *Eucalyptus spp.* and *Populus spp.* are allowed to use in short rotation plantations, but on a very limited scale.

Table 1 indicates the forest area, and some typical characteristics, for each Autonomous Community.

Table 1: Forest cover characteristics per Autonomous Community of the Supply Base

Autonomous Community	Forest area (ha)	Canopy-covered forest area (ha)	Coniferous forest area (ha)	Aleppo pine forest area (ha)
Andalusia	4.345.500	2.641.000	824.700	564.910
Aragon	2.615.332	1.543.465	953.440	186.508
Valencia	1.116.464	404.063	360.193	282.478
Castilla-La Mancha	3.564.779	2.739.597	1.103.669	No data
Catalunya	2.060.174	1.626.212	716.058	300.645
Murcia	486.019	289.550	260.595	232.401
TOTAL (ha)	14.188.268	9.243.887	4.218.655	-

Most of the forest area in the Supply Base is private property (table 2). The prevailing private forest property size in five of the six Autonomous Communities of the Supply Base is small. This is not an issue in the public forests. Managing and harvesting smallholdings is more time consuming and costly. In Andalusia, however, large forest properties predominate.

Table 2: Characteristics of forest properties per Autonomous Community of the Supply Base

Autonomous Community	Area covered by forests	Ownership		Prevailing property size*	
		Public	Private	Private	Public
Andalusia	50%	28%	72%	Large	Large
Aragon	55%	40%	60%	Small	Medium
Valencia	56%	34%	66%	Small	Medium
Castilla-La Mancha	45%	32%	68%	Small	Medium
Catalunya	64%	25%	75%	Small	Medium
Murcia	43%	34%	66%	Small	Medium

* Property sizes:

Large - 880 ha in average

Medium - 400 ha in average

Small - 8 ha in average

(source: Spanish Statistical Office, 2018)

The dominant use of the land is forestry. Land use is characterized by a small number of large properties and a great number of small owners.

From a socio-economic point of view, people nowadays do not depend on forests. The forest industry is also not developed well within the regions of the Supply Base, in comparison to the rest of Spain. This is mostly due to the complex macro-relief (hills, slopes and mountains), which makes forestry operations very difficult.

The proportion of wood used as biomass within the Supply Base is relatively substantial compared to other end-uses. Aleppo pine has low quality wood and is considered unsuitable by the industry. As a result, the regional forest industry procures other tree species from all over Spain and Europe. Wood pallets and boxes for the agricultural sector are the main products produced in the Supply Base. There are also some companies producing fibreboards and a few pellet plants. These companies utilize sawmill residues and low grade roundwood. This shows that there is hardly any other application for Aleppo pine than biomass.

The use of the potential wood available in Spain is very low. For example, only 36% of the net annual growth of forests is used, while the average in the EU is 69%. Another example is that in Catalonia the forests grow 2.9 million cubic meters per year, of which only 20% are used. In addition, only 10% of the annual wood consumption of forest industries comes from Catalan forests. This panorama is repeated in the 6 regions of the supply base.

Nowadays, most of the forests in the supply base are abandoned and are not managed. This is due to the low profitability of the forests because the forests are located in complicated orography and with steep slopes (which makes their mechanization difficult), the final product (wood) is of low quality (many knots, twisted trunks, small diameters) and the forest industry produces products with little added value.

Aleppo pine wood is generally of poor quality, the forests are not managed, so the quality of the wood continues to deteriorate. The increase in biomass production (wood chips) is an excellent incentive and opportunity for the management and improvement of pine forests in these six regions.

Adjacent land of supply base area is southern Portugal, Extremadura, Castilla y Leon, Comunidad de Madrid, Navarra and French Pyrenes. All these areas have similar characteristics that the ones described for the supply base.

