



# **DNV GL Business Assurance Finland Oy Ab Evaluation of Norsk Biobrensel AS Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report**

Fourth Surveillance Audit

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**The promise of good biomass**



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# 1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name: DNV GL Business Assurance Finland Oy Ab

Primary CB contact for SBP: Jyrki Sopanen

Primary CB contact email: jyrki.sopanen@dnvgl.com

Audit team leader: Karina Seeberg Kitnaes

Audit team members: Karina Seeberg Kitnaes

Name of the Company: Norsk Biobrensel AS

Company legal address: Mandal Havn KF, 4515 Mandal, Norway

Company contact for SBP: Ole Kristian Hodnemyr

Company contact email: ole@norbio.no

Company website: N/A

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-05-05

Date of certificate issue: 04 Apr 2017

Date of certificate expiry: 03 Apr 2022

Audit closing meeting date: 12 Feb 2021

Audit cycle: Fourth Surveillance Audit

## 2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope Item	Check all that apply to the Certificate Scope	Change in scope (N/A for Assessments)
<b>Primary Activity:</b>	Biomass Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Approved Standards:</b>	SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock; SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data 1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE):</b>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data (DBSD)</b>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Includes Group Scheme</b>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Products</b>	Chips	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Feedstock types:</b>	Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Feedstock origin (countries):</b>	Norway	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used:</b>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public link:</b> <a href="https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/">https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Chain of custody system implemented:</b>	PEFC: 207927-2016-AE-NOR-NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2.1 Description of the company

Norsk Biobrensel AS is a Norwegian company under the NEG-gruppen. The company produces and trades wood chips. The company office is located in Kristiansand responsible for the trading, chain-of-custody and wood chipping. In the context of SBP, the company has four storage facilities at four Harbours in Norway. The raw materials are primary feedstock (roundwood) and secondary bark from sawmills, all originating from Norwegian forests, which are either occasionally chipped in the forest before transported to the permanent storage facilities at the harbor or transported as logs to permanent storage facilities at the harbour, where the wood is then chipped by a mobile chipper. The wood chips are loaded onto ships (FOB terms), where the buyer takes over the responsibilities. The company holds valid PEFC COC certificate. All feedstock supplies are exclusively from PEFC certified sources within the supply base.

## 2.2 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system

The BP holds a valid PEFC COC certificate (207927-2016-AE-NOR-NA) and purchases primary feedstock from three Norwegian suppliers, also holding valid PEFC certificates. All feedstock is purchased with the PEFC claim: 100% PEFC certified. The scope of the PEFC system is physical separation in all phases, with national product categories 12000 Energy, 02010 fuelwood and others. Based on the reviewed supplier invoices, claims are transferred to sales documents. This system is applied for SBP as well, since the only processes are transport, storage, chipping and loading from storage facilities at the harbours with only PEFC certified inputs from the PEFC certified suppliers delivering only PEFC certified feedstock and since all orders are delivered with FOB terms. The BP sells the wood chips with the SBP claim: SBP-compliant biomass and with the batch ID used on the sales invoices at four end-points (not all used every year), which are the four harbours.

### **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.

## 4 Evaluation process

### 4.1 Timing of evaluation activities

<i>Audit Level of Effort (LoE)</i>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Auditors</b>	<b>Auditor hours</b>
1. Preparation	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	4,0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	8,0
3. Report writing	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	4,0
4. Other	Jyrki Sopanen	4,0

<b>Audit Schedule</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Auditor name</b>	<b>Date/time</b>
<i>Preparation and audit planning</i>	Home office	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	22 Jan 2021/4
<i>Audit: Opening meeting</i>	TEAMS remote: site audit	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Feb 2021/0.5
<i>Audit: SBP Standard 2: Verification of feedstock</i>	TEAMS remote: site audit	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Feb 2021/2
<i>Audit: SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custory</i>	TEAMS remote: site audit	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Feb 2021/2

<i>Audit: SBP Standard 5: Collection and communication of data</i>	TEAMS remote: site audit	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Feb 2021/2
<i>Audit: Storage and chipping facility at harbour</i>	Virtual video tour and photos	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Feb 2021/1
<i>Audit: Closing meeting</i>	TEAMS remote: site audit	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Feb 2021/0,5
<i>Reporting</i>	Home office	Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	12 Mar 2021/4
<i>Technical Review</i>	Home office	Jyrki Sopenen	31 Mar 2021/4

