



NEPCon Evaluation of Allianceavtomotors, Limited Liability Company 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

Version 1.0: published 26 March 2015

Version 1.1: published 30 January 2018

Version 1.2: published 4 April 2018

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1 Overview

CB Name and contact:	NEPCon OÜ, Filosoofi 31, 50108 Tartu, Estonia
Primary contact for SBP:	Ondrej Tarabus ot@nepcon.org, +34 605 638 383
Current report completion date:	16/Feb/2021
Report authors:	Aliaksandr Zubkevich
Name of the Company:	Allianceavtomotors, Limited Liability Company, Belarus, pellet plant address: 246050 g.Gomel, Dorozhnaya str./ 49 Office: 246050, Gomel, Gagarina str, 49, Belarus
Company contact for SBP:	Svetlana Samozhonova, Chief specialist, +375 29 6786986, bogdan_rodimich@mail.ru
Certified Supply Base:	sourcing from Republic of Belarus
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-08-32
Date of certificate issue:	17/Feb/2021
Date of certificate expiry:	16/Feb/2026

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 does not include 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
- Assess compliance against Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data

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

Allianceavtomotors is a company which produce chips and wood pellets. Total annual production capacity of pellet plant is expected to be 30000-40000 tones.

Wood chips is used in pellet production as well as used for the drier. The BP source wood chip from the supplier, which produce chip from primary feedstock (fuel wood) on the same site where the BP is located, so all feedstock used by the BP is considered as primary.

The primary feedstock used for pellet production originates from Belarus and is FSC certified. The BP has implemented segregating system – all non certified feedstock shall be process separately in another period of time. Non certified biomass shall be stored in separate places.

Pellet plant was commissioned in 2021.

5.2 Description of Company's Supply Base

LLC Allianceavtomotors is a private limited liability company founded in 2009. The main activity of the company is the production of wood pellets and wood chips. Wood chips, manufactured from wood fuel, serves as a feedstock for the pellet production. The wood species for production of pellets - Picea abies; Pinus sylvestris. LLC Allianceavtomotors has one supplier of wood chips. The company produces wood pellets from SBP-compliant primary feedstock – wood chips (manufactured from wood fuelwood. SBP-compliant primary feedstock – wood chips, manufactured from wood fuel (wood processing industry waste) – 100% . LLC Allianceavtomotors defined the forest fund area of the Republic of Belarus as a supply base, as the structure of suppliers can change, but only within the Republic.

In the Republic of Belarus forests are one of the main renewable natural resources and the major national wealth. The woods and forest resources are of great importance for sustainable social and economic development of the country, ensuring its economic, energy, ecological and food security.

For a number of the key indicators characterizing forest fund (woodiness of the territory, the area of the woods and stock of growing wood in terms of per capita), Belarus is among the top ten forest states of Europe.

Forestry of Belarus successfully implementing the principles of sustainable multipurpose forest management, is important for stable functioning of the forest sector of the country and contributes to the development of allied industries of economy, making a significant contribution to the implementation of the signed international treaties at the global level in the field of environmental protection. Its economic, environmental and social role has been steadily increasing. All this gives grounds to say that in modern conditions the forestry sector from traditional commodity industry turns into infrastructural and one of the key sectors of the national economic complex, especially in the rural areas of the country.

As a result of purposeful work on reproduction of the woods and forest growing, positive dynamics of forest fund is reached. So from 1994 the key quantitative and qualitative indexes of the forests improved: forest

area increased by 908,6 thousand hectares from 7371,7 to 8280,3 thousand hectares; the area under forest of the Republic reached 39.9 per cent (increased by 4.4%);

the total stock of standing timber increased by 738,6 million cubic meters and amounted to 1831,8 million cubic meters (including in Mature and overmature stands - 300,9 million cubic meters and constituted – 375,4 million cubic meters);

the stock per 1 ha. of forested land increased by 73 cubic meters and amounted to 221 cubic meters per 1 ha.; the stock of mature and overmature plantings increased by 59 cubic meters and reached 272 cubic meters per 1 ha.; average age of plantings increased from 44 to 56 years.