Soliva's Supply Base Report is available at http://www.forestalsoliva.com/images/sbr_english.pdf

5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

Supply Base

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| a. Total Supply Base area (ha): | 14.188.268 ha |
| b. Tenure by type (ha): | Privately owned: 9.724.778 ha
Public: 4.463.490 ha |
| c. Forest by type (ha): | 14.188.268 ha temperate; |
| d. Forest by management type (ha): | 14.188.268 ha managed natural |
| e. Certified forest by scheme (ha): | FSC: 334.734,42 ha ¹ |

¹ Total España, no existe información por comunidades. 2019. Fuente: <https://es.fsc.org/es-es/certificacin/datos-de-certificacin-de-gestin-forestal>

PEFC: 740.309 ha²

Feedstock

- f. Total volume of Feedstock: 13.334 tonnes
- g. Volume of primary feedstock: 13.334 tonnes
- h. List percentage of primary feedstock (g), by the following categories. Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes:
 - Certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 100%
 - Not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 0%
- i. List all species in primary feedstock, including scientific name.

Common name	Scientific name	Percentage
Aleppo pine	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	90%
Umbrella pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	10%
Black pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	
Maritime pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	
Mountain pine	<i>Pinus uncinata</i>	

- j. Volume of primary feedstock from primary forest – 0 tonne
- k. List percentage of primary feedstock from primary forest (j), by the following categories. Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes:
 - Primary feedstock from primary forest certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 0%
 - Primary feedstock from primary forest not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 0%
- l. Volume of secondary feedstock: specify origin and type: 0 tonne
- m. Volume of tertiary feedstock: 0 tonne

A quantitative description of the supply base can be found in the company's Supply Base Report.

5.4 Chain of Custody system

The BP holds PEFC Chain of Custody certificate with physical separation method system in the scope. All inputs certified are received as 100% PEFC certified. Material not included in the certification scope is sourced and managed physically segregated. The CoC scope covers the purchase of roundwood in the forest, chipping and transport of biomass to be sold in Spanish ports. The BP purchase biomass mainly is purchased in logs, the biomass producer outsources sometimes the harvesting and chipping activity in the forest. Purchased documentation (harvesting permit, origin, specie, etc.) is reviewed and validated by SOLIVA prior to start the harvesting activities. Once the material is received in the harbours, SOLIVA double check all documentation from the supplier and the harbour to validate it. The biomass is stored in each harbour and controlled by an outsourced logistic company there.

² "Certificación Forestal PEFC: Gestión Forestal Sostenible & Cadena de Custodia. Evolución Certificación Forestal PEFC" Julio 2020. PEFC España (https://www.pefc.es/documentacion/PEFC_GENERAL.pdf)

6 Evaluation process

6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

The SBP annual audit was carried out in two parts, with the first part on May 18, 2020 and the second part on September 28-19. Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the first part of this evaluation was conducted by means of a remote audit, while the second part included on-site visits of the office of SOLIVA and a field inspection of forest properties in two areas. One where currently the feedstock is sourced from and one where SBP Compliant feedstock was sourced from. A total of 3 days were used for this audit, please see more details in the table below.

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.

COVID-19 Normative Requirements of 15/12/2020 was adhered to when completing this report.

Activity	Site	Date/Time
<i>Monday 18/05/2020</i>		
<i>Opening meeting</i>	<i>Skype call to the Forestal Soliva office</i>	<i>09:00-09:15</i>
<i>Agreement on Scope</i>		<i>09:15-09:20</i>
<i>Supply Base report</i>		<i>09:20-10:00</i>
<i>Supply Base Evaluation</i>		<i>10:00-11:00</i>
<i>Suppliers and incoming raw material registration</i>		<i>10:00-11:15</i>
<i>Chain of Custody registrations and output claims</i>		<i>11:15-11:45</i>
<i>Health and safety, and training</i>		<i>11:45-12:15</i>
<i>Logo/trademark use</i>		<i>12:15-12:30</i>
<i>Lunch break</i>		<i>12:30-13:30</i>
<i>GHG data registrations</i>		<i>13:30-17:30</i>
<i>Day's closing meeting</i>		<i>17:30-18:00</i>

