



Standards Development Process

SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance *Background and Scope*

Revision Draft v1 for Public Consultation
(for status see document history on page ii)

Sustainable Biomass Program
sbp-cert.org

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Current Standard 1 text		Proposed Standard 1 revision text	
1	Background	1	Background
	<p>The Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP) was formed in 2013 by European utilities that are using biomass, mostly in the form of wood pellets or chips, in large thermal generating plants. Biomass-fired power and heat generation is seen as an important technology for achieving the EU's 2020 renewable energy targets and EU member states are adopting their own national approaches to ensuring that the biomass used is legally and sustainably sourced.</p> <p>SBP's objective is to develop the tools necessary to demonstrate that, as a minimum, solid biomass used for energy production meets these national requirements. The SBP Framework is designed as a clear statement of principles, standards and processes necessary to demonstrate such compliance. Wherever possible, the Framework takes into account and builds on existing regulatory mechanisms and on voluntary certification standards already applied to other forest product streams or to other biomass sources.</p> <p>The SBP Framework provides a means to collect data describing the nature of the feedstock as well as data to be employed in the regulatory calculations of greenhouse gas (GHG) savings from its use. It also provides a means to demonstrate that risks to forest carbon stocks are managed and that forests' carbon sequestration capability is maintained.</p> <p>Collectively, the six SBP Standards represent a certification framework, or scheme, against which organisations can be assessed for compliance by independent third-party Certification Bodies (CBs). An organisation that satisfactorily demonstrates compliance receives a certificate and is entitled to make SBP claims in relation to its biomass.</p>		<p>The Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) is a certification system designed for woody biomass, mostly in the form of wood pellets and woodchips, used in industrial, large-scale energy production.</p> <p>SBP's certification system provides assurance that woody biomass is sourced from legal and responsible sources, and a means to collect and communicate sourcing and greenhouse gas (GHG) data along the supply chain, allowing companies in the biomass sector to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements.</p> <p>There are six SBP Standards, which collectively represent the SBP certification framework, or scheme, against which organisations can be assessed for compliance by independent third-party Certification Bodies (CBs). Wherever possible, the framework takes into account and builds on existing regulatory mechanisms and on voluntary certification standards already applied to other forest product streams or to other biomass sources. An organisation that satisfactorily demonstrates compliance receives a certificate and may be entitled to make SBP claims in relation to its certified biomass.</p> <p>The SBP framework is made freely available for use by all supply chain actors irrespective of whether or not they are SBP Certificate Holders or applying for certification.</p>

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2	Scope	2	Scope
	This document (SBP Standard 1. Feedstock Compliance Standard) sets out the principles, criteria and indicators to be met by participating Biomass Producers (BPs) as part of a Supply Base Evaluation (SBE).		This document (SBP Standard 1. Feedstock Compliance Standard) sets out the principles, criteria and indicators to be assessed and verified by participating organisations as part of a Supply Base Evaluation (SBE).
	The requirements are applicable to woody feedstock used in the production of biomass including feedstock included in biomass and that used for drying during the production of biomass.		The requirements are applicable to woody feedstock, from the forest and from trees outside forests, used in the production of biomass including feedstock that is incorporated into biomass and that used for drying during the production of biomass.
	Feedstock shall not be sourced from large (>1000 ha) short rotation plantations that are fully dedicated to the production of biomass and that were established after 1 January 2015.		[No longer required]

2.1 General Principles	2.1 General Principles
<p>SBP aims to provide an effective and verifiable process that will assure end users that feedstock is legally and sustainably sourced. The Standard stipulates that a participating BP is the unit of certification for this standard and must implement these requirements.</p>	<p>SBP aims to provide an effective and verifiable process that will assure end users that feedstock is legally and responsibly sourced.</p>
	<p>The SBP takes a risk-based, regional approach to compliance. It is based on the principle that factors such as the strength of legislation and the implementation of best management practices determines whether feedstock is produced responsibly or not. Understanding these factors within the region where feedstock is sourced from allows organisations and the SBP to assign a level of risk that the requirements of the standard are being met or not. Where there is a risk that any indicator is not being met then that feedstock cannot be certified as SBP-compliant.</p>
	<p>It is the organisation's role to identify, assess and manage the risks within its supply base that any of the indicators and associated requirements within this standard are not being met.</p>
<p>Feedstock received with a claim from an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme need not be evaluated against this Standard. Other SBP standards, including those relating to Chain of Custody (CoC) and the collection and communication of data are applicable.</p>	<p>[Moved to other Standards]</p>
<p>BPs do not normally manage all forested land from which they source feedstock. They must implement the systems specified here, and verify if feedstock is SBP-compliant.</p>	<p>Organisations seeking, or holding, SBP certification do not normally manage all land from which they source feedstock or all of the supply chain from the place of harvesting to their own operations.</p>
	<p>It is their role to implement appropriate control systems and procedures to verify if feedstock is SBP-compliant including implementing appropriate due diligence systems to assure themselves that their suppliers and contractors are compliant.</p>
<p>The definitions of 'sustainable' and 'legal' in this Standard are adapted from the UK's Central Point of Expertise of Timber (CPET) www.cpet.org.uk "Category B evidence", supplemented with the sustainability requirements for solid biomass defined in the Netherlands. The UK Department of Energy</p>	<p>[No longer required]</p>