When harvesting wood, according to the forest legislation of the Republic of Belarus, species listed in the Red Book and their habitants are subject to conservation. Harvesting of valuable, endangered and specially Focusing on sustainable sourcing solutions protected tree species is prohibited. Harvesting of tree species that are on the IUCN and CITES lists is excluded, since the distribution areal of these species is outside the Supply base of LLC Allianceavtomotors.

No CITES species are identified within the supply base.

See detailed information on <http://www.facebook.com/103634321731835>

5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

Total Supply Base area (ha): 9,621 mln. ha
Tenure by type (ha): public 9,621 mln. ha
Forest by type (ha): temperate 9,621 mln. ha
Forest by management type (ha): managed natural 9,621 mln. ha
Certified forest by scheme (ha): 8.3 mln. ha FSC-certified forest

Detailed information about BP's supply base may be found in their Supply Base Report available in Internet: <http://www.facebook.com/103634321731835>

5.4 Chain of Custody system

The BP is included as a group member in FSC Chain of certificate. FSC certificate cover both chips production and pellet production.

<https://info.fsc.org/details.php?id=a023300000Zvyi1AAB&type=certificate>

BP implements FSC transfer system of claims. Wood chips are used in pellet production as well as used for the drier. The BP source wood chip from the company which produce chip from primary feedstock (fuel wood) on the same site where the BP is located, so all feedstock used by the BP is considered as primary. The BP sourced for pellet production only FSC 100% feedstock. The organization has the segregation system in place. Physical separation is implemented – FSC certified raw material is stored in special place and processed separately, final products shall be segregated also in special place. Incoming chips reception register and supplier list are maintained. All material is checked during the arrival and correctly recorded in the internal system.

6 Evaluation process

6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

Onsite assessment was conducted on 01.02.2021 (6.5 h). Evaluation activities included documents review at office, inspection of production facilities and staff interviews. The review of documents (SBR on SBP audit portal and SAR) was done 31.01.2021.

Activity	Location	Date/time
Opening meeting and brief documents review.	Office in Gomel	01/02/2021 10.00-10.20
Documents and procedures review (feedstock inputs, SBR, CoC control system and critical points, compliance with legal requirements, H&S), staff interview.	Office in Gomel	01/02/2021 10.20-16.00
Chain of custody review (site tour); staff interview	Production facilities	01/02/2021 16.10-16.40
Closing meeting	Production facilities	01/02/2021 16.40-17.00

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:

NEPCon Evaluation of Allianceavtomotors, Limited Liability Company:
Public Summary Report, Main (Initial) Audit

Audit started with an opening meeting attended by the representatives from Organisation's management and staff.

Audit team leader 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, management system, CoC, recordkeeping, 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. Chain of Custody implementation was reviewed focusing in the Critical Control Points, in particular it was verified reception of the material and its classification, identification of feedstock origin, production process with the conversion factors associated, final product storage and sales. 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 points were analysed.

At the end of the audit 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 18.12.2020 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. Effective recordkeeping system. Small number of the management staff and clearly designated responsibilities within the staff members.

Weaknesses: See NCRs below.

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

7.4 Competency of involved personnel

: SBP related staff responsibilities are presented in Section 3 of the SBP Procedure. Interviewed staff was well familiar with their responsibilities. Generally, very few staff members are involved into SBP certification: SBP responsible/deputy production director (maintaining of the management system, staff training, volume recording, trademark use, performance of outgoing invoices and transport documents), operator of production of pellet plant (moisture measurements, weight of biomass produced). 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.

Not applicable

9 Review of Company's mitigation measures

Not applicable

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 01/21	NC Grading: Major
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
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
Supply Base Report has been prepared in SBP Audit portal prior to the assessment. During review it was found out that some information was missed and some information was wrong: 1) it was stated that secondary feedstock was used while in fact only primary; 2)only Gomel region was showed, but during interview was said the BP may supply from all regions of Belarus; 3)section 3.4 was not fill in properly	
Timeline for Conformance:	Prior to (re)certification
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	Updated SBR on SBP audit portal
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The BP has updated SBR on SBP audit portal and submitted to the auditor. Review of the information confirmed that information is concise.
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):	Olesja Puiso
Date of decision:	16/Feb/2021
Other comments:	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>