<i>Monday 28/09/2020</i>		
<i>Day's Opening meeting</i>	<i>Forestal Soliva</i>	<i>09:00-09:15</i>
<i>Purchase and sale of SBP material</i>		<i>09:15-10:00</i>
<i>SBE administration</i>		<i>10:00-11:00</i>
<i>Travel to harvest site, Including lunch</i>		<i>11:00-13:15</i>
<i>Field verification of SBE, including field visit of chipping operations (not SBP)</i>	<i>Site Girona</i>	<i>13:15-17:00</i>
<i>Travel to Tarragona</i>		<i>17:00-18:00</i>
<i>Tuesday 29/09/2020</i>		
<i>Day's Opening meeting</i>	<i>Site Tarragona</i>	<i>09:00-09:15</i>
<i>Field verification of SBE, including field visit of chipping operations concluded last year under the scope of SBE</i>	<i>Site Tarragona</i>	<i>09:15-12:00</i>
<i>Closing Meeting</i>		<i>12:00-13:00</i>

6.2 Description of evaluation activities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this audit was split in two parts

The first part of the audit, May 18, 2020, consisted of an opening meeting, during which the scope was confirmed. The auditor also explained the methods to be employed during the audit. During the audit, all relevant requirements of the applicable SBP standard(s) were verified on compliance through the use of a report template and checklists. Interviews were made using skype. This remote audit due to COVID-19 was being undertaken following SBP COVID-19 guidance of 13 March, 2020 and COVID-19 Normative Requirements of 22 April, 2020.

In this remote audit, Control Union used information and communication technology (ICT) to evaluate all requirements from the annual audit plan to the extent possible. The audit was conducted on the basis of virtual meetings / interviews with relevant people of the certificate holder, relevant documents and records, and other best available information.

The second part of the audit, September 28-19, 2020, included on-site visits of the office of SOLIVA and and a field inspection of forest properties in two areas. Control Union was the BP compliance with the SBP standards and how risk from the risk assessment is implemented on the ground. Implementation of sampling for inspection of the feedstock suppliers included into Supply Base Evaluation:

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.

Names and affiliations of people interviewed

Name:	Affiliation:
Remote audit:	
Simona Ferutta	Consultant
Laura Ivorra	Forestal Soliva
On-site audit:	
Simona Ferutta	Consultant
Laura Ivorra	Forestal Soliva
Miguel Soliva	Forestal Soliva
Miriam Broto	Forestal Soliva
Dolores Henriques	Forestal Soliva
Jordi Salvia	Forestal Soliva
Jasvant Singh	Forestal Soliva
Suvinder Singh	Forestal Soliva
Javier Gómez Poveda	Forestal Soliva
Albert Vancells	Forestal Soliva

• Critical control points, summary	
<i>Identified CCP</i>	<i>Evaluation CCP</i>
Sourcing and input check	Check prior to sending the material by supplier and check upon request
Volume control	All wood chip loads are weighed without exception. Credit Control system
Labelling	No on-product trademark use
Invoicing and shipping	Only SBP-Compliant material as PEFC certified or SBE controlled

6.3 Process for consultation with stakeholders

Due to changes in the SBE, and as part of NC 2020-01, consultation with stakeholders' was conducted by SOLIVA on 23/11/2020 for a deadline to submit comments by 23/12/2020.

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.

No comments received.

7 Results

7.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

The audit of Forestal Soliva demonstrated a good level of compliance with the required criteria of Standard 1, 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 in combination with the SBP are considered a strength with respect to Soliva's overall conformity with the relevant SBP standards.

Weaknesses: Non-conformances detected during this audit.