	<p>and Climate Change (DECC), Timber Standard for Heat and Electricity, 2014 (henceforth 'the Timber Standard') was subsequently developed in recognition that "wood used for fuel is typically low value, and a significant proportion is expected to be sourced from forests in North America that are not yet certified". As such, the Timber Standard permits "a risk-based regional approach that uses credible information and</p>		
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2.2	Normative elements in this Standard	2.2	Normative elements in this Standard
	<p>This Standard does not stipulate what evidence must be provided to demonstrate compliance with each indicator, as this will vary among different operations. The Standard does provide examples of the means of verification, that is to say, how evidence of compliance with each indicator might be demonstrated. These examples are illustrative and are not normative.</p>		
			<p>The participating organisation is the unit of certification for this standard and shall implement these requirements in their sourcing of feedstocks.</p>
			<p>The organisation shall undertake a Supply Base Evaluation to identify and assess the risk that any of the indicators and associated requirements within this Standard are not being met.</p>
			<p>The organisation shall implement appropriate control systems and procedures to verify if feedstock is being sourced from SBP-compliant sources.</p>
			<p>Organisations shall ensure that all other relevant operators (suppliers and contractors) also comply with these requirements in relation to the goods and services that they source from them.</p>
			<p>The organisation shall implement relevant requirements in other SBP standards.</p>
	<p>The Standard also provides guidance to aid understanding of requirements and, where appropriate, provides sources of evidence for compliance with the indicator. This guidance is not normative.</p>		<p>The Standard also provides guidance to aid understanding of these requirements and, where appropriate, provides sources of evidence for compliance with the indicator. This guidance is not normative unless the guidance says 'shall' or 'must',</p>

			which indicate requirements strictly to be followed in order to comply with the standard.
	CBs will independently evaluate compliance of the BP against the normative indicators presented in this Standard.		Certification Bodies (CBs) will independently evaluate compliance of the organisation and any relevant operators against the normative indicators presented in this Standard.
2.3	The role of the Biomass Producer	2.3	The role of the Organisation
	The BP is the unit of certification for this standard. The BP will usually be an organisation that operates a facility such as a pellet mill, but can also be any organisation in the supply chain that takes legal ownership of feedstock or biomass. For example, with an in-forest chipping operation or where chips are delivered directly to a generator the chipping operator or the generator could assume the responsibilities of the BP. Similarly, a forest owners' cooperative could take on the responsibilities of the BP.		The organisation will usually be an organisation that operates a facility such as a pellet mill, but can also be any organisation in the supply chain that takes legal ownership of feedstock or biomass. For example, with an in-forest chipping operation or where chips are delivered directly to a generator the chipping operator or the generator could assume the responsibilities of the organisation. Similarly, a forest owners' cooperative could take on the responsibilities of the organisation.
			The organisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Standard in their own operations and for taking all reasonable efforts to ensure it in all suppliers and/or contractors within the supply base and supply chain from the place of harvesting of the feedstock to the organisation's operations.
	These responsibilities include implementation of the management systems and completing the Supply Base Report (SBR) and if necessary the SBE.		These responsibilities include implementation of the management systems and completing the Supply Base Report (SBR) and if necessary, the SBE set out in Standard 2.
2.4	Locally Applicable Verifiers		[Moved to Standard 2]
	The Standard is applicable globally and does not define the specific means of verification which are appropriate to each BP in determining risk. BPs must prepare Locally Applicable Verifiers (LAVs) by applying the SBP requirements in Instruction Note 1A.		[Moved to Standard 2]

2.5	Components of a Supply Base Evaluation		[Moved to Standard 2]
	The SBE comprises both a Risk Assessment (RA) and a Supplier Verification Programme (SVP). This Standard, together with Standard 2, specifies the requirements for the evaluation.		[Moved to Standard 2]
	The BP will need to develop systems and procedures to ensure that all indicators are low risk. Such systems may be devised by the BP or may build on existing systems examples of which include SFI Fiber Sourcing and Legality Verification Systems. Although not specified in this Standard, it is likely that such systems will include:		[Moved to Standard 2]
	<p>A sampling plan for assessing forest operations within the Supply Base;</p> <p>Records of those assessments;</p> <p>Contractual requirements with suppliers;</p> <p>Mechanisms to rank performance and development of a list of “approved suppliers”;</p> <p>Monitoring and updating this information.</p>		[Moved to Standard 2]
2.6	SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments		[Moved to Standard 2]
	Where there is demand SBP will consider endorsing a Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) where the RRA has been completed in compliance with SBP requirements for endorsement. An endorsed RRA shall replace the requirement for the Risk Assessment (RA) component of the SBE for the region covered by the endorsed RRA.		[Moved to Standard 2]
2.7	Evidence appropriate to the scale of the operation		[Moved to Standard 2]

	The evidence must demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this Standard. The means of verification must be appropriate to the scale, intensity and level of risk associated with the SB.		[Moved to Standard 2]
3	Normative references	3	Normative references
	<p>SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant feedstock</p> <p>SBP Standard 3: Certification Systems: Requirements for Certification Bodies</p> <p>SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody</p> <p>SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data</p> <p>SBP Standard 6: Energy and Carbon Balance Calculation</p>		<p>SBP Standard 2: Feedstock verification</p> <p>SBP Standard 3: Certification Systems: Requirements for Certification Bodies</p> <p>SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody</p> <p>SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data</p> <p>SBP Standard 6: Energy and Carbon Balance Calculation</p>
4	Glossary of terms and definitions	4	Glossary of terms and definitions
	Please refer to separate SBP Glossary of Terms and Definitions document.		Please refer to separate SBP Glossary of Terms and Definitions document.