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Karina Seeberg Kitnaes	SBP Lead Auditor	Biologist, M.Sc., approved SBP auditor, 24 years of professional international experience with forest biodiversity, forestry, forest industry, certification, Natura 2000 implementation, key biotope mapping from working as senior expert on targeted international projects in Northern, North-eastern and Eastern Europe and many other countries

## 4.2 Description of evaluation activities

The audit method included: a) records verification, document and report review and interviews of staff regarding the management system descriptions, calculations and invoicing arrangements at the office and

b) site visit at the measurement, storage and chipping facility at one of the two harbours used for storage in 2020.

The P4 Audit was conducted as a remote audit with use of TEAMS for interview and sharing of screen for records and data, plus exchange of data and records via e-mailing, plus virtual video tour/photos at one harbour. The audit contained:

- Review of all relevant data and records related to SBP Std. 2 on verification of feedstock, including calculation verifications, control of data on origin crosschecked with supply base and review of supply base reports in English and Norwegian. Completion of DNVGL checklist for std. 2.
- Review of all relevant data and records related to SBP Std. 4 on Chain of Custody, including volume calculation verification, classification and crosscheck with DTS database records
- Review of all relevant data and records related to SBP Std. 5 on collection and communication of GHG data and review and verification of data recorded and reported in the SAR for mobile chipping.
- Site inspection at storage and chipping facility at the harbour and tracking of timber batches and measurement and classification of feedstock.

Critical control points included verification of feedstock classification and category (SBP-compliant biomass; PEFC certified) within the defined supply base and checking the chain-of-custody volume accounting and supplier documentation thoroughly against DTS recordings, as well as the data and records available as specified in SBP std. 5 and the Instruction note 5E on collection and communication of data and the resulting SAR report for mobile chipping in correct format.

The P4 resulted in no nonconformities.

### **4.3 Sampling methodology**

Sampling included review of all input purchase documentation and feedstock origin and classification, all output sales documentation cross-checked with the transactions in DTS, review of all recorded data related to energy and transport communicated in the SAR, and sampling of one harbour=end-point=storage out of two active since the last audit.

### **4.4 CB stakeholder engagement**

N/A.

## 4.5 Stakeholder feedback

N/A.

## **5 Results**

### **5.1 Main strengths and weaknesses**

Norsk Biobrensel has a solid basis for SBP, as the supply base contains only certified inputs, the COC system is in place and the SBP system is rather simple in terms of risk management. The BP is PEFC certified as well as ISO 14001, ISO 9001. There is also proven competent professionals in the management team of Norsk Biobrensel.

### **5.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation**

N/A

### **5.3 Collection and communication of data**

In terms of SBP, the calculations consist only of transport, chipping and loading onto the ship (all biomass is delivered with FOB terms). Data calculation excel sheet has been prepared and data are either calculated on real data or by use of reference values (Biograce; Instruction document 5E). The baseline and general procedures are in line with the requirements in the Instruction Note 5E. The BP has prepared and maintained data for the SAR report for Woodchips with mobile chipping

### **5.4 Competency of involved personnel**

Norsk Biobrensel has only one employee, i.e. the managing director, while the CEO and the administration staff are shared with the sister companies under the holding NEG Gruppen through contract arrangements. Based on audit interviews, all personnel are aware of the SBP requirements on detailed level and have the adequate competencies and knowledge for their tasks. The managing director and the production manager has developed the SBP framework to be implemented by Norsk Biobrensel, while the CEO has overseen and approved the process and the accountant has been and will be instructed when the certification has been granted.

## 6 Review of company's risk assessments

### 6.1 Overview of company's risk assessments and mitigation measures

N/A

### 6.2 Specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country/Area	Indicator	Specified risk description	Mitigation measure
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **7 Non-conformities and observations**

N/A

## 8 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's quality review, the following certification decision is taken:	
<b>Certification decision:</b>	Certification approved
<b>Certification decision by (name of the person):</b>	Jyrki Sopenen
<b>Date of decision:</b>	07 Apr 2021
<b>Other comments:</b>	N/A