7.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

Soliva embarked on the development of a detailed Supply Base Evaluation which includes a clear description of their Supply Base Area. The geographical scope of the SBE are: Aragon, Catalunya, Castilla-La Mancha, Valencian Community, Murcia and Andalusia Autonomous Communities of Spain. The SBE was developed in joint efforts between internal personnel and a qualified consultant, using credible data sources. Soliva's management and monitoring systems are designed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Risk was designated low for all core Indicators, with the exception of 8 Indicators which were designated as specified risk. Soliva has developed additional controls and mitigation measures to manage these risks. After the risk assessment was completed, mitigation measures were proposed and consulted with stakeholders. The stakeholder consultation process involved consultations to key stakeholders with regard to information on SBP certification, SBP risk assessment and supply base report, by communicating this via electronic email. As no comments were received, Soliva has implemented the mitigation measures for the specified risk indicators as initially proposed. The risk mitigation measures have been designed and implemented planned in cooperation with acknowledged experts and external consultants in relevant fields.

7.3 Collection and Communication of Data

All energy and fuel use documentation for chipping and transport has been provided by the supplier or outsourcing companies in the forest

7.4 Competency of involved personnel

Internal staff members are involved in the SBP system management and implementation. All interviewed responsible staff demonstrated awareness of their responsibilities within SBP system. The key responsible person for developing the SBE system is an external consultant with experience in producing SBP systems. All involved personnel, including responsible staff at suppliers have demonstrated good knowledge in relevant fields (ex. safety and health measures at work) during the site visits. Relevant certificates and diplomas were presented during the assessment and scope change audits. Qualification requirements for personnel involved in the SBE system are provided in documented procedures of the BP. In overall, auditors evaluate the competency of main responsible staff to be sufficient for implementing the SBP system with primary material sourced within the SBE. This has been based on interviews, review of qualification documents, training records

and a set of procedures and documents that were composed for the SBP system as well as field observations during the audit. HCV, biodiversity has a follow up of the authorities with correspondence with SOLIVA staff.

7.5 Stakeholder feedback

No feedback received from stakeholders prior, during and after this annual audit.

7.6 Preconditions

N/A, no preconditions.

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.

Control Union assessed the risk for each Indicator using the guidance in Section 11 of SBP Framework Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock.

The risk assessment has been performed with the use of a technical expert. Determining the risk rating the likely impact of a non-compliance together with the probability of that noncompliance arising was used. and evaluated risk at both regional and the individual forest.

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

Indicator	Risk rating (Low or Specified)	
	Producer	CB
1.1.1	Low	Low
1.1.2	Low	Low
1.1.3	Low	Low
1.2.1	Low	Low
1.3.1	Low	Low
1.4.1	Low	Low
1.5.1	Low	Low
1.6.1	Low	Low
2.1.1	Low	Low
2.1.2	Low	Low
2.1.3	Low	Low
2.2.1	Specified	Low
2.2.2	Specified	Low
2.2.3	Specified	Low
2.2.4	Low	Low
2.2.5	Specified	Low
2.2.6	Low	Low
2.2.7	Specified	Low
2.2.8	Specified	Low
2.2.9	Low	Low
2.3.1	Low	Low

Indicator	Risk rating (Low or Specified)	
	Producer	CB
2.3.3	Low	Low
2.4.1	Low	Low
2.4.2	Specified	Low
2.4.3	Low	Low
2.5.1	Low	Low
2.5.2	Low	Low
2.6.1	Low	Low
2.7.1	Low	Low
2.7.2	Low	Low
2.7.3	Low	Low
2.7.4	Low	Low
2.7.5	Low	Low
2.8.1	Specified	Low
2.9.1	Low	Low
2.9.2	Low	Low
2.10.1	Low	Low

2.3.2	Low	Low
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Table 2. Final risk ratings of Indicators as determined AFTER the SVP and any mitigation measures.

Indicator	Risk rating (Low or Specified)	
	Producer	CB
1.1.1	Low	Low
1.1.2	Low	Low
1.1.3	Low	Low
1.2.1	Low	Low
1.3.1	Low	Low
1.4.1	Low	Low
1.5.1	Low	Low
1.6.1	Low	Low
2.1.1	Low	Low
2.1.2	Low	Low
2.1.3	Low	Low
2.2.1	Low	Low
2.2.2	Low	Low
2.2.3	Low	Low
2.2.4	Low	Low
2.2.5	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

Indicator	Risk rating (Low or Specified)	
	Producer	CB
2.3.3	Low	Low
2.4.1	Low	Low
2.4.2	Low	Low
2.4.3	Low	Low
2.5.1	Low	Low
2.5.2	Low	Low
2.6.1	Low	Low
2.7.1	Low	Low
2.7.2	Low	Low
2.7.3	Low	Low
2.7.4	Low	Low
2.7.5	Low	Low
2.8.1	Low	Low
2.9.1	Low	Low
2.9.2	Low	Low
2.10.1	Low	Low

9 Review of Company's mitigation measures

The risk assessment identified 8 specified risk indicators, which need specific control systems or mitigation measures.

Indicator 2.2.1. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimise them.

- SOLIVA and its suppliers only obtain wood from thinnings with authorization from the forest department. To have the "authorization of cutting" means that the forest engineer of the Forest Department has made a preliminary visit to the forest to verify that no impacts are going to be made and, if it is necessary, redact some specific restrictions.
- Contracts with suppliers obligate them to give SOLIVA a copy of the authorizations of cutting and also to make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management.
- Soliva has implemented a control system for all the forestry works that consists on make a preliminary visit to the forest with the forest workers to explain the specific characteristics of each forest and take in consideration all SBP standards. During the forest works, at least one visit is made, to verify that forest works are carried out properly and no impacts are made. If some possible impact is detected, FORESTAL SOLIVA implements mitigation measures and records them in the paperwork.

Indicator 2.2.2. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that feedstock is sourced from forests where management maintains or improves soil quality

- SOLIVA and its suppliers only obtain wood from thinnings with authorization from the forest department. To have the "authorization of cutting" means that the forest engineer of the Forest Department has made a preliminary visit to the forest to verify that there are no risks of erosion or other kind and, if it is necessary, redacts some specific restrictions.
- Contracts with suppliers obligate them to give SOLIVA a copy of the authorizations of cutting and also to make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management, with integrate measures to take care of soil quality.
- Soliva has implemented a control systems for all the forestry works that consists on make a preliminary visit to the forest with the forest workers to explain the specific characteristics of each forest and take in considerations all SBP standats. During the forest works, at least one visit is made, to verify that forest works are carried out propetly and nt impacts on soil quality are made. If some possible risk is detected, FORESTAL SOLIVA implements mitigation measures and records them in the paperwork.

Indicator 2.2.3. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to ensure that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved or set aside in their natural state

- SOLIVA and its suppliers only obtain wood from thinnings with authorization from the forest department. To have the “authorization of cutting” means that the forest engineer of the Forest Department has made a preliminar visit to the forest to verify that key ecosystems and habitats are conserved and, if it is necessary, redact some specific restrictions.
- Contracts with suppliers obligate them to give SOLIVA a copy of the authoritations of cutting and also to make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management.
- Soliva has implemented a control system for all the forestry works that consists on make a premilinar visit to the forest with the forest workers to explains the specific caracteristics of each forest and taken in consideration all SBP standards. During the forest works, at least one visit is made, to verify that forest works are carried out properly and key ecosystems and habitats are conserved. If something is detected, FORESTAL SOLIVA implements mitigation measures and records them in the paperwork.

Indicator 2.2.5. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems

- Contracts with suppliers obligate them to give SOLIVA a copy of the authoritations of cutting and also to make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management.
- Not residue burning is made
- Not residue shredding/crushing is made
- Full tree is logged (not branch and crown)
- Soliva has implemented a control system for all the forestry works that consists on make a premilinar visit to the forest with the forest workers to explains the specific caracteristics of each forest and taken in consideration all SBP standards. During the forest works, at least one visit is made, to verify that forest works are carried out properly the process of residue removal and minimises harm to ecosystems. If some harm to ecosystems is detected, FORESTAL SOLIVA implements mitigation measures and records them in the paperwork.

Indicator 2.2.7. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that air quality is not adversely affected by forest management activities

- Contracts with suppliers obligate them to give SOLIVA a copy of the authoritations of cutting and also to make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management.
- Soliva has implemented a control system for all the forestry works that consists on make a premilinar visit to the forest with the forest workers to explains the specific caracteristics of each forest and taken in consideration all SBP standards. During the forest works, at least one visit is made, to verify that forest management activities are carried out properly and air quality is not adversely. If some bad practice detected, FORESTAL SOLIVA implements mitigation measures and records them in the paperwork.

Indicator 2.2.8. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that there is controlled and appropriate use of chemicals, and that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is implemented wherever possible in forest management activities

- Contracts with suppliers obligate them to give SOLIVA a copy of the authorisations of cutting and also to make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management.
- Soliva has implemented a control system for all the forestry works that consists on make a preliminar visit to the forest with the forest workers to explains the specific characteristics of each forest and taken in consideration all SBP standards. During the forest works, at least one visit is made, to verify that forest management activities are carried out properly and not chemicals are used.

Indicator 2.4.2. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that natural processes, such as fires, pests and diseases are managed appropriately

According to the risk assessment, the level of risk is defined as:

1. Low risk for pest and disease management.
2. High risk for forest fires, however, the way the works are carried out and the implementation by Soliva of fire prevention measures while the work is being carried out are standard operational procedures. These are the mitigation measures for the risk.

Forestal Soliva:

- Fire protection equipment are always present at the harvesting site is accordance with the legal requirements of each region and for each endangered period of the year (fire beater, backpack pump, fire extinguisher)
- Harvesting work is performed at the time that is allowed and announced by the Department of fire prevention
- Soliva and their suppliers make forest works according to the manuals of good practices in sustainable forest management
- If a fire is detected all workers know that they must call 112

Indicator 2.8.1. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect the health and safety of forest workers

Forestal Soliva:

- Obliges suppliers and subcontractors to provide all necessary legal documentation (accreditation of having contracted the risk prevention service, training records on health and safety risks, record of delivery of PPE to all workers, a positive certificate for each worker issued by a doctor);
- Refuses to buy wood from suppliers that are not able to provide all necessary documentation related to health and safety requirements from its workers or subcontractors;
- Provides training to its own forest harvesting teams (obligatory);
- Provides a copy of best forest management practices, including explanations on health and safety, to the forest workers;
- Supervises own harvesting operations and the operations of suppliers on the fulfilment of the health and safety requirements. All required PPE must be used, and other protection equipment must available onsite. A checklist on different health and safety issues has been developed. This visit is made with a forestry technician from Forestal Soliva and a forestry technician from the supplier.

If the health and safety requirements are not fulfilled in full during an harvesting operation, the SBP-compliant claim is rejected for the feedstock coming from such operations.

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 2020-01	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Std 1, 2.2.1. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimise them.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
SOLIVA base the justification for low risk mainly on compliance on legislation, without presenting evidence on the effectiveness or enforcement of the legislation, as well, there is no mentioning on appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimise them, as it relates to ecological, social and cultural values.	
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:	The indicator 2.2.1 “The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to verify that feedstock is sourced from forests where there is appropriate assessment of impacts, and planning, implementation and monitoring to minimise them.” has been classified as “Specific risk” and BP has better described the control systems and procedures to verification.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the classification and written of indicator 2.2.1, as well as a new stakeholder consultation.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-02	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Std 1, 2.2.5. The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
Additional technical evidences for the justification of low risk for this indicator was presented during the audit, but these evidences are not documented in the SBE, or how they respond to the indicator which states "The Biomass Producer has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems."	
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:	Describe in more detail the SOLIVA monitoring procedure in reference to appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that the process of residue removal minimises harm to ecosystems. With this more detailed explanation, the classification as "low risk" is justified.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the SBE, specifically indicator 2.2.5.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-03	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Std 1, 2.9.1. Feedstock is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The evidence presented in the SBE for justification of low risk does not respond to the indicator which states "Biomass is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks."	
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:	Justify more adequately that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks. With this more detailed explanation, the classification as "low risk" is justified.

Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the SBE, specifically indicator 2.9.1
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-04	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Instruction note 2C, 4.1. The report shall be concise, covering the most important features, and shall be completed using the latest version of the SBR template for Biomass Producers downloaded from the SBP website.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
There are various mistakes and errors in the english version of the SBR, Section 2.1 does not have a description of the profile of adjacent lands. Section 2.5 contain numerical errors in the Feedstock section. Section 4.3 includes an error for how many specified risks there are. Section 5 does not include description of the competences of all contracted party's that has performed the SBE. As well, the monitoring plan for assessing forest operations within the supply base is not described. Section 6 does not describe which stakeholders were contacted nor during what dates the consultation was held. Section 9.1. The description of the mitigation measures differs from those described in the SBE, as well, one sentence indicates that there are only one specified risk. Section 9.2 does not appropriately describe what the outcomes of the monitoring are.	
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:	The errors detected in the SBR has been corrected or update and missing information has been included.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the SBR, according to the findings.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-05	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Std 2, 2.9.1. The management system shall identify the personnel responsible for implementing systems and procedures.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
SOLIVA's management system does not identify the personnel responsible for implementing systems and procedures.	
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:	Add personal responsible for implementing systems and procedures.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the Internal SBP Handbook, according to the findings.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-06	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Instruction Document 5E, 5.2.4. Where DBSD is recorded in the DTS, the BPs shall use a Pbid 'AA' value of '99' to indicate that DBSD is included with the transaction. The latest Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data (DBSD) form available in the Data Transfer System shall be used to record and share this data.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
SOLIVA's handbook incorrectly defines the numerical use of the Pbid AA value as being 00.	
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:	Define Pbid AA value as 99 if biomass is sold to Netherlands and define Pbid AA value as 00 if biomass is not sold to Netherlands.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the Internal SBP Handbook, according to the findings.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-07	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Instruction Document 5E, 6.4.3. Feedstock definitions, for grouping feedstock in Table 2.1 of the SBP Audit Report on Energy and Carbon Data (SAR).
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The SAR incorrectly defined the physical description of the output, and the calculation for the average moisture value is slightly incorrect.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Other

Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	Physical description has been defined as “chips”. Trucks without moisture data, has not be be taken into consideration for the calculation of the average moisture value.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the SAR, according to the findings.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 2020-08	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement:	Instruction Document 5E, 3.2.1. The BP shall determine the Scope End-points for biomass supplied with an SBP Claim. A ScopeEnd-point occurs after production where biomass is transferred outside the scope of the BP’scertificate to another Legal Owner. An example is a port where the transfer of ownership takesplace for delivery to an End-user or Trader. There can be more than one Scope End-point for asingle biomass production facility
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
SOLIVA has properly identified four scope end-points with associated Static Data Identifier. These SDI’s need to be inserted as well in the tables that follows and other required information such as starge details and maps showing their location	
Timeline for Conformance:	Other
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	SAR includes 4 tables for storage biomass details, one for each harbour. Also, two maps per harbour has been includes in the SAR, one of the general ublication of the harbour and other with the specific storage biomass point.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Modification of the SAR, according to the findings.
NC Status:	Closed

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):	Hubert Jurczyszyn
Date of decision:	12/Mar/2021
Other comments:	Decision deleyed do to the reasons known to SBP